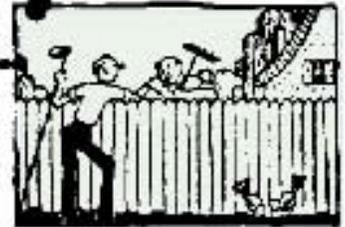




The Garden Spray

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

2008, Volume 66, Number 06



JUNE SPEAKER

**Don't Miss the June 21st
Garden Tour in
ROCHESTER!
(see page 4)**

Margaret Yeakel-Twum, who works with the tropical collections at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park, will be our guest speaker at our club meeting June 10. Margaret is one of the more public faces among the gardeners at the conservatory, often presenting talks to the public and dealing with the media on occasion as well.

She has worked at the conservatory for 12 years, and prior to that worked 11 years at the Biological Sciences Greenhouses at the U of MN. She has a BS in Horticulture and is currently finishing up a Master's degree in Environmental Education at the U. She works specifically with the plants in the public areas of the conservatory, and spends extra time with such diverse plants as bromeliads, orchids, Victoria Water Platters, the Titan Arum and chocolate.

Margaret's presentation will focus on her job, a "Day in the Life" scenario, and she will gladly answer questions about the conservatory or specific plants as well. Don't miss this engaging and knowledgeable speaker!

June Dinner Meeting: Tuesday June 10th, 2008

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

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*

I want to begin this month's column with a big THANK YOU to the entire plant auction and sale committee, who all did a wonderful job organizing and putting on our annual event. A special thanks to chairman and auctioneer deluxe Doug Whitney, who does yeoman work every year heading up this event. Another big thanks to all the club members who brought in plants for sale in the country store and who donated plants or merchandise to the silent auction and raffle. And a big hug goes out to the entire crew who manned the sales table. These people took our orders, added them up, and kept the line moving in fine order. Thanks everyone!!!

This month's column focuses on new sun loving annuals. First up is the Angelonia Angelface Dark Violet (pictured). It blooms all season with no deadheading, it is heat and drought tolerant and low maintenance. Three new spreading Angelonias, pink, purple, and white, are also new for 2008.

Calibrachoa Superbells Dreamsicle (pictured) and Calibrachoa Saffron offer abundant, small petunia like



Calibrachoa 'Superbells: Dreamsicle'



Dahlia Mystic Illusion

flowers all season on cascading growth. No deadheading needed.

Cleome offers up one new variety called Spirit Damask, which is a rose-pink color. It attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Dark Angel Dracula Dahlias are specially developed with very dark leaves. Flowers will bloom continuously. There's also a Mystic Dreamer series with pink (pictured) or orange and a striking Mystic Illusion yellow.

There are several new Gerbera Daisies (pictured) including the Revolution series with Yellow, Red, Terra Cotta and Vanilla.

There are several new Lantana colors, including Landmark Citrus (pictured), Gold, White, Grape and Bandana Orange Sunrise.

Two new Penstemons for 2008 include Phoenix ma-



genta and Phoenix violet.

The very popular Rudbeckia has a new entry, Tiger Eye Gold (pictured).

Some other new annuals include a mango colored Snapdragon, Vincas called Cora Apricot, Cora Burgundy, Cora Violet, and Cora White and a Zinnia called Profusion Double Cherry.



Gerbera Daisies



Rudbeckia 'Tiger Eye Gold'

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
June 10th	LHC	Como Tropical Collection
June 21st		Rochester Garden Tour
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



A Note from the Editor

Mary Maynard

We Didn't Need the Rain that Badly!

It has been dry on Dart Avenue. The recent rains all seemed to miss us here in St. Louis Park, and I was hoping for a nice garden-variety thunderstorm on Saturday to soak in a few new transplants.

Instead, we got marble-sized hail that more than covered the ground and stripped most of the leaves off the trees and packed what was left of the transplants in ice. At nightfall, we still had hail covering the ground, and this morning, we still had remnants in the grass.

Time will only tell whether the dahlias and tomatoes near the house that got buried in hail coming off the roof will recover or not. And the hostas. Oh, the hostas. I had just been thinking earlier in the day how the cool spring had been so good for the hostas, and how beautiful they all looked this year. Now we just have stems.



