



# The Garden Spray

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

2010, Volume 68, Number 10



## MGCM Club Meeting, October 12, 2010

### **Fairy Gardens, Dish Gardens, and Terrariums**

Have you wondered how to set up a terrarium so you can garden in winter? What is all this about "fairy gardens"? Anna and Steve Risan of Tonkadale Greenhouse have been specializing in these popular gardens and selling miniature plants and accessories for creating these small scale landscapes. They will show slides of some Tonkadale creations, bring examples, and show us how to create and maintain these tiny gardens. Fairy gardens can be planted outdoors or indoors. They will also tell us about some of the latest succulents available for dish gardens. Anna & Steve are hosting the Garden Centers of America tour at their greenhouse in November. Apparently that organization heard about the amazing stuff they do with miniature indoor gardening and senses a potential new industry trend. And OUR garden club is having a program on it! So join us for the October meeting! Check out the Tonkadale website: <http://www.tonkadale.com/index.html>



#### The Schedule:

6:00 *Conversation Hour. Demonstration fairy gardens will be available.*

6:30 *Dinner: cost is \$12*

7:15 *Business Meeting*

7:30 *Program by Anna & Steve Risan*



Location: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 49th and Chowen Ave S., Minneapolis. Enter via the back door and go to the lower level meeting room.

Dinner: Cost of dinner is \$12.00.

Menu: Romaine Salad with Pears and Walnuts; Baked Chicken Babette: Chicken breasts baked with ham and Swiss cheese, simmered with a creamy sauce and topped with crumbs; Mixed Vegetables; Rolls and Butter; Pineapple Angel Food Cake with Whipped Cream; Beverages.

The permanent reservation list is in effect. Phone or Email Carole Ann Brekke (952-435-6029 or [numsix24@comcast.net](mailto:numsix24@comcast.net)) by Friday, October 8, 2010 to save a spot. If you are on the permanent list and need to cancel, do so by the same date. If you are late reserving or cancelling, call Carole Ann or Dave McKen and add your name to the wait list, or see if they can sell your spot. Bring spouses, friends, and neighbors!

# Thoughts from the Prez:

by Don Untied

It was great that MGCM held a Tomato Fair this past month. Fairs are very much a part of our culture, and I know for myself I enjoy them very much. I am sorry that a trip to Turkey that I had originally planned to take 9 years ago (2001) kept me from enjoying the heirlooms with you! Thanks to Kay and all the members that contributed to make possible a memorable MGCM meeting.

Autumn is a wonderful time to be in ones garden. With a little luck with the planting selections there still is color. One can think about what plants really did well this growing season? And at the same time plan your garden for 2011 as you enjoy the autumn color.

The next few days will be an excellent time to plant spring bulbs – those tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, alliums, paper whites, etc. that always “brighten” the arrival of spring. And one does not have to wait until spring to see your own tulips if you are into forcing bulbs in your spare refrigerator. If you are inclined to try forcing bulbs be sure to check the box at the greenhouse to select the bulbs that are rated well for forcing.

Speaking of green houses I am looking forward to the presentation on fairy gardens, terrariums, and dish gardens by Steve Risan, the manager of Tonkadale gardens. His last talk with us a few months ago on how he changed the direction of Tonkadale was one of my favorite MGCM programs.



In thinking about the weeks, months ahead I cannot help but encourage bird feeding and planting a collection of amaryllis. Perhaps your bird feeders have been on summer vacation. It is a good time now to clean them up and stock up on bird food so that our feathered friends are nourished until the arrival of natural food in the spring. My calendar shows that I started our amaryllis in early November (having let the bulbs dry off a few weeks). They provided us great red, white, and pink color throughout the Christmas season.

I look forward to seeing everyone October 12. No doubt I will have a couple of turkey stories to share with you.

Don Untiedt, President  
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.



## *A Note from the Editor*

Well, we are now past the autumnal equinox, heading into the home stretch of the gardening season. It's been a fine year in the club this year, and this month and upcoming events look excellent. We welcome several new members and new caterers this month, and we wrap up another scholarship application period this month.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the October meeting!

Mary Maynard

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### Scholarship Reminder

Don't forget -- scholarship applications must be postmarked by October 15. Application forms and instructions are at our website.

Go to [www.minneapolismensgardenclub.org](http://www.minneapolismensgardenclub.org) and click on "Scholarship" at the top of the page. If you have any questions, get in touch with Kent Petterson.

### TREASURER REPORT

Checking Acct. balance 9-22-2010

\$11,898.71

CD

\$5,000.00

Designated Funds

Memorials/Park garden fund

\$1,441.21

Scholarship fund

\$2,498.43

Working balance

\$7,959.07

# SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

## ❁ TOMATO FEST ❁



MGCM had its first ever Tomato Fest at the September 2010 meeting, complete with a Tomato Taste-Off. I was asked numerous times: "Where did you get this idea?" I think the very first seed of the idea was from Bob Livingston at a Program Committee meeting last April. Bob has been growing and experimenting with heirloom tomatoes for the past few years, and championed our doing a program on them. And then the rest of the Program Committee—Lynda Carlson, Jason Rathe, Elizabeth Hamilton, and Tim Malooly just took off with: What if we had a Harvest Celebration? What if.....? And so the ideas poured out.

