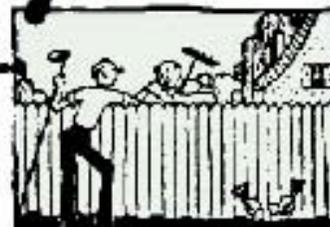




The Garden Spray

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

2008, Volume 66, Number 07



***-JULY EVENT*-**
GALA IN THE GARDEN

Gala in the Garden
Celebrating 56 Years of Gardening in Lyndale Park

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Lyndale Park Trial & Mixed Border Gardens
Roseway Road and Dupont/King's Highway
Minneapolis

5:30 PM Gathering & beverages
6:00 PM Buffet dinner under the tent
6:30 PM Program: "Supporting Lyndale Park:
Past, Present & Future",
Mary Maynard, Robert Kean, and Kay Wolfe, MGCM
members.
7:00 PM "The University of Minnesota Peren-
nial Flower Trials", Neil Anderson, Professor, Univer-
sity of Minnesota Department of Horticulture.
7:30 PM Tours of the gardens: Tours of
MGCM's plantings since 1952,
Trial Garden & Mixed Border Garden, and other park
gardens
including the Rose, Peace & Perennial Gardens.
8:00-8:30 PM Dessert Buffet
9:00 PM Sunset.

Cost is \$20 per person. The dinner cost includes
Chicken Breast Dijon, side salads, rolls; dessert buffet;
and a variety of beverages throughout the evening.

Bring your own lawn chair for lounging & bring bug
spray! For dining, tables & chairs will be provided



under the tent.

This is a rain or shine event! Wear your "formal gar-
den attire"!

Parking: On Dupont Ave; the Peace Garden parking
lot (Note: You might have to pay!); and the Lyndale
Park Staff parking lot on Roseway Road, west of the
Peace Garden lot.

For information or questions call: Kay
Wolfe
MGCM Lyndale Park Committee Chairperson
Phone: 952.922.0762
Email: MGCMgarden@q.com

PERMANENT RESERVATIONS ARE NOT IN EF-
FECT.

Please RSVP with dinner reservations on the
enclosed form (page 5) by July 15.

Thoughts from the Prez

by *Larry Larson*

Recently, I've been thinking about the history and meaning of flowers. Did you know that there is evidence of flowers dating back to the prehistoric period? They have been discovered through flower fossils.

I am going to use the next two months "Thoughts" to explore some interesting points of plant history.

Archaeologists (not Indiana Jones) have uncovered flower fossils in Neanderthal cave dwellings, particularly in burial rituals. There was also evidence that early man placed flowers on graves. In fact, people have long used flowers to express their feelings, enhance their surroundings, and to commemorate important events.

Here is a list of popular flowers and a little history associated with them:

Aster. These plants were believed to have healing properties.

Asters were laid on the graves of French soldiers to symbolize the wish that things turned out differently.

Calendula. The Romans used Calendula mixed with vinegar to season their meat and salad dishes. Calendula blossoms in wine were purported to soothe indigestion, and the petals as ointments, cured skin irritations, jaundice, sore eyes, and toothaches.

Carnations. These flowers were used in Greek ceremonial crowns.

Carnation, comes from Greece... *carnis*(flesh) refers to the original color of the flower, or perhaps the word *incarnacyon*(incarnation), which refers to the incarnation of God made flesh.

Chrysanthemums. Japanese emperors sat upon the Chrysanthemum throne.

They put a single chrysanthemum petal on the bottom of a wine glass to sustain a long and healthy life. In



Italy Chrysanthemums are associated with death.

Daisy. Beautiful gold hairpins, each ending in a daisy-like ornament were found when the Minoan palace on the Island of Crete was excavated. Daisyflowers are believed to be more than 4000 years old.

Egyptian ceramics are also decorated with Daisies. "Marguerite", the French word for Daisy, is derived from a Greek word meaning "pearl".

Dahlia. A herbal document written in Latin just sixty years after the coming of Columbus was discovered in 1929. It noted that the Aztecs used dahlias as a treatment for epilepsy.

Delphinium. Delphinium comes from the Greek word *delphis*, meaning dolphin - the flower resembles the bottle-like nose of a dolphin.

