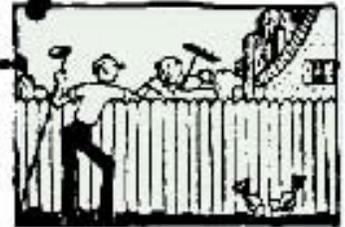




The Garden Spray

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

2010, Volume 68, Number 02



February Program:
The Garden Without Us:
Creating Gardens That
Maintain Themselves.

Men's Garden Club member and local landscape business owner, Jason Rathe, presents a talk on the worldwide "dynamic plant movement" - his program notes are below.

"In his popular book, "The World Without Us," author Alan Weisman explores a simple, but compelling question: What would happen to things in the world, i.e. human creations, if humans suddenly died off in some cataclysmic event? How long would it take before nature brought down our skyscrapers and houses and reclaimed our streets and sewers?"

What would our gardens turn into if we disappeared? This is an interesting question because it sheds light on how much effort we put into holding back the forces of nature: weeding, fertilizing, weeding, pruning, irrigating, dividing, weeding. Is it

Tuesday February 9th, 2010

Gathering and Conversation -----6:00 pm
Dinner -----6:30 pm
Business Meeting ----- Approx. 7:00 pm
Program ----- Approx. 7:30 pm

possible to create a garden that requires far less of these efforts but is still beautiful and captivating?

Jason's talk reviews and reflects on a world-wide movement towards creating gardens and landscapes that require less work. Garden designers like Piet Oudolf (Holland), Rick Darke (U.S.), Noel Kingsbury (U.K.), Laura Springer Ogden (U.S.) and universities in the U.K. and Germany are part of a movement called "dynamic planting." These practitioners aspire to establish beautiful gardens that work like natural ecosystems."

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 Don Untied

At our last meeting in new “dinner table talk” conversation we talked at our table about what we individually might do to help MGCM better meet our own garden needs as well as those of fellow gardeners. Wow what discussion. Your new board is very pleased with all we heard January 12. We believe firmly that a good club starts with good members. Mention was made in an earlier column about resolutions that we might make that would relate to our club membership. Over the holiday I read two stories in the Minnesota magazine, published by The University of Minnesota Alumni Association that gave me some personal ideas that I share believing there may be a relationship to what constitutes being a good club member.

Margaret Sughrue Carlson has retired after 25 years of leading the alumni association after a most distinguished career at the University of Minnesota. Shelly Fling, who worked with Margaret for 12 years, wrote in another article about the lessons she learned from Margaret about positive work attributes. With Shelly’s permission I share the observations.

The lessons:

- „ Show up early and alert with a positive attitude.
- „ Stick with a task until you complete it, and then move on.
- „ Say yes to as many opportunities as you can, and then deliver.
- „ Take on what seems like impossible tasks and don’t be dissuaded.
- „ Remember names and faces.
- „ Hold the bar high for others and yourself.
- „ Give people credit when due, including yourself.
- „ Rich or poor, everyone has the same amount of time. Make the most of it.
- „ The best time in life is what’s going to happen

next. Embrace it.

So is there a relationship of good work ethics to what makes being a

Good garden club member? Perhaps! Thank you Shelly and Margaret for allowing me to share these observations.

MGCM will be continuing our member “table talk” discussions. Our Club Hospitality Committee Chair Elizabeth Hamilton will be coordinating this. If you have a topic you would like for “table talk” please visit with Elizabeth. Don Untiedt, President
Men’s Garden Club of Minneapolis

TREASURER REPORT

CD	\$5,000.00
Checking	5,876.32
Designated funds	
Memorial/Park garden fund	961.21
Scholarship fund	120.00
Working balance	\$4,795.11



A Note from the Editor

By Mary Maynard

This is the dangerous time of the year -- when we're inside most of the day, with a lot of time to read through catalogs and make plans. A lot of things seem possible in February -- and it's only in April, May and June that the cold hard reality hits -- we're not as young, or strong as we used to be, and there aren't enough hours in the day to get everything done on the wish list! But it doesn't hurt to plan, even if our reach exceeds our grasp.

