



The Garden Spray

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

2008, Volume 66, Number 11



❁-NOVEMBER SPEAKER-❁

NOVEMBER SPEAKER
SUZETTER NORDSTROM FROM MONROVIA

Our November speaker is Suzette Nordstrom from Monrovia Growers. Monrovia has been in business since 1928, offering over 2000 varieties of plants, more than 225 of which are Monrovia exclusives. Their nurseries are located in California, Oregon, Ohio, North Carolina and Georgia.

Suzette has been with Monrovia for 19 years, and for the past 15 has managed a sales territory throughout Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Manitoba. Previous experience is working in an independent garden center, and she earned her degree in horticulture. She grew up in South Dakota and is an avid gardener here in Minnesota. She understands the challenges faced by cold climate gardeners. Suzette has developed a special interest and expertise in tropicals, and will speak to us about the joy and ease of growing such plants in this climate. She will highlight some exciting new varieties for us from Monrovia.

November Dinner Meeting: Tuesday November 11th, 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*



The October 14 vote to increase the dues to \$20.00 passed by a resounding margin of 47 to 2. This is wonderful news for our club, because it gives us increased financial resources for the future. The board of directors knew this increase was greatly needed to fund programs in 2009 and beyond. But it isn't always easy to explain this type of increase to everyone else. These are tough economic times, with many of us hurting because of the falling stock market and vast numbers of housing foreclosures. So it is extremely gratifying to me and the board that so many of our members were willing to dip a little deeper into their pockets to belong to this club. So I want to thank everyone for voting for this measure.

Here are some tips for taking care of dahlias this Fall and next Spring:

If you're going to save your tubers from this year: before you dig your dahlia tubers out of the ground, cut the stem off about one foot above the ground. Leave them there for 7-10 days. This allows new eyes to form on the crown while it is still underground. Use a pitchfork to dig them out. Put the pitchfork straight into the ground at least 6 inches from the stem. Go all around the stem before trying to gently lift it out of the ground. Wash off the tubers with a hose and let them dry for 24 hours.

Cut the mother tuber off the crown. The mother tuber is the old tuber planted early in the Spring. It cannot reproduce any more tubers. Trim off the roots and other stragly pieces. Look at the crown and tubers carefully. When you cut the tuber from the crown, you

must include an eye with the tuber you're cutting. If you're cutting more than one tuber from the crown, each tuber must have a piece of the crown with an eye. Some crowns yield up to 5 or 6 tubers with eyes, but most of them will yield 2-3. The size of the tuber isn't as important as the quality of the eye that comes with it.

Very important! Mark the tubers you have cut off the crown to indicate what type of dahlia it is. If the tuber is dry enough, you can use a permanent marker and write the name of the dahlia on the tuber. You can also put the name on the plastic bag, but if the tuber gets separated from the plastic bag, you won't know which tuber it is. You can also number each tuber and keep a sheet that lists each dahlia according to the number you have assigned it. If you do that, don't lose the numbers sheet!

Put the tuber in a plastic bag but don't seal it. Place the plastic bag into a plastic container that you have already added some wood chips to (cedar chips from a pet store are excellent). After you placed all the dahlia tubers in the wood chips, put the container into a cool area of the house, preferably around 50 degrees. This is tricky, since you don't want the tuber to begin growing, which means keeping the temperature low enough to prevent growth, but not too cold to kill it. Anything below 40 degrees would be risking the safety of the tuber. Any temperature over 60 will cause the tuber to begin to grow.

I always order new dahlias too, of course. To find the dahlia you want, go to a website called The Big List: www.dahlias.net/dbiglist.htm. This site lists a couple dozen dealers along with the names of hundreds of dahlias and which dealer sells which dahlia. This is an invaluable tool for finding the dahlias you want. Many



of the dahlia sites have beautiful pictures of the dahlias they sell, which is always a favorite pastime for me in January and February when I'm ordering new dahlias.

Finally, I like to start my dahlias in the house around April 15 or so. Take the tuber out of storage. Check that the tuber is hard and that the eye is still in good shape. Place the tuber into a pot that you nearly filled with peat moss. Just nestle the dahlia tuber on top of the peat moss, eye toward the top. Don't bury the tuber! Drop a little water on the eye of the tuber but don't water the entire tuber! You don't want the tuber to rot. Place the pot under a lighted area, then keep the lights on the tuber 8 hours a day. Water every other day until the tuber starts to grow, then drop a little water on the new stem every day. Not a lot of water, though, just a small amount. When the stem begins to grow taller, you should put a small stick or stake next to the stem and secure it with a twist tie. You don't want the stem to fall over because it will break off from the tuber and die. Be sure the ground is warm enough for transplanting.

Good luck!

