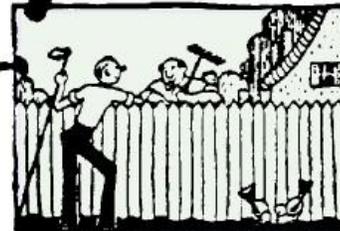




The Garden Spray

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

2011, Volume 69, Number 3



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Mar. 1	TBD	Board Mtg.
Mar 8	LHC	New Trends in water gardens
Apr 5	Macy's	Bachman/Macy's Flower Show
May 2	S. Aaseng	Board Mtg.
May 17	WLC	Plant Sale and Auction
June	14	Outdoor evening event

Please note: our April event is a week earlier, and our May plant sale is a week later than our "normal" schedule.

LHC = Lake Harriet Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S., Mpls. (Lower level)
WLC= Westwood Lutheran Church
9001 Cedar Lake Rd S, St. Louis Pk

Note: Permanent reservations are in effect. Dinner is \$12. Reservations or cancellations are required by the Friday before the meeting. Call or e-mail Carole Ann Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation. For last minute cancellations, call Andy Marlow at 952-933-5759. If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

March Program

Container Water Gardens: Petite Gardens Make a Big Splash Soni Forsman

Learn how to select containers, plants and to care for these small water gardens. The presentation will also include some fun new ideas in water gardening including floating islands and disappearing fountains.

Soni Forsman is well known in the Minnesota gardening community. She has been speaking, writing, and teaching about water gardening since the mid 1990's

Beginning with just one hardy waterlily in a container in 1979, she now maintains 5 in-ground ponds and a number of container water gardens; including more than 25 varieties of waterlilies plus plants for the margins of the water gardens.

Soni sells hardy waterlilies (including the smaller varieties appropriate for container water gardens) and is a member of the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society, the Minnesota Water Garden Society, the Minnesota Hosta Society, the Eagan Garden Club and Garden Writers Association.
(Schedule on p. 3)

April Event: Macy's-Bachman's Flower Show April 5.

More info and dinner reservation form on starting on Page 5.



Notes from the Prez:

-- Kay Wolfe

The February meeting was a light-hearted and fun event! The program was entertaining and fun too—for such an “academic” topic as permaculture. There was much for us to think about. A nod to all who wore their “most beloved” hat. Noted hats were: Bob Livingston—he sported a winter ear-flap style of red and black plaid with a “Miller High-Life” logo. Many colorful ladies hats: Judy Berglund, Lynda, Audrey, Mary O., Judy Brooke, and Sharla. Robert our VP wore his “Tree Trust” cap. Both speakers even donned hats—and Russ Henry’s son wore his favorite—his Packer’s football helmet! (I hope this issue has photos of the hats. The cameras were snapping all night long—by our paparazzi committee!?)

This time of year we are still only indoor gardeners. However, many club committees have started meeting and are busy making plans for the garden season. The Board recently discussed the club’s committees—our committees are the “heart” of the club. Members get to know each other and make friends thru working on a committee. The Board encourages all committees to have at least one meeting. Sometimes people seem to think that having meetings is a waste of time—but the Board pointed out that meetings are fun—and a chance to get to know other club gardeners better—and to learn what others know. It is a way to make personal connections, and that is what builds the club. Committee chairs are also encouraged to phone or send invitations to any new members via the mail—emails can work, but often are not a good way to connect.

One annual club event that is coming up soon is the MGCM Plant Sale. This year it will be on May 17, the third Tuesday of the month. Plan to buy some of your plants from MGCM. The plant sale and auction is the main source of club income.

