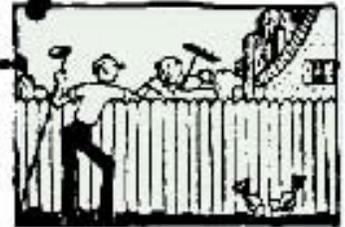




The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2007, Volume 65, Number 10



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
October 9th	LHC	Steven Risan
November	LHC	Tim Kornder

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

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



October Speaker: Steven Risan - Tonkadale Nursery

The October speaker for the garden club will be Steve Risan, General Manager of Tonkadale Greenhouse in Minnetonka.

Tonkadale Greenhouse is a family owned and operated, independent garden center located at 3739 Tonka-wood Road, Minnetonka.

(cont. on page 4)

October Dinner Meeting: October 9th, 2007

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 Margaret Landry

Greetings!

From our last meeting. My favorite comment, so far, about what members love about the garden club came from Margaret Hibberd, something like: “I love being with people who think it’s normal to spend so much time in the garden!”

House sale. Yes, my house finally sold. My sister called me and asked, “Are you homeless?” My response was that I’m house-less, yard-less and apartment-full. When I went back to my former house to wait for a friend to pick up a few things, I couldn’t resist pulling a few weeds.

Now that my internet is back up and running...

Meanings of flowers. I’ve never read about the meanings of flowers... maybe that explains why I’m single... Did you know that there are flower dictionaries? The first was written in 1818 by Charlotte de la Tour, and another written in 1879 was the Victorian standard of flower symbolism. Can you imagine entire books on the topic?

Flowers that speak love are roses (especially red), azaleas, pink tulips, lilacs and all kinds of orchids. The shade of a flower has one meaning, and when combined with other flowers, the meaning changes. For example, if you combined ivy with a bunch of pink tulips, the message implied was “I love you and I promise to be true.”

The Victorian woman wore a bouquet on her body as a reply to the sender, for example: in her hair:

not interested; at her waist: maybe, but interested in someone else now. Turning a bouquet upside down and handing it back to her suitor gave a clear signal of lack of interest (duh!), and accepting flowers and holding them over her heart meant quite the opposite (duh! again).

Container gardening. It makes me smile to think about or read about gardening, even though I’m not getting my hands dirty! I had to laugh when I saw the HGTV title, “Grow anything in a pot.” Apparently they haven’t met my cat who loves to knock over plants and separate the soil from the roots... At my home, strategic placement of plants so they’re inaccessible to my high-jumping cat limits what I can do—inside and outside!

Fall club activities. At our September meeting, we had great turnout, lots of good conversation, good food, and, from all reports, a fantastic presentation. I challenge you to personally invite friends, neighbors, gardeners you notice in your neighborhood, to come to a meeting and join the fun. Tell them what YOU love about the garden club!

CLUB FINANCIALS

As of 9-18-07
cash 100.00
CD 5662.59
checking 6865.06



A Note from the Editor

“I’ll never call myself a gardener again.” This is what one of my friends told me after she spent three weeks in England earlier this year. While I disagree with my friend’s estimation of her gardening abilities, I know why she says it. Phil and I just returned from two weeks in rural England and Wales. While we were struggling through the driest June and July I can remember, they were dealing with record rainfall, floods and mudslides. But by the time we got there, the weather was fabulous and the gardens were recovering wonderfully.



Red Valerian from a castle wall

When we get our photos sorted out, I’ll put together a summary of our visit, but in the meantime, here’s a photo of *Centranthus ruber* (Red Valerian) growing out of the side of a ruined castle wall. I saw this everywhere we went in and around Herefordshire, and I don’t really remember seeing it in such profusion other times we’ve visited. Apparently, this plant prefers extremely good drainage (like that afforded by a stone wall), a lot of rain, and high temperatures in the 60’s. No wonder it’s not terribly happy in St. Louis Park.



Wells Shop Front

We did visit a couple of famous gardens (I still can’t believe that I forgot my camera the day we went to Hidcote), but it’s not really necessary to travel far to see gardens in England. Here’s the front of a National Trust shop in Wells, for instance.