Hosta montana 'Aureomarginata'

In a way, of course, the pressure is off. No way can I have a showcase garden this year! I don't have to worry about entering hosta leaves at the FFF Show. It will definitely be a rebuilding year for Dart Avenue.

So it's just as well that we have two events in June to keep my mind off the devastation. Thanks to Denise for organizing another interesting speaker for the club meeting. The tour also sounds fabulous. Thanks to everyone who worked on setting it up.

I guess I better go out and survey the damage once again! See you all at the club meeting!



Have you ever tried to grow an orchid?

by Carole Anne Brekke

Have you ever tried to grow an orchid? I always thought they would be difficult with too many needs... like temperature, humidity and maybe even a greenhouse. About 5+ years ago I was with my husband at Home Depot. He was looking for tools and supplies and I wandered over to the orchids. They were so beautiful and only \$ 16.00. They were all of the Phalenopsis variety...which means very easy to please and no greenhouse required. Still thinking about buying one to try, I spied a plant with two stems with huge white blooms. I bought it, brought it home and thought, "Now what do I do?"

I searched the internet and found lots of helpful information and pictures. Then I called Russell Smith, one of our long time MGCM Members who is listed in our directory as having a special interest in orchids. Russ has a very green orchid thumb and even has a greenhouse! When I was wondering how to repot my orchid because the bark was old and decomposed, he invited me to bring it to his house and he would show me how. He was not gentle with them as I had thought he would be. They are very easy to repot. Russ helped me gain a little confidence....so, soon I went back to Home Depot for a purple orchid. Before I bought the orchids we had just installed new 4' high windows on the North side of our house. The contractor noticed my love of plants inside our house (my sisters recently counted 48 plants...oh my!) and suggested an 8" old fashioned oak window sill for my plants. That is where I put my two orchids. They are still there and just beginning another blooming cycle which lasts for months. A few weeks ago a neighbor bought a small yellow Phal. orchid from Bachmans and she kept telling me it was losing all the blooms and dying. She finally gave it to me, now the expert. There were no flowers left on it, it had been planted

in a moss medium that was soggy and the roots were rotting, it wasn't growing at the tip of the stem where new blooms start and the leaves were ice cold to the touch. The yellow orchid has been two weeks on my window sill with bright, but not direct light. The tip has begun to grow and the starts of three blooms are showing. All the Phal. type orchids need at my house is indirect light, to be planted in an orchid bark mixture and to be watered once a week with room temperature, distilled water that has a small amount of orchid fertilizer in it.

At our April MGCM Club Meeting, Jason, from Orchids Unlimited gave the program. Were you there? He brought many beautiful orchids and they were



for sale after his program. He starting working with orchids at age 5 and is now an expert and travels the world representing his fathers business. He convinced me the small Lady Slipper type orchid, Paphiopedilum Amarantine (named after the Enya song and means on and on) would be very easy to grow with my successful experience with the common Phal.

(Orchids cont. on pg 9)





CLUB GARDEN TOUR HEADS TO ROCHESTER!

All new gardens to enjoy

Schedule and Registration Information

This will be a fabulous tour and it would be unthinkable to miss it! Our tour will be on Saturday, June 21, and we will go by bus to Rochester to tour four gardens that have never been toured by our club. Elizabeth Hamilton had previously toured the garden of Vince and Mary Herring with the Pond Society and suggested their garden as a tour destination; they not only agreed but also lined up three other Rochester gardens for us to see as well. (Mary also offered to fix our box lunches, so we will be lunching at their place!)

We will be leaving from our usual spot at the SE corner of Southtown Center in Bloomington, by the bowling alley. Southtown is located at the intersection of American Blvd. W. and Knox Ave. S. Our departure time will be 8:30 AM; we plan to return about 4:30.

We will tour two gardens in the morning, and then head to Herrings' for lunch and a leisurely look at their garden. We will make one final stop after that, offer beverages for the return trip, then head for home. Please bring a folding lawn chair for luncheon seating; also please plan on using the bus restroom as needed.

Cost for the trip will be \$23 per person; this covers the trip by air conditioned coach, lunch, and afternoon beverages. There is bus seating for 47, so make your reservations early to ensure a spot. Please send your reservation form and payment to Denise Rust, 7933 Girard Court N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55444-2070 so it reaches her no later than Wednesday, June 18. You can call her with any questions you might have, 763 560-7747.

