



Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2010, Volume 68, Number 05



MINNEAPOLIS MENS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Our annual plant sale and auction will place Tuesday, May 11 at the Westwood Lutheran Church, located at 9001 Cedar Lake Road in St. Louis Park. For all you new members out there, this is the most popular event of the year and not to be missed. This is your chance to buy plants from fellow member's gardens and also to bid and purchase plants at our very popular plant auction. This is also the time we pick up the plants that we ordered ahead of time from our 'pre-auction order form.' There is also a silent auction and a raffle.

Following is our schedule of events:

- 4:00 p.m. - You may pick up the plants you ordered.
- 4:15 p.m. - All volunteers who are working at the plant sale and auction may buy plants at the country store.
- 4:30 p.m. - Silent auction begins.
- 4:45 p.m. - Country store opens to everyone.
- 5:45 p.m. - Dinner is served.
- 6:15 p.m. - Silent auction ends.
- 6:30 p.m. - Dinner tables are cleared and put away and chairs are set up for the live auction.
- 6:40 p.m. - Silent auction winners are announced.
- 6:45 p.m. - Live auction begins.

**Dinner Reservations are
not in effect. Call or e-mail
Carole Ann Brekke 952.435.6029
or numsix24@comcast.net**

*NOTE: You can drop off
donated plants for the
Country Store anytime after
9:30 a.m. on Tuesday.*

Thoughts from the Prez:



by Don Untied

Spring truly was "In the Air" April 6 for the clubs outing to the Macy Bachman's Annual Flower Show. Many positive comments came forth for revitalizing the downtown dinner at the Oak Grille. And though the dinner sold out, the board was pleased to see that so many members came to see the show. Thanks Kay for the extra effort that made for a nice evening for all. And thank you Dale for giving us an insider's look to the show.

Our next meeting on Tuesday May 11 is the plant auction at Westwood Church. We hope that you are looking for special plants in your garden that are in need of more room, that should be propagated, that can be sold at the Country Store. Those plants should be at the church ready for sale at 4:00 p.m. Please remember to bring a few extra dollars to spend either in the silent auction or the plant auction. This event truly is the club's money maker! Thanks to Doug, all that serve on this committee as well as those not on the Committee who pitch in. I know that many members come and help throughout the day who are not on the committee but make a huge contribution towards the success of the event.

With the help of a few recently taken pictures I hope to stimulate you for your spring 2011 garden. Yes, in a few months it will be time to plant your fall bulbs for early spring blooms next year.

For several years I hoped to see the tulips and spring bulbs at the Keukenhof gardens in Holland. And so on April 8 I took a 5 day holiday to Amsterdam to become just one of the 800,000

visitors expected to see the 2010 show during its 2 month run that ends May 16. Perhaps some of you will be joining Peter on the Arboretum's trip to Keukenhof in late April?

Keukenhof's mission is to be the international and independent showcase and platform for the plant and flower-growing sector in the Netherlands. And with 7,000,000 bulbs planted annually it truly is a spring garden fantasy. I am delighted to share a few pictures with you. Each of us with our more limited space can easily duplicate on a smaller version the look of any one of these spring scenes in 2011. Perhaps the club should consider a joint tulip / daffodil / spring bulb purchase opportunity?



A Note from the Editor

By Jason Rathe

So spring is over and we're off to summer, right? As summer approaches the club starts to move out of the cozy confines of the Lake Harriet Church and into other venues, including this month's plant sale.

I've recently joined the club's Board and it has reinforced something that should be obvious - you get out of membership what you put in. Being a part of the Board has not only helped me to understand some of the inner workings of the club, but has been a great way to meet more great people in the club - great people who know a TON about gardening. This is just a reminder to other new and newish members - join a committee to get the full benefits of membership!

Good luck to everyone in their gardens this year!