And now we’re back. Looking forward to cooler days, fall colors, our October and November club meetings and the Holiday Party. See you at the October meeting!

Mary

(cont. from page 1)



Tonkadale has grown into one of the Twin Cities' finest independent garden centers. This past June Tonkadale was proud to be a stop on The Garden Centers of America's 2007 tour of some of Minnesota's very best.

Tonkadale has been in Minnetonka since 1947. The original owner, Bob Anderson, and Arthur Bachman began growing and hybridizing African violets. They developed a loyal following for their superbly grown violets and spring annuals. Tonkadale's current owners, Bill and Shirley Maruska, purchased the greenhouse 30 years ago and continued to sell violets and spring annuals. Bill's passion for plants led to the addition of many, many varieties of annuals, tropical plants, perennials, and roses.



Annuals galore at Tonkadale

In 1996, Steve Risan and his wife, Anna, brought their family to Minnetonka and joined the business. The city approved renovation plans for the site in 1997. Steve and Bill tore down the then well-worn structures and began construction of the 1-acre facility that exists today.

Steve will discuss how the greenhouses are built and how they are used year round to produce and sell premium plant materials. He will talk about plant selections, the ever-changing market place, the challenges faced by independent garden centers today, and the evolution of a greenhouse over the past six months, which will include more than 100 photographs taken by garden club vice-president Larry Larson since this past March. Steve will be glad to address any gardening questions or concerns you may have.



Hibiscus ready for sale



Personal Notes on the September Program

By Kay Wolfe

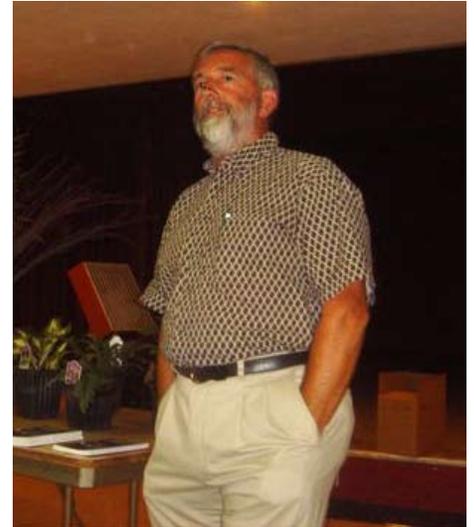
The speaker for the MGCM September program was Mike Heger, owner of Ambergate Gardens, a retail and mail order business in Victoria devoted entirely to herbaceous perennials. Mike and his wife Jean started their business in 1985. They say they are a “bit conservative” when it comes to promoting new varieties of plants until they have had a chance to grow them themselves for a period of time. For the presentation, they brought along pots of some of their favorites—Mike’s topic was “Fact or Fiction—Comments on some recently introduced perennial flowers.” Mike and Jean have been very supportive of MGCM and we thank them heartily. They allow us to buy perennials and grasses at a hefty discount for our donations to the Lyndale Park Garden in Minneapolis, and also sell discounted plants to the Plant Auction committee for our May fundraiser.

Here are some quick notes on most of the plants that Mike showed us. I probably edited the list according to my own interests—and I’ll add comments on plants we have grown in the Lyndale Park Garden.

Festuca glauca ‘Siskiyou Blue’ Most blue fescues are not worth growing—but this one does well. Nice fine blue foliage and about a foot tall.

Calamagrostis x acutiflora ‘Eldorado’, variegated feather reed grass. New! About 4 feet tall—similar to ‘Karl Foerster’ but has green leaves with bright gold centers. (We added four plants to the park garden last season. Great color.)

Schizachyrium scoparium ‘Heavenly Blue’, little blue stem. This grass variety found by Mary Meyer of the U of M—comes from northwest Minnesota. Blue foliage has burgundy tint—Mike says it will not seed around like some little bluestems. (Growing in the



park—added this year.)

Panicum amarium ‘Dewey Blue’, switch grass. Most Panicums we grow are *P. virgatum*—so this one looks different. From the eastern U.S.; about 3– 4 feet tall. Nice bloom, soft plumes and blue foliage.