This issue contains a few pieces of last year's business -- a final budget report, and some board meeting minutes from 2009. But it also gives us a nice look forward. The Flower, Food and Foto Show committee has selected the featured flower and vegetable for the 2010 Show. And Larry Larson has written up a fine introduction to Dahlias for us. Some of the popular tubers sell out quickly, so read Larry's article and pick out a few to try!

I am looking forward to February's club meeting, which will feature Jason Rathe (the co-editor of the *Spray*, and the guy who makes it look so terrific every month). I look forward to seeing you all there!

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
------	----------	-------

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| February 9th 6:30 p.m. | LHC | Jason Rathe, Field Outdoor Spaces |
| March 9th 6:30 p.m. | LHC | Tim Malooly, Irrigation Consultants and Control |
| April 6th 6:00 p.m. | Macy/Bachman | Flower Show Dinner at Macy's Oak Grill |
| May 11th 4:30 p.m. | Plant Sale and Auction | WLC |
| June 12th 1:00 p.m. | Outdoor Program | Garden of Betty Ann Addison/Springbrook/Don and Jim's |
| July 10 & 11 | Public Garden | Tour |
| Aug 7th | Club | Tour |
| Aug 21 & 22 Sat/Sun | FFF/MN Arboretum | |

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

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church

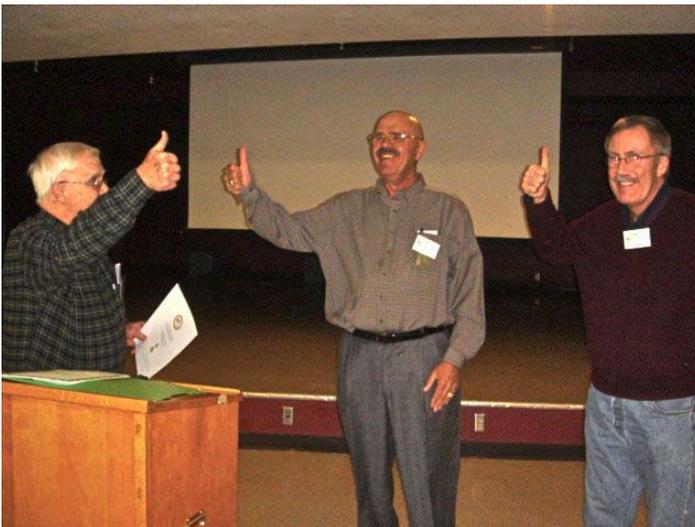
JANUARY PROGRAM

The highlight of the January club program was a presentation by Tom Tennant, owner of the native plant nursery, Out Back Nursery. Tom talked about his history of starting his nursery "out back" of his house and how he has seen people's attitude towards native plants and the environment change over the last few years.

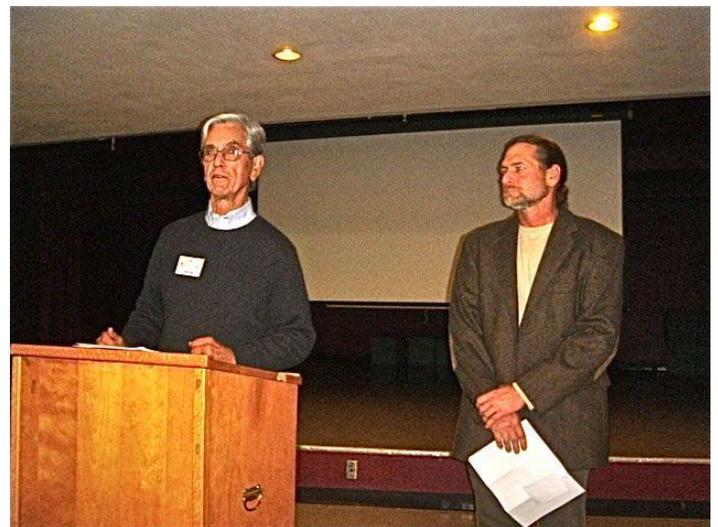
The new board was inducted and the Green Thumb award was presented. Also, each table was encouraged to discuss a topic, this month's topic was, "What would you like to do in the club this year." This question elicited any interesting responses.



