



The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
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The Great MGCM Tomato Fest And Harvest Dinner

MGCM Club Meeting, September 14, 2010

What is all this fuss about heirloom tomatoes? Join us for the September meeting and find out!

Start at 5:30 with an Heirloom Tomato Taste-Off with live music, and then a Harvest Pot Luck Dinner. The program will begin with the world premier viewing of the MGCM-TV Heirloom Tomato video, starring our own Bob Olson and Judy Berglund; and will end with a panel of MGCM tomato growers: Judy Berglund, Bob Livingston, and Bob Voigt; interviewed by Lynda Carlson.



The Schedule:

5:30 to 6:15 Heirloom Tomato Taste-Off and voting.

We will have 10 varieties of heirloom tomatoes for tasting, and score sheets for voting.
Live music by Tom Atoe and the Nightshade Family Band! (aka Rusty Debris)

6:15 Pot luck dishes to be set out for the Harvest Dinner.

6:30 Harvest Dinner

7:15 Business Meeting

7:30 MGCM-TV Video on Heirloom Tomatoes.

Panel: "Heirloom Tomatoes and How We Grow Them"

Judy Berglund, Bob Livingston & Bob Voigt. Interviewed by Lynda Carlson

Bring all your questions! Share your knowledge!

The Dinner: Everyone is to bring a Harvest Dish (+ serving utensil) that can serve 8 to 10 persons. Get the dish there by 6:15.

Suggestions are: Appetizer (such as tomato bruschetta; mini-BLTs); Salads; Hot Dishes; Breads; & Desserts. Be creative—this is a harvest celebration!

Beverages will be provided: Water, iced tea and coffee. Bring your own milk!

(Cont. on page 4)

Thoughts from the Prez:

by Don Untied

There are a Million Reasons to Belong to a Garden Club – and throughout our busy summer from the MGCM Plant Sale to the FFF show I couldn't help but reflect on how fortunate I am to belong to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis (MGCM). Each of the 13 gardens that were a part of our summer activities gave me new "green" ideas and challenges. What did the gardens and MGCM activities do for you?

Dr. Bob Olson invited most of us that came to his garden on the club tour to see the garden of his neighbor and friend. "Wow," it was quite a garden done by a very talented gardener. Bob mentioned that he would like to see his friend in our club, and asked me to also present the possibility to him to join our club. He was reluctant saying he simply was not a joiner. This got me to thinking about why seasoned gardeners should think about joining a garden club.

Most of all I believe they should join for fun. There are all types of programs and activities. Some are during the day, some at night. It is a good place for a gardening asylum inmate to hang out. No one thinks you're weird for talking plants. And you get to do fun projects.

Still I wondered why should a good gardener belong to a garden club? I did a little research on the internet and found excellent answers to the question by a posting on the Derry Garden Club from Derry, New Hampshire. It is a club older than MGCM, founded September 9, 1935. I would like to share there reasons that they list to attract new members to their club.

JOIN A GARDEN CLUB - TAKE ADVANTAGE of programs and classes in gardening, landscape design, and flower arranging, whatever is your



thing!

DISCOVER what grows best, how to fertilize, and how to keep the moisture in your kind of soil.

ENJOY the thrill of showing your prize plants and floral arrangements at flower shows and exhibits.

PROFIT from the experience of experts, getting new ideas for outdoor planting to compliment your home and neighborhood.

WONDER what would happen if no one cared about our land, air, water and trees?

SUPPORT conservation projects to provide protection from pollution and mis-use of natural resources.

PARTICIPATE in programs to preserve historic sites, taking care of places important in the life of your community.

GET TOGETHER with others and present a solid front of civic concern to your city, county, and state representatives.

CREATE a heritage for the future, planting at home and taking part in garden club programs for long-term beautification.

HOPE today's children grow up feeling good about flowers and butterflies and birds?

LEARN about youth garden clubs that offer children and young people a chance to dig and plant and grow.

PROMOTE the garden club's activity program encouraging young people to be curious about nature's mysteries and careful how they are used.

