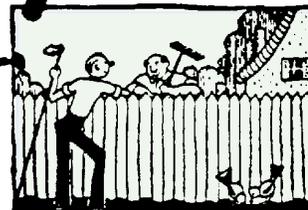




The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
February 2003, Volume 61, Number 2



This Month at MGCM

Tuesday, February 11 Dinner Meeting

See Page 11 for details and dinner reservations.

The February Program: Harvey Buchite Presents: Gardening with Alpines



Illustration by Betty Ann Addison of Rice Creek Gardens. Copyrighted and used with permission.

Do you want to be on the road to alpines, rock gardens, small plants and other horticultural delights? If you do, don't miss the February meeting.

Harvey Buchite is co-owner of Rice Creek Gardens, a nursery that has specialized in alpine plants and hardy perennials for over 35 years. He travels to Europe each summer to observe these mountain plants in their natural habitat and learn more of their growth and plant communities.

His talk will be illustrated with slides and will focus on suitable alpine and miniature plants for Minnesota and will cover soil types, fertility, plant selection and special environments that can be created with tufa rock.

Alpine or rock garden sizes can vary from a few feet square to as large as you like and examples will be seen of a number of different gardens both public and private

Looking Ahead See Page 11

Remember February is the first month of new permanent reservations. Make sure you reserve your dinner.
See page 11 for details.

Editorial Enticements

By Chuck Carlson

The February Meeting.

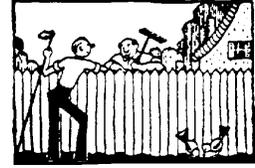
I would suggest that you come to the February dinner meeting and hear Harvey Buchite (pronounced--- bu-hite). Harvey is an excellent presenter, has a wealth of plant knowledge, how to grow them and has slide presentations that augment his words. Even if you don't want to grow alpines you will learn things that pertain to any of your other horticultural leanings. I have heard him a number of times and I learned something every time. Not only that it was always enjoyable. Come and have a little fellowship with your gardening friends over dinner. Make sure you check your permanent reservation status. It is a new list created at the January meeting.

Bob Olson is worth \$28.

No it is not our illustrious member who is worth \$28 but, that is the cost of a new hosta named after Bob. I found the hosta listed in the new Plant Delights catalog. It is a variegated hosta, one foot across, five inches high, which makes a semi-upright mound of narrow rippled foliage. It was introduced by Herb Benedict and was named for Bob to honor his work in the American Hosta Society. Bob is a past president of that organization. This could be a good hosta for our May plant sale and auction, maybe Bob has a hundred extra in his garden.

The Geisters meet the Press.

Gary & JoAnne's garden is full of heads topped with greenery and other delights and was featured in the January 2, 2003 Home & Garden Supplement of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune. It contained a great description of their garden with a few pictures of them and the garden. They have many hardscapes



in the garden besides many plants which makes for an interesting walk and a lingering sojourn to their oasis of delights.

Jackie Overom Missed.

In the January newsletter, I inadvertently left out one of the previously unannounced awards at the Holiday Party. It was the award for the best garden on tour for 2002. I apologize for this omission. The Overom's garden really beckons to those that pass by on the street. The front yard pool and waterfall with its quiet gurgles just says hello to all who walk the streets and invites a closer look at the plants which abound on both sides of the water feature. It is a wonderful front yard but more delights continue around the house and in the back, the gardens continue with strips of plants and flowers around a swimming pool. A delightful garden you don't want to miss.

Arboretum News.

The arboretum newspaper had an article on the Beren's cabin and grounds restoration. It contained the picture below. Isn't that a handsome trio, that dedicated the opening of the garden.



Eldon Hugelen, Peter Olin & Warren Nordley
Photo by Arboretum News

February the Month of Kobe.

Yes this is Jack Kobe's month. George Carlin, the storyteller, has a story on aging.

He starts out with children where little kids when asked their age say they are three and a half, four and a half etc., then when they

(Continue on page 3)

Nancy's Turkey Tracks

By MGCN President
Nancy Bjerke



Photo by
Lloyd Wittstock

January is the month I spend studying seed catalogs using post-it-flags to mark the pages of the publications. This month I made two trips to the office supply store to replenish my post-it-flags. Every year the quantity of catalogs I receive increases and I purchase something from a number of them. I believe that by doing so I ensure that the future will continue to bring me more seed catalogs. The catalogs started arriving before Thanksgiving and are still coming in as I write this column.

