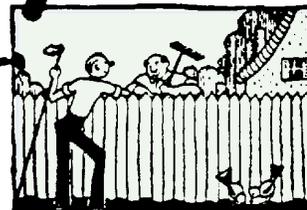




The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2004, Volume 62, Number 7



MGCM Schedule

The Year-2004

This Month

Date	Location	Event
July 10 & 11		Public Tour Scholarships
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

Public Tour Tour

July 10 & 11, 2004

Yes the date is coming up fast, make sure you attend and help out as hosts. It is the only way to obtain funds for the scholarship program.

Biennial Garden Tour Tickets

All members should have received their tickets to sell for the biennial club GARDENS OF DISTINCTION TOUR. Please let Kent Petterson know (at 612-332-1821) if you need additional tickets. Although the committee has worked hard on general publicity, we do rely on members for the majority of ticket sales revenue. Please do your best to contact neighbors, friends, fellow gardeners and colleagues not only to sell the tickets but to give the club and it's programs including our scholarship program a boost. Unsold tickets and money should be sent to Denise Rust, 7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444 by July 1st.

Hosts

Also, we are still in need of hosts at the gardens for both days. Please call Dave Johnson (763-571-2713) to sign up to help. Thanks!!

Kent Petterson for the committee

LHC= Lake Harriet Church

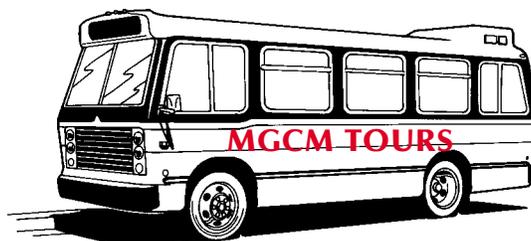
WLC= Westwood Lutheran Church

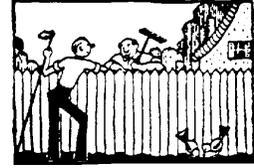
KGC= Klier's Garden Center

FFF= Food Flower & Foto Show

* early start time 5:30 pm

** early start time other details in the May newsletter





Utterances From The Prez

By Ellyn Hosch



In my April column, I told you about the Board's decision to have a Yes or No vote on whether we should change our name at the September general club meeting. At the September vote, new candidate names will not be part of the balloting. If the vote is against a name change, no further voting will be required. If the vote is for a name change, a second vote will be held at another meeting to select one of the candidate names.

I thought it would be worthwhile to review the voting requirements as outlined in our Member's Handbook. Article II, Meeting of Members, states the following in Section 6, Vote of the Membership:

"Unless otherwise stated in the Articles of Incorporation or the By-Laws of the Club, any motion before the membership shall carry when the greater of: two-thirds of a quorum, or a majority of those present, votes for it. Votes shall be taken only at meetings called in accordance with these By-Laws and only when a quorum is present."

Section 5 of Article II defines a quorum as:

"Forty percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum. A quorum call shall be in order at the start of any meeting or before any vote."

As of our May Board meeting, the club membership stood at 113 members. Since a quorum is forty percent of the membership, a quorum is 45 members. If we have a quorum at our September meeting, at least 30 members would need to vote Yes in order for the

motion to carry. If 60 or more members are present, then the motion will carry with a Yes vote by 51% of those present. If fewer than 45 members are in attendance at the September meeting, the vote will not be held.

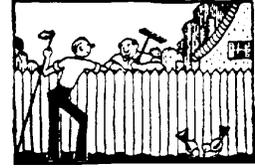
I urge each of you to attend the September meeting to express your opinion and to vote on this important matter. If you would like to speak at the meeting, please contact Mary Oelke. She will keep the list of speakers. If you have a strong opinion, you can share it with your fellow club members. A Yes or No vote will be held after members' opinions are communicated.

Between now and the September meeting, we have a couple of great club events planned. On July 10th and 11th, we will hold our 7th Biennial Garden Tour. Sell those tickets! On August 8th, we have a Member's Tour—always a fun event. Finally, on August 21st and 22nd, we have the Flower, Food and Foto Show.

Make sure these events are on your calendar!

"Gardens are not made by sitting in the shade."