Your dues only pay for about one-third of the annual operating expenses. Every dinner meeting there is additional cost for the room at the church and for the speaker. The \$12 charge only covers dinner. Everyone gets the Spray and a directory, paid by the club. And numerous committee events—like the FFF show, Arbor Day, Awards, the TV Committee, and the Lyndale Park project are funded by the club. I used to go out every year and buy about \$100 worth of annuals for my containers at Gerten’s. Now I buy my annuals through the club’s pre-order plant sale. The annuals are very good quality and are the perfect size, and a great price! And then there is the “Country Store”—where members bring in plants that they have divided or grown from seed. And the finale of the evening is the auction. So plan ahead and order annuals from MGCM. The plant order list will be out soon. The list doesn’t come with photos—but it is easy nowadays to just Google the plant name—and there are plenty of photos on-line so you can see what the various varieties look like.

As the snow is whirling outside again tonight, I am thinking of green. The March meeting’s hat event is “Wear a Bit o’ Green”!! Stick a shamrock in your hat; find a leaf—it might have to be off a house plant, or steal one from a shopping trip to a greenhouse. Or just pin a “bit o’ green” to your lapel. And be ready with a story as to the source of your bit of green. I think at this time of year, even a twig of an evergreen counts! We are desperate folks indeed. We need to hang in there—soon we will be at the Macy-Bachman Flower show, and then it won’t be long and spring clean-up will be here and pansies can go out. Join an MGCM Committee, and plan for the world of green—plant sales, planting trees and working at the park, garden tours, the FFF show, filming with MGCM- TV. The growing season is near!



Editor's Note

-- Mary Maynard

"Beauty pulls us all in." I think it was Russ Henry who said that at last month's presentation. (Thanks, Russ, by the way. You and Stefan put on a fascinating program.) Even the most utilitarian garden can be beautiful, and I'm sure all of us are more than ready to get out into our gardens and enjoy another beautiful season. In the meantime, we have a few opportunities for a jump-start!

I look forward to hearing from Soni Forsman again. It's been a while since she's visited our club, and she is always fascinating and informative. Not all of us can envision water gardening on Soni's scale, so I am looking forward to hearing about more modest container water gardens.

And of course, the Macy's-Bachman's Flower Show always seems to get the gardening season off to a great start. Please note that (1) the date is the **first** Tuesday in April; and (2) reservations for dinner at the Oak Grill are limited and must be in by March 29.

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

March Meeting Info (cont. from Page 1)

The Schedule:

6:00 Conversation Hour
6:30 Dinner: cost is \$12
7:15 Business Meeting
7:30 Program

Dinner Menu

Winter-into-Spring salad Jim's Meatloaf!
Mashed Potatoes, gravy Green beans
Dinner Rolls Grasshopper pie
Beverages: Coffee, Tea, and Milk.

Poet's Corner

On the Necessity of Weeds

-- Carol A. Schreier 12-17-10

A plant out of place, growing where I want it
not to be.

Tenacious, thrusting its roots deep
Deeper than my preferred cultivars,
Resisting removal, casting abroad hundreds,
thousands of seeds

As if to say, "you can get me but not all of
me."

A few I call natives, peace having been made
for some benefit -

A pretty bloom in a color I fancy,
A deep root to hold my rain garden.

Like my family -- unchosen, mainly un-
nurtured and untended,

Buffeted by wind and weather.

Some faring better, some worse.

These weeds teach lessons.

The truth about our puny efforts to control.

How to endure.

How to use the warmth of the sun.

How to survive on minimal water and
nutrients.

Those lucky enough to find a place of love
and comfort flourish.

Those lucky enough to find kinship with other
weeds they recognize

Also know love.

Weeds comfort.

All species struggle to find a place to survive,
To leave part of themselves anywhere,
everywhere.

The weeds of our lives

WE could not live without.

We could not grow without.

We could not become who we are.



Introduction to the Arbor Day Committee

By Arbor Day Committee Chair - Robert Kean

(NOTE: Committee Meeting after March 8 club meeting)

As the name suggests, the Arbor Day committee does public service by planting trees in celebration of Arbor Day.

The MGCM has a long proud tradition of tree planting. The club was instrumental in the creation of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Also, the MGCM planted over 200 crab apple trees near Lake Harriet in 1952 and helped design and plant the Lyndale Park Arboretum in 1981 following a tornado.

