



The Garden Spray

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

2008, Volume 66, Number 03



MGCM Board raises

Cost of meals \$1

The MGCM board of directors raised the cost of meals by \$1, effective at the April 8 meeting. This was done because the club is currently losing \$200 for each event that takes place at the Lake Harriet church.

MGCM pays each speaker \$100 for their appearance at the meeting. The club also pays the church \$100 for each night we use the room. Each member now pays \$10 per meal, which is exactly the cost paid to the caterers. To offset the cost of the speaker and room rental, the board felt that it was appropriate to raise the cost of meals by \$1. This will not balance the amount spent on each meeting, but it will help.

The MGCM board must make difficult decisions to try to balance the budget. This was one of them. Every member of the board wants to thank members for their support and hopes this small increase will not deter them from attending the meetings. We all want a strong and viable club. This decision will help maintain that goal.

MACYS FLOWER SHOW FLORANOVA TUESDAY, MARCH 18TH

5:00 Gathering and conversation
5:30 Dinner
6:00 The shortest business meeting ever
6:05 Speaker Dale Bachman, Introduction to the Macy's Flower Show: Floranova
6:30 Board the bus to travel to Macy's downtown
8:00 Macy's closes; board bus for return trip

The Macy's Flower Show Floranova

March 18 will see the return of Dale Bachman and his not-to-be missed introduction to the behind-the-scenes production of this year's Macy's Flower Show entitled Floranova. Dale will enlighten us about the pre-show travels and the planning that went into putting together this year's event, which will run March 13-30 on the first floor of Macy's

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Permanent reservations are NOT IN EFFECT for the March 18th Club Meeting.

Please notify Carole Ann Brekke by Friday, March 14, if you plan to have dinner with us, and also if you will be riding the bus. Thank you!



Thoughts from the Prez

by Larry Larson

When I was in my late 20's, I decided I wanted to have a garden. I lived in an apartment then, but I had seen a sign nearby that claimed to rent out garden plots. I signed up. For \$20, I would get a tilled garden plot all my own. All I had to do was plant the seeds, water them, weed occasionally, and walla! My own vegetables!

It started out great. I bought some Northrop King seeds: sweet corn, peas, beans, more sweet corn (a different variety), parsnips, more sweet corn (a third variety), carrots, and, well, you get the idea. More sweet corn.

I rigged up a string tied to two sticks so I could have a nice straight line, stuck them in the ground, hoed out ten nice, straight rows, planted my seeds, covered them, and picked up the string and went home. I waited for rain. And waited. And waited. No rain. So, I decided to fill some buckets with water and drive out to the garden plot. I carried two full buckets of water down three flights of stairs (no elevator), put them in the trunk, and drove out to the garden plot.

When I got there, the water in the trunk had spilled out all over the place. I had filled the buckets too full! Undaunted, I dragged the now half-empty buckets over to the garden. One look at my plot and my heart sunk. Weeds everywhere! No vegetables, but tons of weeds!

Geez, I thought, it had only been five days, and already I had thousands of weeds! So I picked weeds. For two hours. Then I started pouring the water onto the rows of seeds. The seeds floated to the top

and drifted away. This was no good, I could see. I couldn't water this way. So I went and bought a watering can. I poured the water from the bucket into the watering can. I watered again, more gently this time. Finally, I was done and I went home.

Two days later, I returned to the garden. It hadn't rained, of course. No sign of any plants but more weeds! The ground was also dry as a bone. After two more hours of weeding, I went home and returned with more water. I did this every two days for the next week and finally, I saw some signs of corn and other vegetables popping out of the ground. Success!

But as the weeks went by, I could see this was going to be a very difficult task. Was that a bug on my corn leaf? Would animals eat my veges? Should I fertilize? How about disease? I had lots of questions, but nowhere to turn. Oh, I suppose I could have asked my football buddies. I can see it now: in the middle a practice, I call the guys together and ask them what corn borer looks like. Yup, that would go over big. Yes, this was a LOT more difficult than I had expected . . .

