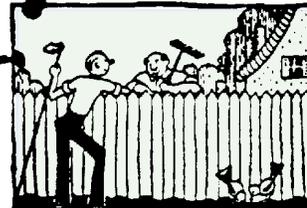




# The Garden Spray



Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc  
2004, Volume 62, Number 8

## MGCM Schedule

### The Year-2004

Date	Location	Event
Aug. 8		Members Tour guests allowed
Aug. 21-22	ARB.	FFF Show
Sept. 14	LHC	Henry & Purcell Ornamental Grasses
October 12	LHC	S. Nordstrom Monrovia Plants
Nov. 9	LHC	Lorrie Stromme Trees and The Law
Nov. 26	KGC	Wreath Making
Dec. 7	LHC	Holiday Party
Jan. 11,2005	LHC	Nelsons talk on Liliums

LHC= Lake Harriet Church  
 WLC= Westwood Lutheran Church  
 KGC= Klier's Garden Center  
 FFF= Food Flower & Foto Show  
 \* early start time 5:30 pm  
 \*\* early start time other details in the  
 May newsletter

### This Month, August 2004

This month as always is a "double header" opportunity. First the August tour on Sunday August 8th and followed up with the Food, Flower & Foto Show (FFF) on August 21st & 22nd.

#### \*\*The Tour\*\*

**Do not miss this event!**  
**SUMMER TOURS GRAND FINALE!**  
**Five Member's Gardens**  
**Plus Picnic Supper at Weber's**

When: Sunday, August 8, 1 to 6 PM

Where: Meet the bus at Lloyd & Patti Weber's, 7635 Alden Way NE, Fridley, 55432. (See direction, page 11)

Time: Bus departs at 1 PM sharp.

Bus arrives back to Weber's at 5 PM for tour & picnic supper.  
 Cost: \$16 for air-conditioned coach and gourmet picnic supper.

#### The Gardens on Tour

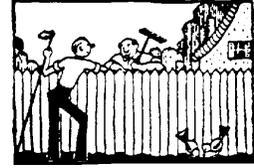
Duane & Jan Johnson, Golden Valley  
 Dave & Delores Johnson, Golden Valley  
 Denise & Jeff Rust, Brooklyn Park  
 Chuck & Marion Carlson, Fridley  
 Lloyd & Patti Weber, Fridley

Read Larry Larson's article interviewing the gardeners on page 6. Join us for this Grand Finale to summer! Three of these gardens have never before been seen. Bring guests, but get your reservations in early, there is only one bus. Reservations must be received by Wednesday, August 4.

The Permanent Reservation List is not in effect for this event.  
 See page 11 for the reservation form and directions.

#### \*\*The FFF\*\*

As in the past the FFF show will be at the University of Minnesota Arboretum on August 21 & 22. Entry on Saturday 7 am to 10 am. Judging 10 am to Noon. Viewing of the show from noon on Saturday until 4 pm and on Sunday from 11 am to 4pm The show is free so make it a day at the arboretum and view the show, Better yet come on Saturday morning and enter your flowers and vegetables. No registrations required for the FFF.



# Utterances From The Prez

By Ellyn Hosch



## August 2004

Another successful Public Garden Tour is concluded! Although we don't yet have the financial results tallied, I can tell we had a successful tour by the comments from the visitors at the garden in which I greeted. Visitors were impressed with the variety of styles that the tour gardens represented. They talked about all of the ideas they got. Some gardeners got more than ideas. I saw a few of them leave the Lazy Gardener's garden with a Golden Curls branch. A big thank you to the Public Tour Committee! Special thanks to those gardeners who spent much of their time preparing their gardens and answered the same questions countless times.

## The August Tour

A number of you were able to see the gardens on the public tour. If you enjoyed seeing these gardens, please be sure to sign-up for the August Members' Garden Tour on August 8. Look for more information in this Spray, along with a registration form. You'll get more ideas for your garden than you will from reading a dozen gardening magazines.

## The Food Flower & Foto Show

August 21 and 22 is the FFF Show at the Arboretum. If you have never entered the FFF, please plan to do so this year. Contact anyone from the committee, or a past winner, with your questions. Check out the July Spray for the Lazy Gardener article on the Floral Design Division of the FFF. If I remember correctly, the Design Division carries hefty points for placing for those of you desiring a First Time Exhibitor's trophy.

