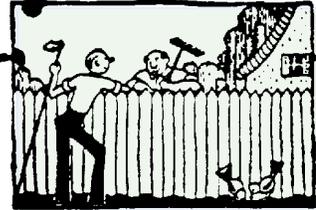




The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2004, Volume 62, Number 2



MGCM Schedule

2004 Meetings

Date	Location	Event
Feb. 10	LHC	Color Themes with Annuals by Duane Otto
March 9	LHC	Program
April 6*	LHC	Flower Show Field/Bachman
May 4**	WLC	Plant Auction
June 8	TBD	Garden Tour
July TBD	TBD	Public Tour
Aug. 21-22	ARB.	FFF Show
Sept. 14	LHC	Program
October 12	LHC	Program
Nov. 9	LHC	Program
Nov. 26	KGC	Wreath Making
Dec. 7	LHC	Holiday Party

TBD= To Be Determined

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

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Gathering & Conversation -----6:00 pm

Dinner-----6:30 pm

Business Meeting-----7:00 pm approx.

Program-----7:30 pm approx.

The Program

**Color Themes with Annuals
by Duane Otto**

Duane Otto is a Landscape Gardener at the Arboretum. His talk, "Color Themes with Annuals", will demonstrate the thinking behind his annual displays at the Arboretum over the past few years and some of the new annuals he has used.

Duane is a Landscape Gardener at the Arboretum and has been for 16 years. A Landscape Gardener is our equivalent of a curator. His areas include most of the annual plantings, the Spiegel Garden (at the entry to the Snyder Building), the MacMillan Garden (just off the Morgan Terrace right behind the Snyder building), the Slade Perennial Garden, the Dahlias, the containers and any other annual exhibits.

Duane and his wife Renee own FloraDora gardens in Watertown. Peter Olin thinks he is one of the best designers with annuals in the area. He has done some very bold plantings and is always willing to take chances with new annuals based only on the catalogue description and the pictures, some of which can be very misleading. He has a long string of success with his plantings at the Arboretum.

Two examples of annual displays at the Arboretum



See page 11 For Dinner Reservation Details-----Permanent reservations are in effect.

Utterances From The Prez

By Ellyn Hosch

This is the time of year that I review my garden and decide what to change in the coming garden season. It has been a couple of years since my background garden was installed. Each year I make some changes—adding a perennial here or there. Sometimes I'm doing it because of the great new plant I want to try, and sometimes I'm doing it to replace a plant that just didn't make it through the winter.

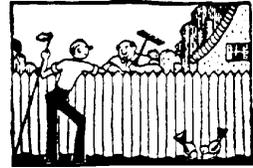
I took Chuck's advice from the last Spray and have been browsing the on-line catalogs. I've found a couple of new plants that have caught my eye:

Echinacea 'Art's Pride' PPAF (Orange Meadowbrite Coneflower) - if this flower lives up to the picture on the Plant Delights website, it will be a delight. It is described as a "rustic orange", which would be a great addition to my late summer garden.

Athyrium niponicum 'Burgundy Lace' PPAF - this is a Lady Fern with burgundy stems and a lovely combination of green, burgundy and silver leaves. Perfect for the shady spots!

These two will go into my backyard garden along with lots of annuals. For annuals, I'm leaning toward time-tested "oldies but goodies". The last issue of Fine Gardening featured old-fashioned annuals. Finding room for some four o'clock, cosmos, and Joseph's coat shouldn't be too hard.

Last year I lost my Pagoda Dogwood to canker, and I've been researching small trees for a suitable replacement. Finding a small tree for part shade with year-round interest is proving to be a tough assignment. Any



suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

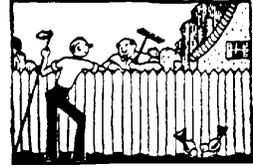
I'm sure that after the January program I will have even more ideas for plants to fill my small garden. There is always room for one more.

Happy Gardening!



Echinacea
'Orange Meadowbrite' Coneflower
Photo from Monrovia's website

For you black & white readers
color me orange



What Am I



**You don't know.
Here is another hint**



**If you still don't know
or want to see how
smart you are go to
page 10**

Rookie Of The Year

The rookie of the year for 2003 is Don Stuewe. This is all do to his efforts as a new member of 2003. It should be noted that he has also become a new member of the 2004 board where he has become the new Membership Secretary. Congratulations & Thanks



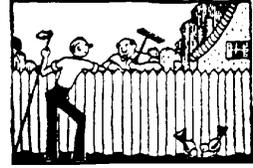
Don Stuewe Rookie of The Year, 2003

A Garden is a place----

**"To boldly grow where
no one has groan before.**

David Hobson

"You hosta have 'em."