Rudyard Kipling



Last Month's June Tour

Photos & words by Chuck Carlson

The June tour was appreciated by all who attended. From; the Venero Garden's Nursery and their excellent gardens, the Gowen's nursery and gardens with the terrific Hosta glade, to the home garden of Tim & Karen McCauley. What impressed me was the gardens at Veneros which were not only well layed out and beautiful but they allowed you to see how the plants they sell look in a garden setting. Also who couldn't say what a terrific job the McCauly's did with their seven acre lot which started out as a pararie. They had wonderful garden beds around the house and all those varieties of lilacs and peonies. There must have been at least 50 varieties of each.

Then Karen provided us with delicious hors d' oeuvres and a picnic dinner to end a wonderful outing.

Thanks to all who planned the event and to our garden hosts and a special thanks to Tim & Karen.

I have included a few pictures on this page and a few peony pictures through-out the newsletter.



Above, one of the pools at Venero's Garden.

Below left, Roger & Kak Koopmans looking over the Hosta specimens.

Below right, Elisabeth Hamilton, tour chair serving Bob Olson the picnic lunch at McCauleys



Board Meeting Summary

Sumarized from Mary Oelke's Secretarial Report

May 25, 2004

Board Members Present: Leroy Cech, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Dave McKeen, Mary Oelke, Don Stuewe, Don Trocke

Absent: Rudy Allebach, Nancy Bjerke

President's Report

Ellyn will include a message about the September Name Change Vote in her *Garden Spray* article. An e-mail was received from Casey Meshbeshier regarding the memorial plaques in the Vision Loss Garden which was once maintained by MGCM. This area is going to be redone by the city. Ellyn will visit the site to look at the plaques.

Vice-president's Report

The June event is the Peony Garden Tour at Tim McCauleys, 325 West 82nd Street, Chaska. The tour is scheduled for Sunday, June 13.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the April 27th board meeting were approved as sent out.

Treasurer's Report

Another memorial for Walt Gustafson was received. There is now \$400 in the Memorial Fund. The plant auction netted \$3807.05. This was \$400 more than the budgeted profit.

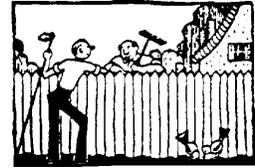
The treasurer's report was approved.

Membership Secretary's Report

Applications for membership have been received from Rebecca Kruse and Terry Shaw. The current MGCM membership is 113.

Garden Spray Committee

Chuck Carlson will come to the September Board Meeting to discuss the handling of



The Garden Spray after he retires in 2005.

Old Business

Bob Voigt will coordinate volunteers for the Wirth-while Weekend Event being co-sponsored by MGCM. This event will be held at Rose Garden on June 20 at noon.

New Business

The Board discussed an invitation to compete in the 2004 Minnesota Renaissance Festival Competition. It was decided not to involve the club in this activity.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 29 at 7PM at the home of Don Trocke, 10625 Bush Lake Road, Bloomington.



*Peony at Gowens.
A large Violet/ pink bloom
with an ivory center.*

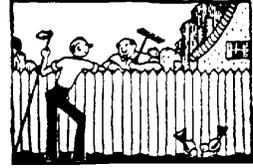
Lazy Gardening and Flower Arranging.

By Mary Maynard

Many of you know that there is a Floral Design Division in our Flower, Food and Foto Show. And those of you who have been to the show may have noticed that we do not suffer from an overabundance of entries in the Design Division. And, while we have shown occasional flashes of brilliance in Design, in general there is room for improvement. Our judges, who are floral design experts, are very diplomatic about our entries.

Last year, to try to do something different, I decided to actually learn something about floral design. There are some really good books in our public libraries, with lovely illustrations. For a beginner like me, I think the best book I found was *Creative Flower Arranging: Floral Design for Home and Flower Show* by Betty Belcher, c. 1993. (The Hennepin County Library has four copies of this book, and it is available from Amazon.) The author is a long-time garden club member, judge and instructor. I found it very informative and not intimidating, and I was able to actually apply some of these principles at the show. There are other good basic books about floral design, and some of the books about Japanese flower arranging techniques were very intriguing.

One of the things that I like about entering floral designs at FFF is that I can do them ahead of time. Unlike Elizabeth Johnson, who has done some wonderful designs “on the fly” in past years, I need to take time for inspiration to visit me — if it



comes at all. And I haven’t tried anything so daring that it would be difficult to transport.

Another thing I like about floral designs is that, in general, they don’t need to use up a lot of flowers. Since FFF requires that flowers be “garden grown” (not our own gardens, necessarily, but not greenhouse-grown), I have often worried about stripping my garden for designs. Also, I don’t always have a lot of good-looking blooms after selecting the best ones for specimen display. But I have learned that a person can do some very stunning things with three flowers — sometimes even just one flower — with interesting foliage and a good container.

