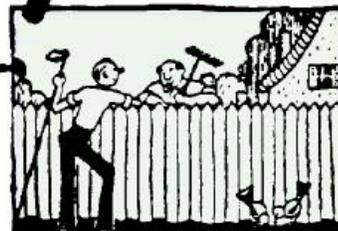




The Garden Spray

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

2012, Volume 70, Number 3



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Mar 13	LHC	Shade Gardening Shirley Mah Kooyman
Apr 3	Macy's	Bachman/Macy's Flower Show
May 8	WLC	Plant Sale and Auction
June 12 (tentative)	Arb	Arb Tour with comments from new director
July, August		Club Tours
Aug 18-19	Arb	FFF Show
Sept. 11	LHC	Martin Stern (Squire House) - Hardy and Reliable Bulbs

LHC = Lake Harriet Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S.,
Mpls. (Lower level)

Macy's = Downtown Minneapolis Macy's Store

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park

Arb = U of M Landscape Arboretum

More calendar information on Page 3

Note: Permanent reservations are in effect. Dinner is \$12.

Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, Mar. 9 – **no later!** 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 Shade Gardening Shirley Mah Kooyman

As gardens mature and trees and shrubs reach their full height many of us find ourselves with more shade areas to garden. Shady areas have long been considered difficult and dull parts of the garden. However, it is possible to turn shady areas into some of the most attractive parts of the garden. (Continued on Page 3)

Looking Ahead

April 3: Bachman's/Macy's Show "Brasil: Gardens in Paradise"

Dinner at Macy's Oak Grill, followed by visit to this year's show: "Brasil: Gardens in Paradise. See more information and reservation form on Pages 6-7.

Space is limited for dinner. *Reservations for the Bachman's/Macy's show are due by Monday, March 26.*

March 13 Schedule

6:00 p.m.	Informal social hour
6:30 p.m.	Catered dinner
~7:15 p.m.	Short Business Meeting
~7:30 p.m.	Program

March Dinner Menu

Roasted pork, gravy	Cheesy Hash Browns
Tossed Salad	California blend vegetables
Dinner Rolls	Fruit Strudels



Notes from the Prez:

-- Robert Kean

As you read the March Spray, the arrival of spring is just around the corner. As I was writing this article (on Feb 19), it felt like spring was already here; 50 degrees and sunny. I took the opportunity to do some tree trimming in my yard and get a head start on spring chores. In any case, the actual arrival of spring will be welcome. March was the first month of the year for the ancient Romans, so happy New Year again. This always seemed more logical to me than starting the New Year in the dead of winter. March is named for Mars, the god of war. As a historical aside, most of the other months were also named after Roman gods, with a few exceptions. July and August were named for the Caesars (but recall that March 15th, the "Ides of March", was not so great for Julius). September, October, November, and December were basically just called by their number (7 through 10 respectively, with March as month #1). So part of our Roman legacy is to have 4 months that were never formally named, and now are not even correctly numbered.

In my January article, I introduced the theme of Growing Together. I'm pleased with all the positive activity so far. Our club year is off to a great start. The officers and directors are settling into their roles. Several committees are hard at work already. I want to again highlight the Plant Auction committee, which is busy putting together the final touches on this important May event. Our first two club meetings have had excellent speakers and good attendance. Both speakers commented on how much fun we have at our club meetings. This is good. It will be easier to attract and retain members if our meetings are fun. I was pleased to see guests at both meetings with some new members joining at

our Feb meeting (yeah!). I expect the March meeting to be excellent also (topic of Shade Gardening); so come and invite guests. As my trees get bigger each year, shade gardening is no longer optional. Vice President Sandra Abraham has been working hard to finalize program details for the rest of this year. See the sign up form (in this Spray) for our April event at the Bachman's/Macy's flower show. There is also a great event at the Arboretum in the works for June (organized by Sandra with some help from Peter Olin).

Results of the club survey (conducted last fall) are being distributed in sections in the *Spray*. There will be time for questions at the March meeting if you need clarification on any of the results or conclusions. One clear mandate from the survey was more publicity for club events. This will be one of our top new priorities in 2012.