Last Month's Program

By Lloyd Wittstock

Jewels of the Garden in January

When Duane Reynolds speaks, he takes you into his world, a comforting place where understated plants both familiar and obscure (Artemisia to rock soapwort—*Saponaria ocyroides*) thrive in spite of rabbits who read plant labels to zero in on those with the highest prices. A world where families labor together mightily to create stone walls—when Duane can talk them into doing the part involving labor. And a world where delicate, short-lived bloodroot blooms rejuvenate your spirits in the spring—and the weed whip is revved up to deadhead the perennial geraniums.

Duane gave the members present on January 13 a relaxed tour through 76 slides, mostly of individual small perennials that he verbally planted, watered and appraised. A few were given their provenance as well (a *Amsonia tabernaemontana* 'Blue Star' from the Shannons, a *Potentilla alba* from Peter Ashley).

Being primarily rock garden plants, the bulk of his selections do well in part sun or shade, and he pointed out that many would benefit from a winter straw cover (rock cress, *Penstemon hirsutus*). But *Sedum sieboldii* and *Epimedium niveum* (watered often) are found along with hens and chicks in his sunnier garden spots.

Although Duane rated many of the plants he selected for the evening, most were pronounced either "excellent" or "favorite," so we knew we were seeing the "A list."

From this presentation alone, we could develop Duane's principles:

- Bring in rocks for walls or accents, but break up their hard visual lines with

small perennials.

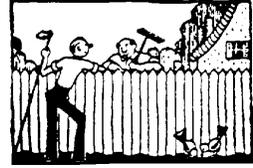
- Brighten up the darkness with reflective or bright colored plants such as flax.
- Work in different textures and colors for interest (for example, *Armeria maritima* 'Thrift' and *Artemisia* 'Silver Mound').
- Water your rock plants often.
- Observe, learn, and accept.

As for the reader rabbits, he suggests a live-and-let-live strategy. Try planting buffalo poppy (*Callirhoe involucrata*) and let them feast on that and hope they leave the rest alone. (No animals were harmed in the preparation of the Reynolds' garden or of this report.)

"Time began in a garden."

**"A garden is a friend
you can visit any time."**

**"Cares melt when you
kneel in your garden."**



Board Meetings

Board meetings have been scheduled for the ends of the month rather than the first of the month. Thus the meeting reports will be delayed by one month due to the newsletter deadlines for publication.

The February Board meeting will be held on February 24 at the home of M. Oelke.



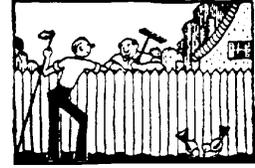
New Board Elected

The general election was held at the January meeting. The following were elected to serve during the 2004 MGCM year.

- Ellyn Hosch President
- Peter Olin Vice President
- Don Stuewe Membership Secretary
- Mary Oelke Recording Secretary
- Dave Johnson Treasurer
- Nancy Bjerke Past President
- Rudy Allebach Director
- Leroy Cech Director
- David McKeen Director



*The 2004 Board sworn in by Ritchie Miller
Leroy Cech, Mary Oelke, Ritchie Miller, Nancy Bjerke, Ellyn Hosch, Peter Olin, Rudy Allebach, &
Dave Johnson. Don Stuewe & Dave McKeen missing from photo*



Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

There is no such thing as too much variety — unless you don't want your garden to look like a hopeless jumble.

While I am always trying to simplify my own personal jumble, but I know I'll continue to keep a lot of my favorite specimens. Here are a four more of my favorites:

Bistort, *Persicaria bistorta*

I first saw bistort at River Glen Gardens near Sauk Center. (If you've never visited Ron Wienhold's huge garden, you're missing something. It's private, and you need to make arrangements with Ron to see it, but he gladly offers tours for a small fee. It's worth it.)

While I've never gotten my sample to look as stunning as Ron's, it's a sturdy perennial with a pretty long bloom time. Over the years, it has formed a bigger and bigger clump, but it doesn't run all over the place or anything like that. My clump is growing in mostly sun and doesn't seem to be bothered by pests or diseases, although Margaret Hibberd has the same plant and gets a fair amount of damage from rabbits. (I have suggested that Margaret needs new neighbors, since my next-door neighbor has 4 outside cats, and my rabbit problems are pretty minimal. On the other hand, I do get noticeable cat damage as all four of them bound through the gardens.)