The 2010 MGCM Board



Green Thumb Award winners



Bob Voigt presents the speaker, Tom Tennant



Minutes of the MGCM Board

Meeting date: November 3, 2009

Present: Denise Rust, Don Untiedt, Judy Berglund, Sharla Aaseng, Elizabeth Hamilton, Kay Wolfe, Elaine Spiegel

Absent: Dave McKeen and Larry Larson

Meeting was called to order by Denise Rust and agenda was passed out.

President's Report: Denise welcomed all prospective new board members in attendance.

Vice President's Report: All speakers and programs planned for 2010 through August.

Treasure's Report: Presented by Kay Wolfe in Dave's absence. \$5,000 in CD and \$4,892 in checking account. Budget Committee made up of Dave McKeen, Andy Marlow, Kay Wolfe, Sharla Aaseng, Denise Rust, and Don Untiedt would be meeting soon to set 2010 budget.

Recording Secretary's Report: Minutes of the October 6, 2009 meeting were approved as printed in the Spray newsletter.

Membership Secretary's Report: 2009 Dues were \$1,920 which included 97 members. 2010 to date dues submitted are \$1,550 which includes 69 members

Committee Reports:

Awards/Trophies: Rookie of the Year was voted on and will be presented at the Holiday Party.

Holiday Party: MC needed and Andy Marlow volunteered.

Membership: Presented new draft of New Member Brochure.

Lyndale Park Garden: Leaf cover up scheduled for Saturday, November 7, all are welcome to help.

No Old Business:

New Business: Board members would act as liaisons to committees for 2010. Don Untiedt has list of all committee chairs.

Officers voted to continue serving juice before meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Maurice Lindblom and seconded by Kay Wolfe.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 5 at 7:30 PM at Don Untiedt's

Respectfully Submitted

Judy Berglund, Recording Secretary



Minutes of Annual MGCM Meeting
November 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Denise Rust.

The Board nominated slate of new officers and directors were introduced by Kent Petterson as follows:

President	Don Untiedt
Vice-President	Kay Wolfe
Recording Secretary	Jan Johnson
Treasurer	David McKeen
Past President	Denise Rust
Membership Secretary	Sharla Aaseng
Directors	Maurice Lindblom Andy Marlow Jason Rathe

A motion to approve the slate of officers and directors as presented was made by Mary Maynard and was approved by a unanimous vote of club members.

New members and guests were introduced to the membership.

Denise announced that in 2010 there will be a public garden tour which the committee was starting to plan.

Sunshine committee reported the clubs condolences to Doug Whitney on the death of a parent.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Judy Berglund, Recording Secretary



MGCM 2009 End of Year Cash Report

Category	Budgeted Income	Actual Income	Difference
Income			
MGCM Dues	\$1,800.00	\$1,700.00	(\$100.00)
Holiday Party	\$1,600.00	\$1,480.00	(\$120.00)
Holiday Party--Silent Auction	\$600.00	\$617.00	\$17.00
Hospitality-Meals	\$4,600.00	\$4,973.00	\$373.00
Plant Auction	\$6,000.00	\$6,650.00	\$650.00
Valley Fair	\$250.00	\$0.00	(\$250.00)
Tours, Club	\$800.00	\$630.00	(\$170.00)
Cash from CD renewal	\$0.00	\$686.20	\$686.20
Donations to the gen. fund	\$0.00	\$320.00	\$320.00
Expenses, Fixed			
Hospitality-Room rental			
Programs			
Arb Membership			
Directory			
Spray Newsletter			
Insurance			
Office Supplies			
Pres Contingency			
Membership			
Web site	(Renewed for 2 years in 2009)		
Expenses, Committees			
Arbor Day			
Award-Trophy			
FFF			
Historian			
Park Garden			
Photography			
Sunshine			
Expenses, Donations			
Donation-Arb			
Donation-MSHS			
TOTALS	\$15,650.00	\$17,056.20	\$1,406.20

MGCM 2009 End of Year Cash Report (page 2)



