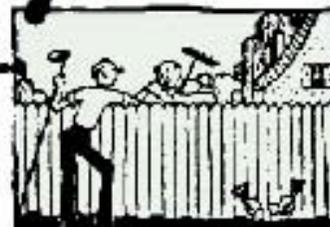




Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc

2008, Volume 66, Number 05



MGCM Plant Sale and Auction

On Tuesday, May 6, 2008, MGCM will hold its major annual fundraiser, our Plant Sale, Auction and Country Store.

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

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.

Raffle Time!

Yes, it's raffle time again--as part of the annual plant sale on May 6. These prizes are all non-plant garden tools or things that help in the garden, such as a bag of fertilizer or special grow-soil, garden hose, or shovel, or anything of related garden use. These items are all donated by club members as secured from a member's favorite hardware or garden store as a donation. We invite you to bring them to the plant sale May 6 and contribute to the fun and financial success. Thanks for hyour help.

Gary Geister and Bob Voigt

Permanent Dinner Reservations are not in effect.



Thoughts from the Prez

by Larry Larson

I want to begin by saying thank you to everyone who sent me a get well card or email, or called to wish me well. Having a heart attack is an awful experience, one that I don't wish to repeat any time soon. But recovery is always easier when you have the well-wishes of so many friends. I am improving steadily and plan to be at our next meeting, the May 6 auction and plant sale. This is the best time of the year and I didn't want to miss it. From the bottom of my repaired heart, thank you! And so, here's this month's column:

New perennials for 2008

The Achillea Tutti Frutti Strawberry Seduction Plant (Yarrow) is a strong year round bloomer that features pink flowers on disease resistant foliage. It likes full sun and infertile, well-drained soils. About 26" in height, it also attracts butterflies.



Aquilegia 'Clementine Blue'

Aquilegia Clementine (pictured below) is a new series of Columbines. Colors are blue, dark purple, red, salmon rose, rose, and white. They are short, bushy, compact plants with masses of double and semi-double upward facing flowers. Plant in loose, well-drained soil. Avoid over-watering. Attracts butterflies but not deer or rabbits.

Another good new butterfly plant is the Asclepias, or Butterfly Weed plant. Hello Yellow is the new color. They hate fertilizer and love sandy soil!

The Campanula Pink Octopus (pictured below) has Japanese lantern buds that open to reveal striking pink octopus-like flowers. The flowers weep down from the upright flowering branches and have a long bloom time. They grow 10-18" high. Full sun to part shade.



Campanula 'Pink Octopus'

The Coreopsis Sunfire (see photo) is new golden yellow flower with a burgundy base that is 16-20" tall. It will bloom in full sun from June-October.

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A Note from the Editor

Editor's note:

Just a short note this month since this issue is CHOCK-full of information, pictures and club-goings-ons. Thanks to Larry for some interesting plant ideas... it is always helpful to hear someone's plant favorites and things that they are going to try or have tried. That is a thinly veiled request for any and all members to send in their favorite plants, least favorite plants, most surprising plants, etc...

Kay's article (pages 6-7) is a great primer for the outing at the Lyndale Perennial Garden on July 22nd. There is heaps of Club history at the Gardens. I hope everyone has a chance to attend that event.

Happy gardening.

Jason Rathe

CLUB FINANCIALS

Balance as of 4/15/08	
Checking:	\$4,334.35
Cash:	100.00
CD:	5662.00

Prez (cont. from page 2)



Coreopsis 'Sunfire'

Echinacea Pixie Meadowbrite (see photo) is a breath taking new coneflower that blooms all summer. It is a dwarf variety, growing 18 to 29" tall. It yields a profusion of dark pink blooms. The foliage is denser than most echiniceas and has a stunning blue tint. Full sun or part shade.

The Geranium Alice is a small (8" high) new plant that sports large pale lilac-pink blooms (see photo). The petals are stroked with darker pink that gives the plant a 'whiskered' effect. Great for groundcover or rock gardens, the flowers bloom all summer in full sun.