Orphanage plant, *Kalimeris incisa*

I got this at Ambergate gardens many

years ago. It grows in appalling conditions, not nearly enough sun, nasty unimproved clay soil, aggressive neighbors, and still keeps going. The small single white flowers bloom almost all summer, and would bloom even longer with some pruning. Orphanage plant grows about 24-30" tall in my garden. It's a really nice plant that deserves better treatment than I give it. Maybe 2004 will be the year that I move it to a nicer spot!

Clematis *recta*

This is a wonderful plant. The new leaves are a nice soft purple-green, and in late spring or early summer it is covered with small white flowers.

And it will rebloom later in the year if sheared. I have never done this, being a "Lazy Gardener", but Marilyn Brummer's clematis *recta* looks wonderful later in the year. I believe she prunes back pretty severely after it has bloomed. It's a bushy, trailing plant that does best if grown up

through a tomato hoop or other kind of support. Between the purplish leaves and the white flowers, it provides a long season of interest in the garden.

Persian Cornflower, *Centaurea dealbata*

This isn't the easiest perennial to find around town, but it's interesting while it's blooming. It forms a nice clump of pretty foliage, and in late spring puts out a display of pink flowers that are quite similar in form to *centaurea montana*. Unlike *centaurea montana*, it only reseeds

sparingly, which is a good thing. But it doesn't rebloom after shearing like *C. montana*, either, and that's not so good, since the flowers don't last more than a couple of weeks. But the foliage stays nice all year, and it has been very hardy and pest-free.

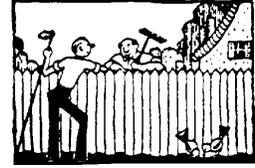
So there are four more reasons why my garden will never be a showcase. But I'm not really sorry! I just like variety.



Persicaria Bisorta



Centaurea dealbata



The Top Ten

Signs that You Have Gone Over the Gardening Edge

from: <http://www.gardenersnet.com/fun/topone.htm>

10. Your favorite poem is "Roses are Red, Violets are Blue."
9. Your kids are named Rose, Violet, Daisy, and Zucchini.
8. You have 8 x 10 family pictures of your tomatoes and peppers on your office shelf.
7. Your idea of Saturday Date Night is going out in the garden and hand pollinating the plants.
6. You think a cocktail is liquid fertilizer.
5. You rush home from work and go straight to the garden and hug your roses. (Ouch!) Then, you go in to your house and see your family.
4. On Christmas Eve, visions of "sugar peas" dance in your head.
3. After the first frost, you are seen holding funeral services in your garden.
2. You take your kids multiple vitamins from them to use as a supplement to your plants' fertilizer.

...and the Number One sign that you have gone over the gardening edge:

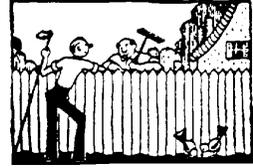
1. Every spring your family files a "Missing Person" report. You remain missing all summer and mysteriously reappear in the fall.

Found in "The Tiller" a newsletter from The Gardeners Club of Green Bay Wisconsin



Photographing Flowers

For those of us who spent the winter trapped inside, spring means, among other things, an irresistible chance to grab the camera and start capturing the first blooms of Spring. Yet, how do you turn those shots of your favorite blooms into something special? Here are some tips on how to take better flower pictures from the world's largest photography school, New York Institute of Photography (NYI). First, walk around the flower to see how it looks with light coming from different directions. Watch carefully when the light (usually, the sun) is behind the flower, coming toward the camera. Often, the petals will glow with beautiful iridescence. This is called "backlighting". Backlighting is often the best type of lighting for translucent subjects like petals. However, don't despair if there is no sun. Gray and overcast days provide great opportunities for flower photography. The lighting is more even and there are no shadows. Even night photography is an option. You'll be surprised at how attractive a flower photo can be when illuminated by flash. To make a flower picture come alive, wait until something adds life to the flower. Maybe a bee alights, or a spider crawls into it, or a hummingbird pays a visit. It takes patients, but it can pay off. Try interesting angles and backgrounds. Consider getting down low on the ground or shooting with the wide angle setting on your lens. Don't despair if the background behind the flower is unattractive. Try replacing it with a colored piece of paper or fabric. There are lots of different ways you can experiment when photographing flowers! For the complete article on photographing flowers plus some great flower photos, visit the New York Institute of Photography website at <http://www.nyip.com/>



Getting To Know Our Past Presidents

*Data collected by our Historian Howard Berg edited by Chuck Carlson
Editors note: This is a series of past presidents in the club who are still members in the club. This is an attempt to make the club a bit more personable by getting to know our members better.*

Fred Glasoe 36th President in 1977

Fred joined our club in 1972 when the Richfield Men's Garden Club merged with us.