Balance as of 10-20-08

Checking: 3,475.00

CD: 5,662.00



October Meeting: Surprise Speaker

Surprise October Speaker.

One of the best things about this club is its depth of talent. Which came in handy for the October club meeting. As you know, Peter Olin was scheduled to give a talk on his years as Director of the Arboretum. But Peter's mother died and Peter had to travel to Connecticut for her funeral. So, we asked Chuck Carlson to pinch hit for Peter. But Chuck's wife Marian fell and Chuck needed to take her to the doctor to make sure she was OK. So Chuck called Andy Marlow on Tuesday afternoon, and Andy rose to the challenge. Andy pulled together a slide show of photographs from a trip the his family took to Arizona and the Grand Canyon last February. Andy gave his wife Phyllis credit for most of the best photos. Whoever took them, it was a wonderful view into the desert landscape. Thanks, Andy!



Pictures from Andy's trip



MGCM Holiday Party and Silent Auction

It's that time of year again! We hope you are all thinking about ideas and items for the silent auction. The holiday party and silent auction will take place on Tuesday December 2, 2008 at the Lake Harriet Methodist Church. This year's theme is "Seasons of our Gardening Years".



Proceeds from the silent auction go toward the cost of the party and to support the club. To donate to the auction please use the party RSVP included in the November Spray. Fill in the description; it's size, and a minimum starting bid. Include your contact information in case there are any questions.

There is a list of ideas at the bottom of the form. The day of the party bring the items to the church between 9:30 and 11:30 that morning or 4:45 and 5:30 that evening so we can set up the displays.

If you need a copy of the official request on Club letterhead for a business contact:
Elaine Spiegel
4814 West 41st Street
St. Louis Park, MN
Phone: 952-927-9539
E-mail: elspiegs@comcast.net



Note: Permanent reservations are not in effect for the Holiday Party. To make a reservation for the Holiday Party, please fill in the reservation form included with the November Spray and send to: Nancy Porte, 3509 LeRoy Street, Minnetonka, MN 55391-3405. *Checks must be received by Tuesday, November 25, 2008.*

(Arboretum cont. on pg. 9)

Seasons of our Gardening Years Holiday Party
Tuesday December 2, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church



To RSVP please fill out the following reservation form, enclose a check made out to MGCM, and mail to: Nancy Porte, 3509 LeRoy Street, Minnetonka, MN 55391-3405. Phone: 952-473-7858. E-mail: nporte@comcast.net

PLEASE SEND RESERVATION FORM TO ARRIVE BY NOVEMBER 25, 2008

Name: _____

Number of Guests: _____

Total check enclosed (\$20 per person): _____

Item(s) for the Silent Auction:

Description: _____

Size (space required for display): _____

Minimum Bid: _____

Submitter/contact: _____

Description: _____

Size (space required for display): _____

Minimum Bid: _____

Submitter/contact: _____

Need ideas or suggestions for the silent auction?

- Tickets (movies, theater, opera, or sporting events)
- Homemade items (crafts, baked goods, note cards)
- Tools, plants, note cards sets or membership in a specialty garden club
- Gift certificates (for hotel, resort, garden center, bookstore, or restaurant)
- Time, talent or services (garden consultation, custom art/craft, teaching a craft or skill, make a meal)





Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Nov. 11	LHC	Monrovia: New Plants
Dec. 2nd	LHC	Holiday Party

LHC = Lake Harriet Church (4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis)

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church

Condolences.

Peter Olin's mother Ruth died on October 10, just short of her 101st birthday. We extend our sympathies Peter and his family.



Membership Renewals

by Kay Wolfe

It is time to renew MGCM memberships, and we just voted to raise dues to \$20 for the year. Remember back about 2000, when we paid a total of about \$45 per year--\$10 for our club, \$15 for national, and \$20 for the MSHS? That makes \$20 look pretty cheap—especially since we have kept the club dues at \$10 for 8 years! So anyone wishing to offer up more than \$20 certainly can do so. We can always donate more to such a great club.

The Membership Committee will be taking membership renewals at the November club meeting—that’s on Nov. 11. We will have a table during the social hour before dinner, and for a short while at the end of the meeting. There will be forms for renewals, and also an opportunity to pay dues at a higher level. You can designate your donation to two special funds, Scholarships or Memorial Fund (Lyndale Park Garden trees); or just add to the General Fund. Donations are tax deductible—and receipts will be available if you need one.

With the dues increase, the club will generate adequate funds to cover operating expenses, but there may not be enough for the special items like Scholarships and Memorials, without bringing in extra funds like the public tours used to do. Besides individual member donations, we can think up new fund-raisers too. Think about auctioning off a dinner party at the December Silent Auction—or an afternoon tea—or a dessert party! It is always fun to get together with club members—especially in the long winter months.

