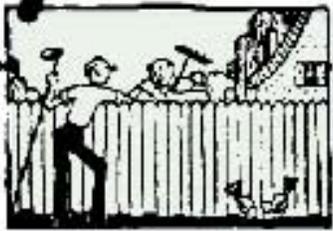




The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
 2006, Volume 64, Number 6



ART IN THE GARDEN

From classic to kitschy, funky to functional, there's garden art to fit every style of garden. On Tuesday, June 13th, as garden writer Erin Hynes shows examples of all kinds of garden art in all kinds of gardens. Learn how to get in touch with YOUR inner pink flamingo (*red Hynes' bio on pg 10*).



June Dinner Meeting: June 13th, 2006

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 June 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. For last-minute cancellations, call LeRoy Cech (952 435-7621). If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
June 13	LHC	Art in the Garden with Erin Hynes
July 22	Tour	Garden Tour
Aug 19-20	Arb.	FFF Flower Show
Aug. 26	Tour	Garden Tour
Sept.	LHC	TBA
Oct..	LHC	Botanical Treasures of China with Jason Smith
Nov.	LHC	Raingardens
Dec.	LHC	HOLIDAY PARTY

LHC = Lake Harriet Church
 MF = Marshall Field's Downtown
 WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



A Word from the President

by *Kristine Deters*

Boy, I thought the auction and plant sale turned out to be a fabulous night. I came home with some tried and true annuals, some trustworthy perennials and some fun new plants (well some new to me). My prize auction purchase was a 'Clementine' columbine. It has dark purple upfacing flowers which fit perfectly among my spring purple flowering plants. I planted it next to my 'Philippe Vapelle' geraniums and my dark purple bearded iris. Behind is my blue cornflowers *Centaurea montana*. It is balanced by *Aquilegia alpina* farther down the bed. Later in the summer when the Asiatic lilies bloom, my garden heats up with reds, oranges and yellows, but for now, my cool spring garden grants me peace and refreshes me from the dark days of winter. Hats off to Doug Whitney for his gutsy auctioneer's performance and to all the other auction committee members who made this such a successful club event.

Another successful club event was our trip out to Valleyfair on May 20th. There were seven members who were able to make it to the fundraiser. Five of us planted one bed under the Power Tower ride with approximately 450 'Bonfire' *Salvia* plants. Our supervisor complemented our neat rows and said it looked just like the professionals did it. I'm sure the other two members worked just as hard at their planting site. We finished the morning's work with some weeding under the waterslides. Thanks go out to Don Trocke for providing donuts and drinks. We were invited back this summer to do more weeding so look for an announcement later this year.

These types of events are what brings our members together and raises public awareness for our club. I am looking forward to the member tours and the FFF show this summer.

Kristine

A Note from the Editor

by *Jason Rathe*

It is always nice to glean a sneak peak at each newsletter's copy. Take a chance to read the articles by the two Margarets. Did you know that Margaret Landry has a black belt in Aikido? Take a look at her bio blurb on page 3 to learn more about her.

And Margaret Hibberd takes us beyond the front of border in her article discussing her trials with tall annuals. She has some good ideas on adding late season color to the garden.

As always we welcome all and any submissions to the Spray. The Spray is at its most lively and interesting when members contribute their wealth of experience (and personality).

Good gardening!

Jason Rathe



Getting To Know Our Board

Margaret Landry

Look out! Boring middle-aged woman with cats... Actually, I'm certain I'm more interesting now than when I was younger! Basic stats: boomer, grew up in a small town in North Dakota, M.A. in German (30 years ago I could pass myself off as German), lived in an ashram/yoga center, lifelong learner, physically active, black belt in Aikido (inactive currently), taught women's full-contact self-defense, like to travel (most exotic: Egypt), worked in the medical device industry 13 years, easily bored.

Only four years ago I thought I hated gardening, due to childhood memories of bugs, worms, sunburn, oppressive heat and forced labor when I wanted to play! A shattered ankle brought me to gardening.

Spring arrived and I was demoralized from lack of motion and constant pain, but discovered that the pain and depression vanished from my awareness when I dabbled in the yard... I was immediately hooked, but 18 months later still severely debilitated and my ankle needed daily ice and elevation despite physical therapy, chiropractic, etc.