I will be attending the Rochester garden tour on June 21st.

Name _____

Name _____

I have enclosed \$23 for each person attending the lunch.



ROCHESTER GARDEN TOUR GARDENS

Ryan/Cook Gardens. 516 Meadowrun Drive SW, Rochester

Over two decades have gone into the acre of gardens maintained with love and labor of the Ryans and Cooks, two neighbors who live side by side. The gardens consist of 1,000's of annuals, perennials, and ponds. You can enjoy a collection of some 350 different species of hosta which have substantial size. Many of the landscaped walls are from the limestone found on the properties. The gardens also feature a waterfall and even a babbling brook that runs through the middle of the yards. Many decorative trees and dwarf pines are planted throughout the landscape.

Nancy Braataas Garden, 939 10 Street SW, Rochester

The garden of Nancy Braataas was designed in 1970. A six foot high, 120 foot long railroad tie wall, raised garden beds, and brick patios were installed. Perennial shade plants, understory trees and evergreens were planted between 1971 and 1973.

Since 1985, hundreds of Hosta (over 150 varieties) have been growing to maturity and are now specimen plants. Since 1997, over 50 varieties of Clematis were planted and are now also specimens.

A few years ago, instead of planting annuals, over a hundred vibrant light blue Clematis 'Arabella' (in bloom from June until frost) were planted throughout the garden beds to "scramble" over groundcover and to intermingle with other plants.

In 2002, several 10 foot high varieties of both Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum*) and Bugbane (*Cimicifuga*) were planted and are now mature. Railroad tie steps from the backyard lead to a 5 level hillside woods garden, with mature oaks and evergreens - plus a wide variety of Hosta, Azalea, *Thalictrum*, ferns, and other woodland plants.

Vince and Mary Herring, 5500 Highway 63 S.,

Rochester

Amid the 21 acre property of Vince and Mary Herring lie several acres of gardens, including native plant and wild flower gardens, cottage gardens, vegetable gardens, an asparagus bed, a raspberry bed, grape arbor, apple trees, flower lined walks, a rock garden, a sun and moon garden, fairy bell walk, iris gardens (65+ varieties), hosta gardens (150 varieties), coleus beds (1000's of plants) and impatiens beds (800+ plants). (Mary starts several thousand annuals and perennials in the house each year to be planted on the grounds in the spring.)

Nestled within the gardens are a number of water features including a 140,000 gallon, 9.5 foot deep pond lined with 1,000 tons of glacial boulders. The main pond, with over 300 Koi, features an 8 foot waterfall. Flowing into this main pond is a stream that first goes through additional bog areas and lily ponds.

Amid the flower lined brick walks you will also see a hobbit house with a 50 foot tunnel and a stone grotto with mosaic baldacchino containing fiber optic lighting. A statue of the Virgin Mary, imported from St. Peter's in Rome, sits inside the grotto. Many sculptures and garden art are featured along the garden paths to add fun and surprises.