Nearly every one of us could tell a story similar to this one, about tilling by hand, hoeing hopelessly hard, clay, or sand soil, praying for rain, building high and higher fences around our gardens. We all struggled to learn how to garden, but things are easier today.

And that's the moral of this story. Most of us now live in nice homes with water readily available at the nearest spigot. Sprinklers deliver water everywhere in our garden or yard. A lot of us probably have an automated sprinkler system. There are herbicides, pes-

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Prez (cont. from page 2)

ticides, weed prevents, landscaping fabric, and many other helpers available for all of us gardeners. There were no garden centers when I was learning gardening, at least I didn't know of any. Now, they seem to be everywhere. There are books aplenty about gardening. And we can ask our own garden club members. We still have difficulties, but they aren't as severe as they were many years ago. Now, if I could just figure out how to keep the deer from eating the flowers . . .

A Note from the Editor

Editor's Note:

This issue of the *Spray* is chock-ful of useful information for members. Please note the change in meal prices for club meetings - the note from president Larry Larson is on the first page. Also, Denise Rust has put together a great year of presentations - the full layout is on page 4.

The events, and lots of other information are always posted on the club web-site, too. Right now the application for Scholarships as well as the rules for the "Foto" portion of the Flower, Food and Foto Show are posted on the web-site--ready for your perusal.

Keep a special place on your calendar for the Tour of the Perennial Trial Garden. For those member's who haven't had an opportunity to stop by and lend a hand to Kay and the crew - it is quite the layout. And the overall area encompassing the Rose Garden and Peace Garden have an interesting history and are one of the most serene areas in the Twin Cities.

The editors of the *Spray* are always looking for articles, quotes and pictures. We often have left over space when compiling the issues and would love to add pictures from member gardens, member's favorite plants, nurseries and stories of your gardening experiences (as well as trips or other excursions).

Jason Rathe



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
March 18th	Macys	Macys Flower Show
April 8th	LHC	Orchid Care/Cultivation
April 12th	Gertens	Gertens Greenhouse Tour
May 6th	WLC	Annual Plant Sale/Auction
June 10th	LHC	Como Tropical Collection
July 22		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

MGCM Notes:

Kent Petterson has posted the **scholarship applications** on the MGCM website (www.minnepolismensgardenclub.org). Please point any potential nominees to the web-site in order to print off the application. All students studying horticulture in Minnesota are eligible.

Also on the **web-site** - the photography rules for the Flower, Food and Foto Show!!

The University of **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary on June 12th**. The Men's Garden Club has been asked to send a representative to the celebration since the club was one of the founding organizations.

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February Meeting Notes

A few notes about the Feb. speaker: Tom Carlson is the owner of HostasDirect.com, based out of his home on Roselawn Avenue in Falcon Heights. Take a look at his website for great information about growing hostas and managing pests. Tom is perhaps the tallest speaker we've had for quite a while (6'8") and his enthusiasm for hostas is infectious.



New member - Sandra Abraham



Tom Carlson from HostaDirect.com



Chuck, Lloyd and Bob at the meeting.



MGCM board meeting, February 12, 2008

The February 12th, 2008 Board meeting was called to order by president, Larry Larson. All board members and directors were present except Elizabeth Hamilton.

Kay Wolfe was invited to share her ideas and plans for a club outing to Lyndale Park Garden on July 22. There will be a dinner, program and tour of the Trial Garden that is planted and maintained by members of our garden club. Plans also include inviting Neal Anderson, the coordinator of the University of Minnesota Trial Garden Program, to speak. Tina Scott, club member and Minneapolis Parks Gardner, will assist in securing necessary permits. Members will be asked to volunteer to help the committee to plan the event.