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
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May 11th 4:30 p.m.	Plant Sale and Auction	WLC
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June 12th 1:00 p.m.	Outdoor Program	Garden of Betty Ann Addison/Springbrook/Don and Jim's
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July 10 & 11	Public Garden Tour	
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Aug 7th	Club Tour	
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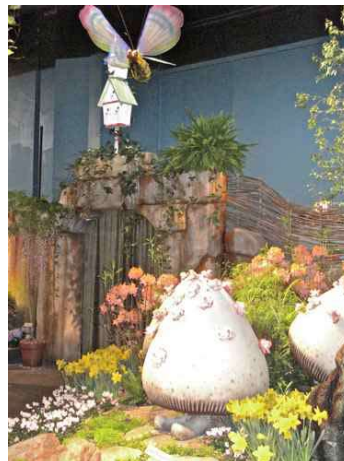
Aug 21 & 22 Sat/Sun	FFF/MN Arboretum	
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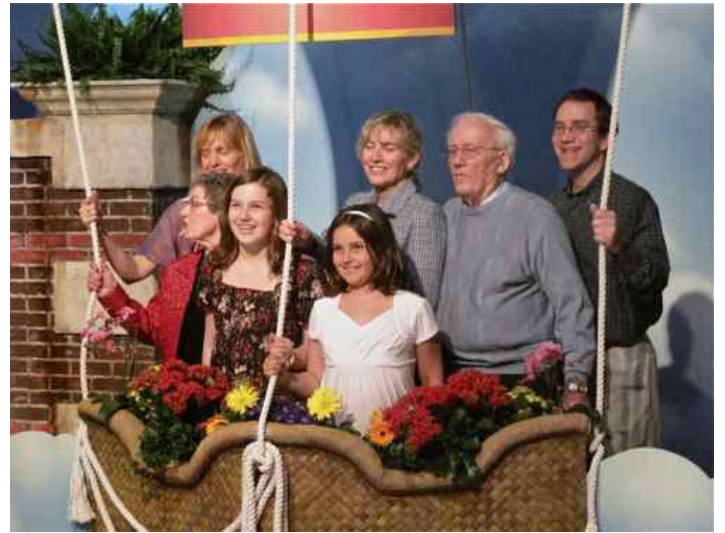
LHC = Lake Harriet Church (4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis)

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



❁ BACHMANS AND MACYS FLOWER SHOW ❁







An MGCM Memorial Day

by Kay Wolfe, chair of the Lyndale Park Garden Committee

MGCM has a tradition of giving memorials for its members. This is even written in the By-Laws of our club:

Section 3. Memorials. The Board shall consider suitable recognition of members. Memorials in the form of gifts of money, goods or services may be made to appropriate non-profit institutions.

Back when I was on the Board in the 1990's, bricks with names of club members were purchased in their memory and given to the MSHS for a patio at their new building. After their patio was complete, memorial donations were accumulating in the checking account.

So In 2006, then President Ellyn Hosch suggested the club, since we had ample funds at the time, add to the Memorial Fund, and for the club to make a suitable memorial donation with the money. A committee was formed to study this, with Ada Hegion, Ellyn, Mary Maynard, and myself volunteering. We considered something for Lyndale Park: park benches, a bench around a proposed labyrinth, a brick walkway by our garden. At a meeting with the Park Board staff and a member of the Lyndale-Farmstead neighborhood, one of the local residents asked us—what do you do best? He was sure we could raise money by selling bricks for a path—but was that what we wanted to do? Our quick answer was we were gardeners. It became obvious that we put our donation towards creating and finishing our garden! This was not a tangible piece of hardscape, like most memorials, but we are a club of gardeners, and know the ephemeral quality of life, both plant and human.

So on March 6, 2006, the committee requested of the 2006 MGCM Board for \$2000 of the Memorial Fund money to be donated to the park. Here are excerpts from that proposal:

Request for Approval

March 6, 2006

To: MGCM Board of Directors

From: MGCM Memorial Committee (Ada Hegion, Ellyn Hosch, Mary Maynard, Kay Wolfe)

Purpose

The MGCM Memorial Committee requests approval of the MGCM Board of Directors to donate the \$2000.00 budgeted Memorial Fund money to the Lyndale Park Mixed Perennial Border that the MGCM Lyndale Park Garden Committee (formerly the “Perennial Garden Committee”) creates, plants and maintains.

Our Intent

The MGCM Memorial Committee plans to use the MGCM Memorial Fund money to buy permanent plant material that will finish this Perennial Mixed Border garden. The funds will be used to purchase conifers and long lived shrubs or ornamental trees. The border garden is 300 feet in length. In addition, the Memorial Committee will request 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.

The proposal was approved by the MGCM Board of Directors on April 4, 2006.

I get questions from club members about the

memorials: “Can we can plant a tree in memory of a club member, or “What are doing for a memorial?” The answer is—the whole garden is the memorial. We use the funds to plant appropriate trees and shrubs that fit the growing conditions in the park, and fit a design to make a season-long beautiful garden. The funds were originally specified to be used for “permanent plant material”, such as trees and shrubs. We are now filling in with ornamental grasses and perennials, some which have longer lives than our trees! The park garden project has received additional funding from the club’s general fund, and that was initially used for perennials. As the garden has matured, it has gained many supporters, and the Memorial Fund has received many more donations earmarked for the garden in recent years. So we have cut back on using the club’s general funds to support the garden.

Every year we develop, or partially replant, areas of the garden. The members that have passed away during that year are then remembered with these plantings. Following is a recent list:

2006 In memory of Henry Halvorson, Harold Gulde, Howard Klier, and former member Henry Orfield.
Plantings: Evergreens for the back boundary of the garden: Norway spruce: *Picea abies* ‘Rubra Spicata; 5 yews: 4 spreading and 1 ‘Capitata’; 5 Easy Elegance shrub roses for front of border.