There was a question in the survey about changing the club name, which I had hoped would give us some clear direction on which way to go. It did not. The current club name reflects our proud heritage and is not a problem for most of our current members. However, it no longer reflects our current membership and is a possible barrier to recruiting new members. I'm not intending to push for a name change this year but I do want to continue the conversation. We've already floated the idea of just dropping "Men's" from our name (The Garden Club of Minneapolis or the Minneapolis Garden club), given that we primarily meet in Minneapolis even if we don't all live here. There have been frequent suggestions of names that maintain our same initials "MGCM" (how about "Metro Gardeners Congregating Monthly"). I think that we will need to discover our new name before we will be ready to let go of our old name. Until then, let's honor our heritage by continuing to make this a great gardening club.



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 2-21-2012

Checking balance	\$16,298.07
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,905.47
Scholarship	<u>\$5,170.28</u>
Working Balance	\$9,222.25
CD	\$5,210.22

Membership Corner

Welcome to new members!

Steve Brisse, 3125 Emerson Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Mick-Dean Gross, 744 E. Minnehaha Pkwy
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Laurie Levin, 240 Brunswick Ave. S.
Golden Valley, MN 55416

Genevieve Rousseau, 5900 Cambridge St.
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

2012 Calendar of Events *(continued from P. 1)*

Sept. 11	Martin Stern (Squire House) - Hardy and Reliable Bulbs, LHC
Oct. 9	Don Mitchell - Attracting Hummingbirds to your Gardens, LHC
Nov. 13	Kent Petterson – Gardening Books, LHC
Dec. 11	Holiday Party, LHC

March Program: Shade Gardening with Shirley Mah Kooyman

(Continued from Page 1)

Shade-loving plants can be the most beautiful in the garden and some of us get so hooked that we actually wish to grow more plants that prefer shade. A side benefit is that while the sun is beating down at temperatures of over 80-90 degrees it is much more comfortable gardening in the shady part of your garden.

The key to gardening in the shade is to know what varieties grow and thrive in the shade. Shirley will not only address what grows in the shade, but also how to grow them in the shade. What special soil, drainage, and fertilizers are needed for shade gardening? What types of shade are there and what is the difference gardening in moist shade versus dry shade? How does one determine what types of shade one has to work with in your garden? Most of all, how does one design an interesting and appealing shady space which will offer more than just "The Wearing of the Green" ?



Shirley is a botanist with a specialty in taxonomy (plant names and identification). She worked at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for 25 years and was the Adult Education Manager for two decades. She has presented other programs for the MGCM as recently as last September when she delivered a delightful talk on "Moonlight Gardening".



2012 FFF Featured Flower: Rudbeckia

Mary Maynard, FFF Committee Member

This year's featured flower at the Flower, Food and Foto Show is Rudbeckia. Rudbeckias (all 23 species in the genus Asteraceae) are native to North America. Commonly called black-eyed-susans or coneflowers (though not the same family as Echinacea or Ratibida), they grow well in full sun. We are probably most familiar with the garden staple (and excellent show specimen) Rudbeckia hirta 'Goldsturm', which is perennial in our area. There are also several very nice varieties that are grown as annuals or short-lived perennials here, such as 'Irish Eyes' and 'Prairie Sun'.

There are entry classes for both perennial and annual Rudbeckias at the FFF Show. Judges will select the best entry from both classes for a special ribbon. Both the annual and perennial entries should consist of three blooms of a single variety.

Our plant sale pre-order form includes three Rudbeckia varieties in 4-inch pots: 'Autumn Colors', 'Irish Eyes' and 'Indian Summer'. We'll probably have a few of these in the Plant Sale Country Store as well. Why not plan to bring a few entries to the August show?



Photos courtesy of Park Seed. Doesn't that pink Rudbeckia 'Cherry Brandy' look cool?



Photos from February Meeting

Lloyd Wittstock, Photographer



Center: Heidi Heiland's energetic presentation. Surrounding photos, clockwise from top left: President Kean keeping us under control; Bob Livingston recommending Seed Savers; Nancy Bjerke, Margaret Hibberd, Jan Johnson and Lynda Carlson catching up; new member Laurie Levin and Heidi H.

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<http://www.mqcm.org>



The Macy's-Bachman's Flower Show Spotlights the Spirit of Brasil This Spring

This spring, Macy's will enchant viewers with a magical journey to one of the most talked-about countries on earth, Brasil. (To ensure authenticity of "Brasil", they have chosen to use the Portuguese spelling of the country.) The 8th floor auditorium will be transformed into a floral extravaganza, which will feature lush floral designs dedicated to the Brazilian culture. The tropical oasis will be in abundant bloom brimming with color and the spirit of the Brazilian experience as Macy's and Bachman's present the floral designs and magnificent landscapes of "Brasil: Gardens in Paradise."