## Garden Landscaping

I've mentioned to many of you that I have been planning to landscape my front yard. It is finally happening! After two years of planning and waiting, the work is underway. Eight tons of rock were delivered and installed this week (not installed by me). It feels like Christmas in July to me. I'm as excited by the process as I am by the final results. I'm headed to Rice Creek Gardens this weekend to select some Saxifrages and a dwarf conifer.

## The Vote

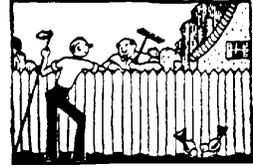
I can't close this column without a reminder to all to attend the September general meeting to vote on whether we should change our name. Mark September 14th on your calendar. Every vote counts.

Hope to see you at both the Members' Tour and the FFF! Happy Gardening

# New Members

Welcome to to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. We are now at 115 members.

- Bruce D. Gilman,  
4805 York Ave S,  
Mpls. MN 55401
- Pamela J. Waggoner,  
4805 York Ave S,  
Mpls. MN 55401
- Rebecca Kruse  
731 E 51st St.,  
Minneapolis, MN 55417
- Terry Shaw  
156b 14th Ave NE  
Minneapolis MN 55413
- Melba Gustafson  
3812 West 57th Street  
Edina MN 55410-2333



# Last Month

## A Wirth Weekend

Our Bob Voigt gave a talk and a number of our members attended the Wirth Weekend. Below are three pictures taken by Lloyd Wittstock.



*Upper Left  
Bob Voigt giving a message at the Wirth While weekend.*

*Lower Left  
Joan I. Berthiaume & Theodore J. Wirth  
Co-Founders of the Minneapolis Parks Legacy Society.*

*Upper Right  
Some of our Members taking in the Wirth While festivities*

*Photos by Lloyd Wittstock*

# Board Meeting Report

By Mary Oelke

**June 29, 2004**

Board Members Present: Rudy Allebach, Nancy Bjerke, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Dave McKeen, Mary Oelke, Don Trocke.

Absent: Leroy Cech

## **President's Report**

Ellyn's next article in *The Garden Spray* will review the name change procedure.

## **Secretary's Report**

The minutes of the May 25 meeting were approved.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The club received a check for \$400 from Valley Fair for the work done by MGCM members on the Valley Fair Grounds. \$424 was received for the June Club Tour to Tim and Karen McCauley's. The expenses for this event have not been submitted as of June 24. The treasurer's report was approved.

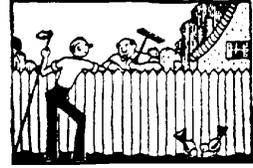
## **Membership Secretary's Report**

The current club membership is 113. Don Stuewe visited the MGCM cupboard at Lake Harriet Methodist Church and suggested that some consolidation and recycling would be in order. Ellyn will call Howard Berg to ascertain what can be thrown. Don volunteered to take care of the recycling.

## **Committee Reports**

The Garden Spray: Chuck Carlson has confirmed his attendance at the September Board Meeting to discuss the future of *The Garden Spray*.

Public Tours: The Tour Committee is in the process of making plans for the July 10-11 public tour. Publicity has been noted in a number of publications. Dave Johnson and Don Stuewe still need a couple of attendants for the gardens.



August FFF Show: The program has been printed and will be in the mail soon. A FFF Flyer at the Public Tours was suggested.

Nominating Committee: Nancy Bjerke is the chair of the nominating committee for 2005 officers. Offices to be filled are vice-president, secretary, director.

## **Old Business**

Nancy Bjerke gave a brief report on the Wirth While Weekend. Bob Voigt did a good job.

Since the dollars in the Memorial Fund should be spent, it was suggest that the Board would be agreeable to adding more money to this fund.

Ellyn Hosch reported that the plaques in the Vision Loss Garden would be quite difficult to remove.

## **New Business:**

The MSHS Garden Club Appreciation Day at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum will be held on July 18. Reservations are required by July 9.

## **Next Board Meeting**

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 27 at 7 pm at the home of Don Stuewe.