If any of you are interested in trying your hand at floral arranging, the FFF is a good place to get your feet wet. I encourage you to give it a try. This year, the theme for the design categories is The Wizard of Oz, and the categories are

- 1. Over the Rainbow:
Arrangement of mixed colors.
- 2. Munchkins:
Miniature arrangement
(not more than 6" in any dimension)
- 3. Yellow Brick Road:
Warm colors
- 4. Scarecrow:
Arrangement incorporating dried materials
- 5. Tin Man:
Using a recycled container (need not be made of tin)

Why not try your hand at an arrangement or two for the FFF this year? Show participants get into the Arboretum for free!



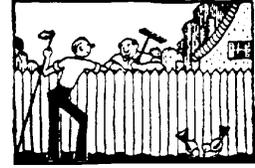


Photo Contest

By Lloyd Wittstock

Photo Contest Slims Down

For the first time in the twelve years of its existence the photo contest has narrowed down to one section by dropping slides. This is important to all of you who didn't participate in the slide competition, since it puts your photo points into a better position for the trophy.

Of course, the best part of the competition is the sharing of our photos. The photo boards of ribbon winners and a selection of all the other prints will again be on display at the Arboretum and at the September meeting.

The committee has decided to allow photos taken by you to be captured on film or digitally. Once the image is captured, you can scan it, manipulate brightness or contrast by any means, or crop and enlarge by any means. However, images that are manipulated beyond that level, such as composites, unnatural colors, or other special effects must be submitted in their own class, number 14.

As always, we expect lots of prints in the annual, perennial, bulbs, members' gardens, and trees categories. Areas such as roses, container plants, and wild flowers vary from year to year in number and quality, and are always a good bet. You can submit a total of 20 entries but no more than 3 per class. Series, such as time series, can be up to five photos each but are counted as one entry.

The rules have been emailed and mailed to some who have entered previously. If you were missed, get a copy of the rules from Chuck Carlson or Lloyd Wittstock. July 31 is the deadline for submittal.

We hope to see something from the usual contributors, from new entrants, and from those of you who have been away from it for a few years. It's a newer, slimmer contest and we need your participation to keep it interesting.

The August Tour Preview

By Tour Chairman Elizabeth Hamilton

The August Members Garden Tour is in the process of being planned. The date is August 8. It will be a bus tour and we will visit 5 gardens. A meal will be served at the end of the tour.

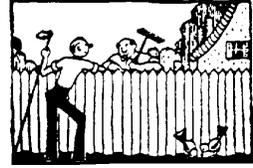
Larry Larsen will be writing an article for the August Spray with all the details.

**"Each garden has its own surprise."
...Susan Allen Toth, in the book,
My Love Affair with England.**



*Peony at McCauleys
Called 'Grace Root'*

This is a wonderful pink with a orange center



Soil Mixes

Editors note

I found this on the internet and thought those of you who grows in pots may be interested. It could also be good if you are creating a micro climate.

Soil Mixes

*contributed by Pat Kaster
from Charley's Greenhouse
and Garden Newsletter*



Mixture #1 - is a basic mix for use with most types of plants:

3 parts organic matter (peat, humus, or sawdust)
1 part sand, perlite, or vermiculite (or a mixture of these).

Mixture #2 - is used for acid-loving plants:

4 parts organic matter
1 part sand, perlite, or vermiculite
Note: for best results, at least one part of the organic matter should be leafmold .

Mixture #3 - for Cacti and Succulents (except the tropical Cacti), and other plants that need good drainage:

3 parts organic matter
2 parts sand, perlite, or vermiculite
Note: for best results, use fine gravel (such as that used in aquariums) for one part of the sand. Chicken / turkey grit could also be used

Mixture #4 - for potting up newly-rooted cuttings of most plants:

2 parts organic matter
1 parts sand, perlite, or vermiculite

Mixture #5 - for newly-rooted cuttings of acid loving plants:

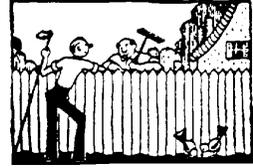
2 parts organic matter
2 parts sand, perlite, or vermiculite
Note: for best results, use one part leafmold for the organic matter.