There was a separate committee that put together the Tomato Fest—dubbed the 'Tomato Gang' by the VP of Programs. Thanks to all: Judy Berglund, Lynda Carlson, Suzanne Holt, Bob Livingston and Bob Voigt. The pot luck was coordinated by Mollie Dean & Carol Schreier. Music by Tom Atoe and the Nightshade Family Band: M.T. Pulley, with his friends John Wallace & Bill Cagle. And the MGCM-TV video segment on Heirloom Tomatoes had been filmed in 2009, starring Judy Berglund as the tomato grower and Bob Olson the inquisitive guest visiting Judy's garden. The segment was "produced" by Lynda Carlson, and filmed and edited by Andy Marlow.





## CLUB GARDEN TOUR WRAP-UP

We had a good variety of fine gardens on the August 7th Club Garden Tour. Much appreciation and thanks are given to those members who shared the five gardens with us - Larry and Randi Larson, Ann LeFlem, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, and Bob Oson. We also had an unexpected bonus in viewing the excellent garden of Bob Olson's neighbor. It was good to see Ann LeFlem, a newer member, agree to display her lovely garden on the club tour for the first time.

Each of these gardeners spent much time and effort preparing their gardens and the results gave all of us who visited them a rewarding and enjoyable afternoon. Special thanks also go to Larry and Randi for hosting the catered meal afterwards. I thought the food was very good and there was certainly enough of it. There were 40 reservations. The Club Garden Tour is supposed to be approximately a break-even event financially and that was again the case this year.

I also want to give special thanks to those helping to organize and put on the club tour, especially Elizabeth Hamilton, Denise Rust, Suzanne Holt and Carol Ann Brekke . Also thanks to Mary Maynard for helping with the tour map.

On future club garden tours, I would like to encourage those members who have not displayed their gardens yet to consider doing so. I think you will find it satisfying to be on the tour, give you a sense of accomplishment, and just enough of a challenge to improve what you already have.

Dave Johnson, Club Tour Committee Chair.



## From the Membership **CORNER**

### 1. Renewal Time for 2011

It's that time of year again! I will be taking your checks and forms at the October and November meetings. Renewals are due by November 19th so there is plenty of time to get things ready for the directory printing.

### 2. Welcome to our Newest Members (since May)

Committee chairs please take note of the new people who signed up for your committee and contact them. Nona Johnson joined in May. She is a Software Analyst with Health Partners. She joined in order to meet other gardeners, learn about plants that do well in Minnesota and try new ones in her garden. She currently enjoys using perennials and landscaping. Next is Josh Michael Becknell. Josh is a student gardener and part of the U of M Landcare. His gardening specialties are culinary and medicinal herbs, some berries and vines, and perennials and native plants. He has worked on a CSA farm, in greenhouses and on an herb farm in Switzerland via the WWOOF program. He loves plants and wants to learn more and share his knowledge, especially regarding herbs.

Mary Ann Finegan is retired now and loves to learn. She is a member of several other garden clubs and

MSHS. One particular interest is films on gardening. Our next new member is Rao Pemmaraju. He is a retired manufacturing manager who has been enjoying landscaping his own home. He particularly loves roses, dahlias, begonias, hostas and day lillies. He uses annuals, perennials and trees in his landscaping and active in lawn care.

Our last new member at this time is Laura Kossen. She is a self-employed financial analyst. She took the master gardener classes but did not become certified. She loves designing and perennials and wants to learn more about them and also vegetable gardening. In connecting with other gardeners she wants to help keep our world beautiful, especially the city!

### 3. All 2010 New Members so far

Carroll, Richard  
4887 E. Lake Harriet Pkwy  
Minneapolis, MN 55419  
612-325-0317  
rpcarroll1@hotmail.com  
As needed

Simpson, Nancy  
3980 Country  
Excelsior, MN 55331  
952-474-4703  
Wk: 952-897-5574  
nancy.simpson@RTWi.com  
FFF, MGCM-TV



Haugan, Stephanie  
2727 4th Avenue Apt. #16  
Anoka, MN 55303  
218-234-0150  
Wk: 763-427-5005  
gshaugan@msn.com  
Park Garden, FFF, Holiday,  
Hospitality, Photography

Chall, Joy  
7802 Victoria Circle  
St. Louis Pk., MN 55426  
952-926-5811  
Wk: 612-920-2689  
joyfuljs@hotmail.com  
FFF, Park Garden

Johnson, Nona  
2513 Haller Lane E.  
Maplewood, MN 55119  
651-738-1292  
Wk: 952-967-7903  
nona.m.johnson@healthpartners.com  
Holiday party, Auction, Club Tours, Valleyfair