Category	Budgeted Expense	Actual Expense	Difference	NET Total
Income				
MGCM Dues				\$1,700.00
Holiday Party	\$1,900.00	\$1,551.49	\$348.51	(\$71.49)
Holiday Party--Silent Auction				\$617.00
Hospitality-Meals	\$4,500.00	\$4,525.00	(\$25.00)	\$448.00
Plant Auction	\$3,000.00	\$3,655.47	(\$655.47)	\$2,994.53
Valley Fair				(\$250.00)
Tours, Club	\$800.00	\$631.92	\$168.08	(\$1.92)
Cash from CD renewal				\$686.20
Donations to the gen. fund				\$320.00
Expenses, Fixed				
Hospitality-Room rental	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$0.00	
Programs	\$400.00	\$250.00	\$150.00	
Arb Membership	\$60.00	\$75.00	(\$15.00)	
Directory	\$200.00	\$149.07	\$50.93	
Spray Newsletter	\$450.00	\$371.53	\$78.47	
Insurance	\$250.00	\$244.00	\$6.00	
Office Supplies	\$100.00	\$139.49	(\$39.49)	
Pres Contingency	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Membership	\$100.00	\$19.30	\$80.70	
Web site	\$250.00	\$190.80	\$59.20	
Expenses, Committees				
Arbor Day	\$200.00	\$159.00	\$41.00	
Award-Trophy	\$200.00	\$97.35	\$102.65	
FFF	\$800.00	\$442.46	\$357.54	
Historian	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
Park Garden	\$400.00	\$256.61	\$143.39	
Photography	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	
Sunshine	\$90.00	\$25.73	\$64.27	
Expenses, Donations				
Donation-Arb	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	
Donation-MSHS	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	
TOTALS	\$15,650.00	\$14,434.22	\$1,215.78	\$2,621.98
				Into reserve
DESIGNATED FUNDS	From 2008	Income	Expense	2009 Net
Memorial/Park garden	\$730.00	\$770.00	\$588.79	\$911.21
Scholarships	\$650.00	\$350.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
ASSETS 12/31/2009				
CD	\$5,000.00			
Memorial fund	\$911.21			
Scholarship fund	\$0.00			
General fund	\$4,309.89			

2010 FFF SHOW FEATURED FLOWER AND FOOD



We want to get the word out early so as all of you are browsing through those beautiful photos in the soon to arrive seed catalogs, you are dreaming of your entries in the 2010 FFF Show.

This year's featured flower is the dahlia. In the past few years so many of you have been exhibiting such a wide variety of beautiful dahlias that the committee felt this could be a flower we could all embrace and try. Larry Larson has agreed to share his vast knowledge on growing and exhibiting dahlias through articles in the Spray. Please be sure to watch for them. Maybe some of our more experienced dahlia growers will have their extra tubers in the country store of our May Plant Auction. Dahlias may be exhibited in the FFF Show as individual blossoms or as planters of dahlias.

This year's featured food is herbs. The medical community is urging all of us to cut our sodium consumption. What a wonderful way to cut salt and still have great flavored food, by using fresh herbs. I would urge each of you to grab an old clay pot and fill it with 3 or 4 of your

favorite herbs and place it on the deck or patio close to your kitchen. The more you cut and use the herbs the thicker and fuller the plants become and the more beautiful your pot of herbs will be for the FFF Show. Herbs are exhibited at the FFF Show as 3 stems of one variety, a collection of 5 different varieties or as a container growing one or more varieties.

We hope to have everyone entering some of the best from their gardens in the FFF Show this year. The dates are August 21 & 22 at the MN Landscape Arboretum.

Getting to Know Dahlias: Websites, Ordering and Planting



I am very pleased that the FFF committee chose my favorite flower, the dahlia, as the flower to receive special recognition at our show at the Landscape Arboretum. I have been growing dahlias for more than 30 years and each year I marvel at their beauty, their diversity; I love the awe-inspiring comments from friends and neighbors. For this issue of the Spray, I will talk about how to order the right dahlia for your garden, where to order them from, and how to start them indoors to get them ready for transplanting. Next month I will discuss growing and getting them ready for the FFF show.

Dahlias are divided into several categories: AA, or dinner plate dahlias, are the largest, and A, another larger size but not quite as big as a dinner plate dahlia. They usually measure 8" to 12" in size. Medium size dahlias and Ball dahlias are classified as B, and measure 6" to 8", BB, or small dahlias, measure 4" to 6", miniature blooms measure 2" to 4" in diameter, Pom Pons measure 2" or under and Waterlily dahlias range in size from 4" to 6". Waterlily dahlias are not grown in ponds.