Old Business:

After discussion about the clubs policy on allowing outside use of the new digital projector, David McKeen presented a motion that no one uses the new digital projector except for club purposes. Elaine Spiegle seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous vote of the board.

New Business:

Denise Rust, vice president, previewed the programs and speakers for all of the monthly meetings through January, 2009. The full list of speakers can be found on the clubs web site. Denise also reviewed plans to tour the Macy's Spring Flower show for the March meeting on March 18th. Dinner will be served one hour early at 5:30 PM and Dale Bachman will speak on the planning and design that went in to the flower show. The members will then board a bus to the downtown Macy's store. The cost of the bus will be \$5.00 per person.

The Minnesota Arboretum has invited the MGCM to send a representative to their 50th Anniversary Celebration on June 12th, 2008, because the club was one of the founding organizations. The club has been asked to furnish seven floral arrangements as centerpieces for the tables. Judy Berglund moved to have the club furnish seven centerpieces. Margaret Landry seconded the motion. Motion approved.

After some discussion among board members with concern of the cost of getting good speakers for meetings and the cost of using the Lake Harriet Church facilities, a motion was made by Denise Rust to increase the price of dinner at the meetings to \$11 per meal starting with the April meeting to offset a small portion of the additional meeting costs. The motion was seconded by David McKeen and approved.

Meeting was adjourned. Next board meeting will be April, 1, 2008.



**GERTENS TRIP PLANNED
FOR APRIL 12TH**

Gertens Trip Planned
For April 12

Our garden club will be taking a field trip to visit Gertens Garden Center on Saturday, April 12. Lou Gerten, owner of Gertens, will lead us on a tour through all his greenhouses, filled to the brim with thousands upon thousands of beautiful annuals. We will also see some of the production areas, including the automatic planting machine. Most of these areas, including the greenhouses, are never seen by the general public.

We will also be eating lunch at Gertens. Mr. Gerten has agreed to set up an eating area for our club where he will also speak and answer questions. The charge for this outing is only \$5. Please fill out the form below and indicate if you are attending the tour and also the lunch. The tour is free, the lunch is \$5. Please give the form to Larry Larson at the March 18 or

April 8 meeting indicating you are planning to attend. Payment can be accepted at this time.

You may also send the form with payment to: Larry Larson, 15225 Wild Wings, Minnetonka, Mn 55345.

Plan on arriving at Gertens at 10:45 a.m. We will be gathering in the front of the store, then move to the back corner where Lou Gerten will begin the tour at 11 a.m. There will be no bus; everyone is expected to drive to the greenhouse. The directions to Gertens are as follows: Take 494 East to exit #67, Robert St. Go 3 miles to South Robert Trail (Mn 3) and turn right. Go .1 miles to Upper 55th St. East and turn left. Go 1.3 miles to Blaine Avenue, turn left. Gertens is just ahead on the right. Address is 5500 Blaine Avenue, Inver Grove Heights.

See you there!

I will be attending the Gertens garden tour on April 12.

Name _____

Name _____

I will be attending the lunch at Gertens following the tour:

Name _____

Name _____

I have enclosed \$5 for each person attending the lunch.

JULY EVENT IN LYNDALE PARK

By Kay Wolfe

A celebration of the MGCM Perennial Border and Trial Garden is being planned for July 22, 2008. Last fall the Minneapolis Park Board installed a plaque in the garden honoring MGCM's efforts and donations to the park since 1952. So this is a good time for a club tour and party in the park!

The evening event will begin with a dinner. Professor Neil Anderson of the University of Minnesota Floriculture Department will speak about the perennial plant trials that the University conducts. Our garden site is one of five trial sites in Minnesota where the plants are grown and data is recorded by MGCM's master gardeners. Committee members will speak about the history of MGCM's contributions to Lyndale Park. There will be tours of our garden, complete with plant lists, as well as tours of the other Lyndale Park gardens, including the Rose Garden, Peace Garden, and the Arboretum.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday evening, July 22, start time about 6 PM. The gardens at Lyndale Park are some of the most well-known gardens in the city of Minneapolis, and our committee is proud that we have been able to create a garden in such a prime location.