Becknell, Josh Michael  
1939 Bryant Ave. S. Apt. 34  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
612-804-5899  
sanpedroman@hotmail.com  
Photography, Public Tours, As needed

Finegan, Mary Ann  
4300 W. River Pkwy S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55406  
612-724-6936

Pemmaraju, Rao  
16789 Honeysuckle lane  
Eden prairie, MN 55346  
952-934-4169  
vraopemmaraju@yahoo.com  
Photography & as needed

Kossan, Laura  
3900 Aldrich Ave. S.  
Mpls, MN 55409  
612-827-0673  
Wk: 612-822-4777  
laurakossan@hotmail.com  
Park Garden, Plant Auction, Hospitality,  
Tours (both), As needed



## **2010 Holiday Party**

It is just around the corner! The 2010 holiday party will be on December 14 - the second Tuesday at Lake Harriet Church. Relax, mingle and share memories. Hours will be from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. There will be time for socializing and silent auction bidding, punch and hors d'oeuvres. Catered dinner is to be served at 6:40 pm. There will be entertainment and an awards ceremony followed by the results of the silent auction.

Watch for more information and the reservation form in the November Garden Spray. Also, start to think about donations to the silent auction.

Here are a few ideas and suggestions:

- \* Tickets (movies, theater, opera, or sporting events)
- \* Homemade items (crafts, baked goods, note cards, decorations)
- \* Tools, plants, books, or membership in a specialty garden club or society
- \* 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 or host a special party)

If you have questions or this is your first year attending the MGCM Holiday Party, please call or e-mail Elaine. Early information about your items and bid minimum is appreciated, too.

E-mail: [elspiegs@comcast.net](mailto:elspiegs@comcast.net)

Phone: 952-927-9539 – tell me how you prefer response (e-mail or phone)



## Introducing New Cooks!

Give a warm welcome to Barb Halverson and Jim Wright, who have taken on the challenge of cooking for us for our next three meetings. And if we all like each other, they are willing to continue into 2011. Barb & Jim cook for various groups. Here is a little introduction! Maybe some of you know them.

Barb is an avid gardener, having been in the Ramblewood Garden Club for about 20 years, after she retired from software management. Ramblewood is one of the clubs that is an affiliate of the Federated Garden Clubs of MN, Inc., and thus a part of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Presently she is the 1st VP of the Federated Garden Clubs, and will be president in June. The Federated emphasizes both gardening and floral design. Various clubs and groups sponsor Flower Shows in the state, including the State Fair.

Jim retired from Control Data as an engineer in 1988, and then went to Chef's school at Hennepin Technical School. They began cooking for groups at their church, and gradually expanded to other organizations. Jim keeps in contact with his coworkers from ERA (Engineering Research Associates), which are the early pioneers of the computer industry in Minnesota and has many friends in the computer field. Jim also keeps their home running smoothly. Every day he has several projects (including cooking!) which keep him always busy.

Both their parents' managed restaurants (and cooked in them), and they migrated towards cooking. They enjoy it very much and keep pretty busy, and have met many wonderful people during this 'second career'. Let's hope they enjoy our group as well! Stop in the kitchen and greet them!



### ***Reservations, Please.....***

Please be so kind as to make a dinner reservation if you are planning to dine with the club. There are many members working hard to organize the meals so that we can be a dining club as well as a gardening club. For last month's pot luck members brought the food, but a big committee organized the event. They bought the plates, utensils and napkins; made the beverages and bought cups; set up the tables and chairs; set the places with table cloths; gathered, cut, and set out all the tomatoes for tasting. And all weekend extra reservations dribble in after the cut-off date, causing extra communications after the final count is in. And then some members think they can just show up with no reservation at all! The members working to put on this event had to keep adjusting their numbers, or guessing at how many will appear unannounced. Whether the event is run by members, or we hire a caterer, we still have the same logistics to balance. If you can't remember to make reservations, we do have a permanent reservation list—then all you have to do is cancel if you cannot make the dinner. So please, kindly make a dinner reservation and help out those members who are working so hard to get the dinner on the table!

Kay Wolfe  
VP of Programs



## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
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Oct 12	Steve Risan	Tonkadale - Fairy gardens, terrariums and dish gardens (LHC)
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Nov 9	What I Learned This Year and Business Meeting	(LHC)
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Dec 14	Holiday Party	(LHC)
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Jan	Gary Johnson from U of M	(LHC)
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LHC = Lake Harriet Church (4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis)

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



# Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

## Club Officers:

**President: Don Untiedt**  
12070 48th Ave. N., Plymouth  
**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**  
1025 20th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis  
**Treasurer: David McKeen**  
2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park  
**Past President: Denise Rust**  
7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park

## Directors:

**Maurie Lindbloom**  
6105 Lincoln Dr. #332, Edina, MN  
**Andy Marlow**  
10700 Minnetonka Blvd., Hopkins, MN  
**Jason Rathe**  
116 S. Cedar Lake Rd. Mpls

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Return To:

## The Garden Spray

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**First Class Mail**

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*2010*