The 2008 Perennial of the Year is a Geranium called Rozanne (see photo). This is a hardy geranium that is heat and humidity loving, as well as long blooming.

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Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
April 12th	Gertens	Gertens Greenhouse Tour
May 6th	WLC	Annual Plant Sale/Auction
June 10th	LHC	Como Tropical Collection
June		Tour of Rochester Gardens
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 Dinner Reservations Reminder.

Dinner reservations are required for meetings and events that include meals. Carole Ann Brekke is our keeper of dinner reservations unless you hear differently.

Permanent Reservations. If you plan to attend most meetings, you should put your name on Carole Ann's Permanent Reservations list. If you're on the Permanent list, you do not need to make a separate reservation with Carole Ann each time, but you do need to let Carole Ann know if you will not be there. The Permanent Reservation list is in effect for our regular club meetings, but is generally not in effect for special events like tours, the Holiday Party, the Plant Sale and Auction.

Regular Reservations. Please make your meal reservation by the Friday before the club meeting. Call or email Carole Ann at 952-435-6029 or numsix24@comcast.net.
No-Shows. If you make a reservation and do not show up, you will be billed for the price of the meal.

Last-minute Reservations or Cancellations. If you need to reserve a meal or cancel your reservation after Friday, please get in touch with Treasurer Dave McKeen at 952-915-1764 or daviddutchboy31@aol.com. If Dave is able to balance out cancellations and late reservations, that's all good.

Drop-ins. We always want to see members at the meetings. If you don't have a meal reservation, there is a possibility that we won't have enough food, but many times we are able to stretch it, so please do come.



Gertens Greenhouse Tour

1. Lou Gerten couldn't conduct the tour personally since his in-laws celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary that day. We had two excellent guides, Stacy, who has worked for Gertens for three years, and Mercio (I think), who is the head annual grower at Gertens. He is from Brazil and has worked at Gertens for four years.

2. Gertens grows about 1 billion annuals from seeds each year. They have a machine that plants seeds into plug trays. After about 2 weeks, the plugs are transplanted into cell packs by hand.

3. Gertens also grows annuals from cuttings. Increasingly, cuttings are coming from places outside of the United States.

4. Diseases and insects are always a problem. We didn't have any smokers in the group, but smokers are required to wash their hands and maybe even wear latex gloves to avoid the risk of spreading tobacco mosaic virus.

5. Gertens makes many of the hanging baskets for Valleyfair. They also provide the huge hanging baskets that we see at the entrance to the airport. This year, those giant baskets will be all ivy geraniums.

6. Our thanks to Larry, who made the arrangements for this tour. We were sorry that he couldn't come to the tour on Saturday, and we hope to see him at a club event soon.



MGCM & Lyndale Park

By Kay Wolfe

The MGCM July 2008 event will be a celebration of the many contributions that our club has made to this renowned Minneapolis Park. Last September, a bronze plaque was installed on a rock in the garden that is our current project. In addition to acknowledging our present gardens, the plaque states that MGCM has been "Supporting Lyndale Park since 1952." What projects has MGCM done in the park?

From the Spray archives:

July, 1953

OUR 10th ANNIVERSARY 'CIVIC INTEREST PROJECT

Those of you who have not recently visited the Flowering Crab Apple Trees planted by members of the club in the Lyndale Gardens will be happy to know that they are all (except one) leafing out nicely - thanks to our careful planting and the attention being given them by the Park Board gardeners.

(Note: the trees were planted in spring of 1952, on the 10th anniversary of MGCM.)

As time goes on we are going, to be mighty proud of what we hope is only the beginning of a real contribution by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis to the beautification of the city. Your officers, executive committee and the past presidents' committee who engineered this Civic Interest Project wish to thank the entire membership for their loyal support in making this project pos-

sible by contributing the trees, and a special vote of thanks to those who turned out en masse to assist in planting them.

