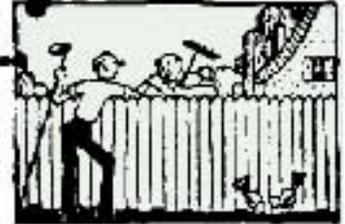




# The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc  
2006, Volume 64, Number 5



*Auctioneer in action*

Reservations are Required for  
Dinner at the Auction.  
Permanent reservations are  
not in effect.

## Hear, Ye! Hear, Ye! May Plant Sale Tues., May 9th

On Tuesday, May 9, 2006, MGCM will hold its major annual fundraiser, our Plant Sale, Auction and Country Store. Please remember : The lion's share of the clubs annual budget, between 60% and 75%, is raised during this event. A successful evening will help keep our annual dues at \$10 per member. The schedule of events is as follows:

- 4:15 PM Country Store Volunteers who work the sale can buy in the Country Store;
- 4:30 PM SILENT AUCTION BEGINS
- 4:45 PM COUNTRY STORE OPENS TO EVERYONE;
- 5:45 PM Dinner is served;
- 6:30 PM Dinner tables cleared and stowed, chairs set up for Live Auction
- 6:45 PM LIVE AUCTION BEGINS

See you there!!!!



## A Word from the President

by *Kristine Deters*

What is a memorial garden?

For this month's column, I decided to investigate what exactly is a memorial garden. From my search of the internet, I came across several uses of the term "Memorial Garden".

One type of memorial garden is a garden that has been bequeathed to a parks division, city or non-profit group to honor the previous owner. One such garden is the Noerenberg Memorial Garden. The garden estate was once home to the Grain Belt Brewery founder Frederick Noerenberg. His daughter Lora Noerenberg Hoppe bequeathed her family's estate to Hennepin County Three Rivers Park District in 1972. Many of you may have visited this memorial garden. This type of garden honors our history while providing many people with a place to get away from the daily grind of the life.

Memorial garden is also used as a euphemism for cemetery. It is a place for remembrance. When I traveled to Germany in 1999, which was before I became a gardener, I was very impressed with the cemeteries there. Each plot was covered entirely with blooming plants and was well cared for. Sidewalks ran around each plot and framed each "bed". It was as if I had truly gone into a garden planted for the living rather than a place to house the dead.

A third type of memorial garden is one which is created to honor an event or group. A woman's suffrage garden was planted at the capitol and another memorial garden is proposed to honor Minnesota's workers.

Victory Memorial Parkway in Minneapolis is lined with trees and memorials to honor our servicemen from Hennepin County.

This last type of garden is the type of garden most like what our memorial funds will be going to. It will be a place to remember the contributions of past members while providing a space for all to enjoy. It is a place to honor MGCM's commitment to the idea of the betterment of our community and our members. I look forward to seeing its continued development.

Kristine

## *A Note from the Editor*

by *Mary Maynard*

Spring started early this year, didn't it? I find myself worrying about not having things done that I am usually doing mid-May. With temperatures running 10-20 degrees above normal, the early spring bulbs came and went in a big hurry. By the time I got my camera out, the earliest ones were gone, although there were a few scilla left to enjoy here and there.

I am in serious scramble mode right now, with grapevines to prune (two months late), flowerbeds to rake out (two weeks late), dahlias to pot

*(cont. on page 3)*



*(cont. from page 2)*

up (one week late) and seedlings and cuttings to transplant. But, as usual, it's exciting to see what's next.

One of the advantages of having a hodge-podge garden like mine is that there is something blooming somewhere from the end of March to the first really hard frost in the fall. The early bulbs are almost done, but the plum trees are about to pop and the brunnera and bergenia are budding out. And after that, we'll have something to enjoy until October.

Phil and I had a good time in Florida this spring. It's so interesting to see all the exotic (to me) plants and flowering shrubs. We also had a great time visiting Phil and Wanda Smith and their excellent dog Rocky in Bonita Springs. And, don't ask me about the dent in the rental car. We're still waiting to hear just how expensive our vacation was.

See you at the Plant Sale. One of my favorite events!

## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
May 9	WLC	Plant Auction
June	LHC	Art in the Garden with Erin Hynes
July 22	WLC	Garden Tour
Aug 19-20	Arb.	FFF Flower Show
Sept.	WLC	TBA
Oct..	WLC	Botanical Treasures of China with Jason Smith
Nov.	WLC	Raingardens
Dec.	WLC	HOLIDAY PARTY

LHC = Lake Harriet Church

MF = Marshall Field's Downtown

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



*Feng Shui practitioner,  
Elaine Anderson*

## Hennepin Technical College Annual Plant Sale Fundraiser.

Proceeds support the Landscape, Horticulture, and Greenhouse programs. All plants are the plants are grown and sold by the students of the program.

**May 11 – 13**  
Thursday 9-5  
Friday 9-5  
Saturday 9-12

LOCATION - 9000 Brooklyn Blvd.,  
Brooklyn Park, MN  
Questions Call 952-995-1300  
<http://www.hennepintech.edu/>

## April Garden Meeting: Feng Shui in the Garden

The Mens Garden Club of Minneapolis was fortunate to spend time with Elaine Anderson during our April club meeting. Elaine Anderson is a Feng Shui specialist with her own company, Red Tortoise Fend Shui.

Not to give away all her secrets, but, essentially, Feng Shui provides common sense guidelines for organizing the spaces we live in: our homes and our gardens.

If you want your garden to have better energy, start with a couple simple steps:

- 1. Fix what's broken - this might be the gate that you have to lift to open, or the water spigot that drips.*
- 2. Reduce clutter - Find a place for your pots, tools and hoses and you will feel better being in your garden space.*
- 3. Your garden should reflect you. Look for ways to make your garden be personal and meaningful to you.*



## A Visit with Phil Smith

by Mary Maynard

Many newer members of the Men's Garden Club only know Phil through the articles he has written for the *Spray* over the years. But Phil has been a member of MGCM since 1962 and served as Club President in 1970. Before retiring 13 years ago, Phil and his wife Wanda lived in Golden Valley, and their garden was on tour several times. In Golden Valley, Phil was famous for his delphiniums and his landscaping on a challenging slope. He was also an object of general envy because of his greenhouse/solarium at the top of the house that was rumored to include a hot tub.

Phil and Wanda now live in Bonita Springs, Florida for seven months of the year and in Big Sky, Montana for five months of the year. This gives them a chance to garden all year long, which seems very tiring to a Lazy Gardener.

My husband Phil and I had a chance to visit the Smiths while we were in Florida this spring, and we spent a wonderful afternoon with them. Phil and Wanda live on a small, peaceful bay near Estero Bay. They had a close call with Hurricane Wilma last year, which caused quite a bit of damage to homes near them, but spared them for the most part.

Phil is a fishing enthusiast, and goes fishing most days. We took a long ride on their pontoon, going through narrow channels between the mangroves as well as busier areas flanked by huge new luxury houses. Phil and his neighbor have erected an osprey platform in the bay near their house, and the pair of ospreys were raising three chick on the platform within easy sight of Phil and Wanda's lanai.

*(cont. on page 8)*



*Phil, Wanda and Mary*



*Phil's Boat*



# Delphiniums Galore

By Phil Smith

Growing delphiniums from seed is a rewarding endeavor. Numerous plants may be produced at relatively low cost, with chances to obtain interesting colors and variations in height.

It is important to obtain good seed, with emphasis on winter hardiness, good form and plant constitution. In my experience, the best source of seed is from English seed houses, or particularly, THE DELPHINIUM SOCIETY headquartered in England (address below). Although England does not experience the bitter cold winters of Minnesota, they do have a long cold damp climate with numerous months of soggy wet soil which is quite hard on perennials. When I gardened in Minnesota, I often grew several hundred delphs from English seed each spring, and many of the plants survived to be 10 to 12 years old.

Members of The Delphinium Society make many hand crosses each year from the better named varieties, and packets of such seed may be purchased by members. Each autumn, the society mails to members a list of available seeds. Also, with the yearly membership renewal, members receive a packet of choice seeds. The Society also publishes various booklets on delphinium culture, including seeding techniques. It should be understood that delphs have been hybridized for a century or more, and most seedlings will produce a variety of colors often not the same as the parents.

The writer has also purchased seeds from the Thompson and Morgan catalog. Although they do not generally list the origin of the various varieties, I suspect that many of their listings

are from English sources since they are an English company. I also strongly recommend that growers avoid seed of the old Pacific Giants varieties, since they are quite inferior to the newer better varieties.

There are two main cautions with seeding delphiniums. One is that they need a relatively low temperature for germination, preferring 60-65 deg. F. This is sometimes hard to find in the modern home environment, but I have never had much germination at temps over 70 degrees. They also take around 14 days to germinate and damp off fungi can be a problem. However, by following the recommendations noted below, I normally receive about 85% germination.