# The Lazy Gardener Touts FFF

By Mary Maynard

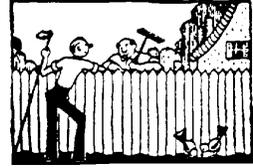
It's almost time again for one of my favorite events of the year: our annual Flower, Food and Foto Show at the Arboretum, August 21-22.

I never thought I would enjoy showing flowers (and a few vegetables), but I discovered that it is a blast! Plus, we get into the Arboretum for free if we're showing or working on the show.

And showing horticultural specimens is much easier than you'd think. The show schedule (that you should have received last week) tells you how many stems or blooms you need to show, and all you really need to do is cut them ahead of time, get them in some water, and bring them on in on Saturday morning. Bottles or vases are provided, as are little styrofoam wedges to hold stems in place just the way you want them. And experienced members are always around to give you a tip or two.

Vegetables are pretty easy, too: Things should be clean, but not scrubbed to the point of losing their natural sheen. You need to display the correct number of specimens, and uniformity is important. Tomatoes should have their stems removed (as I learned to my chagrin last year, when I forgot.)

By serving as a clerk at the show for several years, I've noticed that the judges are quick to notice damage (like bug holes in the leaves), and just as quick to appreciate uniformity and especially nice specimens. They have often said that our show has the best horticultural entries — both the quality and variety of entries. They are also polite about our attempts at floral design.



I encourage all of you who haven't ever participated in the FFF Show to give it a try. Or, if you're not quite ready to dive right in, stop in at the Snyder Building auditorium on Saturday morning before 10:30 to see the participants in action. Pick up a couple of tips, and you'll be ready for next year.

We have never had an entrant who didn't get at least one ribbon in the show. And remember, there's a lovely trophy for the best first-time exhibitor! Elaine Spiegel won it last year, and it's impossible to repeat as champion, so the trophy needs to go to someone new.

Also — if anyone needs entry tags, I have them. Let me know, and I'll get some to you.



# The August Member's Tour

By Larry Larson

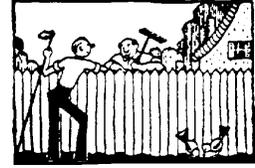
The August 8 members garden tour promises to be an exciting blend of manicured perfection, exotic prairie plants, unusual perennials, relaxing waterfalls and a plethora of lilies and hostas.

## Johnson's Garden

When Dave and Delores Johnson left their spectacular house and garden at their old house in Golden Valley, many of us wondered if we had seen the last of their unique and wondrous gardening sense, beauty and style. Thankfully, the answer is no.

Dave and Delores now live in a beautiful townhouse, still in Golden Valley, but with a much smaller yard. But their downsized front and back yard bear a striking resemblance to the old days. As you walk up the driveway to the front door, a beautiful waterfall catches your eye. A nice blend of red wax begonias, which Dave and Delores grew from seed, along with ageratum, sedum and a small birch tree compliment the area. Two towering cranes guard the waterfall.

The back yard is a jewel, with colorful pink impatiens, white alyssum, more red wax begonias, painted daisies, a bleeding heart, a half dozen rose bushes, calla lilies and many other surprises carefully arranged next to walkways and stone walls. An attractive deck holds Dave and Delores' specialty: extremely large, rounded hanging plants of impatiens, held up by specially designed iron plant holders. Below the deck live several colorful Clematis climbing up a unique netting.



## Johnson's Garden

When Duane and Janice Johnson moved from SW Minneapolis to Golden Valley two years ago, they weren't expecting to host a garden tour quite so soon. "We have a work in progress," Janice says, alluding to her prairie grass garden in their front yard that is just beginning to take shape. But Duane and Janice have an interesting gardening philosophy and an intricate array of unique prairie plants that make their home an interesting stop for our garden tour.

Near the Johnson's house, clustered among a Wiegelia, Hawthorne tree, a cone-flower and a shrub rose, are a fine collection of unusual prairie flowers including Joe-Pye Weed, Wild Senna, a raspberry wine Monarda, a cup plant (tall with yellow flowers) and several others. Along the side and back of the home are daylilies, a honeysuckle growing on a trellis, a Jack Frost Forget Me Not, and a baron strawberry called Bishop's Pot. Near a nicely laid out deck are a raised bed of annuals, plus a Lady's Mantle, a beautiful smoke bush and several varieties of hosta.