An MGCM member suggested a book by Pete Egoscue (thanks, Sharla!)... after doing the deceptively simple exercises for a couple weeks, the progress and relief renewed my hope of returning to a more active lifestyle. Since there was no Minnesotan certified in The Egoscue Method(R) to help me, I read all of the Egoscue books and sought help from Egoscue online. Eventually I registered in the training program since I wanted more information. When I was laid off from my job, I de-

ecided to pursue certification. So, the shattered ankle led to gardening, which led to Egoscue, which allows me to garden more... In April I incorporated Align for Ease and opened an office in St.

Paul. I love this work and am continually amazed at its effectiveness in helping people relieve their own pain and improve their posture and mobility.

Until now, I've been a random gardener, with no particular focus, expertise or specialty. Rain gardens have recently captured my attention, fit well in my eco-friendly world view, and the funds available (Minneapolis) for rain gardens appeal to my 1/4 Scottish frugality and in-transition starting-a-business state! My learning curve is now focused in putting in a rain garden. I'm beginning to have a specialty!

I found MGCM's website when I was looking for ways to learn about gardening. In my first year I was awed by the well-oiled machinery of committee work -- and I hate meetings! MGCM members continue to impress me with their vast knowledge, enthusiasm, dedication, personal warmth and humor. And there's always more to learn about gardening -- not much chance to get bored!

Ciao for now,

Margaret Landry



Tall Annuals

by Margaret Hibberd

Beyond its being interesting to see how big annuals can get in a season, it's nice to find some big color impact in mid to late summer for spots in the perennial border.

Park's 'Whopper Lighthouse' *Salvia splendens* was described as 30" tall with 8-10" spikes suited to sun to light shade and it was at least this big in my 2005 garden. It germinated well with heat under lights, but took till August to get the big bright red spikes, but then it continued to be the hit of the fall garden. The foliage always looked excellent and it did perform well both in full sun and partial shade.

Grown as a tender perennial here, *Salvia guaranitica* 'Black and Blue', is a striking plant with a black calyx and bright blue flower. I had been really taken with its color and vigor, but could never find seed and began to think it is propagated only by cuttings? The three 3' tall plants I grew in 2005 in full sun provided a



long season of excellent cut flowers and always drew comments from garden visitors and the foliage always looks excellent.

After growing the tall white *Nicotiana alata* and *N. sylvestris*, I continued my search for a colored *Nicotiana* taller than the 'Heaven Scent Mix.' Then at Tangletown Gardens, I found a six pack of *Nicotiana x sanderae* 'Cranberry Island Mix.' There are a lot of internet references to this mix, so it must be more widely known. In my 2005 garden, it rapidly grew over 4' tall and was well branched with a long bloom season. The colors included white, light and dark pinks and, I think, a purple. The location did not get enough sun and the plants kind of sprawled, but I would grow it again under higher light conditions. My next dream is that it will be sorted out and sold as individual colors.

There was no space for *Cleome hassleriana* 'Sparkler Lavender' in my 2005 garden, but in previous years in full sun it produce a long lasting mass of lavender on well branched plants at least 3' tall.

I have discovered trellised annual vines can also provide tall color in the garden. On tours at Gary Geister's I had seen the tricolored flowers of *Ipomoea lobata* (common names: 'Firecracker Vine, Spanish Flag, Exotic Love, Minilobata) which he starts from seed. In full sun my two small pots of transplants with several plants each produced a long lasting mass of color that was amazing.

Then I was quite taken by the vine *Lophospermum erubescens* 'Wine Red' (common names, Mexican Twist or Twining Snapdragon, Snapdragon Vine)

(cont. on page 5)



(cont. from page 4)

because in the garden center it had beautiful burgundy flowers. It grew well and the foliage always looked great, but even in full sun it produced only a few flowers. In looking for info I found the U of FL site:

<http://hort.ufl.edu/floriculture/Crops/Pack%20Trials%20pt1%2004&20GPN.pdf>

It mentioned that it grew great in trials in cool nights of spring and summer and in the south and is recommended for the North. It used to be called *Asarina erubescens* and the flowers can be 3". This site also had other annual trial info including new colors of *Thunbergia* and *Gaillardia* that are under development. After reading this, and hearing that Gary Geister had success with it in less than full sun, I might try it again.