Delphiniums were used by West Coast Native Americans to make blue dye, and European settlers made ink from ground delphinium flowers.

The most ancient use of Delphinium flowers was a strong external concoction thought to drive away scorpions.

Gladiolus. The Latin word *gladius*, meaning "sword," and this flower was named for the shape of its leaves. Gladiolus was also called "xiphium," from the Greek word *xiphos*, also meaning sword.

This flower is said to have represented the Roman gladiators. British Gladiolus used the stem base (corms) as a poultice and for drawing out thorns and splinters.

In the 18th century, African Gladioli were imported in large quantities to Europe from South Africa.

[Check back next month for more!]



New Historian Needed

For more than 20 years, Howard Berg has served our club as both historian and keeper of all past copies of the Spray. Howard has managed to accumulate most of the Sprays back to 1942 when the club began. Recently, he's been trying to put them onto a computer disc for safe keeping.

But Howard feels it's time he gives up his long held duties and transfers ownership to another club member. This would mean moving the entire collection of Sprays to another household and putting them onto a cd, preferably a PC. Howard has done this club a tremendous service to keep these Sprays all these years. And he has also become a true historian of our club, able to pinpoint many of our club's most important events by looking them up in the newsletter.

If you have an interest in the history of our club and would like to take over this very important task, please call Howard at 952-545-7290. And when you see Howard tell him thanks for all he has done for this club. Thanks Howard!

Treasurer Report

Checking 3,227.00
CD 5,662.00

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
July 22nd		Tour of Perennial Trial Garden
Aug. 16-17	Arb	Flower, Food and Foto Show
Sept. 9	LHC	Baileys: New Plants
Oct. 14	LHC	Peter Olin: Years at the Arb.
Nov. 11	LHC	Monrovia: New Plants
Dec. 2nd	LHC	Holiday Party

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

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



Hail Storm Update

Mary Maynard

Nature has a way of recovering from disasters. I'm writing this on June 29, almost exactly a month after our hailstorm, and the recovery is dramatic. I lost a few small annuals that took direct hits, and some of the impatiens and begonias that were still in 4-packs might be permanently stunted. But most plants are finding a way to cope and adapt. The monarda bloom will undoubtedly be delayed, since most of the stems were snapped off, and the baptisia is coming out with some weird, branched blooms.

The hostas were the the most depressing, I think It didn't seem possible that anything would recover. At first, I thought I should just shear everything to the ground and let it grow back. But I just couldn't bring myself to do it. So I started on my big montana 'Aureomarginata' and simply cut away the stems that had snapped off completely, and the stems whose leaves were so tattered that it seemed like they would not help the plant. Surprisingly, there were actually some leaves left! And 'Aureomarginata' is one of the later hostas, so it had not completely leafed out. (In fact, 'On Stage', which I have given up for dead several times because it is so late, was only just coming up and it looks terrific, especially in comparison.) I did have a couple of sieboldiana elegans which didn't have a single leaf intact. I cut them down completely, and I have to say, they are not recovering well. I'm giving them some time, but I'm wondering if they would have been better off if I had left those tattered petioles in place.

Anyway, the garden doesn't look like a war zone anymore. Here are "Before and After" photos of my prized 'Aureomarginata'.





Reservation for Gala in the Garden

Minneapolis Men's Garden Club

Celebration at Lyndale Park

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Member name (\$20 per person): _____

Guest name (\$20 per person): _____

Guest name (\$20 per person): _____

Total enclosed: _____

Please send reservation and money to be received by July 15 to:

Carole Ann Brekke

709 Rushmore Drive

Burnsville, MN 55306-5161

Phone: 952.435.6029

Email: numsix24@comcast.net

ARBORETUM MEMORIES

Phil Smith

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum celebrated its 50 year anniversary this June. Since I am one of the older members of the club, and was somewhat involved in the earlier work for the Arboretum, Mary Maynard has asked that I write some of my memories of the club's involvement in the early stages of the Arboretum.

I began gardening at about age 9, with my Mother and Grandmother. I moved to Minneapolis with my young family when I finished engineering school and law school in Indiana. With two or three other attorneys we started a patent, trademark and copyright firm (now known as intellectual property), which we had built into one of the largest in the country when I retired in 1993.