Burpee is offering Lisianthus plants as well as seeds. They advertise four varieties including the shorter 10" plants. If you have ever tried to start Lisianthus from seeds and you wanted them to bloom in July, they must go into the soil mixture before you decorate your Christmas Tree.

Ageratum, Blue Horizon, a tall, long blooming variety is available from Burpee's and Johnny's. It is getting more difficult to locate Blue Horizon. Out of the 20 plus catalogs I received, it appears in only two of them.

Select Seeds includes information about the plants my deer friends avoid eating. Our local deer can't read but the information is there and maybe in Connecticut where "Select" is located, they can. It stated that deer don't eat Rudbeckia foliage but our local deer do. After spring deer browsing, the Rudbeckia does recover and the deer don't eat the flowers but the stems are shorter at 6 to 10 inches.

Park's and Stokes' catalogs contain detailed information on culture, bloom season

data and germination time plus they offer a variety of annual, herb, vegetable and perennial seeds.

Eggplants, peppers and tomatoes are available as seeds and plants from Territorial and they offer the widest selection of garlic, covering more than four pages.

Certified under the new USDA regulations The Cook's Garden catalog offers only organic seeds and seedlings.

In his new book, "Annuals for every Purpose" Larry Hodgson provides valuable information about starting annuals from seeds. The book indicates that Salvia is tricky to grow from seed and now I know that I am not the only one who has trouble getting the different varieties to germinate. When I do have success, they don't bloom until late summer.

After I have finished ordering too many annual seed packets I plan to study the perennial plant offerings. Maybe this can be a topic for next month.



Editorial Enticements

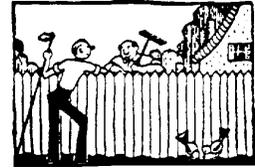
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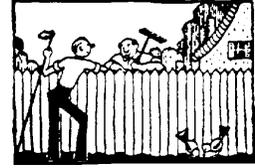
get into their teens they are gonna be 16. Then they become 21, after that they turn 30 and push 40, reach 50, make it to 60, hit 70 and get into the 80s.

Well Jack, I heard you get into the 80s on February 2. Congratulations! I hope you make it to 100 and a half.

The Nordley's Garden

Watch for an article about the Nordleys and their garden in the March edition of the Minnesota Monthly magazine.





The January Program

By Chuck Carlson

Our member, Andy Marlow, gave an excellent program called *A Kenyan Scrapbook*. He used the power point system to make a presentation which really brought Africa alive. Of course Andy's remarks, patter and knowledge of the subject really made for an enjoyable and enlightening evening.

To start the presentation, we received a geography lesson. Kenya is in East Africa right on the equator. But since the altitude is about 5000 feet, it is not hot and humid. The country is about the size of Texas, has 30 million people and 42 tribes who live in relative harmony. Nairobi is the capitol where the average wage is \$1 per day. Andy, while teaching at Daystar University lived in a house on campus. This house was surrounded by a modest garden and that was maintained by gardener who made \$2 per day. The garden did have a number of flowers and did have some roses. A surprising fact was that the roses were treated as annuals. The reason given was that because there was no cold weather to allow the plant to recuperate between bloom seasons, they just bloomed themselves to death.

Andy's stay took him to; The Great Rift Valley, Nairobi National Park, Samburu National Reserve, Lake Nahuru National Park and Masai Mara. We saw pictures of many animals, the African countryside and some of the cities character. The power point process allowed us to see some of the animals in motion and hear the sounds of Africa. Wasn't it intriguing to hear and see the cat that sounded like a bird



Speaker, Andy Marlow
Photo By Lloyd Wittstock

One of the locations he showed us, left me in awe. This was the Ivory Burning Site Memorial where 10 tons of ivory was collecting and burned to show that ivory collection is not acceptable or lawful.

The windy open terrain, and the lack of regular rainfall isn't conducive for an abundance of native plants but Andy did find a few to show us. There were various varieties of Acacia which is the predominant horticultural feature. Others noted were euphorbia, agave, the sausage tree, prickly pear, persimmon and cassia. Of course there are grasses which shoot up during the short rainy season.

To those of you who weren't at the meeting you missed seeing many animals, a few plants and a great presentation. Thank you, Andy, for your time and effort in showing us Africa through your eyes. I think you may even find a few pictures for our photo contest in your African material.