He lives in the eastern area of south Minneapolis with his wife Beth and has had a home garden there for years. He grows a bit of everything. Hostas, roses, and dahlias are some which predominate. A water feature also resides in his small, but flower packed, city backyard.

His occupation was a horticulture instructor and retired as a public school teacher in the St. Paul Public Schools and Learning Centers. Fred is also part of a call-in-talk show on Saturday morning on KSTP radio. The show is billed as the Home and Garden Show. Fred, known as Freddy the Gardener, answers all the garden related questions whereas his cohort takes the questions on home repair. Fred has been the chairman of the legislative committee of the Minnesota Horticulture Society, officer in the Violet Society, member and director of Minnesota Dahlia Society, member of Lily Society, member of Citizens' Commission to Keep Water Levels in the Lakes of Minneapolis, member of Rose Society and authored many gardening articles for the Minnesota State Horticultural Society's magazine. In later years he lectured on gardening at Bachman's Garden Center where he also serves the public

as a garden answer man.

Fred O. Glasoe has been since 1972, a member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Here he has served well; being on the board of directors, secretary, president of the club in 1977 and a bronze medal winner in 1982. Fred had seven years of perfect attendance at club meetings from 1976 to 1982.

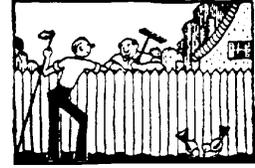
His objectives have been to create an inward desire in the members and himself to grow and propagate plants to the recognized standards of competitive growers. Fred also gives us these thoughts; I would like to know more gardeners; I would like to see more members telling and showing what they have done in gardening; there should be a broader base of interest in garden shows and tours.

Now for the lover of food. Many times he has mentioned food on his radio show but I believe he is most happy when he goes to the Sons of Norway gathering where Torsk and boiled potatoes are served. I think they also use aquavit to wash it all down. I know he also attends any church dinner offering that old Scandinavian meal of lutefisk. So you can gather that he is Norsk through and through.

Fred has always been a fixture at most of our meetings but lately he has been missed. The reason being, his physical problems that have occurred since his knee replacement. We wish Fred a recovery so we can again have his presence at our meetings.

**"Roses are red,
Violets are blue;
But they don't get around
Like the dandelions do."**

Slim Acres



Getting To Know Our Members

Data collected by our Historian
Howard Berg edited by Chuck Carlson

Delores Johnson

Gardening partner of Dave Johnson

She was born in the town of Barrett, in western Minnesota just west of Alexandria.

After her high school education she became a Registered Nurse at the Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota then a Bachelor of Science at the College of St. Frances in Joliet Illinois and a Master of Arts at the University of St. Thomas. All this resulted in a professional position as Nurse Manager of Orthopedics, at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, Minnesota

One of her volunteer activities as a YMCA's Y's Menettes. Dave and Delores have also spent many hours for the Gustavus Adolphus College Linnaeus Arboretum. I remember a couple of their tasks was to get 10,000 daffodils planted and another was hosting a luncheon in their garden for the Friends of the Gustavus Arboretum.

She joined our club in 1994, I am sure at the suggestion of Dave. Delores has been member of a number of committees Some of these were Tours, Plant Auction, 60th Anniversary, Holiday Party, and the Perennial Garden. Dave and Delores had their garden on many tours for our club and for the Scholarship Fund.

Three things peak her interest in gardening, they are growing under lights, growing roses and growing annuals. You can imagine Dave was her sponsor. She claimed she joined to learn more about gardening and to have fellowship with other gardeners.

Her most gratifying experience in the

club was to realize all the hard work is worth while, when I collect all the ribbons on our specimens at the Flower, Food, Foto show.

We were all disappointed when Dave & Delores sold their house on Cutacross Road since there has been many good times in their garden. We also thought they were through gardening but seeing the gardens at their new digs we had no doubts that old gardeners never quit, they just reseed, water and weed.