The Arbor Day committee typically has one official club planting event per year, which usually lasts 1-2 hours. This is often in the spring (near the official date of Arbor Day) but we have sometimes held planting events in early summer or even in the fall. Over the years, plantings have been done around the chain of lakes (primarily near Lake Harriet), Wirth Park, Minnehaha Park, and Cedar Lake Park. In recent years, much of the Arbor Day planting has been done in conjunction with the Lyndale Park Garden Committee. This involved planting of ornamental trees and shrubs in the back border of the perennial trial garden (near the Lake Harriet Rose Garden). That area is now mostly finished, so we will be looking at new areas this year for a project.

As chair for the past several years, I have also communicated other tree planting volunteer opportunities to the club, including an annual Arbor Day tree planting event along the midtown greenway.

The main requirement for the Arbor Day committee is a willingness to show up for the scheduled event and basic skills with a shovel. A strong back is an asset but not a requirement.

There will be a short meeting of the Arbor Day committee (and any other interested club members) following the club meeting on March 8. We will briefly discuss possible projects for this year and times/days that work best for a planting event.



Audrey Grote shows off her hat at the February meeting
Photo by Chuck Carlson



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 2-16-11

Checking balance	\$10,125.21
CD	\$ 5,000.00
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,580.18
Scholarship	<u>\$2,303.43</u>
Working Balance	\$6,241.60

Membership Corner

No member news this month!

“You Know Spring is Almost Here...” The Macy's-Bachman's Flower Show

Harbingers of spring are hopeful signs of things to come. Like the American Robin who ventures out to scout for earthworms and the first snowdrop or crocus to peek up through the newly thawed ground to bid us a cheery greeting, the much-anticipated appearance of the invitation to the annual Macy's-Bachman's Flower Show says “Spring”.

This year the theme for the show is “Towers of Flowers”. It will showcase a variety of towers including some representing geographical locations and others not. The show opens March 27 and runs through April 10.

The MGCM will again host a special evening at the Oak Grill featuring three great menu selections, speaker Dale Bachman sharing his stories of how the theme was selected and the challenges in creating the show, and the tour of the flower show on Macy's 8th floor.

Notice: Please be aware this event will take place on **April 5, 2011 (the first Tuesday)**.

Last year reservations filled up quickly and we anticipate the same for this year so book early. Our seating is limited to a maximum of 48, so we are limiting it to members and their spouse or significant other so that as many members possible can participate. We will have a tight schedule, so in order that everyone be seated and served before Dale begins his presentation, we ask that you arrive by 5pm. There will be no extra seating available for Dale's presentation besides those who have reserved space for the dinner portion of the event.

Reservations must be received by Tuesday, March 29, 2011.

Please see the following pages for more information and reservation form.



Macy's-Bachman's Flower Show Reservation Information

"Towers of Flowers" is the theme of the 2011 Macy's Flower Show with flowers by Bachman's. The 8th floor auditorium of Macy's downtown Minneapolis store will showcase a variety of towers including some representing geographical locations.

Dale Bachman will give us an insider's view of how he and his design team created the show.

Place: Macy's Oak Grill Restaurant, on the 12th floor of the downtown Minneapolis store.

Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2011 **Note: This is the first Tuesday in April!**

Time:

5:00	Gather, be seated, and order drinks. (Please arrive by 5 PM or earlier.)
5:30	Dinner is served.
6:20	Dale will speak.
6:50	Proceed to 8 th floor for the Flower Show.
8:00	Macy's store closes. (Must exit store by 8:20.)

Cost: \$30 per person (tax and tip included). Reservations required.
Seating is limited. **RESERVE EARLY** (no later than Tuesday, March 29, 2011)

Dinner selections

Almond Crusted Walleye: Walleye Fillet Grilled and Served with a Lemon Caper Remoulade whipped potatoes and vegetables.

Asiago Crusted Chicken: Tender Chicken Breast served with Pommery mustard sauce, whipped potatoes and vegetables.

