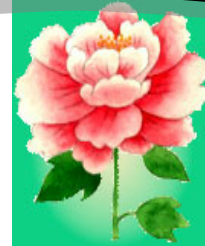


Garden Club of Ramsey County

Centennial

1912 – 2012

100 years & growing !



News Notes---January 2012

History

Established in April of 1912 as the Men's Garden Club of Ramsey County, the club welcomed women to membership in 1931 and changed its name to the Garden Club of Ramsey County (GCRC). It is the oldest continually operating garden club in Minnesota and is an affiliate of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS).

Website: www.ramseygardeners.org

(New website password for the Members Only section of the web site: change 2011 in the old password to 2012. The new website password will be printed on the first page of your 2012 directory.)

We are now on FACEBOOK



"The trouble with gardening is that it does not remain an avocation.....It becomes an obsession."

Humorous quotes on Gardening - by Phyllis McGinley

Meeting Agenda

Welcome—Liz Morrison, President

- 2012 Centennial Calendar of Events-MaryDon Beeson, Laurie Krivitz, Karen Sutherland
- Tiny Treasurers at the Arboretum—Joan Floren
- Plant Sale—many Volunteer Opportunities—Joan Floren, Brenda Severson
- 2012 Leadership opportunities with our Club—Liz Morrison
- Sunshine Report—Luann Muller
- Announcements, New Members & Visitors

Tonight's Program

Chuck Levine is a professional Horticulturist, accomplished gardener and plantsman. His home garden was featured in the Minneapolis Star Tribune Home, and has been a favorite stop on many a garden tour. In addition he sells traditional perennial herbs, native plants and hosta at the Mill City Farmer's Market. He is an award winning teacher and author and taught horticulture and botany for almost 30 years. Most importantly he has recently become a Grandfather for the first time and hopes to pass on his garden legacy to Giuesepee Felix.

Many, Many Thanks !!

A big Thank-you is in order for our 2011 Board, Committee Chairs and Past President-Fran Duffee. The dedication and hard work of these individuals and yourself help make our Garden Club such a long-lasting organization

Hospitality

Hospitality Chair—Sue Knapton, and volunteers—Mary Fryer, Jan Peterson, Karen Milton, Nancy Pasco, Carol Morse, Denise Joyce, Fran Duffee, provided tonight's wonderful refreshments—Thank-you ! Members--please sign up to bring treats to one or two of our meetings—see Sue Knapton

2012 Calendar of Events

Monthly Garden Club Meetings:

Third Monday of the Month

Business Meeting at 6:15 p.m. and Guest Speaker at 7:25 p.m.

Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1974 Ford Parkway, St. Paul—**Note different location in April**

The Great Plant Sale: Sat. May 19, 2012

Cole Burrell's Visit in May

We are joining with MSHS to bring Cole Burrell here for our Centennial.

- The Monday evening of 21 May will begin with a wine reception from 5 – 7 pm in the gardens of Lee & Jerry Shannon. A small fee to cover drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be charged for the reception, which will be open to the public.
- Two of Cole's books will be available for pre-order at deeply discounted prices. MSHS will also sell books at the talk at the usual MSHS member discount. There will be book signings at the reception and after the talk.
- MSHS will be selling 50 tickets @ \$15 each for Cole's talk. GCRC members will be admitted free of charge but must pay for non-member guests.
- Registration forms for the reception and order forms for the books will be available at the February GCRC meeting.

New Member Supper: Mon. June 18, 2012

Summer Pot Luck Picnic: Mon. July 16, 2012

Holiday Bake Sale: Mon. November 19, 2012

Garden Gates:

A series of Garden Gate tours of members home gardens are held throughout the summer.