What will we see? Will there be palm trees, a rainforest, orchids, rubber trees and even acai ?

That remains to be seen, so please consider joining the MGCM on **Tuesday, April 3, 2012** for our traditional trip to Macy's to view this always beautiful display that Bachman's creates in the 8th floor auditorium.

Please see the reservation form elsewhere in this newsletter. Notice that the tour and dinner is on the **first Tuesday of April** instead of our regular date and time. Reserve early as space is limited (48) and they always fill up quickly. We are limiting reservations to club members, their spouses, and significant others only so that more members can attend. There will be no additional seating available for Dale's presentation. **Reservations must be received by Monday, March 26, 2012.**

Reservation Form

MGCM April 3, 2012 Macy's-Bachman Flower Show-dinner at the Oak Grill

Please reserve ___ dinners at \$22.00 each. Check payable to MGCM must be enclosed.

Dinner entrée choice(s): ___ Mandarin Salad, ___ Soup/Sandwich, ___ Pot Pie

Name: _____ Guest: _____

Send reservation form with check to:

Carole Ann Brekke, 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306
Reservations must be received my Monday, March 26, 2012. No exceptions, out of respect for our arrangement committee and the Oak Grill Staff. Thanks.



April 3, 2012 Macy's-Bachman's Flower Show Dinner **"Brasil: Gardens in Paradise with Gardens by Bachman's"**

Macy's 8th floor auditorium will bloom into a tropical oasis featuring magnificent landscaped gardens brimming with color and the spirit of the Brazilian* experience. Dale Bachman will present an overview of how these gardens were designed and created by his team after a light dinner at the Oak Grill on Macy's 12th floor.

*Portuguese spelling.

Date: April 3, 2012 (note, this is the 1st Tuesday of the month)

Time: 5:00 pm (gather, be seated, and order drinks)

5:30 pm Dinner is served. (please arrive by 5pm)

6:20 pm Dale will speak.

6:50 pm Proceed to 8th floor for flower show.

8:00 Macy's store closes. (must exit store by 8:20pm)

Cost: \$22.00 per person (tax and tip included)

Seating limited-**Reserve early** (no later than Monday, March 26, 2012). Reservations required. Reservation form on **Page 6**.

Dinner selections:

Mandarin Chicken Salad Mixed greens, grilled chicken breast, red peppers, green onions, apple wood smoked bacon, almonds, mandarin oranges, water chestnuts, pea pods, and crispy wontons with toasted sesame dressing.(can be made vegetarian)

Soup and Sandwich Cup of chicken wild rice soup with an oven smoked turkey sandwich

Mrs.Hering's 1890 Original Chicken Pot Pie Signature dish newly updated with even fresher ingredients and a hand-finished crust served with a salad of mixed greens.

Each entrée is served with warm popover, beverage* and Frango Chocolate Ice Cream Pie

*fountain drinks, iced tea, lemonade, coffee or hot tea

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

Pick up your free parking voucher at the Oak Grill from your server-good after 4pm at the Park Shop Ramp (entrances on both 7th & 8th Streets) and LaSalle Court Ramp (entrance on LaSalle).

Space is limited to 48 attendees. Club member and spouses or significant other only, please!

Questions? Call Sandra Abraham at 651-452-0858.