Plant Auction

On Tuesday, May 9, 2006, MGCM held its major annual fundraiser, our Plant Sale, Auction and Country Store. In my mind, it was a resounding success. Preliminary results indicate that the Club will clear a net profit in the neighborhood of \$3,700. This is an improvement over 2005 in the approximate amount of \$400.

The first thing I need to do is to raise up the two institutional benefactors who contribute so unselfishly to our event every year and have been doing so since I became involved with the sale in 1993. Bachman's Garden Centers and The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum contribute hundreds of dollars of materials every year to this event. This is due to long standing relationships with the founder and directors of Bachman's and the leadership at The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. We are blessed to enjoy such generosity.

I attribute the success of this year's event to the great Club members who participated by attending the Country Store, Dinner, Silent Auction and Live Auction as well as all of those members who participated in the Pre-Sale orders this year.



The auction

I heard so many positive comments and compliments about how much fun this year's event was and how well it ran. One thing that really helps an event like this get off to a great start



In the Country Store

is to have a room full of colorful, well flowered out, healthy looking plant materials. I believe this was the perfect Spring season for the commercial growers and our members to bring in the finest looking materials I have seen in years.

Special thanks are due to Gary Geister, Dave McKeen, Bob Voigt, Bob Stepan, and Golden Valley Dave who each year seed, germinate and donate hundreds of plants for the Country Store at no expense to the Club. The Country Store is the event where we experience the greatest profit margin because we have only nominal costs associated with everything we sell there.

Thank you to Jerry Shannon for his unbroken succession of fascinating and unusual contributions to the Silent Auction. Lots of people contribute tremendously interesting and valuable plants and things every year which become included in the Silent Auction because they are so unique. Jerry Shannon has been doing this every year, without fail, for as long as I have been involved. I suspect he has been doing it far longer than that.

(cont. on page 7)



(cont. from page 6)

Similarly, thanks to Clyde Thompson who always donates a trunk load of raffle prizes and silent auction items. I mention Clyde because, event though I was at the doctor when he came this year, I could tell he had been there simply by the name of the hardware store on the implements and the number and quality of the things he had delivered. I believe Clyde must be a major shareholder at that hardware store. For me he symbolizes all of you who donate such items without any special notice. Often I don't even see the items come in nor who donated them. Your generosity to the Club and your anonymity in doing so is truly remarkable.

Thanks also to Ritchie Miller, Tim McCauley, Elizabeth Hamilton, Bob Voigt, Golden Valley Dave and Bob Stepan for selecting the materials we purchase for the Silent and Live Auction

I want to express my humble gratitude to a very experienced team on the Plant Sale Committee for doing such a fantastic job. People like Howard Berg, Elizabeth Hamilton, Fridley Dave, Mary Wahl, Elaine Spiegel, Larry Larson, Elaine Spiegel, and Bob Voigt just show up exactly when needed and know exactly what to do. Two newer members, Carol Schreier and Margaret Landry, were of indispensable help to me as I was unable to walk. They just swarmed around the place, taking care of all the details I could not attend to.



*Above: Richie and Bob
Below: The bidders*

(cont. on page 8)



The money-takers



The treasury



(cont. from page 7)

The most outstanding characteristic about the Plant Sale Committee is that every member is a leader, yet most of those are content not to lead but simply to show up, do the work, grace each other with their presence and what they bring to the day, and enjoy the proceedings. Chief among equals this year is Kris Deters, our Club President, who always does all the pre-sale spread sheet order form modifications and the overall order compilations. This year, along with everything else, she happily took over the most difficult task in the entire process, tabulating the live auction sales and overall purchase collections.

I know I've not mentioned all the people who contributed greatly to this year's event. I profoundly regret that. Please forgive me in this and continue to contribute as you have.

I never enjoyed this event more than I did this year. I believe it was because I was unable to do even a fraction of what I usually do because of the broken bone in my right foot. I simply had to step back and allow everyone to do what they have been doing for years without interfering. Usually I micromanage based on my worry of the moment. For the most part this year I was able to watch it all unfold and realize even as it was happening what a unique and successful day it was. What a privilege.