2007 In memory of John Moon.
Plantings: Planted the section near the stone with the plaque. Serbian spruce ‘Pimoko’, Mugho pine ‘Slowmound’, ‘Tiger Eye’ sumac, many perennials. Also the dwarf blue globe spruce near the ‘Rose Glow’ barberries.

2008 In memory of Clyde Thompson, Fred Glasoe, & Todd Bachman.
Plantings: 5 *Arborvitae* ‘Technito’ for the back boundary; 10 spreading yews for a hedge formation



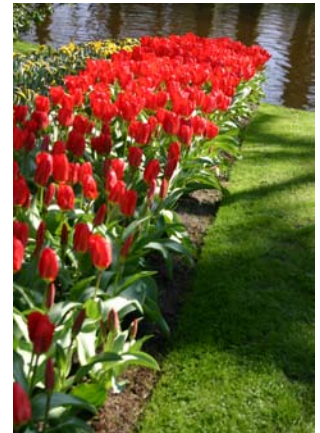
in the front center bed; 5 *Boxwood* ‘Glencoe’ for the front boundary in the part-shade bed. Many perennials for the part-shade bed.

2009 In memory of Duane Johnson, & former member Lee Gilligan.
Plantings: Collection of upright conifers and 2 colored foliage shrubs: *Arborvitae* ‘Techny’; *Juniper* ‘Wichita Blue’; *Pinus mugo* ‘Columnaris’; *Juniper communis* ‘Gold Cone’; *Berberis* ‘Helmond Pillar’, and *Physocarpus opulifolius* ‘Dart’s Gold’. Also 12 ‘Crimson Pygmy’ barberries to form a “river” in center front bed.

Many thanks to all those that have made contributions to the Memorial Fund that has made these purchases possible. Acknowledgement of all donors for 2008 and 2009 will appear in another article. In addition to creating a memorial, our goal is to create a beautiful garden that can serve as an educational example, filled with reliably hardy, drought tolerant plants that the average homeowner can plant in their garden. We are giving a beautiful gift to the city of Minneapolis, and all who walk here.



DON UNTIEDT'S FESTIVAL OF TULIPS (from his recent trip to Holland)





FFF Schedule Posted

Both Photo and FFF Schedules are on our website at these links:

Photo rules: <http://www.minneapolismensgardenclub.org/2010photorules.pdf>

FFF Schedule: <http://www.minneapolismensgardenclub.org/ShowSked2010.pdf>

TREASURER REPORT

Balance on 4-20-10 11,124.34

CD 5,000.00

Designated funds

 Memorial/park garden 1,281.21

Scholarship fund 120.00

Working balance \$9,723.13



A New Plant Discovery

by Bob Olson

Every year I seem to “discover” a new plant that is just wonderful. Often it's just new to me—people like Mary Maynard have been growing it for years. Or it's an old but now-forgotten favorite that sage gardeners like Roger Koopmans grew years ago. However, last summer I discovered a truly new-to-Minnesota-gardeners plant. It comes from Australia. And it was quite gratifying to have knowledgeable people like Kay Wolfe visit my garden and exclaim, “What is that!”



Ptilotus exultatus 'Joey'

I came across it at the Farmer's Market. One of the regular vendors who specializes in New Guinea Impatiens and zinnias had a single little plant in a small plastic pot sitting off to the side of his display. It had thick, almost succulent, leaves that reminded one of lambs ear that were held nicely aloft on stout petioles. Rising from the center of this attractive foliage were flower scapes sporting purple flowers shaped like a household bottlebrush. It was unlike anything I had encountered.

The vendor told me he loved the thing but he couldn't sell it.

“Why not? It looks pretty good to me. I'll buy it.”

“I can't sell it because I don't know its name. It came with my seed order as a bonus and unfortunately I lost the name.”

“If I tell you its name will you sell it to me?”

“If you tell me its name I'll give it to you!”

“Deal.”

For a while I wondered if 'Rumplestiltskin' would be its name, but it wasn't. I didn't have a clue to what its name was, however gardeners on a quest for a plant they “must have” (often you didn't know it existed ten minutes ago and now you can't live without it) are extremely resourceful. I knew people who probably would know its name.

Jerry Shannon wasn't home when I called so I took it out to Steve Kelley at Kelley & Kelley Nursery in Long Lake. There Steve's wife, Arla Carmichael—the director of Norenberg Gardens, immediately identified it as *Ptilotus exultatus*—and better yet told me this form is called “Joey”.



So the story has a happy ending. I got the plant free, the vendor could offer it to the public—he sold out in less than two weeks. I grew two of them last summer: one in a small flowerpot that I put on the patio wall and the other in the garden in almost full sun. Both did quite well, but the one in the pot required regular watering—this is no cactus.

Why don't you try one this year? And why don't you contact Mary Maynard or Jason Rathe and tell them of your plant "discoveries"?



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