Having started a nice perennial garden at my home in St. Louis Park, I was invited to join the club in 1961 by a family friend Bill Brooks. I became rather active in the club, was one

(Arboretum cont. on pg 9)

ROCHESTER GARDEN TOUR



Lunch at Vince and Mary Herrings



Herring Falls



Relaxing at Tomasheks



Tomasheks



Nancy Brataas' Garden



Nancy Brataas' Garden



Cooks' Garden



FFF Featured Flower and Vegetable

Every year, the Flower, Food and Foto Show selects one flower and one vegetable for special attention. In 2008, we are featuring begonias and eggplants.

Begonias show up in several categories in the FFF show schedule, which is only one indication of the variety and versatility of the genus. Fibrous begonias can be exhibited in Section A, Class 5. The schedule calls for 3 sprays to be exhibited. (A 'spray' is a branch terminating in one set of blooms or buds.) Tuberous begonias may be exhibited in Section D (Bulbs, Corms and Tubers), Class 2. The schedule calls for one bloom. Begonias in containers can be exhibited in Section E (Potted plants). Class 3 calls for one container of begonias. Begonias can also be exhibited in Class 33 (Hanging Baskets, blooming). Or they might even be exhibited in the Collection classes (28-30). Our judges will have their work cut out for them when selecting the single best entry. But they are up to the challenge!

Eggplants have gotten so cool in recent years! I used to think they were all the same dark purple, about the size of Phil's shoe. Now they are white, and lavender, and green, and they come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Thanks to Wikipedia, I now know that eggplants are native to India, where many more varieties are grown. Our show schedule has two categories for eggplants. Class 11 A calls for one "Regular" sized eggplant. Class 11 B calls for three "small" specimens. We have no guidelines for sizing, so exhibitors must use their best judgment.

According to MSHS's Exhibiting and Judging Handbook, eggplants should be of uniform color and free from bronzing and greening. Stems should be left on and trimmed to a uniform length of 1 1/2 to 2 inches. Specimens should be wiped clean but not washed.

If you're growing a cool eggplant variety this year, or if you have some begonias to show off, bring them in on Saturday, August 16 and let everyone enjoy your exhibit. If you have any questions about our featured flower or vegetable -- or about the FFF Show, please let me know. It's my favorite event of the year, and more fun than I can describe! Hope to see you there!



Lavender Torch Eggplant



Tuberous Begonias

(Arboretum cont. from page 5)



of the judges for the Lehman Trophy, Pres. of the club in 1970, and also a president of the State Hort. Society. This was some time ago, and my memory of some of these dates and events may not be the best.

I believe the Arboretum was started in 1958, as an offshoot of the adjacent University Fruit Farm, which will also celebrate its 100 year anniversary. In subsequent years, the University found that it needed to encourage private contributions to help with the funding of the Arboretum research and plantings. So, it was decided to form a non-profit foundation to manage the fund raising and provide some assistance to the leadership. My recollection is that the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation was formed in about 1970. Anyway, I was the first President and my good friend Bob Odegard was the Treasurer. Bob is my winter neighbor here in Florida and was head of the development office at the University. My recollection is that I was Pres. for 8 years before we could get anyone else to take the job. Dr. Leon Snyder was the Director and he was very effective, but sometimes we had to slow him down because of the lack of funding.

In the years before the founding of the Foundation, several Club members were quite active in the early efforts of the Arboretum. I cannot remember all those involved, but the following noted members were I believe rather active in supporting the Arboretum activities.

Cortis Rice, Pres. of the club in 1950, was an executive at Northern State Power, and a very good gardener. I recall that he was active in supporting the Arboretum, including fundraising.

Vic Lowrie, Pres. of the club in 1952, was the head and I think the owner of a monthly medical periodical. Vic had a large beautiful garden and was also active in Arboretum activities, but my memory cannot recall the details.