Miscanthus ‘Little Silver Spider’, maiden grass. Short for a *Miscanthus*, about 4 – 5 feet. Introduced by Ernst Pagels, a northern German breeder. (I don’t like many *Miscanthus*—they get too large and flop over—we have removed some from the park garden. This might be an improvement!)

Carex ‘Beatlemania’, mop-head sedge. That is just how it looks!—variegated yellow and green. Short, under a foot, and a shade lover. (I have two at home—also go see it at Noerenberg Gardens.)

Sedum ‘Maestro’ Nice and upright—and stable so far. Glaucous blue foliage. ‘Pink Chablis’ is a nice upright variegated form; ‘Black Jack’ is a dark foliage form that has been a disappointment—gets spots on its leaves and reverts to ‘Matrona’, one of its parents. *Eupatorium* variety that is variegated. (Sorry—I didn’t get the whole name!)

Delphinium ‘Green Twist’ A New Zealand hybrid;



richer deeper flower color and strong stems.
Gaillardia 'Oranges & Lemons' Loves it hot and dry.
Short-lived.

Centaura 'Gold Bouillon' Another variety he likes is 'Amethyst in Snow', which is growing in the Trial Garden. It's dormant now--look for it in the spring.

Euphorbia polychroma, a new variegated variety.
(Oops, no name.)

Stachys densiflora 'Hummelo' Tough, full sun or part shade. Betony, not a lamb's ear. Deep pink colored bloom. (I marked it with two stars in my notes!)

Echinacea 'Harvest Moon' Part of the Big Sky series. Mike thinks too many Echinaceas are being planted—aster yellows is a big problem. He also likes 'Vintage Wine'—a great color. 'Fragrant Angel' is white and fragrant.

Veronica 'Evelyn'

Sanguisorba 'Downy (?) Marble' Variegated and deep red. Out of Asia; tall and upright.

Geranium 'Black Beauty' Nice dark leaved variety; 12-15" tall. 'Midnight Reiter' also nice; under 8".

Heuchera Mike had some interesting comments: Terra Nova, a breeder in Oregon, uses a western species in their crosses which is not hardy here. The eastern U.S. hybrids grow better here. A French breeder has

new varieties: 'Caramel' and 'Brownies'. *H. villosa* hybrids grow well here in the north; they are very large leaved and about 2 feet tall.

Huecherella 'Burnished Bronze'

Pulmonaria longifolia ssp. *seminensis* *sebenensis* (?)
From the high altitudes of the Pyrenees.

Polimonium 'Stairway to Heaven' Variegated with pink tones in cool weather.

Athyrium japonicum 'Burgundy Lace'—Japanese



painted fern.

Hosta. He showed us 'Blue Mouse Ears'—hosta of the year! 'High Society', a sport of 'June'. And 'Fancy Island', 8 to 10".

I might have missed some details—but this list will at least get you researching on Google in our fast approaching "quiet season". Write your own article to the Editor and let us all know your favorite new introductions! And go visit Ambergate Grdens. If you need directions—call Mary Maynard. She loves to go—and always takes me directly there!





Stan Crist's 25-Year Milestone at Westwood Lutheran Church

Anyone who's ever attended the MGCM Plant Sale and Auction has seen the wonderful gardens around Westwood Lutheran Church. After 25 years, Stan is stepping down from his post as leader of the garden group at Westwood.

When Stan retired in 1982, he and his wife Esther got permission from the church's property committee to do the first plantings along the south side of the church. Those plantings have expanded over the years to all of the garden areas we see now. For several years, Stan and Esther provided all the funding for the gardens, but when plants got big enough to divide, they started the annual plant sale, which provides much of the funds to support the gardens.

While Stan is stepping down from his leadership role at Westwood, he plans to continue to work in the gardening group. And, of course, he still gardens at his home in RidgePoint, where he has fitted up an unused garage with grow lights.

Westwood honored Stan with a reception on September 16th to thank him for his generosity and sharing of gifts over the past 25 years.