We will indeed be ever grateful to the Park Board Commissioners, officers and staff for affording us the opportunity to engage in such a project, and for their unstinting cooperation and assistance in the consummation of what we feel is but the first objective in the club's long-range "Civic Interest" activity.

(And again, another article, 29 years later!)

July, 1981

TIME FOR ACTION

Gentlemen, the opportunity again has come for the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis to be of valuable service to the community. A great horticultural tragedy has hit Minneapolis. The tornado of June 14th leveled one of the finest collections of mature tree specimens in the state. The giant Gingko that stood majestically by the Lake Harriet-Lyndale Gardens Rose Gardens has been destroyed along with the evergreen collection and the Crabapples which the club donated a few years ago. When the chain saws finish clearing the debris, there will be very few mature trees left in

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(cont. from page 6)

the park, Such a wonderful resource within the limits of the city should not be lost. It is time for us to give of our time, our service and our money to gain replacements for this park.

I polled the Club board and received support from them as well as enthusiastic support from every club member I talked to about the club serving as a catalyst for a reforestation project. The Minneapolis Park Board is facing serious cutbacks in its budget and would not have any money for replacements for some of these trees. The park district lost a total of 2,000 street trees in the tornado which is a serious setback considering the amount of money already required to replace trees lost to Dutch Elm disease.

To start the ball rolling our board must approve the allocation of seed money from our reserve fund. The membership will then be asked to make personal contributions. We will then solicit additional contributions from whatever sources we can. We will ask nurseries to donate materials, or at least give us the best deal they can on the materials. We will solicit money from businesses in the area and from the general public. This project can be our most significant contribution to our community since we helped start the University of Minnesota Arboretum.

Theodore Wirth planted the major part of the area well before 1940. I hope by the year 2020, and beyond,



it will again look as it did only a few days ago. It is up to us now to make sure it does.

Article written by: Ray Marshall

Now it is 2008, 2020 is still to come. Did Ray Marshall's prediction come true? Where are the trees MGCM planted? How many have survived? Can we still find them? Join us on July 22 for a tour of Lynedale Park to hunt for the trees and plantings that the club has donated. Plans are being made for an evening of dining in the gardens, followed by a program, and then strolling in the park! The grand finale will be dessert under the stars. Mark your calendars!

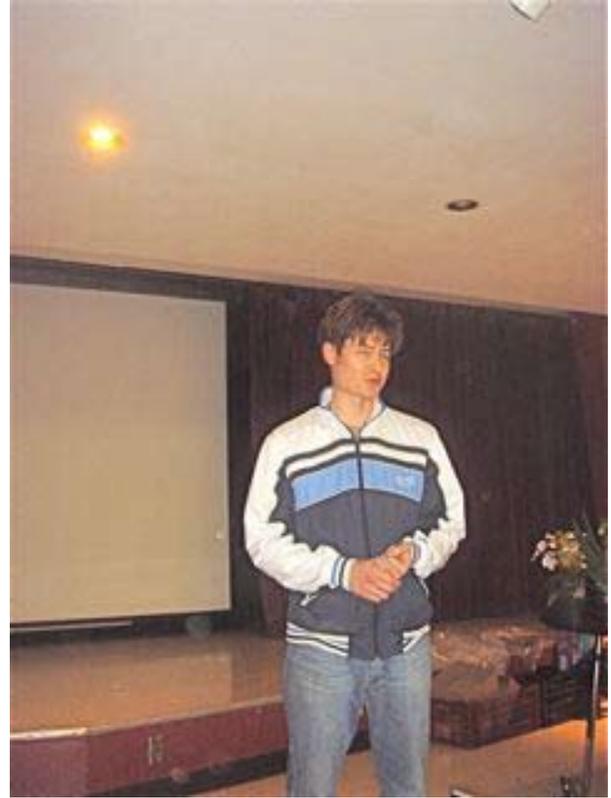
April Club Meeting: Notes and Pics



Orchids Unlimited is located in Plymouth and is open Monday - Saturday. They have an extensive website www.orchidweb.com, which includes an online store and a wealth of care information for all types of orchids. They hold a couple of open houses each year. We should watch for them and plan to visit then. Orchids Unlimited focuses on more unusual orchids. It is difficult to compete with places like Home Depot, which offer ordinary phalenopsis for \$9.99.