Many of the smaller varieties, like B and BB, Miniature, Pom Pons and Waterlily dahlias grow on bushes only 2 to 3 feet high. These don't need staking like some of the taller dahlias. AA and A size dahlias can grow on stems that reach 6 to 7 feet tall; they need to be tied to steel or rebar stakes to help hold them up. Most of the dahlias you plant will produce flowers from August until frost and each bush could produce between 50 and 100 blooms or more.

There are many varieties of dahlias, including Formal and Informal Decorative, which include many of the old fashioned one-color larger dahlias; Straight Cactus, Incurved Cactus and Semi Cactus, which include flowers that have pedals that come to points rather than rounded pedals; Laciniated, which have

split pedals, and Collarete, which are smaller dahlias that look like orchids.

The best way to discern which dahlia you would like to grow is to visit one of the web sites I always use to order my dahlias. Dahlias should be ordered in January and February, because dahlia growers begin to run out of the most popular varieties early, so order as soon as possible. Here is a list of web sites I use when ordering dahlias: Connells Dahlias (www.connells-dahlias.com), Accent Dahlias (www.dahliasuppliers.com/accent/), which has a tremendous web site that lists hundreds of dahlias for sale with pictures of all of them; Corralitos Gardens (www.cgdahlias.com/dahlia_catalog.html), and Alpen Gardens (www.alpengardens.com). I have ordered from each of these growers and always been satisfied with their product.

You can also buy dahlias at the Minnesota Dahlia Society sale at the Lyndale Bachmans on Saturday, April 25. Be there early, because by 10 a.m., a lot of the best dahlias are gone.

You may also want to check out a wonderful web site called The Big List (www.dahlias.net/dbiglist.htm). This site lists every dahlia known to exist and who sells it. So if you know the name of that special dahlia you're looking for, like Zorro or Jessica (my favorite), you can look up the name of the dahlia and find out who sells it. Then go to the top of the page, find the grower who sells the dahlia or dahlias you want, and click on the grower to get his/her page. The key is shipping charges. You want to order from as few growers as possible to minimize shipping costs.

Most of the growers will have a place on their order sheet where they ask you when you want your dahlias delivered. If you want to put your dahlia tubers directly into the ground, write down May 15 for date

(cont. on page 11)



(Dahlias, cont. from page 10)

of delivery. If you want to start them inside, then transplant them outside, write down May 1. I want to plant my dahlias outside between May 15 and May 20, and since I start them inside, I want to put them into pots around May 1. Be careful when you plant, however. Do not plant tubers when it is cold or the ground is cold or wet. If it's too cold to plant tubers outside, you must start them inside.

To plant tubers inside, mix together $\frac{3}{4}$ parts peat moss and $\frac{1}{4}$ parts potting soil. Put the mixed soil into a small, empty plant container with the stem facing up. Do not bury the tuber; push the soil up around half of the tuber. Place the plants under a bright light in a warm room. Dribble a little water over the stem every day. Just a few drops will do. Too much water will rot the tuber. As the stem begins to grow, water a little more. When the weather is good enough to transplant, dig a hole about 4 inches deep and put the tuber into the ground. Put a stake behind the tuber if it is a large dahlia. I like to write the name of the dahlia on a stick and put it into the ground. Later, you can put the name of the dahlia on top of the stake.

Next month, I will discuss the care and feeding of this wonderful flower. But to get started, please visit the web sites I mentioned above. Even if you don't order any dahlias, it is fun to look at them, especially this time of year. Dreaming is free, so enjoy these web sites as much as possible.

Larry Larson



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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Club Officers:

President: Don Untiedt
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Vice President: Kay Wolfe
2740 Florida Ave. S., St. Louis Park
Recording Secretary: Janice Johnson
3005 Scott Ave N., Golden Valley
Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng
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Treasurer: David McKeen
2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park
Past President: Denise Rust
7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park

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Andy Marlow
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Jason Rathe

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First Class Mail

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