Sunflowers & Pumpkins



Bob Stepan receiving the Big Sunflower and the Big Pumpkin Award at the January Meeting. Presented by Andy Marlow Awards Chairman
Photo By Lloyd Wittstock

Board Meeting Summary



*Summarized from
Mary Oelke's Secretary's Report*

Meeting Date: January 7, 2003
Board Members Present: Nancy Bjerke, Lynda Carlson, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Dave McKeen, Warren Nordley and Mary Oelke. Howard Berg, historian, also attended.

President's Report

The scheduled June 10 dinner meeting will be replaced with a June 24 garden tour. Kay Wolfe and Carole Ann Brekke are chairing the tour committee. The rookie of the year selected is Elizabeth Hamilton.

Vice President's Report

The speaker at the February dinner meeting will be Harvey Buchite from Rice Creek Gardens. His topic will be "Alpine Plants in the Garden".

Secretary's Report

The December board meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

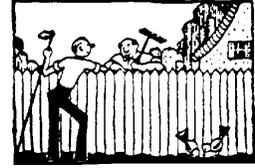
Treasurer's Report

The end-of-the year treasurer's report was approved as submitted by treasurer, Dave Johnson. Beren's Cabin was the main un-budgeted expense. The Memorial Fund contains \$195. The treasurer has six admission tickets to the Arboretum which will be auctioned at a later date. Copies of the end-of-the-year report will be available at the January meeting.

Committee Reports

Calendars:

Dave Johnson reported that calendar sales are down. A motion was approved that MGCA calendars not be sold for the year 2004. The calendar committee will look for creative calendar ideas for future years.



Historian:

Howard Berg reported that his committee has given a questionnaire to members in an effort to broaden the immediate past historical files. Howard is looking for volunteer proofreaders for the material he has compiled.

Food Flower and Foto (FFF) Show:

Dave McKeen is the chair of the FFF committee. The show will be August 16 and 17.

Youth Gardening:

Nancy Bjerke reported on a youth gardening project at North Star Elementary School. The committee is planting a low light, low maintenance indoor garden.

Old Business

Storage:

Warren Nordley reported that Peter Olin has offered space at the Arboretum in the Red Barn.

501 C 3:

A motion was passed appointing Dave Johnson and Ellyn Hosch to work with Doug Whitney in completing the application and to submit the \$500 fee.

Bronze Medal:

The name of the Bronze Medal has been changed to Outstanding Sustained Service. This is receiving a further discussion.

New Business

Plant Information Fair:

It was decided not to participate this year.

Club Dues:

An increase in club dues will be discussed at the next meeting.

Memorial Fund:

A Memorial Fund Committee will be established to look at ways of spending Memorial Fund monies.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 4, 2003 at the home of Dave McKeen.

Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

“Less is More”

The beauty of annuals is that you don't have to live with your mistakes for more than one season. Unless one plants something like the *chenopodium giganteum* (a fancy form of Lamb's Quarters) that reseeds so readily that it continues to infest Bob Livingston's garden years later. (I'm really sorry I gave you that, Bob!) While I expect I'll always try new annuals, there are a few that have become standards in my garden, and I will grow them year after year. I could live with just these annuals, I'm sure, although I probably won't.

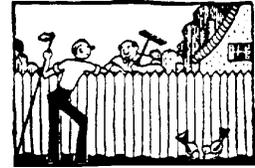
I should qualify this list by noting that my garden doesn't really focus on annuals that much, and I tend to use annuals as accents of color and complements to the perennials. People who use a lot of annuals (Dave and Delores Johnson, for instance) would definitely have a very different list of favorites.

Ageratum 'Blue Horizon'.

I was an “early adopter” of this tall ageratum, and I wouldn't be without it. It gets to be about 24 inches tall and seems to thrive in almost all conditions, although it will wilt if it gets really dry. When I first tried this out on my boulevard, it used to stop traffic because everyone wanted to know what it was. It's more common now, and a must-have for me.

Jewels of Opar (*Talinum paniculatum*).

This is a new favorite of mine, but an old-fashioned plant. Dave McKeen brought it to the sale in 2001, and I was hooked! The leaves are kind of fleshy and a nice chartreuse



color. But the long stems with dainty flowers and colorful seedheads make this a standout. I haven't tried this in a mass planting yet — just accents — but I'm sure it will be great.

Nicotianas.