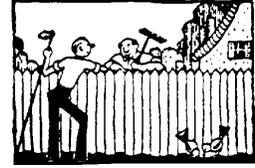
## Carlson's Garden

At Chuck & Marion Carlson's house, garden club members will find a multitude of unusual and attractive perennials planted all around the house. The front yard is especially pleasing, with long rows of hens and chicks, several types of perennial grasses, plus Poppys, Penstemon, Asiatic lilies, a variegated Wiegelia, a Heleopsis and a milk cactus.

"I like the unusual plants," Chuck says, pointing out many variegated varieties of plants. There is a beautiful Artemisia called Oriental Lime Light, and several varieties and colors of Campanula. Chuck belongs to the North American Rock Garden Club, so naturally, there is a handsome rock garden planted with several types of small, delicate flowers.

On the north side of the house, there is a Ligulara, a Double Blood Root, a red Trillium,

*(Continued on page 7)*



## August Tour Continued

*(Continued from page 6)*

a Jack in the Pulpit and a unique Empress tree that grows near the house. There is more in the back yard too; don't forget to ask Chuck about his upside down tomato plant!

### **Weber's Garden**

Lloyd and Patti Weber have hosted two garden tours in the past, and one look at their magnificent groupings of perennials, trees, arborvitae and evergreens and you'll understand why everyone loves coming to their garden. There are 150 day lilies, 150 hostas, including a miniature hosta garden, 100 Iris, 60 Oriental lilies, and 25 Peonies - and that's just the beginning. There is a wondrous mixture of perennials, a French bistro, complete with table, chairs and wine glasses, a wall of arborvitae, a grandparents' and parents' garden of traditional family plants, a beautiful Japanese Lilac Tree, a thornless Hawthorne tree, and a rock garden dedicated to their grandchildren that includes a toy train, boat and cars. Wow!

As beautiful as this garden is, the Webers have gone the extra mile by nicely labeling nearly every perennial in their garden with raised markers. A luncheon will be served at the Webers, to allow everyone to sit and relax and take in the beauty of this garden. And, Lloyd promises to show off his extensive collection of antique blow torches to anyone who is interested.

### **Rust's Garden**

When Denise Rust and her husband, Jeff built their house in Brooklyn Park in 1983, they had a large backyard with a grouping of trees, bushes and flowers. As the years have gone by, Denise has added a little here and a little there until a very special garden has evolved. There are more than 100 varieties of lilies and hostas, 25 types of Iris, Delphiniums, Sedum, birdhouses, a shade garden with wild violets (Denise makes jelly out of the flowers!), a large vegetable garden, two pear trees, and

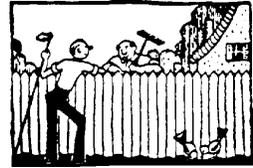
special rocks brought all the way from the North Shore and the Black Hills. There is also a beautiful Amur Maple Tree, a spectacular wall of evergreen trees, and a nice Birch tree clump in the front yard.

### **Join The Group**

If you would like to join the August 8 tour, complete and mail the registration form found in this newsletter on page 11.



# Photo memories from The July Tour



Photos by Lloyd Wittstock & Chuck Carlson. Can you name the garden they were in?



# July Tour Reflections

By Chuck Carlson

I asked the garden hosts to give me some insights from the visitors. to do this I asked them two questions.

1. What did they like the best?
2. What question was asked the most?

## At The Maynard's Garden

It was hard to tell what they liked the best — maybe the lemonade. Or the immense hosta Montana aureomarginata (waist-high). Or maybe the clematis 'Comtesse de Bourchard' that was looking particularly lovely. Or maybe the Off! Lanterns that kept the mosquitoes away in a couple of shady spots. Another thing I liked was Audrey Grote's comment about my garden. She said, "You know what I like about your garden? It seems possible!"

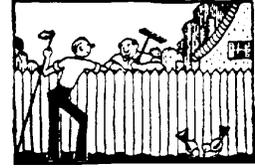
The single most-asked question was about my 'Golden Curls' willow. I told them all the story about Chuck starting it from trimmings from the Peace Garden trees. On Sunday, I carried my pruners with me and handed out cuttings. Margaret and Ellyn (garden monitors) got a kick out of seeing all the visitors who left with willow branches.