2012 Educational Programs Line-up

Meeting Date	Topic	Speaker
January 16	Spring Bulb Show (Auditorium)	Chuck Levine
February 20	Vegetable Gardens (Auditorium)	Suzanne Moua
March 19	On the Right Foot: Getting Started with Responsible Gardening (Auditorium)	Lynn Steiner
April 16	Growing Peonies the Natural Way (TIES Bldg, Larpenteur & Snelling)	Keith Swenson
May 21	Literature into Art: Books that Changed the Way We Garden (Auditorium)	C. Colston Burrell
September 17	Top 10 Gardening and Landscaping Blunders - and How to Avoid Them (Auditorium)	Don Engebretsen
October 15	The U of M Landscape Arboretum: Honoring the Past but Looking to the Future (Auditorium)	Edward L. Schneider, Arboretum Director
November 19	Flower Arranging (Gymnasium)	Ardith Beveridge
January 21, 2013	Native Plantings, Shoreline Restorations (Auditorium)	Ryan Johnson, Ramsey Conservation District
February 18, 2013	Climate change (Auditorium)	Jeff Corney PhD, U of M

Membership

The over 160 members of the Garden Club of Ramsey County include master gardeners, professional landscape designers, self-taught experts, dabblers and complete beginners. Whether you have a large garden or a small city plot, a balcony or a sunny window, deep shade or full sun, clay or sandy soil, you'll find encouragement and helpful gardening tips.

Membership dues for GCRC alone are \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a dual membership. For membership in both GCRC and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, rates are \$47 and \$55 respectively.

MSHS membership includes a subscription to *Northern Gardener* magazine and other benefits. Join the Garden Club of Ramsey County today and you will enjoy these excellent benefits of membership!

2012 Officers:

1. President: Liz Morrison
2. Vice President: Karen Van Norman
3. Secretary: Jan Wenker and Ann Hanson
4. Treasurer: MaryDon Beeson
5. Director : Sue Knapton (ending 2-year term)
6. Director: Jean Dick (ending 2-year term)
7. Education: Karen Sutherland
8. History & Archives: Laurie Krivitz & MaryDon Beeson
9. Membership: Karen Milton & Margo Johnson
10. Plant Sale : Brenda Seversen & Joan Floren
11. Public Gardens: Barb Parisien & Kirsti Groess
12. Public Relations: Carol Morse
13. Immediate Past President: Fran Duffee

2012 Committee Chairs:

1. Awards: Denise Joyce & Fran Duffee
2. Bake Sale : Adina Overbee
3. Budget & Finance: Mary Don Beeson (Treasurer)
4. Calling & Emailing: Arlene Alm & Nancy Pascoe
5. Directory: Karen Van Norman
6. *Exhibits & Mini Shows:* ***Open ~ TBD***
7. Finance: Mary Don Beeson (Treasurer) & Board Members
8. *Garden Gates:* ***Celcilia Frederick & co-chair TBD***
9. *Garden Mentors:* ***Open ~ TBD***
10. Garden Party: Alice Cederberg & Roz Annen
11. Garden Sages: Jennifer Porowit & Joe Baltrukonis
12. *Garden Tour:* ***Open--TBD***
13. Holiday Party: Ann Hanson & Laurie Krivitz
14. *Hospitality:* ***Sue Knapton and co-chair TBD***
15. New Member Supper: Joan Floren & Nancy Scherer
16. Nominating: Fran Duffee
17. Sunshine: Luann Muller

GCRC 2012 Centennial Garden Markers Now Available



A special garden marker to celebrate next year's centennial of the Garden Club of Ramsey County is now available for purchase. The marker is metal, coated with black enamel. The letters and design are lasered in white on this black background. (See photo, courtesy of John Mercer, at left.) The marker is 7" wide and 5" high with an 18" stake. It can be used in a large potted plant as well as in the garden.

Priced at a reasonable \$16 each, these sturdy, well designed markers will add years of pleasure to your garden and/or to the gardens of friends. They make perfect gifts!

Your marker(s) can be picked up at GCRC meetings or special arrangements can be made with John Mercer, whose contact information is on the order form. Profits from marker sales will help support GCRC centennial activities in 2012.