Thanks, Stan!

November Program Teaser

November's garden club speaker will be Tim Kornder, owner/operator of Brewery Creek Farms in Belle Plaine. Tim's specialty is tomatoes, particularly Heirloom tomatoes. He has traveled to South America to research Heirloom tomatoes and now grows more than 300 varieties. Tim will also speak on two other specialties of his: peppers and peonies.

FIFTEENTH PHOTO CONTEST UNDERGOES CHANGES

This year there were two major innovations in the Photo contest: digital submissions and the People's Choice. The digital format proved so easy that almost exactly one-half of the photos were in that format. Contestants could submit up to 20 entries total, in either print or digital or a combination of formats. The People's Choice was a separate competition judged at the Arboretum by anyone attending the Food, Flower and Foto Show.

Over 200 photos were entered by 19 participants, and, as usual, there were close-ups taken in the golden hours after dawn or before dusk in members' backyards, scenes of Minnesota woods, and vistas from around the world.

New entrant Phyllis Stromberg gave us the best digital photo of the show, a colorful close-up of a fungus in Alaska, which also was the best entry by a new contributor. She also turned in some wonderful scenes of Africa. The best print was taken by Leroy Cech, last year's Sweepstakes winner, and was a tight, clear view of an unfolding fern frond. Committee co-chair Chuck Carlson was awarded a reserve champion award for an image of an orchid on display.

(cont. on page 9)



TIME TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FOR THE

2007 MGCM HOLIDAY PARTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

6 P.M. SOCIAL HOUR & SILENT AUCTION BIDS

(COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT AUCTION IN NOVEMBER SPRAY)

DINNER 6:40 P.M. WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

AWARDS & MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT



(cont. from page 7)

David McKeen's scenic path on the North Shore and Lloyd Wittstock's snow-covered crab apples were chosen by the votes cast by visitors at the Arboretum show in the first People's Choice contest. Of nearly 400 votes, these two were tied.

The photos were shown at the September meeting. Andy Marlow will be posting first-prize winners and the various awards on the club Website. The Sweepstakes winner? This year, it's a secret until the holiday party.

Thanks to the judges, David McKeen and Elaine Spiegel. They are both photographers, and they did not enter parts of the contest in order to judge the rest, and we appreciate that. Thanks and congratulations to all 19 entrants as well.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT OF THE AUGUST MEMBERS TOUR	
Income	
Ticket Sales -	\$456.00
Expenses	
Park Shelter -	\$40.00
Caterer -	\$340.00
Profit -	\$76.00

Membership Renewal Time Again! This is especially important for any of you who want to renew your membership in the Minnesota State Horticulture Society. I need to have those checks and information in by the beginning of November so your subscriptions to The Northern Gardener do not lapse. You can go to the web site and download the first page, fill it out and mail it to me. If there are changes or corrections from last year's directory, it won't hurt to highlight those. Please print clearly. It saves me a lot of time. The prices are still the same.

One addition is that if you want to do a \$50.00 level for the MSHS membership, you will receive free tickets to the:

Minnesota Home & Patio Show: February 14-17, 2008 and the Minneapolis Spring Home & Garden Show: February 27-March 2, 2008 in addition to the other discounts you get.

That means you need to send a \$60.00 check made out to MGCM to cover your garden club dues also. I will also have forms at the October meeting. So, you can wait until then also. Send to Sharla Aaseng by email (nsaaseng@earthlink.net) or mail (1025 20th Avenue SE, Mpls, MN 55414-2511).



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 \$10.00. If you wish to join the Minnesota State Horticulture Society (MSHS) through us, the dues are \$45.00 (\$10 + \$35) for a single membership or \$48.00 (\$10 + \$38) for a dual membership.

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

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



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 _____



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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Club Officers:

President: Margaret Landry
3252 40th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Vice President: Larry Larson
15225 Wild Wings, Minnetonka

Recording Secretary: Denise Rust
7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park

Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng
1025 20th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Treasurer: David McKeen
2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park

Past President: Kristine Dieters
1736 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights

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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.

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First Class Mail

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