Archie Flack, was an Englishman trained as a gardener at the Royal Hort. Society in England. He then immigrated to Canada and the U.S. where he worked as some large public gardens. Archie moved to Minneapolis where he was in the business of wholesale selling of fruit and vegetable crops to supermarkets, etc. He was retired when I joined the club and was also my neighbor in St. Louis Park, where he had a small but beautiful perennial and annual border. I also cannot recall the details of his involvement at the Arboretum, but do recall it was significant.

(Arboretum cont. on page 10)



A Note From the Membership Secretary.

The end of 2007 and the beginning of 2008 have brought many new members to the club. They all have different expertise as well as different interests and hopes as gardeners. This is part of what makes this club so great and will keep it growing and thriving! The best way for me to keep you informed of who they are, their addresses, etc. and the committees they are interested in joining is through The Spray. So, if you are chairs or members of committees they want to participate in, please introduce yourselves and/or contact them about your meetings. Many of these new members have already participated in the activities of the committees and we welcome the new ideas and energy you have brought so far. Just in case you have missed who they are, I am including the list of members who have joined in 2008 and are not in the directory. The last two on the list are very recent additions. Also, one final note, there are lots of former and recent members who have checked the "On Committee As Needed". If you are in need of extra help, don't forget this group of members.

NEW MEMBERS, NOT IN THE DIRECTORY

Sandra Abraham
931 Waterford Dr. E.
Eagan, MN 55123-1984
651-452-0858
Wk: 612-813-6267
sandabra@hotmail.com
Committees: Lyndale Park & on as needed

Tony Soble
1867 Malvern Street
Lauderdale, MN 55113
952-847-3014
tsoble16@hotmail.com
FFF & Plant Auction

Suzanne Holt
5850 Park Ave
Mpls, MN 55417-3120
612-869-1922
S5977380@msn.com
Lyndale Park & Plant Auction

Debbie Bisbee
21540 Treeline Drive
Hamel, MN 55340
763-420-2751
wk: 952-988-1706
dbisbee123@comcast.net
Tours & Plant Auction

Maxine Coldren
9811 E. Lower 167th St.
Lakeville, MN 55044-8187
952-435-6508
marukigeco@yahoo.com
Awards & Lyndale Park &
On committee as needed

(Cont. from page 9) Les Johnson, Pres. of the club in 1961, and the writer, donated the plants and helped design and plant the first perennial flower garden at the Arboretum. I cannot remember the dates, but it was likely in the mid 1970s.

Anyway, my recollection is that the Club had significant involvement in the early years of the Arboretum, quite a lot before I joined the club in 1961.



MGCM Board Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2008

The June 3rd, 2008 Board meeting was called to order by president, Larry Larson. All board members and directors were present.

President, Larry Larson expressed his concern about missed communications with the caterers at the club's May meeting and plant sale. Sharla Aaseng reviewed club by-laws that state the Vice President is responsible for contracting with the caterer. The Hospitality Committee however is responsible for coordinating date, time, and location of club events with the caterers. By-Laws have not been included in membership packets for several years and many newer members do not have copies.

Margaret Landry will form a committee to update the membership handbook, including club by-laws to be distributed to all members.

The Scholarship committee nominees were approved by the Board. They are:

* Michele Darviaux of Plymouth

Majoring in Landscape Design at Hennepin Technical College, Brooklyn Park

* Kaarina Visness from Karlstad

Majoring in Environmental Landscaping and Production Horticulture at the University of Minnesota, Crookston

Margaret Landry moved to award each nominee a \$1,200 scholarship. Elizabeth Hamilton seconded the motion and it was approved by the Board.

Larry Larson distributed the vases to the Board members to create centerpieces for the upcoming Minnesota Arboretum 50th Anniversary Celebration. Centerpieces are to be delivered to Larry before noon on June 12th.

Don Troche reported on getting a work crew together to do the planting at Valleyfair, which is a fund raiser for the club on Saturday, June 7th. Don will be contacting Chuck to send an e-mail to all members asking for volunteers.

Dennis Rust and Elizabeth Hamilton highlighted the upcoming club Garden Tour to Rochester on Saturday, June 21st. The cost will be \$23 per person and will include a box lunch and afternoon beverage.

The meeting was adjourned. Next Board meeting will be September 2, 2008 at Elizabeth Hamilton's home.



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

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

First Class Mail

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