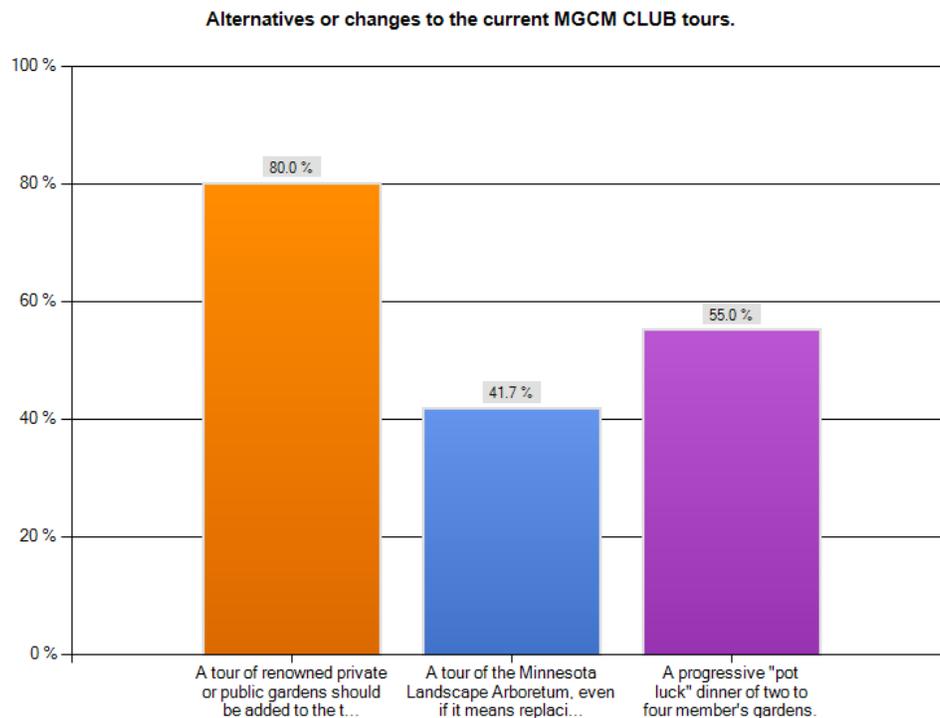
MGCM Member Survey News

-- Andy Marlow

This is the third in a series of articles describing the results of the survey of MGCM members conducted in late 2011. In this article we'll look at member opinions about garden tours and the MGCM scholarship.

Tours

Members were clear about their preference among the two different types of club tour described. Two-thirds either agreed or strongly agreed that they preferred a club tour with



limited sites in close proximity to each other to allow a more leisurely visit of the sites and more social time with other members, while only a quarter preferred a club tour having multiple sites with limited time at each site so they could see as many gardens as they can. A vast majority (80%) favored adding a tour of renowned public or private garden tour to MGCM's summer schedule even if it means eliminating another tour. Just over half (55%) thought a progressive pot luck tour of two to four member gardens was a good idea, while just 41.7% favored a tour of the Arboretum.

(Continued on next page.)



Survey (Continued)

Members apparently like the public tours the way they are. Only 16% said that the public tour should be eliminated, while only 17% favored making the public tour become an annual event. 17% of respondents were in favor of eliminating tours altogether, as it can be difficult to get volunteers to open their gardens and/or manage the tours. However, more than half (55%) said they would be willing to open their garden to a club tour. Less than a third would be willing to host a public tour.

Scholarships

The MGCM scholarship program enjoyed wide support. 55% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that it should be continued. Most (61%) think the current scholarship amount of \$500 is about right. (*Author's note: The majority can be wrong. \$500 may only buy one semester's book these days. Larger, but fewer scholarships make better sense.*)

Just over half (52%) think there should be fundraisers other than or in addition to public tours to support the scholarship program, although a significant number (41%) were neutral on this point. Members did not think doubling the dues to fund scholarships was a good idea. Only 16% agreed or strongly agreed. But, 54% said members should be encouraged to donate to the scholarship fund. 46% of survey takers said they would contribute between \$25 and \$50, while almost a quarter said they would contribute \$51 to \$100. That must be why Jan Johnson's scholarship challenge was so successful!

Other ideas for raising money for scholarships included opening the plant sale and auction to the public to raise more money, having special events like a fall bulb sale, seeking donations from gardening-related businesses, and selling ad space in *The Garden Spray* and on our website.

Another Member-Recommended Event: MNLA Garden Party at Home of Gordon Bailey, Jr.

From Tim Malooly:

This June 20 the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association Foundation is hosting a garden party at the Newport, MN home of Jo and Gordon Bailey.

Gordon is the CEO of Bailey Nurseries and a long-time member of the MNLA. The event is a fundraising effort by the MNLA Foundation (scholarships and research grants) and is sure to be a hit.

Tickets are \$50 per person and the quantities are limited. For MGCM members, this would not only be an opportunity to see a wonderful garden but also, to spend some time with professionals in the Minnesota Green Industry -including some of the folks who have spoken to the Club including Debie Lonnee and our February Speaker, Heidi Heiland.

If you are interested, please contact me (Tim) ASAP. As I mentioned, the tickets will go quickly so, if you'd like to attend don't hesitate!