Mixture #6 - especially for the tropical Cacti, most Bromeliads, and some Orchids:

3 parts bark chips
1 part organic matter
1 part sand, perlite, or vermiculite



A hanging pot at the Arboratum



Perlite and Vermiculite

The previous page provided some different soil mixes and there was a mention of perlite and vermiculite. The following was found on "Be-Leaf It or Not" from The UpBeet Gardener, <http://www.plantea.com>

Popcorn, perlite, and vermiculite have a lot in common. They are processed at high temperatures to make them explode into small, lightweight, puffy pieces. So, what's the difference between perlite and vermiculite? Perlite and vermiculite are valuable components in a growing medium. They provide channels for air and water and they help aerate the soil. They also prevent the potting soil from drying out too quickly because they hold on to moisture.

Here's how they differ:

PERLITE, which is white and nearly round, holds water only on its surface. It is inert, it doesn't break down and its pH is neutral.

VERMICULITE is made from mica, has a shiny brown metallic look and comes in square puffs. It absorbs water, as much as 16 times its weight. Its pH may range from neutral to strongly alkaline.

**"Anyone can have dirt.
Gardener's have soil."**

Unknown

Blueberry Burgers

From NEA Today (Jan. 2004)

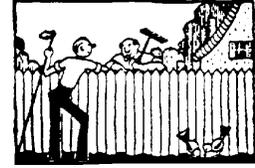
<http://www.nea.org/neatoday/0401/>

Blueberries in hamburgers may soon be the craze in school cafeterias. Food scientists at the University of Maine have discovered that adding blueberry puree or powder to chicken, turkey or beef patties improves the taste, makes burgers juicier and increases the nutritional value.

Blueberry burgers have been recommended for school lunches by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The antioxidants in blueberries may reduce the fat content of burgers, making them a more healthful choice for your diet.



*Peony at McCauleys called Farbo Gold
For you black and white readers
this is a white with a yellow center*



BLACK SPOT BLUES

BY KATHRYN MCKEEN
DEDICATED TO UNCLE MILDEW

**IT'S BEAUTIFUL TO SEE ROSES START
BLOOMING IN MID-MAY,
BUT A STRANGER JUST FLOATED UP FROM THE
GROUND TODAY.**

**THESE SPORES ARE LURKING IN THE GROUND,
HOPING UNSUSPECTING GARDENERS WON'T
KNOW THEY'RE AROUND.**

**INVISIBLE SPORES WAITING FOR THE RIGHT
CONDITIONS,
BY JULY, THEY AROUSE MANY SUSPICIONS.**

**A WARNING YELLOW LEAF AT THE BOTTOM
STARTS THE BLIGHT,
SOON YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN THE DREADED
BLACK SPOT FIGHT.**

**THE TECHNICAL NAME I SHOULD TELL, I
SUPPOSA',
IS THE ROSE BUSH-LEAF-KILLING
DIPLOCARPON ROSA.**

**SOME TIPS ON CONTROL THAT REQUIRE
BEING PERSISTANT,
DON'T BUY ROSES THAT ARE NOT DISEASE
RESISTANT.**

**WATERING ROSE BUSHES AT NIGHT,
WILL MORE TROUBLE INVITE,
AND PROLONG THAT BLACK SPOT FIGHT.**

**PLANT ROSE BUSHES THREE FEET APART,
THAT WILL GET GROWING OFF TO A GOOD
START.**

**ALLOW THE WIND TO BLOW ON THROUGH,
THEY NEED AIR, JUST LIKE YOU!**

**IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE LEAVES
DRY,
OR SPOTS WILL CREEP UP IN THE BLINK OF AN
EYE.**

**TO COMMIT MAXIMUM SPORE HOMICIDE,
YOU MUST SELECT THE RIGHT FUNGICIDE.**

**TWO TYPES OF TREATMENT ARE PREFERRED,
TO USE JUST ONE WOULD BE ABSURD.**

**ONE CHOICE IS A PROTECTANT IN THE FORM
OF A POWDER,
THAT "CONTACTS" AND COVERS ROSE
BUSHES ON THE OUTER.**

**THE OTHER IS A SYSTEMIC IN LIQUID FORMS,
ABSORBED BY THE PLANT THAT IT ADORNS.**

**GARDENERS MUST TRY TO ROTATE THE TWO,
OR THE FUNGUS WILL MUTATE ON YOU!**

**SO A SPRAY SCHEDULE GARDENERS SHOULD
ADOPT,
TO PUT AN END TO THE DREADED BLACK
SPOT.**

**I'VE GIVEN ALL THE BLACK SPOT ADVISE I 'VE
LEARNED,
AND I LEARNED IT FROM EXPERTS NOT TO BE
SPURNED!**

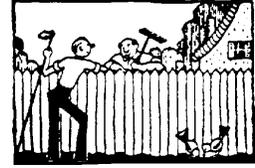
**SO GOOD LUCK TO YOU, I KNOW YOU'LL
NEED,
THE ROSE GROWING GARDENERS ARE A
DIFFERENT BREED!**