I prefer to sow the seeds in pots around 5 inches in diameter, sowing perhaps 30-40 seeds to a pot. I use a sterilized soil mixture, preferable one having some

*(cont. on page 7)*





*(cont. from page 6)*

real soil included so that the emerging seedlings will have some nutrients. On top of the soil, I place about a half inch of ground spaghnum moss, which is sterile. The seeds are sown on this surface, and then covered with another 1/4 to 1/2 inch of the ground spaghnum. I prefer to let the seedlings grow to about an inch high or until they have two good true leaves, before transplanting into individual pots.

The soil must be kept damp, but not wet, during germination. I like to place the seeding pots in a large pan, such as a lasagna pan or cookie sheet, so that a little water may be added to the pan every few days to keep the pots moist. DELPHINIUM SEEDS REQUIRE DARKNESS FOR GERMINATION. I prefer to cover the tops of the seeding pots with a sheet of plastic wrap, then a layer of several sheets of newspaper, with a magazine on top of the newspaper to keep it tight on the pots and prevent light. Germination normally takes about two weeks, but it is good to start checking for germination in about 10 days. Once, the seedlings start to appear, the cover needs to be removed and the pots placed under fluorescent light, in a greenhouse or a sunny window.

The first apparent leaves are cotyledons, or the two halves the seed. When the first true leaves appear, I like to let them grow in the pots for about a week and transplant to individual pots, such as 3 inch pots.

A common question is when to sow the seeds. They can be sown at many different seasons, but it is good to sow them early enough in the spring that they will be of decent size to withstand the next winter when lined out in the nursery. If you have a cool greenhouse and are able to keep them there over the winter, seeds can even be sown in late summer or autumn, if you have a place for the seeding pots with a temp of 60-65 deg. F. When I lived in Minnesota, I liked to

seed them around February first, so that the seedlings would bloom with the first spike in July or August. Seeds started later in the spring will not bloom the first summer, but can be lined out in the nursery for further growing and to winter over. Even seedlings which are only 3-4 months old will often survive they winter if hardened off and give a little winter cover. However, the bigger the plants, the stronger they will be, and the better chance for making it through the first winter.

For those interested in joining the Society and being able to obtain choice seeds, write to The Delphinium Society; c/o Mrs. Shirley Bassett; "Cherry Barn" Ells Lane; Broughton BANBURY; OX15 5EE U.K.

### **Financial Snapshot**

Financial Snapshot as of April 19, 2006

Checking account - \$2,630.06

CD's - \$10,203.69

Cash - \$350

Total - \$13,183.75

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



*(cont. from page 5)*

[oregonstate.edu](http://oregonstate.edu)

Phil's gardens in Florida are a combination of colorful annuals and brilliant tropical foliage along with dramatic planters in the style of Rog Koopmans. (See photos.) Phil also grows orchids, which he leaves outside under the deck for the summer. He has a misting system that comes on once a day for a few minutes, which is all they need, I guess. The result is beautiful.

Before they leave for the summer, Phil and Wanda pull out all of the annuals and replace with mulch, set the sprinkler system and hire someone to mow the lawn. When they return in the fall, they spend about the first week doing a lot of heavy pruning to get things back in shape, and then they're all set to enjoy another gardening season.

If you're planning to be in the Naples/Fort Myers area between November and the end of April, send Phil an email and see if you can arrange a visit. Phil's email address is in our directory!



*Pictures from Phil's Garden*



## MGCM TOUR COMMITTEE MEETING

The MGCM Tour Committee met at the home of Denise Rust on March 28. Due to the lack of even a response from many who had signed up for the Committee and the small turnout of people ready to go to work, it was clear that we had to narrow our focus to something we could manage.

Regrettably the decision was made not to have a public tour this year, but for us to focus on a club tour or tours. We set aside Saturday, July 22 as a date for a club tour and divided names of persons to call to be on tour. At our next meeting on April 26 we will continue our planning.

We decided not to go ahead with a public tour this year for several reasons:

- lack of people power to do the job;

- a shortage of time to get everything done that needs to be done;

- an acknowledgement that funds were still available to award scholarships even without tour proceeds; and

- an acknowledgement that it is possible for us to plan to lay the groundwork for a public tour next year, possibly having some gardens lined up by fall, possibly changing the tour date from the first half of July when there is much competition from other tours, and that we need to get a separate public tour committee in place.