Phragmidium 'Jason Fischer' was bred by Jason's father and was named after him. It has won more FCC awards from the American Orchid Society than any other orchid. We can get it from Orchids Unlimited for a mere \$75. Probably worth it for the orchid enthusiast.

Several club members went home with new orchids. Very hard to resist!



Jason Fischer from Orchids Unlimited





Prez (cont. from page 3)

The 16" tall plant produces so many light blue blooms it looks lush, not rangy.

The 2008 Hosta of the Year is Blue Mouse Ears (see pic), a miniature mound-like plant with heart shaped blue leaves. Height is 6-7". Long, pale lavender flowers. Good in rock gardens or borders.

Hosta Earth Angel is the 2009 Hosta of the Year. It is a white-edged mutation of Hosta Blue Angel. The blue leaves are thick and have a 1" wide creamy border, the first giant blue hosta to have a border.

Other new interesting perennials are the yellow Ligularia "Twilight" that is only 2-3 ft tall and sports yellow flowers, a fern leaf Peony "Rubra Plena" that will set you back about \$70, a yellow Rudbeckia called "Goldquelle" that does not have a black eye, a dwarf Goldenrod called "Little Lemon" that is only 12" tall, and finally, a Tricyrtis Samurai, which is a toad lily with lily like light purple spots. Whew! That's enough for now!



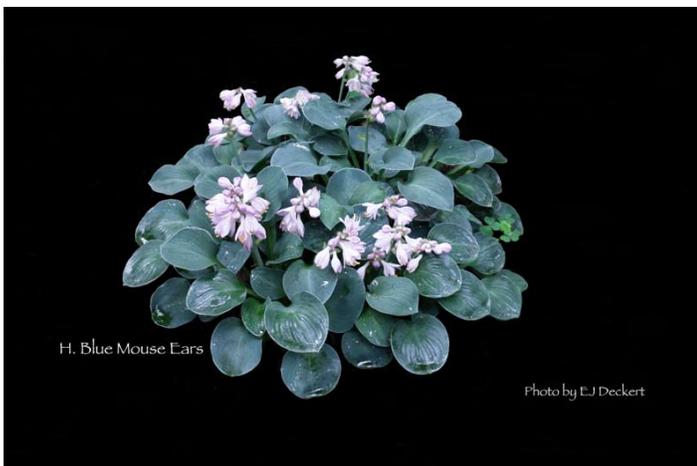
Echinacea 'Pixie Meadowbrite'



Geranium 'Alice'



Geranium 'Rozanne'



Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears'

April 1, 2008

Club Adopts New Name

by Tom Atoes

The software glitches have been cleared up and the on-line tally is official. As it turns out, MGCM will adopt a new name at the start of the new fiscal year. Careful thought was given in the process to insure that the new name accurately reflects the revitalized membership of the club, while embracing the rich heritage, traditions and innovations we cherish so dearly.

As you know, the former name, Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, was a misnomer. You didn't have to be a man to join, you didn't have to live in Minneapolis and for that matter, you did not even have to cultivate a plot of ground. So, some background is in order.

In the early days of MGCM, representatives from the Membership Committee inspected each new applicant's garden to see if it was "worthy" of club association. Now our board of directors has reauthorized garden inspections, since it is now mandatory that every garden incorporate a water feature. "Water Features" that qualify will be lake shore, riverbank, a pond, a waterfall, a leaky hose or dripping faucet.

Another tradition to be revived this year will be the "parade of turkeys" for the Holiday Party. We will again have a certified carver at each table slicing up the turkey. What better reflects the true essence of gardening than hacking up a dead bird at a table full of well dressed diners?