GCRC 2012 Centennial Gardening Shirts now Available



Gardening shirts to commemorate next year's centennial of the Garden Club of Ramsey County are now available for purchase. The shirts are long sleeved powder blue wash and wear in light weight poplin cotton with a colorful embroidered flower pot design (a modern day take on a 1930's emblem used by the club) aligned above the pocket. The photo shows our Publicity Chair, Carol Morse, wearing one of the shirts. The shirts sell for \$28.95. Orders can be picked up at GCRC meetings, or special arrangements can be made with Carol, whose contact information is on the order form.

Also available:

- 1) "Early Scout" Peony plants
- 2) Note Cards , with watercolor artwork by GCRC member, Barbara Parisien

See MaryDon Beeson or Laurie Krivitz

Upcoming Gardener Events & Classes

Day-Flying Moths and Butterflies and Their Native Food Plants

(see flyer)

The District 10 Como Community Council's Environment Committee is sponsoring an event on

Sunday, February 19 at 2 p.m. at the North Dale Recreation Center (1414 St. Albans St., St. Paul).

Heather Holm, horticulturist and author of the blog, "Restoring the Landscape with Native Plants," will speak on day-flying moths and butterflies and their native food plants. The talk is free and open to everyone and we'd like to invite members of your garden club to attend.

Minnesota State Horticultural Society

Classes are sponsored by the **Minnesota State Horticultural Society**, but are held at various locations. Enrollment is limited, and pre-registration is required. To register, call 651-643-3601 or 800-676-6747, ext 211. More information is on their website and Magazine "Northern Gardener"

Kitchen, Small Space and Container Gardens

Saturday, January 28, 2012
10:00am - 12:00pm

Saturday, February 25, 2012
10:00am - 12:00pm

Decoding Gardening Advice

Thursday, February 2, 2012
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Become a MSHS Volunteer

Join the MSHS team by volunteering with us. We offer a wide variety of positions to match your interests and schedule—some are one-time events, some ongoing. And you will be helping out our mission of educating Northern Gardeners.

We are now scheduling volunteers for

- 3) 2012 Minnesota Home & Patio Show (February 16 - February 19)
- 4) Minneapolis Spring Home & Garden Show (February 29 - March 4).

Ground Covers

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Landscape Design Basics for Homeowners

Saturday, February 25, 2012
8:00am - 5:00pm

5) Volunteers are also needed for set-up on February 15 and 28.

If you are interested and available to volunteer for us at the spring shows this year, please contact Diane Duvall at 651-643-3601 ext 208 or diand@northerngardener.org.

Benefits of Volunteering:

- Invites to the Annual MSHS Volunteer Recognition Event.
- Additional Northern Gardener Store discount
- Free admission to the Home Shows and The Minnesota State Fair the day you volunteer
- Connect with other northern gardeners, from beginning to master

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum—

www.arboretum.umn.edu in Chaska, Minn.

1) Tiny Treasures at the Arboretum—Fairy Gardens Jan. 28 to March 4th 2012

If you are inching to get your fingers back in the dirt again, here is a chance for a little inside gardening. Tonkadale Nursery has graciously consented to partner with the Arboretum in the Presentation of Fairy Gardens with the Theme: Tiny Treasures.

They are looking for area garden club members who would like to submit a dish garden or terrarium for display during the show.

- Submissions have to fit on a 2ft x 2ft black stand.
- Arboretum staff will provide TLC for your garden while there.
- Plants can be dropped off Jan 24-27 & need to be picked up by March 7, 2012
- The Arboretum cannot underwrite any expense incurred to make your fairy garden, nor can it be held liable for theft or damage that may occur while your display is at the Arboretum

For more info.--Please contact GCRC member Joan Floren if you are interested in participating, 952-475-0914, jfloren@visi.com

2) Ladies Evening Escape Friday, February 10, 6-9 p.m.

MacMillan Auditorium & Great Hall. Cost is \$10 per person **Featuring the BZ Girls!** Take time out from your busy everyday routine and experience the Arboretum in a whole new way! This fun evening includes live acoustic pop and classic jazz performed by the BZ Girls (musicians Carol Zimmerman & Tara Brueske) and fashion shows, along with a cash bar and food items available for purchase. Plus a boutique of home décor, clothes, gifts, jewelry and more from local artisans and businesses. The Arboretum Gift Store will be open, offering a 10 percent discount on all purchases. (Guys welcome too!)