Another kind of old-fashioned plant. Flowering tobaccos seem to enjoy the heat of summer and don't seem to mind getting a little dry now and then. One of my favorite varieties is 'Nikki Bright Pink', although it's gotten a little hard to find. As one might suspect, I am partial to the taller varieties. And *nicotiana sylvestris* is a regular, especially since it doesn't mind a little shade now and then and it reseeds readily, so I don't have to start seedlings every year.

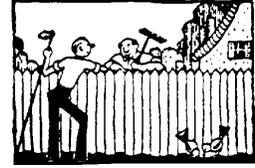
Salvias.

I like salvias. They're colorful and tough, especially in hot and dry conditions. I have never used the “regular” red *salvia splendens* with any success, for some reason, but I wouldn't be without *salvia farinacea* 'Victoria Blue' or *salvia coccinea* 'Coral Nymph'. 'Victoria Blue' has become regularly available in garden stores, so I have stopped growing it from seed due to space problems in my basement. But 'Coral Nymph' is a little less common, and I always plan to grow it from seed. 'Coral Nymph' is not for the faint of heart, since it gets quite large and cutting it back just encourages it. But it is a good cutting flower, adding a little unusual interest to a garden arrangement. And judges at flower shows seem to like it.

Verbenas.

Verbenas are another tough annual. They like warm weather and don't mind dry conditions which often prevail in Lazy Gardens, where watering is often optional. My two favorites are *verbena bonariensis* and *verbena rigida*. *Verbena bonariensis* is tall and airy, like purple stick figures in the border. They also reseed easily, so it isn't necessary to restock each year. *Verbena rigida* is similar to *v. bonariensis* except that it's only about 15 inches high, which makes it good for

(Continued on Page 9)



Single Color Gardens ©

By Phil Smith

In planning a flower border, I have normally paid more attention to size, texture and shape of the plants, believing that color will pretty much take care of itself as long as white plants are periodically placed in the plantings. However, while recently considering the planting of a couple of new flower borders next spring, I wondered about trying one garden of all white flowers. This caused me to give some thought about single color plantings, sometimes referred to as monochrome gardens.

Some 30 years ago or so, while visiting England with my young family, I was particularly impressed with the rather famous white garden at Sissinghurst Castle in Kent. This large garden is surrounded by high yew hedges, and includes some plants of silver and gray. Anyway, the stark white flowers against the green and gray foliage is quite striking. A few years later, I tried an all white part of my main flower border in Golden Valley. The effect was cool and pleasing, but being limited in space, I decided after a couple of years to return to a mixed planting.

As to texture and shape, this may be achieved in a planting by mixing different sizes and shapes of plants. For example, consider the variations in texture provided by the flat heads of achillea and taller sedums, the course leaves of coneflowers, the daisy-like flowers of asters and mums, the small airy blooms of baby's breath, the large trumpets of hemerocallis and lilies, the bell-like blooms of some campanulas, the perfection of rose blossoms, the star burst balls of some alliums, and the spikes of delphiniums, lupines and snapdragons.

When considering colors in the garden, many books have been written about combin-

ing colors in plantings, often with detailed and technical references to color wheels, and such terms as tone, brightness, saturation, purity, hue, intensity, contrast, harmony, triads of pastels and balance, etc. In my view, such detail is more than I care to know. The main idea of this article is to consider devoting a garden or one part of a garden to a single color, with variations in texture as noted above, and thereby create a memorable garden feature.

We may also consider that single color plantings may effect the mood of the viewer. It has been noted that yellows are thought to be cheery and warming like sunshine, whites are peaceful and fresh and perhaps formal, reds and orange are exciting, and blues and lavenders are soothing and cool. The writer's idea when considering this article was to create a white garden, but I then also thought about the possibility of doing a blue or red garden. After all, it is a good time to be patriotic. I have gone on to outline the various types of plants which can be considered in such single color gardens.

A White Garden

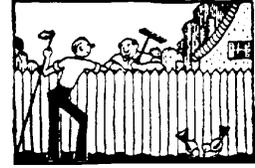
A planting limited to the color white is the easiest scheme to design and plant in that there is a great number of white flowering plants. In fact, many of the plants which we normally identify with another color have a white form. For background I would consider white shrub roses, a white lilac and perhaps some white clematis. There are so many white flowers that some care is required in relating the various plants to one another and in considering size, shape and texture.