With regards to our broader horticultural community, it is impudent to ignore the scientific contributions our club has made. A few examples are the Winter Apple, the Hardy Banana, the Pomato, the Squash Blossomer and the new rain gauges, now available. How wonderful to pick fresh, crisp apples in January and February. Our new cultivar, "Winter Apple" produces all season.



The Winter Apple comes with a supply of small goose down jackets with built in solar panels. Simply Velcro the jackets around the apples for frost resistance. The apples are as sweet/tart as the Honeycrisp. And oh, the beautiful color. Have you ever seen such a pure white apple?

The Hardy Banana is another MGCM innovation. Finally a banana tree that truly stands up to the Minnesota winters. Yes, it still needs a bit of tweaking because of the "shelf life" issue. The banana turns from green to black, so as yet no yellow, but improvements are still being made. If you enjoy Cuban cooking or banana bread, this tree is for you.

How about the new Reynolds Pomato? Another fine addition to our gardening family. Nicknamed "The Spacesaver" this plant grows tomatoes on the vines and potatoes underground on the roots. Delicious both ways.

Another breakthrough. The Shannon's have come up with the Everbearing Squash Blossom Plant (think soup!) It now comes potted ready to place in any Southwest kitchen window for an endless supply of blossoms. A veritable squash blossom machine.

Our new commemorative rain gauges are on the market as well. There are two models to choose from to complete your gardening dreamscape. The Maynard Model(tm), new and improved, now has a digital read-out and a larger magnet to hold it to the side of your wheelbarrow. It calculates the tilt of the wheelbarrow and new rain amounts, adjusted for evaporation, algae and rust accumulation (not suited for plastic wheelbarrows.) Rusty's Rain Gauge (tm) model is for the "hands off" gardener. This "no tip" model is a clear plastic tube with both ends open. It comes complete with a garden spike and is totally self-draining.

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As for the name change, the ad-hoc committee stayed focused on common ground issues while searching for a gender-neutral and geographically benign nomenclature. They looked at what we all have in common, namely the Mississippi River. We all live on one side of the river or the other. Or so it seemed, until Marlow, our self-appointed parliamentarian, muddied the waters with the Nicollet Island exclusion. Wouldn't they feel left out? So the committee dug deeper,

finally deciding on the one common denominator. Dirt. Sandy loam, in particular. Gone are the words "Men's" "Minneapolis" "Club". We will now be known as the Sandy Loam Urban Gardening Society.

If you have not already concluded, April Fool. This was written by MT Pully aka Rusty Debris. You can see he is not empty as his initials imply.

MGCM BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2008

PRESENT: Sharla Aaseng, Margaret Landry, Larry Larson, David McKeen, Denise Rust and Don Trocke.
ABSENT: Judy Berglund, Elizabeth Hamilton and Elaine Spiegel.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: For the May plant sale we are still needing a person to learn the Excel program that keeps track of people's bidding throughout the evening. Kris Deters, not currently a club member, is willing to come in and train someone to work with this program.

Larry plans to collect plant orders at next week's meeting and get them delivered to Doug Whitney's. The Gerten's trip April 12 is still a go, and last chance to respond is next week's club meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Update given on upcoming programs.

Club Tour Committee has met, is looking at a possible bus tour to Rochester on Saturday, June 21. Committee is also willing to help with the Lyndale Park event July 22 if needed and will meet again later this month to firm up plans.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Directories are done and have been distributed at last two club meetings. Extra directories are available at the Lake Harriet church.

Sharla would like to get a group together to write up brief job descriptions for the various committees.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The club broke even on last month's event, a preview of the Macy's flower show by Dale Bachman and a bus trip to Macy's.

NEW BUSINESS: Plan is to set up one or two Valleyfair work days for the club and then enlist participation of club members. This has been a viable fundraiser for the club in the past.

NEXT MEETING will be held Tuesday, June 3 at 7:00 PM at Larry Larson's.



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
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2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park
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