And so the question is how do we as individuals and how to we as a garden club measure up to these objectives? Special thanks to Denise, Dave, Judy, and Kay and their committees, as well as to everyone that hosted us this summer.

From Don Untiedt, President
Mens Garden Club of Minneapolis



A Note from the Editor

Oddly summer is a time I rarely get to enjoy time in my or my friend's gardens. As Spray editor, I enjoy the opportunity to experience the Tours and the FFF through your pictures and experiences. Thanks so much. There is so much exuberance and commitment in everything club member's do.

Jason Rathe

CONDOLENCES

We remember Lloyd Bachman, who passed away on July 16 at the age of 90. Lloyd was a member of MGCM for 60 years, joining in 1950 when the club was only 8 years old. He was our longest-serving member. In those 60 years, he was active in the early years of the U of M Landscape Arboretum and the Men's Garden Club national conventions that were held in the Twin Cities. He was named an honorary member in 2000, when he had been a member for 50 years. Some of us "younger" members will remember him as a particularly kind and gracious man who lived a long a fruitful life.

We extend our condolences to Bob Olson and his family on the loss of Bob's wife Karen, who was a lovely person gone far too soon.

TREASURER REPORT

Balance on 8-18-2010

\$11,597.35

CD

\$5,000.00

Designated Funds

Memorials/park garden fund

\$1,366.21

Scholarship fund

\$2,498.43

Working Balance

\$7,732.71



(Cont. from page 1)

Plates, napkins, utensils, cups & glasses also provided.

Don't forget to bring a serving utensil!!

Cost: \$5 per person. The permanent reservation list is in effect. Phone or Email Carole Ann Brekke (952-435-6029 or numsix24@comcast.net) by Friday September 10 to save a spot. Bring spouses, friends, and neighbors!

Dress for the occasion! Wear your hat with a tomato in it! Coveralls and red shirts? Let's Celebrate!

Check out the Tomato Fest in Carmel for recipes and inspiration! http://www.tomatofest.com/carmel_tomatofest.html or Google "Carmel Tomato Fest."

Upcoming Events

Date Location Event

Sept 14 Harvest Celebration and Heirloom Tomato Tasteoff

Oct 12 Steve Risan Tonkadale - Fairy gardens, terrariums and dish gardens

Nov 9 What I Learned This Year and Business Meeting

Jan Gary Johnson from U of M

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

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



FFF SHOW !!!!!



Here's a quick recap of this weekend's FFF Show. You should have a pile of photos from Lloyd Wittstock. Judy B. may have more that she wants you to use. And Judy may want to edit or replace this recap. Whatever Judy decides is what we'll do!

We had another successful Flower, Food and Foto Show at the Arboretum on August 21-22. The show looked particularly attractive this year, and we had six first-time exhibitors!

Here's a quick recap of the overall winners:



Champion Flower and Best in Show: Rose 'Sonia' - Judy Berglund
Reserve Champion Flower: Celosia 'Crested Red Velvet' - Nancy Bjerke
Featured Flower: Dahlia 'Jessie G' - Margaret Hibberd
Flower Sweepstakes (Blackbourne Trophy): Mary Maynard
Champion Vegetable: Green bush beans 'Improved Tendergreen' - Judy Berglund
Reserve Champion Vegetable: Cabbage 'Bravo Late' - Judy Berglund
Featured Vegetable: Herbs in container - Judy Berglund
Vegetable Sweepstakes (Foley Trophy) - Judy Berglund

And our Best First-time Exhibitor (Smith Trophy) - is Lynda Carlson.



I think I can speak for Judy (our Show Chair) and the rest of the FFF Committee in thanking all of the committee members and show exhibitors for another excellent show. MGCM has had a show for at least 39 years. (The Foley trophy was first awarded in 1962.)

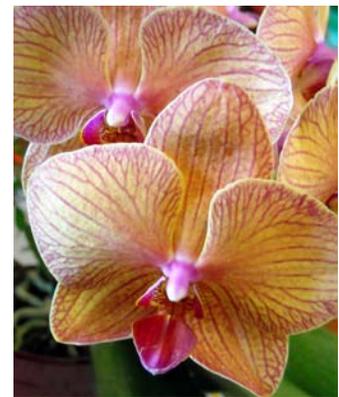


FFF SHOW !!!!!