For perennials

Selections of white forms include:

- achillea
- gypsophila
- artemesia
- iberis
- astilbe

Continued on page 8)



Single Color Gardens

(Continued from page 7)

iris
covarious campanulas
liatris
cerastium tomentosum
lilies
cimicifuga
peony
crambe
phlox subulata
chrysanthemums
phlox paniculata
daffodils
physotegia
delphinium
roses
dianthus
shasta daises
dictamus
veronica

For Annuals

Selections of white forms include:

ageratum
petunias
alyssum
phlox drummondii
begonias-fibrous
snapdragons
dahlias
sweet peas
geranium-pelargoniums
verbena
impatiens
zinnias

A Blue Garden

In the true sense, a blue garden is very difficult in that there are very few flowers which are really blue, such as some of the gentians. Even with my favorite flower, the delphinium, it is difficult to find a true blue form. However, by adding the lavender-violet shades to the range, a bluish garden with a cool and soothing feeling is realistic.

For Perennials

Selections having blue forms include:

aconitum
delphinium
ajuga
geranium-Johnson's blue
anchusa
iris
aster frikartii
nepeta
aquilegia
platycodon
bapitsia
salvia superba
campanulas-various
veronica

For Annuals

Selections with bluish shades include:

ageratum
centaurea
pansies
petunia.

Pansies (are really a perennial but often treated as an annual in Minnesota.)

A Red Garden

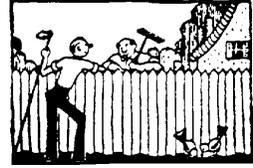
A planting of only red flowers is similar to the situation with blues in that there are not many truly red flowers. Early in the season, I can think of none except tulips. Again, by adding rust and wine colors to the spectrum, a decent number of plants with reddish forms may be listed. For a background I would consider the red leaf japanese barberry.

For Perennials

Selections with reddish forms include:

achillea
liatris
aquilegia
lupine
astilbe
monarda
chrysanthemum
penstemon
dianthus
roses

(Continued on page 9)



CONFESSIONS CONTINUED

(Continued from page 6)

the front of the border. Neither of these varieties is reliably available in general garden stores, and while some people have tried to germinate *v. bonariensis* seed with minimal success, *v. rigida* germinates readily.

Needless to say, there are tons of other annuals that could go on this list, and I bet every gardener has a different set of favorites. However, if I had to limit my annuals to a select few, these are the ones I'd go with.

Thank goodness I don't have to!

Single Color Gardens

(Continued from page 8)

hemerocallis
sedum "Autumn Joy"
heuchera

For Annuals

Selections having reddish forms include:

dahlias
geranium-pelargonium,
petunias
nasturtium
nicotiana
snapdragons
sweet peas
verbena
zinnias.

I do plan on working on a white garden next summer, and will let you know the outcome. I doubt that I will get as far as doing the blue and red also, but it would be fun to see the results. I do also remember seeing an all yellow garden one time somewhere in England, but I suppose that may be carrying the concept a little far. It would be nice to know if any members of the club have in the past tried a single color planting or are willing to do one. To me, the idea of an all white garden makes the most sense.

Getting To Know You

By Howard Berg edited by Chuck

Elizabeth Hamilton is this month's getting to know you person. She was born in Crookston and graduated from high school in Crookston. Presently her avocation is in Product Development & Marketing in Telecommunications.

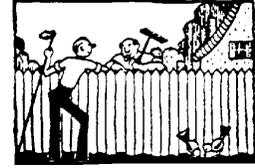
Other club interests are Minnesota State Horticultural Society and Gardening Under Lights Club. Elizabeth joined our club in 2002. Her primary interest in gardening is perennial gardening and ponds

She joined the club because of an avid interest in gardening and was looking for a source of camaraderie and volunteerism. She claims she found both in our organization. So far, her most gratifying experience in the club has been showing her garden on club's public tour.

She also stated she is impressed with the wealth of knowledge & willingness to share it and is very glad she joined. We were also impressed with her garden. Congratulations Elizabeth for being the 2002 Rookie of the Year.



*Elizabeth Hamilton
Rookie of the Year
Photo By
Lloyd Wittstock*



Perennial Garden - Retrospect

By Kay Wolfe

The Perennial Garden at Lyndale Park had a most successful year in 2002! The garden is looking great, thanks to much work by the MGCM Perennial Garden committee, and cooperation from the Minneapolis Park Board.