[www.gardenrose.com](http://www.gardenrose.com)

For any who are willing to be part of planning for the public tour, or if you would be willing to have your garden considered for such a tour, please contact Tour Committee Chair Denise Rust at (763) 560-7747 or [dk\\_rust@hotmail.com](mailto:dk_rust@hotmail.com). Remember that this club cannot run without many willing hands to do the tasks at hand! Thank you!



## Memorial Donation

The MGCM Memorial Committee will be donating \$2000 in memorial fund money to the Lyndale Park Garden project. The funds will be used to purchase conifers and long lived shrubs or ornamental trees. In addition, the Memorial Committee has requested and been granted permission from the Minneapolis Park Board to install a permanent bronze plaque on a rock to be placed in the garden, honoring past and future gardeners and designating that the garden is from MGCM. This funding proposal was approved by the MGCM Board of Directors on April 4, 2006.

### The Project

In late 1996 MGCM entered into an agreement with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to plant and maintain a Perennial Trial Garden at Lyndale Park in Minneapolis. The Trial Garden runs along the front of a 300 foot long border garden. This whole garden had fallen into neglect since the 1970's, but was a beautiful perennial garden in the days when Theodore Wirth headed the parks. The University of Minnesota Department of Horticulture runs the Trial Garden, and growers who wish to have their specimens evaluated in the three year trial donate plants. The trial plants are also grown at four other sites in Minnesota. MGCM plants and maintains this bed, data is taken at the MGCM garden by a Hennepin County Master Gardener, and the results are available to all on the University Floriculture website.

Since only a six foot deep border was needed for the Trial Garden space, the committee began designing, planting and maintaining the space behind the Trial Garden. The Minneapolis Park Board has named this garden the "Perennial Mixed Border." MGCM Arbor

Day funds have been used to buy shrubs and conifers for this garden; MGCM Perennial Garden funds have been used to obtain long-lasting perennials and ornamental grasses. Donated plant material has also been added. The committee created this display garden of new cultivars of low maintenance plants as an educational tool to give others ideas for plants they can use in their own gardens, as well as to create a beautiful space. The efforts of the committee have been realized, and this border garden has indeed become quite beautiful.

### Legacy & Acknowledgement

This past year the Minneapolis Park Board put up new signs in all the parks. There is a large sign on Roseway Road at Lyndale Park designating the location of the Trial Garden. The Minneapolis Park Board has brochures at all the gardens in Lyndale Park, and the efforts of MGCM are acknowledged in two different brochures. There are two Lucite boxes with protective rain covers at each end of the 300 foot Trial Garden border that hold these brochures.



## Lyndale Park Perennial Garden Committee News

By Kay Wolfe

It's the beginning of the Gardening Season! And the MGCM "Lyndale Park Perennial Garden Committee" is busy with plans for the gardens at Lyndale Park. So if you don't have enough gardening to do at home, join this committee. It is a great way to garden with fellow club members, and learn about their garden specialties. The MGCM park gardens are located in Lyndale Park near Lake Harriet, across the street from the Rose Garden and east of the Peace Garden.

Join our committee for spring work days.

Spring Clean-Up	April 27, Thursday eve, at 5 PM
Spring Clean-Up	April 29, Saturday, 9 AM
Trial Bed House-cleaning	May 20, Saturday, 9 AM
Trial Bed Planting	June 3, Saturday, 9 AM

All events are "Bring your own tools!"

If you are interested in other work days, there are groups working both Saturday mornings and week-day evenings throughout the summer. Help pick new plant material and design the Mixed Perennial Border. Leftover plants from the trials are given to committee members—a great perk. We have great fun and the best donut holes on Saturdays. So join us! Kay Wolfe coordinates the schedules, call at 952-922-0762, or e-mail at [opperwolfe@worldnet.att.net](mailto:opperwolfe@worldnet.att.net).



# Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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### Club Officers:

**President: Kristine Deters**  
1736 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights  
**Vice President: Margaret Landry**  
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**Recording Secretary: Denise Rust**  
7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park  
**Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng**  
1025 20th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis  
**Treasurer: LeRoy Cech**  
212 Interlachen Rd., Burnsville  
**Past President: David McKeen**  
2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park

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**Elaine Spiegel**  
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Return To:

## The Garden Spray

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**First Class Mail**

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