Here is a quick recap of all of the entrants and the points won at the show.

2010 Flower & Vegetable Sweepstakes summary

Entrant	Points Earned		Notes
	Horticulture	Vegetables	
Sandra Abraham	20		
Ruth Berg	12	2	
Judy Berglund	62	78	Best in Show, Best Flower in Show, Best Vegetable, Reserve Vegetable, Featured Veg, Veg Sweepstakes
Nancy Bjerke	19	7	Reserve champion flower
Chuck Carlson	21	10	
Lynda Carlson	34	2	Best first-time exhibitor
Donna Hanson	30		
Margaret Hibberd	60		Featured flower (dahlia)
Larry Larson	43	6	
Maury Lindblom	2		
Bob Livingston		8	
Mary Maynard	88	2	Flower sweepstakes
Jim McKee	7		
David McKeen	12		
Jackie Pierce		2	
Jane Sheedy		18	
Don Trocke	29	3	
Don Untiedt	8		
Lloyd Wittstock	4	3	





Public Tour Wrapup

PUBLIC TOUR WRAPUP

The 2010 public tour is history, and I am still left with a lot of fine memories. We had six wonderful gardens with a great variety of things to share, and two days of good weather in which to enjoy it all. Though attendance numbers were down, we still earned a profit of almost \$2,400 to go toward horticulture scholarships! Thank you to the four members who shared their time and love of gardening with others (Gary Geister, Carole Ann Brekke, Judy Berglund and Carol Schreier), and thank you to Judy Berglund and Elizabeth Hamilton for encouraging non-members to share their gardens as well. I would also like to thank all those that assisted with the arrangements for the tour as well.



I would like to share a portion of the e-mail I received from Carole Ann Brekke, after she had received a thank you note from a visitor:

On Monday evening the gardeners on the tour visited all six gardens. WOW! That was a great way to meet each other and take a look at how we all spend our summer days and nights. . .in the dirt, in our gardens, dealing with excess rain. . .or not, bugs and slugs and other pests! Big numbers would have been great, but touching our visitors with gardening ideas and encouragement doesn't come with a price tag! And isn't that what the MGCM is all about?



Denise Rust, Tour Chair





Educational Programs for 2011 and Beyond By Kay Wolfe, Vice- President & VP of Programs

MGCM's educational programs are some of the most important of all club events. Our programs are vital to not only our own learning as gardeners, but also are key to retaining our membership and recruiting new people. Finding good speakers and planning substantive learning experiences are essential to MGCM's survival as a quality garden club.

With the goal of providing quality programs, I asked five club members to help me create a plan for future club meetings. The volunteers that met last April were Lynda Carlson, Elizabeth Hamilton, Bob Livingston, Tim Malooly, and Jason Rathe. This committee noted that: MGCM has a wealth of knowledgeable gardeners—and suggested we "mine our experts". They suggested we make every meeting a learning experience—the whole meeting. They envisioned educational discussion during social hour and dinner. They noted that we need to educate members along the whole spectrum of gardening expertise. They wondered if we are furnishing our members with what they want?

Here are the program ideas for 2011. These ideas are not yet implemented plans—so anyone can still have input!

February, 2011 and March 2011

1. Permaculture: How to get the most production out of any piece of land. Speaker from the U.?
2. March: New Trends. Industry Updates. Speaker from Bailey's?

June 2011

Possible 'open garden' evening: Visit Jerry & Lee Shannon's garden and the unusual plants they have propagated. Additional stop: Tour of Kent Petterson's book store and shop garden. Need to find a dinner spot.

Fall: Sept., Oct. & Nov. 2011

1. Tangletown Gardens? Need to brainstorm with them—what do they do best? Design with foliage; creative use of hardscape; small and unusual trees. Can we visit there?