Wildwood on Wicklow, Tomashek Garden, 1288 Wicklow Lane SW , Rochester

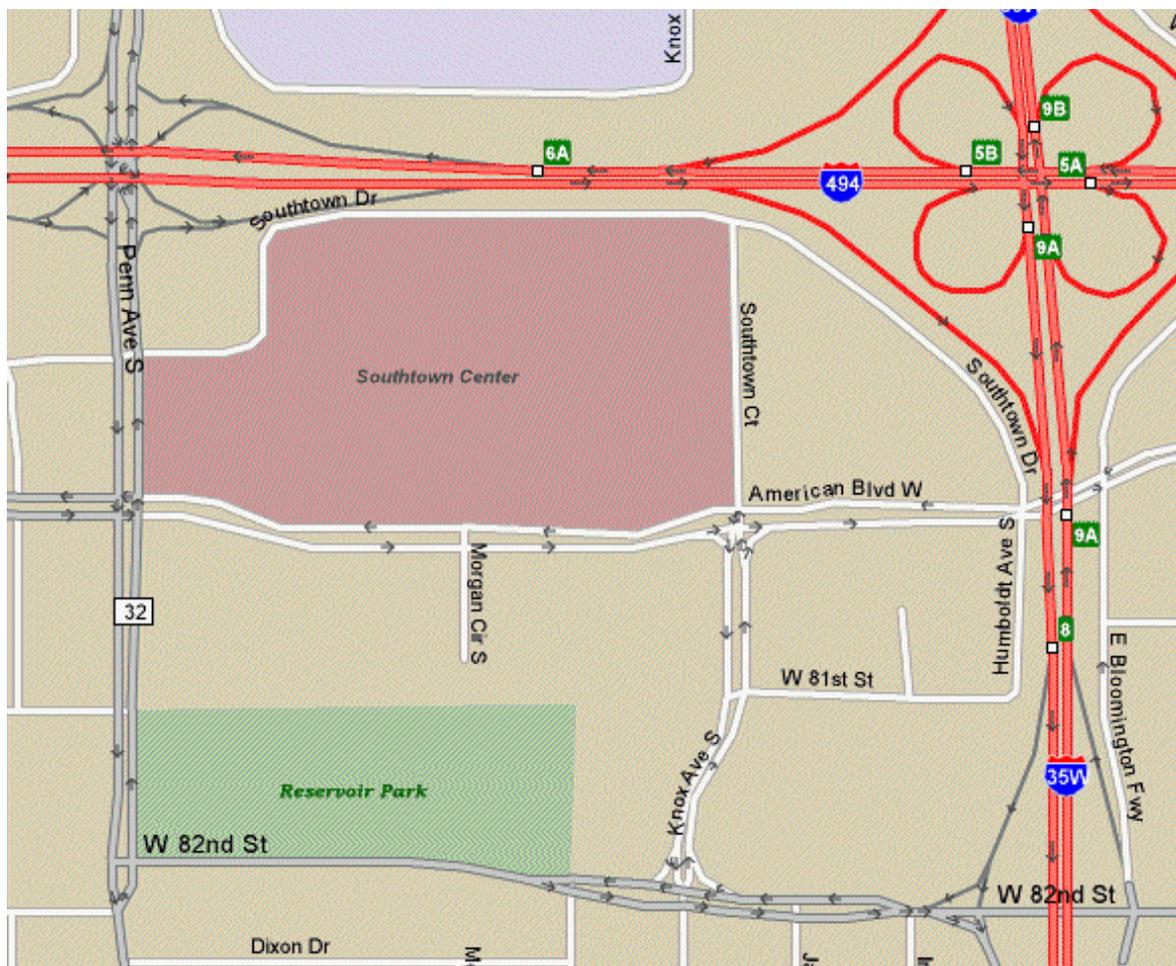
Established in 2003, the Tomashek garden, Wildwood on Wicklow, sits on a steeply sloping lot next to an open valley. Mostly nestled under Oaks, Black Cherry, White Ash, Hackberry and Box Elder, the gardens are bursting with over 500 varieties of Hosta plus Ferns, Heuchera, *Hemerocallis*, *Lilium*, *Monarda*, *Tricyrtis*, *Rudbeckia*, *Echinacea*, *Ligularia*, ornamental grasses and a host of natives, which are encouraged to weave their way through all of the beds. Areas near



the house are tamer than the areas beneath the huge limestone retaining wall that terraces the areas west and south of the house. Three bridges cross the ravine giving access to the crest beyond where a fire pit and Adirondack chairs offer a respite from the climb. The central stairs of limestone and field stone were installed in Spring 2007; steps to the east are carved into

the slope and offer another route. A footpath along the base of the retaining wall leads to other paths accessing the gardens from the west. If you have physical limitations, you may view the gardens from the backyard or the deck where you can enjoy the sounds of the small backyard pond.