February

By Chuck Carlson

February, the month of love and hearts.
The candy and the flowers just fill the carts.
So send them when it's handy,
And become to your significant, a dandy.
You should celebrate February with love.
Since it is the greatest as stated from above.

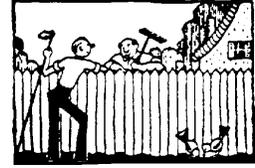
Yes, celebrate February with great abandon.
The snow and clouds will come in tandem.
It is the month gardeners can plan and read,
And wait for the sun, make the snow recede.
If you get "antsy" and garden you must,
Be sure you select those plants, you can trust.

If you plant some that are popping their head,
In the medium, in which they were spread,
They will need to be pricked out and sowed,
In another container to become big and bold.
They need light and water for months to come
Before seedlings they do become.

But, be wary which seeds you start,
Since some will struggle and fall apart.
Some such as tomatoes and radicchio,
Need only weeks before going alfresco.
Thus wait until March, April, or May,
To seed those that need only a short delay.

You got another poem since space
needed to be filled and not enough copy was
provided by you.

A Happy February and Valentines Greeting to All



What Am I Disclosed

I am Stramonium (stra-MO-nee-um) but more commonly I am known as Datura, Jimson Weed, Angel Trumpet, or Downy Thorn Apple.

I have been cultivated in some human's gardens because of my beautiful upright trumpet flower. That is why I am called 'Angel Trumpet'. My flower can be as large as five inches across and I begin to bloom by mid-season and continue until frost.

I am a wonderful self seeder of which literally hundreds I can produce. Poor soil, full sun, a fair amount of water are my favorites. It is all I need to be a show stopper. I am probably a weed to most and particular to those in warmer climates and probably why my common name is Jimson Weed. However, one would not expect such a glorious display from a weed. I am also known as the "downy thorn apple" because of my sharp, spiny, green seed pod. Be advised though my seeds are poisonous as is the rest of my body so don't ingest any part of me. Since, I have been known to make cows bellow and men make fools of themselves and even pass on to the big garden in the sky. I can be invasive in a pasture or field situation and will show up in the garden at various locations after once growing there.

Grow me once and you will be growing me again and I will make a statement. I can be hard to transplant because of my large tap root so direct seed me "in situ". Wasn't that a big little word for a weed. I have been receiving some attention by the horticultural community, since they have been giving me some gene therapy. See one of my offspring shown below in his purple glory. Not only that yellow and peach colors have been added. See you in the garden.

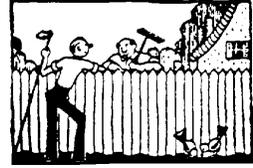


*Angel TrumpetBallerina Purple
From Park's Seeds*

*I was grown and photographed by my
friend Chuck C.*



*For you black & white readers
color me purple & white*



Reservations for Dinner Meetings Permanent reservations are in effect.

Permanent reservations are shown by the “p” on the mailing lable or the email message for those receiving the newsletter by email
Reservations or cancellations are necessary by the Friday before the meeting.
Call or email Carole Ann Brekke for your reservation or cancellations.

You are responsible for the cost if not cancelled.

For reservations or cancellations
Carole Ann at phone 952-435-6029) or
Email numsix24@attbi.com.

For last minute cancellations call Dave Johnson Phone 763-571-2713
If hecan sell it, you won't be billed.



*Mary Maynard, Carole Ann Breke, Lynda Carlson, Chuck Carlson, Nancy Bjerke, & Kay Wolfe
Green Thumb Winners Photo By Lloyd Wittstock*



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Ellyn Hosch
 436 Sheridan Ave So, Minneapolis, MN55405-1913
 Vice-President: Peter Olin
 1958 Summer Street, Falcone Heights MN55113-5523
 Recording Secretary: Mary Oelke
 5745 Duncan Lane, Edina, MN 55346-1603
 Membership Secretary: Don Stuewe
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 Treasurer: Dave Johnson
 5291 Matterhorn Dr., Fridley, MN 55421-1324
 Past President: Nancy Bjerke
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DIRECTORS:

Rudy Allebach
 3414 The Mall, Minnetonka MN 55345-1239
 David McKeen
 2834 Vernon Ave So, St Louis Park, MN 55416-1840
 LeRoy Cech
 212 Interlachen Road, Burnsville MN55306-6427

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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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 Charles J. Carlson, Editor
 1001 Hackman Circle
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February