2. Bachman's? What is new in the nursery business? Might they give a tour and have dinner in Heritage Room?

3. A talk on MN & it's ag/hort history of the state fair and politicians. Need to make a contact.

MGCM needs to build a strong, on-going Program Committee. The group of five met as a one-time brainstorming task force and created a plan of possible program ideas. We need members to implement the plan. If necessary, the plan can be modified. 2012 program plans also need to be made. Please join in and help.

In the past the VP of Programs found speakers, and often the topics picked were those of interest to the VP—and maybe not to the rest of the club. The club expects the VP to accept their position in November, and set up interesting speakers for the very next year—an impossible timeline. I think this expectation of the VP is really detrimental to the club. How can we have someone do programs for one year, and then move on and take their skills and ideas with them? What kind of continuity do we get from this? Quality programs take thought and planning, and we may want more from good programs than sitting and being “talked to”. Interactive programs and touring interesting facilities take some effort to plan. Let's put together a strong program committee that can lead us into the future. The Vice-President has an administrative job to do.

We need members to plan good programs. I suggest we all take a turn at planning a program. This is our club, and every member needs to be involved in making and keeping MGCM a quality garden club! If you can't help implement a program, at least share your ideas and wishes. Send me a note or phone: kaywolfe@q.com or 952.922.0762



The 2010 Photo Contest Overview

By Chuck Carlson

The entries have been turned in and the judging is completed.. There were 232 entries from 20 entrants. Five judges spent Saturday Aug 14 and selected the winners of the 2010 contest. We had two new people who entered the contest and one of our new members, Gary DeGrand received the most points in the contest. He edged out Denice Rust by one point.

I believe all of the judges were impressed with the photos entered. One judge made these comments; “Overall I was quite impressed with the quality of the entries. Photos were carefully selected and not sent in “just to enter something”. There were some categories where there were so many good entries it was tough to choose a winner (so we had at least one tie for first place). Some of the photos rose to the level of art, not just a depiction of reality“.

During the judging, I kept track of the comments made during the process. There were many good comments but I was more interested in those that were used to eliminate the entries for awards. Some of my photos received some of these comments also and I learned from it. Paying attention to the comments I hope to become a better photographer. Below is a composite of these comments. I hope they help you also.

Comments from judges when judging the photos. Photos were eliminated or given a lower rating for the following reasons.

- * Dark areas draw attention away from the subject
- * Flowers with butterflies should be put in the Misc. category
- * Focus is fuzzy/Subject is not in focus
- * The photo is in the wrong category (class) or didn't meet the category definition
- * The background is too busy, thus taking away from the subject
- * The photo should have been taken closer to the subject
- * A second subject takes away from the main subject
- * Fences or other objects are a distraction
- * The subject is too centered (use the rule of thirds)
- * Specks, holes or pollen on the flower draws one away from the subject
- * Too many rain/water drops take attention away from the subject
- * The wrong name for the photo
- * Color looks faded or is the wrong shade
- * Objects in the foreground are a distraction
- * Name tags or dates in the photo are a distraction Turn off the date using the camera functions. There is no need to add a date to the image. Digital cameras automatically record this information on the memory card for later use.



Photo Contest Special Awards:
RESERVE AWARD - THREE WAY TIE FOR 1st
"Snowy Paper Birch" by Jill Swanson
"Victorian Water Platters" by Denise Rust
"Tradescantia" by Gary DeGrand

BEST OF SHOW AWARD
"Magnolia in the Wind" by Russ Henry

Congratulations, everybody!

2011 Nominating Committee
By Kay Wolfe, President-Elect

It is the job of MGCM's President-Elect to appoint five or more members to the Nominating Committee. Members on this year's committee are: Carole Ann Brekke, Elizabeth Hamilton, Margaret Hibberd, MT Pulley and Bob Voigt. Kent Petterson, who served on the 2010 committee, also volunteered to serve on this year's committee. Give a huge thank-you to these members for doing such an important job for MGCM. And if they contact you, please help by serving as an officer of MGCM. Your club needs you!



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First Class Mail

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