MNLA Website info: http://mnla.biz/calendar_day.asp?date=6/20/2012&event=149

Tim Malooly, (timmm@watermotion.com - 763.559.1010)



Holiday Party Recap

Randi Larson, Holiday Party Chair

The 2011 Holiday Party has come and gone and once again we were all treated to a wonderful evening. The participants were treated to a wonderful meal of Turkey, ham and all the trimmings courtesy of our new caterer Tim Heder.

Once again this year, Jan Johnson provided crackers and cheese. Nona Johnson made the punch. Jane Sheedy designed the printed programs and the auction tally sheets. Chuck Carlson, Bob Olson and Andy Marlow collaborated on an amusing and beautiful presentation of photos and music and, of course, bestowing trophies on surprised recipients. Delores Johnson, just home from the hospital, had ordered all the plants and greens.

The morning set-up went smoothly because there were many hands: Dave McKeen, Chuck Benson, John Sims, Jan Johnson, Nona Johnson, Geri and Don Trocke (Geri gets my special thanks for laundering all the table cloths), and Larry Larson, my right hand man. I also want to thank everyone who pitched in to help with clean-up.

Silent auction chair Elaine Spiegel, who worked tirelessly to make the auction a big success, was very pleased with the items received for the event, both the number and the quality. There was a whopping total of 82 items donated that brought in a total of \$1042.50. Many, many thanks to all who donated. The silent auction would not be as successful as it is without the generosity of the MGCM members. Elaine said she is most grateful to all her volunteers: Sandra Abraham, Carol Schreier, Chuck Benson, Larry Larson, Mollie Dean, Nona Johnson, Les Spiegel, Judy and Steve Berglund, Jean and Steve Strande.

Both Elaine and I thank everyone who helped make the Holiday Party a rousing success.

Editor's Note

-Mary Maynard

We have another full edition. Thanks to everyone who contributes content each month. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend the March meeting, because I enjoyed Shirley Mah Kooyman's presentation last fall very much. The Program Committee has put together a very nice lineup of speakers for 2012.

Spring is coming! We'll have switched to Daylight Saving Time by the March meeting. After the March meeting, we will leave our Lake Harriet Methodist home for the summer and wander from Macy's in April to Westwood Lutheran in May to the Arboretum in June and August, with a few members' gardens in between.

See you in April!



Minutes of MGCM Board Meeting

February 7, 2012

Guests: Dave McKeen, Don Untiedt, Gary DeGrande

President Robert Kean called the meeting to order at 6:30. The agenda and the minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: Andy met with the audit committee, Dave Johnson and Bob Stepan. The Audit committee reported that all is well with our books. The January budget report was received and filed.

Plant Sale committee: The sale will be May 8th at Westwood Lutheran Church. Mary Maynard and Nona Johnson will revise the order form. Ambergate Gardens will provide some of the perennials. The committee will meet Feb. 21. The Board recommends that communication of details be improved and that no major changes be made.

President's report: Robert presented the committee list and filled needed positions. He will hold a meeting of the Tour committees this month.

Vice President's report: February and March meetings will be at Lake Harriet Church, April will be at Macy's for the annual plant show and dinner. Dale Bachman will speak on the theme - Brazil Gardens in Paradise - Gardens by Bachman's. June will be an Arboretum tour. Gate and tram tour fees will be waived. Nancy Bjerke and Peter Olin will be tour guides, and Ed Schneider will speak. The 70th Anniversary of MGCM will be celebrated with a cake.

Membership Secretary's report: Kay suggested that the membership/ hospitality committees be on alert for visitors and follow up with getting addresses and phone numbers. It was also suggested that new members be identified with a more obvious ribbon their first year.

Committee reports:

Survey Committee: The committee Andy, Gary, and Don presented the results of the survey. The participation was excellent and we now know more about the Club members' wishes and suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Johnson, Recording secretary

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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Club Officers:

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3136 James Ave. S, Minneapolis

Vice President: Sandra Abraham

931 Waterford Dr. E., Eagan, MN

Recording Secretary: Jan Johnson

3005 Scott Ave. N., Golden Valley

Membership Secretary: Jean Strande

11 Hanley Rd, Golden Valley

Treasurer: Andy Marlow

10700 Minnetonka Blvd, Hopkins

Past President: Kay Wolfe

2740 Florida Ave S, St. Louis Park

Directors:

Judy Brooke

4728 Temple Rd., Minnetonka

Randi Larson

15225 Wild Wings, Minnetonka

Don Trocke

10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

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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Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Mary Maynard, Editor

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First Class Mail

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