Map to Southdale





Lyndale Park Event on July 22

By Kay Wolfe

Mark your calendars for the club event at the Lyndale Park Garden on Tuesday July 22. The evening will begin with dinner—I hear there might be a Roasted Pig—along with a Roasted Turkey—now if we can just get them paraded! Speakers will follow, addressing the Past, Present, and Future of MGCM's efforts at Lyndale Park. Our speakers for the evening will be Professor Neil Anderson from the Floriculture Department at the University of Minnesota, joined by club members Mary Maynard, Robert Kean and Kay Wolfe. Tours of the park gardens, including the historic plantings done by MGCM, will highlight the

evening. The current MGCM gardens are the Trial Garden and Mixed Perennial Border Garden, and MGCM committee members will be available with plant lists and answers to your questions. There will also be tours of the famous park gardens, the Rose Garden, Peace Garden, and Perennial and Annual Gardens. After the tours, we will end the evening with a dessert buffet under the stars. Plan to join us for our July celebration!

(Orchids cont. from pg 5)

varieties. So, I bought the purple-pink, yellow-green and purple spotted and , twisted hairy side petaled Lady Slipper orchid. It is beautiful!!! It is sitting on a desk in my South facing kitchen, 10 feet from the patio door in low light. I water it with distilled water every 3 days as it is in a 3.25" pot and fertilize it once a month...that is it. I bought it with a bud on April 8 and it was fully blooming on April 10. The blooms are to last 3 weeks...then bloom again on the same stem. The morning of May 10, a second bloom was fully open and another bud is developing. On May 17 the first bloom fell off, 5 weeks and two days after it had opened. This blooming cycle could go on for 2 years, Jason said. Also, this small 3.25 " pot has another plant starting to grow and it will start to bloom when it is mature the mother plant has finished. I can hardly believe it! A Lady Slipper orchid likes growing in my kitchen with very little care in low light..

I encourage you to try growing an orchid yourself. If

I can do it, so can you! I am going to visit Orchid Unlimited in July when Jason said there will be more beautiful orchids blooming for us to see. Want to come along and find the perfect one for you to try?

If I am missing, check my garden.....or my window sill of orchids! Carole Ann



SPRING AT THE LYNDALE PARK GARDEN

The spring work day on May 17 at the Lyndale Park Garden was the perfect spring moment! Daffodil and tulips were in bloom, and the crab apple trees were just starting to open. What a lovely sight. The committee planted 500 daffodil bulbs in the border garden last fall, and Tina Scott, MGCM member and Lyndale Park gardener, underplanted the stands of crab apple trees with daffodils. The results were stunning. Check out the photos!





Preparing for the Photo Show

Many of us have already starting planning for the Food and Flower portions of the annual FFF show, by starting seeds or planting or just contemplating what we will bring with us on August 16 to the Arboretum. Now it's time to give a few moments of thought to the third "F," Fotos.

If Class 6, Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines is your forte, you probably have been out pointing your lens at crab apple and ornamental plum branches or will soon be focusing on lilac boughs to take advantage of their finest hours. By the way, that is usually a very crowded class, so you may also want to wade through a few woodland marshes to look for the first wildflowers—in the wild, remember—for Class 12. That class usually has fewer entries and you may fare better there, nice as your tree photos may be.

Class 4, Bulbous Flowers, is also at one of the prime times for getting out, pointing and clicking at tulips or daffodils, as so many of the contest participants do. Soon enough, you can start looking for Classes 10 and 11 subjects, the Groups of Cultivated Plants or Flower Beds, and Natural Landscapes, respectively, and perhaps competing in a less crowded field, or wait for Vegetables, Fruits, or Herbs, which often is wide open for entries. Club Activities, Class 8, in some years is a busy class, others not. The same is true for Class 9, Scenes of Member Gardens. Classes 1 and 2, the Annuals and Perennials, are obvious choices but usually are convenient to everybody, so expect heavy competition for those. Don't forget Roses, Container Plants, and the Miscellaneous classes, either.

Remember, you can use photos you took at any time, as long as you did not submit them to us before. And, don't forget the need for horticultural content in the

photo. All these need to be in to Chuck or Lloyd by the end of July. For more information to plan with, see www.minneapolisgardensclub.org for a link to the Photo Contest rules or call me at 612-623-7735. The rules for prints and digital photos have both changed slightly, and we do expect more digital entries.

Finally, start preparing now to send in one or two of your finest prints so we can post them on boards for the visitors to the FFF show to cast their votes. There were some spectacular landscapes and other prints last year. The People's Choice was a new but popular item in 2007, and we expect even more entries to this separate competition (with a \$50 gift certificate attached) this year.

Lloyd Wittstock



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