Special thanks go to the Committee "Task Force": Nancy Bjerke, Robert Kean, Bob Redmond, and Rodger Sefelt. Nancy, Bob and Rodger led the work crews, and we had an outstanding show of club members working at the garden. We redesigned and moved plants in the Trial Garden, and kept out the weeds; it looked great all season. Robert took data on the trial plants, and fed that info to the people at the University of Minnesota that compile the trial results. Contact Robert for a copy of the latest information.

And very special thanks goes to new club member Tim Rosener, who is also the head gardener at the Lyndale Park Rose Gardens. Through Tim's efforts as a staff member at the gardens, the garden got watered regularly and herbicides were applied where needed. And in his off hours Tim also attended our meetings, gave us advice on how to care for such a large garden, and even worked on the evening crew!

Committee members that I saw at the gardens again and again were: Rudy Allebach, Joe Cassell, Chuck Carlson, John Dahl, Walt Gustafson, Ada Hegion (sometimes two times a week!), Ellyn Hosch, Maurie Lindblom, Bob Livingston, Mary Maynard, Tim McCauley, Suzette Meakins, M. Thomas Pulley (he had his own work crew!), and Lloyd Wittstock. Thanks to all.

Since the year went so well, I have decided to be the Chair for 2003! This year our goals are to begin redesigning the "Display Garden", which is the large border area behind

the Trial Garden strip. Our club has a lot of garden expertise that can help educate others in this public venue. If you have ideas for park garden design, or plants to trial, please contact me or join our group. More info on planning meetings will be coming soon. This is not a committee that just weeds a garden, we are creating a beautiful space in one of the most popular city parks!

Club's Finances

Extracted from treasurer's Report

By Chuck Carlson

Assets as of 12/31/02

Checking account:

General	4424.81
Memorial Fund	332
Reserve Fund	180.83
Scholarship Fund	364.39
Total checking	5302.03

Cash on hand 100

CD's:

Reserve Fund	5355.35
Scholarship Fund	4541.16

Total Assets **\$15298.54**

Year's Actuals

Budget

Income	Expense	Income	Expense
\$31303	\$34472	\$31225	\$29390

Highlights

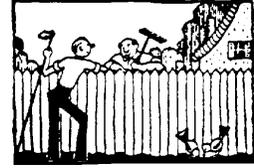
Expenses minus Income for the year is a loss of \$3168.99.

Expenses or losses over \$200

Berens Cabin \$2370, Scholarships \$3000, dinner charges minus caterer and church rent \$616, membership, directory & publicity \$756, 60th Anniversary celebration \$226.43, 60th Anniversary Photo Directory \$494.73, The newsletter printing & postage \$797, FFF \$711, Programs \$475, Sunshine \$280, insurance \$403, and Donations \$800.

Major income generators

July Public Tour \$3444, Calendar sales are down but still made \$190, Valley Fair project \$1700, Holiday Party and Silent Auction \$844.67 and Plant Auction & Sale \$3059



Reservations

**Permanent Reservations are in effect.
Reservations are necessary by Friday, February 7.**

**Call or email Carole Ann Brekke (phone 952-435-6029) (Email numsix24@attbi.com)
for your reservation if you are not on the permanent reservations list or
you need to cancel your permanent reservation.
You will be responsible for the cost if not cancelled**

**For last minute cancellations on Monday or Tuesday call Dave Johnson
Phone 763-571-2713
If he can sell it, you won't be billed.**

Meeting Details

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Dinner: 6:30 PM; Business: 7:00 PM; Program: 7:30 PM.

**Location: Lake Harriet United Methodist; 49th and Chowen Avenue South
Cost: \$9.00 if reserved in advance, \$10.00 at the door if extra meals are available**

**Registration, Gathering & Greetings
Calendars Available
Dinner and Conversation
Visitors & New members
Club Business
The Program**

The 2003 Schedule of Events

March 18-----Dinner & Field Bachman Show
Paula Pryke Interprets the
Flower Fairies
April 8-----Dinner Meeting
May 6-----Dinner, Auction & Plant Sale
June 24-----Members Tour
Roses & Early Gardens
July 15-----Members Tour
Perennial Garden Tour

August 16-17---FFF Show
August 24-----Members Tour
Grasses & Fall Gardens
September 9----Dinner Meeting
October 14-----Dinner Meeting
November 11---Dinner Meeting
November 28---Wreath Making
at Kliers Garden Center
December 2----Holiday Party



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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 14024 Frontier Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337-4728
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