Mandarin Salad: Marinated chicken breast, red peppers, mandarin oranges, pea pods, applewood smoked bacon, almonds, water chestnuts, green onions, mixed greens, crispy wontons and the signature toasted sesame dressing.

Each meal selection includes spinach salad or cup of soup, warm popover, choice of entrée and Frango chocolate dessert, non-alcoholic beverages (Fountain Drinks, Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee or Hot Tea)

(Wine and mixed drinks are extra and can be ordered from your server.)

Parking is free after 4 PM at the Park & Shop Ramp (formerly Dayton-Radisson Ramp; entrances on both 7th & 8th St.); and LaSalle Court Ramp (enter on LaSalle.) Go to www.parkmpls.com for directions.

Pick up your free parking voucher at the Oak Grill (parking free only after 4 pm).
Call Sandra Abraham 651-452-0858) with any questions.

Reservation form on [Page 7](#).



From a Macy's-Bachman's Flower Show a few years back.

--- Photos by Mary Maynard



Reservation Form

MGCM April 5, 2011 Macy-Bachman Flower Show—Dinner at Macy's Oak Grill

Please reserve _____ dinners at \$30.00 each. Check to MGCM must be enclosed.

Dinner entrée choice(s): _____Walleye _____Chicken _____Mandarin Salad

Name: _____

Guest: _____

Send reservation form with check to Carole Ann Brekke, 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306.
Reservations must be received by Tuesday, March 29, 2011. Sorry, no exceptions, out of respect for the Oak Grill staff. Thanks.





Scenes from the February Meeting

The Bobs



Bob Olson sporting his hat of the night.

Bob Voigt (who has many fine hats but wasn't wearing one), and Bob Livingston with his memorable headgear.

- Photos by Chuck Carlson

Our Prez and Friends



Carol Schreier and President Kay



Kay, Bob Olson and Margaret Hibberd

- Photos by Lloyd Wittstock



Russ Henry and Stefan Meyer during their presentation
-Photo by Chuck Carlson



Russ and Stefan after their presentation in discussion with your editor,
with Russ's son (in Packer helmet) standing by.

-Photo by Lloyd Wittstock



Growing and Showing China Asters

-- Jerry Shannon

The featured flower this year for the Flower, Food and Foto Show is the China Aster (annual aster or *Callistephus chinensis*).

Of all the lovely flowers to come out of the Orient, China Asters are among the most widely known and cherished, although they can be a challenge to grow. The flowers, 1 ½ to 5 inches across, can take a wide variety of forms: some like daisies, some like chrysanthemums, some like tight little pompons, and some shaggy. They come in colors of white, creamy yellow, pink, red, blue, lavender or purple, often with yellow centers. Varieties range in height from 8 inches to 3 feet.



Uses. China asters are among the most popular of plants for flower beds and the dwarf varieties in containers, often providing spectacular effects. Their long wiry stems make them graceful in flower arrangements. They flourish in rich well-drained soil in a sunny or lightly shaded location.

How to Grow. Sow indoors, barely covering the fine seeds, 110 days or around April 20th for peak bloom around the time of the flower show. Germinate at around 70 degrees under fluorescent lights set on a timer for 15 hours. When the first true leaves appear, transplant the seedlings into 3 inch pots and when the outdoor temperatures overnight are no longer in danger of frost, the pots can be transitioned to a semi-shaded location outside.

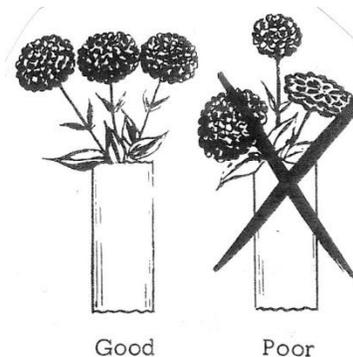
They can be planted in their permanent location, flower bed or container around June 1. Plant them 12 inches apart and because China asters have a very shallow root system, cover the soil with a 1-inch mulch of grass clippings or peat moss to maintain moisture and keep the roots cool. You can plant them out in two-week intervals to have continuous bloom well into the fall. Two characteristics of China asters to keep in mind are that one plant will bloom for about four weeks; and that they stop blooming when they are cut.