3) Volunteering--Group/One Time/Corporate

The Arboretum has over 750 volunteers that provide nearly \$600,000 in value on an annual basis. We encourage organizations to bring in groups to volunteer for events and projects, and we also strongly support individual employees to donate their time and talent to the Arboretum. Organizations can work closely with the Volunteer Coordinator to make experiences meaningful. The Arboretum welcomes groups of volunteers from local businesses, churches, civic groups and other social organizations.

Please contact the Volunteer Center Manager at arbvoul@umn.edu or call 952-443-1400 *Arika Paukner*, Coordinator of Volunteers

To become an Arboretum Volunteer, you first need to attend a New Volunteer Orientation. To get started please call the volunteer office at 952-443-1461 Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday between 9AM – 4PM.

Or visit our web site at <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu> and click on the volunteer tab.

Opportunities include:

- Gardening: planting, mulching, weeding, buckthorn removal, harvesting
- Building cleanup
- Education program preparation activities

Garden Sage Article, by Jennifer Porwit

NOVEMBER'S GARDEN

Since winter is the planning season rather than the planting season, let's consider the late autumn garden. Surprisingly, there are enough plants that look good in November that it might be worthwhile to consider devoting one bed just to them. The following are plants that are in our own gardens or were observed elsewhere. For the background a couple small evergreens to consider are 'Holmstrup' arborvitae and Alberta spruce. The Alberta spruce looks especially fresh at this time of year. 'Holmstrup' retains its dark green color all winter. For the mid or foreground bird's nest spruce provides a completely different texture from other plants of the same size.

The 'rest your eyes' grey foliage plants that have done their job all season and still look good are lambs ears, culinary sage, and lavender 'Munstead.' Shading from grey to green are rue, catmint 'Little Titch', and yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*). Rue (*Ruta graveolens*) has possibilities for use in a knot garden, but do wear gloves when handling it as it gives some people a rash. In November 'Center Glow' ninebark's foliage looked much fresher than some of the other shrubs that still have foliage at this time of year (like magnolia). Incidentally, most of the foliage of our 'Diablo' ninebark had already fallen by then.

Still very green were german irises, yellow bleeding heart (*Corydalis lutea*), and parsley. (I especially like parsley!!) The corydalis and parsley have nice fine textured foliage, in great contrast to the spears of the iris. Corydalis is a plant that is long-blooming. It gently reseeds, but is easy to control. Not all is so calming—'Fort Laramie' strawberry and 'Biokovo' geranium leaves turned an eye-popping red (which becomes burgundy when it gets really cold). Both of these plants make nice low groundcovers for the front of the garden and between taller plants. 'Fire Chief' heuchera was still a brilliant magenta. Also in the red side of the spectrum are grasses—'Blue Heaven' little blue stem, 'Shenandoah' switch grass, and flame grass (*Miscanthus*) 'Purpurescens'. They combine a nice burgundy with gold tones. It is best to purchase these grasses in autumn so that you can see exactly what you are getting—there can be variation in coloring between plants. In contrast to the green of german iris, Siberian iris foliage turned a deep gold by November that looked just lovely in the sunshine.

Last but not least—flowers!! Johnny jumpups (violas) just kept blooming. They are nice little plants to tuck in between bigger ones. Another astonishingly long lasting bloomer is german statice (it still has blooms/bracts in January). I was amazed to discover a 'Radio' calendula still going strong with its cheery golden blooms. This annual can be started indoors in the spring when you start peppers and tomatoes or sown directly outdoors when the ground thaws out. I suspect that they could be started in milk jugs as a winter sowing. 'Immortality' iris is one of the most reliable of the reblooming irises. In catalogs it is described as being pure white, but ours is actually the palest blue.

The grand finale—'Mystic Fairy' rose! This garden workhorse just doesn't know when to quit. There were still lots of flower clusters in full bloom in our garden when it got so cold that they froze solid.

Happy gardening!