**STOPPING BLACK SPOT WILL TAKE MUCH
CONVICTION,
FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE ROSE'S BEAUTY
AND SCENT IS MY PREDICTION,
BUT WATCH OUT, ROSE GROWING QUICKLY
TURNS TO AN ADDICTION!**

Editor's note

*I understand that Uncle Mildew is none other than
our own Mr Rose, Jerry Olson*





Book Review

By Mary Maynard

Annuals for Minnesota and Wisconsin

by Don Engebretson and Don Williamson.

This book, written by award-winning local garden writer Don Engebretson and Don Williamson, is a good guide to growing annuals. The first 46 pages are a general introduction to growing annuals, and would be very useful for the beginning gardener. Sections for getting started, soil preparation, plant selection, garden maintenance and pest problems provide good basic information presented in a readable style with very nice photographs. In fact, the photographs throughout this book are fabulous.

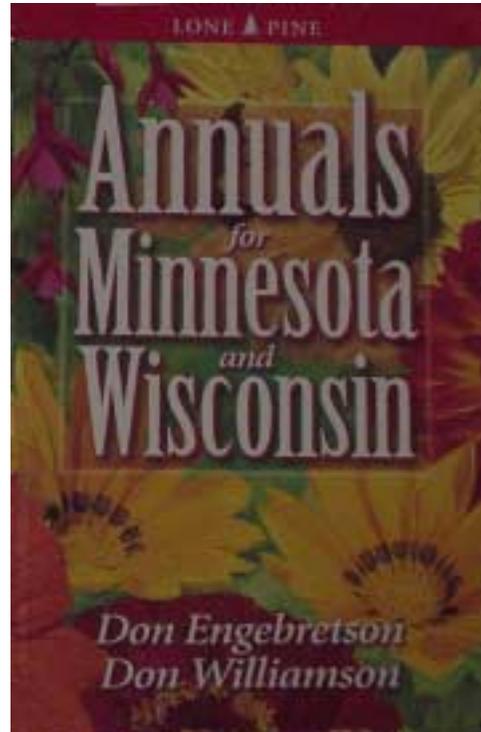
The next 235 pages review individual annual species. For each type, there is a general overview followed by information on growing, special tips, recommended cultivars and hybrids and problems and pests. It is well organized and informative, although some of the problems with particular annuals may be underemphasized, such as going dormant in hot weather. And some of the recommended cultivars are already unavailable, as newer introductions come on the market. Again, for beginners, this is a very useful overview.

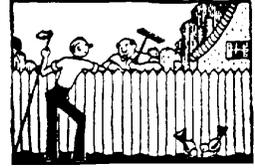
I would not have a beef about this section if it were not organized in order by common name. Granted, few of us remember that marigolds and snapdragons are *tagetes* and *antirrhinum* respectively, but the problem with listing flowers by their common names is that there are often more than one common name. For instance, the sun-loving annual that I've always known as Vinca (*Catharanthus*) is listed under "M" as "Madagascar Periwinkle". And why, oh why would we look for Annual Phlox and Annual Chrysanthemum under "A"? Wouldn't almost

anyone expect to look under "P" for "Phlox, annual"? And how would a beginner expect to find moonflowers and sweet potato vines classified as "Morning Glory"? Yes, they're all *Ipomoea*, but if we knew that, we'd know enough to look things up under "*Ipomoea*".

But before I go off the deep end with this rant, I should point out that the index does list all of the scientific names so, if we're looking for *Torenia* instead of "Wishbone Flower", we can still find it. Just not where we thought it should be.

Overall, I'd recommend this book to someone who is new to gardening. People who already start thousands of annuals under lights each year don't need it, although anyone would enjoy the excellent photographs.





The 7th Scholarship Tour

**Sell those tickets.
Attend the Tour.
Be garden host.**

**The scholarship fund will appreciate your efforts.
See last month's newsletter
and
page 1 of this newsletter
for details.**



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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Happy 4Th of July

**Rember the
 July 10 & 11 MGCM Biennial Tour**