Doug Whitney

Happy 90th
Birthday to
Jerry Olson !!!



MGCM TOUR DATES

Mark your calendar!

Two club tours have been scheduled for this summer. The first will be a bus tour on July 22 with probably 2 stops in the south metro and then a trip down to the Koopmans' in Faribault for a tour and supper. Rumor has it that the Koopmans have some new things up their sleeves since the last tour there; if you have never been there this is a must-see garden! Our second tour will be a drive yourself tour in the west metro on August 26 with probably four all-new gardens to see. We will end at Larry Larson's in Minnetonka to see his dahlias and for some fellowship over supper.

More information on these tours will be provided in upcoming issues of the Spray. As previously stated, there will be no public tour this year, but the Tour Committee would like some help to get some groundwork laid for one next year. To be done this year will include picking a date and lining up gardens for the tour; early next year begins the process of filling in the rest of the details. We are especially in need of ideas for gardens to tour. If you would be willing to have your garden on public tour or would like to help with the many other details, please contact Denise Rust at dk_rust@hotmail.com or (763)560-7747.

Financial Snapshot

Financial Snapshot as of May 15, , 2006

Checking account - \$6,884.23

CD_s - \$10,203.69

Cash - \$100

Total - \$17,187.92

Meeting attendance (113 Members)

January - 48 members (43%) plus 3 guests

February - 35 members (32%) plus 7 guests

March - 31 members (28%) plus 18 guests

April - 42 members (38%) plus 6 guests

May - 38 members (34%) plus 12 guests



June Speaker: Erin Hynes

.....→ Garden writer Erin Hynes has authored or co-authored more than a dozen books for Rodale Press, Better Homes & Gardens, and Time-Life Books and writes regularly for The Northern Gardener magazine. She is also the author of the self-published Cold Climate Ornamental Grasses: The Little Guide to the Biggest Thing in Gardening (2004), and has served as President of the Ornamental Grass Society.

She is a former county horticulture agent for the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service and holds a Master of Science degree in Weed Science from Penn State University.

Before moving to the Twin Cities in 2000, Erin lived and gardened in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Indiana, Texas (twice!) and North Carolina.





Club Reports

April 25th, 2006

The Board met at Elizabeth Hamilton's. Present were Sharla Aaseng, Kris Deters, Elizabeth, Margaret Landry, Denise Rust, Elaine Spiegel and Don Trocke.

Absent were Leroy Cech and David McKeen.

PRESIDENT'S/TREASURER'S REPORT Discussion was done on how to fund our scholarships should public tours be discontinued. (Note: It has not been decided to discontinue public tours at this time.)

Possible recommendations were as follows:

1. Drop donations to some other groups.
2. Reduce scholarship amount back to \$1,000.
3. Increase in dues.
4. Work at getting a higher number of members receiving Spray by e-mail rather than a mailing.
5. Get back to working at Valleyfair.

Two recommendations were made by the Board for now: 1) That two \$1,500 scholarships be awarded this year, with money coming from surplus funds and 2) that dues be raised to \$15 in 2007 (This will require a vote at the June meeting.) New fundraising ideas are welcome as well.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT Programs are set through December with the exception of September. Margaret will follow through on ideas for September and January programs to get them set.

SECRETARY'S REPORT Made note of article in March 1 Star Tribune that advertised that our club is giving away \$1,500 scholarships and that gave information on how to apply.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT Sharla plans to take over publishing the membership directory, and has given some thought to sending it e-mail. She will be updating the membership and renewal process as well. She wants the dues paid by persons joining in the last quarter of the year to be payment for the following year's dues.

OLD BUSINESS There will be no public tour this year but the hope is to lay some groundwork for one next year. Meanwhile 1-2 club tours will be scheduled for this summer.

NEW BUSINESS Elaine Spiegel and Sharla Aaseng will co-chair the Holiday Party; the caterer has already been booked for this event.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING will be held Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00 PM at Denise Rust's.



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Inside

Page 1	June Event
Page 2	Word from Prez
Page 2	Editors Note
Page 3	Meet the Board
Page 4-5	Tall Annuals
Page 6-8	Auction Highlights
Page 9	Tour Dates
Page 10	Erin Hynes' Bio
Page 11	Club Reports

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