Aster yellows can be problem so try to plan wilt-resistant varieties. Leaf hoppers spread this virus, so you may want to apply a weekly application of an insecticide containing neem oil such as Bon-Neem Insecticidal Soap by the Bonide Company. Follow directions carefully.

Showing. Fullness and depth of blooms are desired characteristics of aster specimens. Asters are shown in Section A, Class 3 of the FFF Show schedule. Each entry must show 3 blooms of one variety. Remove all foliage that is below the top of the bottle. All leaves above the bottle should be left on those specimens that bear leaves on the blooming stem. Foliage is important to the judge as it indicates culture.

There is no rule as to the length of the stem, but it should be in good proportion to the size of the bloom, the thickness of the stem and the size of the bottle.

Some mechanical aid at the neck of the bottle, such as Styrofoam wedges, may help hold your specimen at its most attractive angle. Three flowers in one container should be placed in a triangle, all flower heads on the same level. The flowers in each entry should have similar color, form, size, stem and foliage characteristics. See example.



Ideas and verbiage from the *Time-Life Encyclopedia of Gardening*

"Annuals", 1971 edition. Ideas on showing from *Horticultural Handbook*

– *How to Grow – How to Show*, published by the Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota in 1967.

Photo (Aster 'Opus') courtesy of Park Seed.



Minutes of MGCM Board February 1, 2011

Present: Kay Wolfe, Robert Kean, Jason Rathe, Maury Lindblom, Andy Marlow, Sharla Aaseng, Gary DeGrande, Jan Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by President Kay Wolfe. The January minutes were approved as e-mailed.

President's report: Kay announced the appointment of Dave Johnson (Fridley) and Bob Stepan to the auditing committee. Committee chairs have been sent letters explaining the duties, expectations and budget for their committee.

Vice-President's report: Meetings until June have been finalized.

- March – Soni Forsman on new trends in water gardening
- April –Macy's Flower show on April 5 with dinner in the Oak Grill. Dale Bachman will speak
- May – Plant on May 17th at Westwood Lutheran Church
- June –An evening at Shannon's garden and Terrace Horticultural Books (Kent Petterson)

Membership Secretary's report: The Club has 89 members as of the meeting.

Committee reports:

- Hospitality: Sharla has a plan for room set-up. A copy will be posted on the club cupboard door. We need to be aware of new members and welcome them.
- Program: There was a discussion of table talk subjects, e.g. gardening topics, seed catalogs, what are you planning.
- Plant sale: Doug would like a co-chair who could take over the committee next year.
- MGCM-TV committee: Two programs are nearly done.

New Business: The Board discussed priorities of the club should be. Inviting and recruiting new members is a high priority. Perhaps we need to market ourselves better. It was suggested that programs be determined a year in advance so the info is ready to send to the media. Also programs can be posted on the web site and Facebook page. We also need to figure out how to retain members. Gary volunteered to work on it with a senior member. Bob Voigt and Tom McKusick were suggested.

It was also decided that Board members and new members be identified by different color ribbons on their name tags.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Johnson, Recording Secretary

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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Club Officers:

President: Kay Wolfe

2740 Florida Ave S, St. Louis Park

Vice President: Robert Kean

3136 James Ave. S, Minneapolis

Recording Secretary: Jan Johnson

3005 Scott Ave. N., Golden Valley

Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng

1025 20th Ave. SE, Minneapolis

Treasurer: Andy Marlow

10700 Minnetonka Blvd, Hopkins

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12070 48th Ave. No, Plymouth

Directors:

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Maury Lindblom

6105 Lincoln Dr. #305, Edina

Jason Rathe

116 Cedar Lake Rd. S, Mpls.

The Spray

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc. for its members.

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Return To:

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Mary Maynard, Editor

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First Class Mail

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