Kay Wolfe, Membership Committee
& Sharla Aaseng, Membership Secretary

FALL IS RENEWAL TIME

This is true in so many ways. It’s time for our gardens to go to sleep so the plants can rest. As much as it is hard for gardeners to stop, this is a time to rest, regroup and re-plan. And, of course, it is MGCM membership renewal time. Our yearly dues are now \$20.00. You can use the form in the Spray and mail that to me. Please fill out the form completely even if you don’t have any changes in your address, etc. If you leave any directory info blank, I will assume you do not wish to include that information. I will also be at the November meeting and you can renew at that time. It is much easier if you write a check and put “renew” in the memo line.

Please note: do not wait until the November meeting to renew with the Horticultural Society. Those dues are due to me by the end of October and must be submitted using a separate check made out to MSHS. See the separate article with renewal information.

See you in November,
Sharla Aaseng, Membership Secretary



MGCM NEW MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM for 200__

Name _____ Garden Partner _____

Address _____ Date _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Email address _____ Occupation _____

Please check here if you are a Master Gardener _____

Please list me in the directory as a mentor gardener.

My specialties are _____

Please include me in the share and/or trade plants list. If interested, include category of plants _____

I will serve on the following committees (minimum of two), as I am able. Please circle choices.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Arbor Day | 8. Hospitality | 15. Sunshine |
| 2. Auditing | 9. Lyndale Park Garden | 16. Telephone/Email |
| 3. Awards/Trophies | 10. Membership | 17. Tours (Public) |
| 4. Flower, Food & Foto (FFF) | 11. Photography | 18. Tours (Club) |
| 5. Garden Spray | 12. Plant Auction | 19. Valleyfair |
| 6. Historian | 13. Publicity | 20. Youth gardening |
| 7. Holiday Party | 14. Scholarship | 21. On committee as needed |

I am willing to chair the _____ committee.

MGCM annual dues are \$20.00.

Are you a New member (Please see back) _____ or Renewal _____? MSHS: yes _____ no _____

Total paid by Check (payable to MGCM) \$ _____ or Cash \$ _____

NEW MEMBER QUESTIONS ON PAGE 10



If you are a new member, please fill out the following information so that we can get to know you better:

Name _____

As a member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis (MGCM), I will to the best of my ability

β Faithfully attend monthly meetings.

β Participate on club committees indicated previously.

β Willingly participate in the exchange of my horticultural skills and knowledge with club members and others in the community.

My reasons for wanting to join MGCM are _____

Other Horticultural Affiliations _____

Indicate what your current horticultural activities (a) and interests (i) are:

___ Container Gardening

___ Environmental projects

___ Flowers ___ annuals ___ perennials

___ Fruits ___ trees ___ bushes ___ vines

___ Greenhouse ___ gardening ___ propagation

___ Growing under lights ___ gardening ___ propagation

___ House plants ___ foliage ___ flowering

___ Hydroponics

___ Landscaping

___ Lawns

___ Trees and shrubs

___ Vegetables

___ Other _____

Signature of New Member _____ Date _____



A Note from the Editor

Generally, fall is a time of “putting to sleep”, cleaning up, and cutting back in the garden - but there is never a bad time to get some inspiration. At the November meeting a representative of Monrovia will get you excited about things to try in your garden next year. And you have five months to dream about it.

I went on an impromptu nursery and garden center tour with a couple of friends in October and similarly found some great ideas for next year and met some great people. We went to Landscape Alternatives on the St. Croix River, Squire House Gardens in Afton, Out Back Nursery in Hastings and Funkie Gardens in Prescott. I don't tend to spend a lot of time in garden centers later in the year and it really gave a different perspective. I was amazed at the fall color of plants like foxglove penstemon (see picture), and the wild seed heads of downy wood mint (see picture).

Like I said - there's never a bad time for a little inspiration!

Jason



Unbelievable fall color (and nice seed heads) on foxglove penstemon - nice combo with prairie dropseed, too (seen at Out Back Nursery)



Downy wood mint at Landscape Alternatives



Great combo of verbena, Queen Anne's Lace with Joe Pye Weed behind (seen at Squire House Gardens)



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Inside

Page 1	Nov. Meeting
Page 2,3	From the Prez
Page 11	Editors Notes
Page 4	Ocober Meeting
Page 5-6	Holiday Party
Page 8-10	Membership Renewals

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
1025 20th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
Treasurer: David McKeen
2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park
Past President: Margaret Landry
3252 40th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Directors:

Elaine Spiegel
4814 West 41st. St., St. Louis Park
Elizabeth Hamilton
8219 Russell Ave. S., Bloomington
Don Trocke
10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc. for its members. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

Return To:

The Garden Spray

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.
Mary J. Maynard, Co-Editor
4375 Dart Avenue
St. Louis Park, MN 55424

First Class Mail

November
2008