Getting to know your Board Secretary Judy Berglund

I joined MGCM in 2006 at the invitation of my cousin, Audrey Grote.

I grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm, so I learned to love fresh dirt under my fingernails at a very early age. My family always had a large vegetable garden and to this day there is nothing better than spring peas fresh from the garden or tomatoes warmed by the sun on those late summer BLT sandwiches. My college degree is in home economics so I love cooking with fresh vegetables and herbs from my garden.

My love in gardening is flowers. I always try to have several arrangements around the house from early spring through late fall. Because I like to have cut flowers through the year, I have not specialized in any one type of flower and my flower gardens are a mix of annuals and perennials that seem busy to the eye. I have learned a lot about line, color and design from working with Kay Wolfe in the trial gardens. I'm trying to put some of the knowledge to work in better designs of my own gardens.

My frustration is that I love my work as a Long Term Care insurance agent, but I would also love to be a fulltime gardener. If ever you have questions about my work and what I do, I would love to talk with you. I really enjoy the openness of the club members and how everyone is so eager to share their knowledge of gardening



March Meeting
(cont. from page 1)

Minneapolis. Floranova is billed as a "glorious arrangement of Latino art, color and culture in full bloom. . .Imagine Rio during Carnivale, the undulating rhythm of urban Buenos Aires, the intoxicating breezes of Isla Mujeres, the aged beauty of Cuba. . .a floral fiesta celebrating Latino art, music and botanical gardens."

You will get Dale's insightful background of the show nowhere else. Plan to join your gardening friends for this fun adventure (and perhaps wow your friends and family later with your behind-the-scenes insights). The cost is \$10 for dinner and a mere \$5 for the bus trip (you cannot pay for parking and gas for that amount!) per person. Spouses, friends are welcome. The bus will hold 74.

Note: Permanent reservations are NOT in effect for this evening. Please notify Carole Ann Brekke by Friday, March 14, if you plan to have dinner with us, and also if you will be riding the bus. Thank you!

April Program Preview

Life in the tropics continues as we welcome Jason Fischer of Orchids Ltd. in Plymouth as our guest speaker on Tuesday, April 8. Jason will bring orchids for show and for sale and will answer your questions about their cultivation. Mark your calendars!



New Members

Sandra Abraham
931 Waterford Drive
Eagan, MN 55123-1984
651-452-0858
wk: 612-813-6267
E-mail: sandabra@hotmail.com
on committees as needed

Tony Soble
1867 Malvern Street
Lauderdale, MN 55113
wk: 952-847-3014
Email: tsoble16@hotmail.com
FFF and Plant Auctions



Orchids via a keiki: Stem Propagation for Orchids

from Chuck Carlson

After blooming and cutting the stem to promote another blooming stem one of my orchids developed some leaves on the stem. Not knowing about this I emailed Russ Smith and he told me it was a “Keiki” and can be made into a new plant. Knowing this I went to the internet and googled keiki. I was able to get the following article. It is verbatim but I added pictures of my keiki and I did not use hormones.

Stem propagation is a lengthy process, that starts with cutting individual sections of the flower spike where there is a node. The sheath covering the node is carefully removed, and then hormones are used to force the creation of a Keiki, or baby plant. Once the plant

is large enough, it is potted up like any other plant and grown to blooming size. An example of a Phalaenopsis Keiki is shown here.

Since there are a limited number of nodes on each flower spike (stem), the number of plants that can be produced from the parent each year is very limited. Therefore, the price for stem propagations is high in comparison to plants produced by other methods, but you are guaranteed that the flowers will be identical to the parent plant. This method of reproduction is reserved for plants of exceptional quality



Here is a stem cutting -
the roots are yet to come...



... and you might have a new
orchid that looks like this.



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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