## At The Petterson's Bookstore

Everyone wanted to know how to do the window boxes. Answer - Start the plants early in the liners indoors, feed and water them everyday, use contrasting plants for flower and foliage.

As an interesting side bar we had Salpiglosis bolero growing in the boxes and in the ground. The contrast of their growing habit in the two situations was interesting. Much nicer in the box.

Also, we made a number of converts to the use of parsley and other foliage edibles in



the container or the border.

## At The Redmond's Garden

Bob said there was many comments about the bird houses, garden birds, vine poles and other structures. Most of the questions were about the various wave petunias.

## At The Geister's Garden

People certainly enjoyed the water falls and also, I think people when they are in the front yard and see just a few plants, planters, quote just a "normal" front yard and then when they enter the back yard, they are totally suprised. Two questions were asked the most, What is the large jagged leaf plant in alot of our containers? It is a plant called cardoons. If you grew up on a farm like I did, it looks like a giant bull thistle and it would be one of the first things you would get rid of. In the seed catalog it was described as gorgeous, bold, architectural looking plant .Beauty must be in the eye of the beholder?

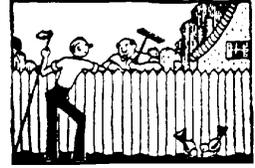
Another question that was frequently asked was how much time do you spend in the garden? It is a question you would sometimes just as soon not want to know. It is like asking how much money did you spend this spring on plants and seeds? Sometimes it certainly best not to know for your own sanity. If you knew, you would probably feel you needed to be committed.

## At the Shannon's Garden

The biggest question was how we aquired the property. As you all know it does have a unique property line. Jerry didn't tell me specifically, but from what I have heard the property next door to them when on sale and they purchased it. They then attached some of the backyard to their own property and then resold the next door property with a much smaller back yard.

## At the Dahl's Garden

No comments were received in time for this newsletter. But, I suspect ther were many questions about the roses, the tanks of John's own mix of fertilizer and his home grown annuals.



# The Poets Corner

*Editors note: Howard Berg found this poem in the arkives of MGCM. Kathryn is the daughter of Ed Culbert one of our passed members who has since passed on to a better garden.*

## The Gardener

By Kathryn Culbert

Father has a garden plot  
out back by the alley.  
Of vegetables and such he grows  
I tried to keep a tally

Carrots, beans and cucumbers  
he has them by the score.  
And planted in those very rows  
grow multi-many more

High above those earthy plants  
ascending toward the skies  
Tomatoes, juicy, plump and red  
and grapes and raspberries

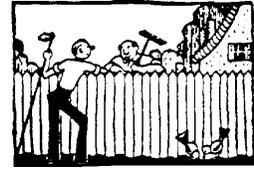
A most unusual gardener  
a seemly unique man  
I saw him once grow strawberries  
through holes in a can

He spent a thousand years or more  
building his flower bed.  
Returning finally in at dusk  
sporting a sunburned head

Worn overalls and red sweatband  
we called him "Sunday best".  
An extraordinary man  
His garden will attest

**D a T o**  
**o t t o n**  
**n e r t**  
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**f t n 8th**  
**o h e &**  
**r e t h e 21st**  
**g A e**  
**e u g F &**  
**t u F**  
**o s F. 22nd**  
**t**

**Note: The tour bus will depart from the Weber's Home. See directions below. Reservation form below with is due by August 4. See you at the tour.**



The committee really suggests to ride the bus but if you must drive your own car, you can follow the bus. Directions to the Weber's house and garden is as follows: Get to 694 in the northern suburbs via Highways 494, 100, 169, 65, 94, 35W, 35E or any other street. From 694 turn north on East River Road. Travel north on East River Road until Osborn Road. Here turn Left, go on this road always bearing left and you will get to Alden Way. The Webers home is at 7635 Alden Way in Fridley.

*August Members Tour  
Reservation for the Bus and Picnic Supper at Webers  
Sunday, August 8, 2004*

Members Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Meals

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places on the bus

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations @ \$16.00 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservation and payment must be received no later than August 4.  
Send to Denise Rust, 7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444-2071.**



# MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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## THE SPRAY

*The Garden Spray* is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc. for its members. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

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# The Garden Spray

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