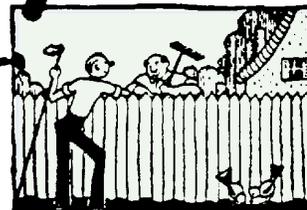




# The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc  
2004, Volume 62, Number 6



## MGCM Schedule

### The Year-2004

### This Month

**Tuesday, June 13, 2004**  
**Members Tour**



Were going to the  
"Drive Yourself June Tour".

This event will occur "rain or shine"

Date	Location	Event
June 13		Members Tour guests allowed
July 10 & 11		Public Tour Scholarships
Aug. 8		Members Tour guests allowed
Aug. 21-22	ARB.	FFF Show
Sept. 14	LHC	Henry & Purcell Orna. 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

! A Drive-yourself Tour to Tim and Karen McCauley's

! Plus two optional Excelsior area nursery/gardens:  
• Jay & Dory Venero and Ben & Hideko Gowen.

**Cost: \$8**

! **Reservations must be made by Tuesday, June 8.**

! The Venero's are limited by city ordinance to "no  
on street parking", so those wishing to visit at  
any one time will be limited. Therefore:

! **If your driver's last name starts with A through L,  
go to Venero's from 1 to 2 PM.**

! **For drivers with a last name M through Z go to  
Venero's from 2 to 3 PM.**

! **You may stop at Gowen's anytime 1-3PM.**

! **If you are not interested in visiting these places  
go directly to McCauley's at 3PM.**

! At McCauley's we will receive hor d'oeuvres and  
refreshments before a guided tour of the  
property by Tim himself. Following this will be an  
early picnic dinner prepared by Karen and a  
chance to visit with old friends. If you don't have  
any old friends, this is also a chance to make  
some new ones.

LHC= Lake Harriet Church

WLC= Westwood Lutheran Church

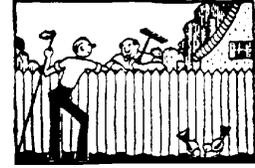
KGC= Klier's Garden Center

FFF= Food Flower & Foto Show

\* early start time 5:30 pm

\*\* early start time other details in the  
May newsletter

**More details on the tour on page 4 & reservation form on page 11**



# Utterances From The Prez

By Ellyn Hosch



and 11th. If you have any questions, contact Kent Petterson or anyone on the committee. A special THANKS goes out to those who agreed to have their gardens on tour this year.

See you all on June 8th as we tour the McCauley's Peony Garden.

We have just completed another outstanding May Plant Auction. This event improves every year. The committee, chaired by Doug Whitney, is to be congratulated on another successful plant auction. To everyone who helped: THANKS! Thanks for the time and energy you contributed. This is an important fundraiser for the club.

I've got all of the plants I purchased at the auction lined up next to my house. They are hardening off while I survey my garden and determine the appropriate planting site for each. With the rain we've gotten over the past week, everything is greening up and looking good. Being in my garden in the spring is both fun and therapeutic. I find refuge in my garden from all the trials and tribulations of everyday life. I believe this is true for many of us, and why gardening is becoming such a popular hobby.

As many of you know, this year I am undertaking the transformation of my front lawn into a garden. I have figured out over the past several years that lawns and I don't see eye-to-eye. This means that the lawn in my front garden will be minimal (I'm sure Mary Maynard will understand!). My backyard garden is my private sanctuary. My front yard garden will be designed with the neighbors in mind. My neighborhood has many gardens that are enjoyed and appreciated by those walking by. I want my garden to add to the enjoyment.

Speaking of enjoying gardens, don't forget to sell the tickets you received for the Public Tour. Public Tour raises money for scholarships and is scheduled on July 10th

## Last Month

### The Plant Sale & Auction

A few pictures are included through the newsletter to give some of the action at last month's plant sale & auction.

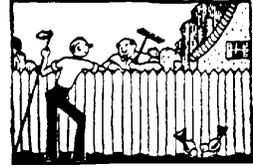
It was a success and early financial results show that the budget of \$3400 was exceeded and we will have a profit of \$3800



*Lloyd Weber giving away the raffle items at last month's plant sale  
Photo by Lloyd Wittstock*

## Photo Contest

Start taking those photos. The rules will be ready soon. They will be emailed to all who have an email address and mailed to others who entered last year. If anyone else wants a copy let Chuck Carlson know.



# June

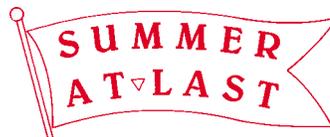
*By Chuck Carlson*

June is the month that many adore,  
And is the time for weddings galore.  
The spring flowers are on their last leg,  
And summer flowers are coming to beg,  
For all to see them in their best,  
And to greet them like an old guest.



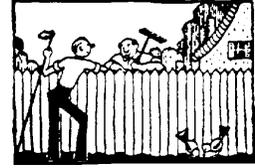
The temperature has risen and warm crops can be planted.  
Things such as tomatoes, peppers, melons and squash must all be transplanted.  
Also those tender annuals like coleus, impatiens and the like,  
Are planted and warm temps give them delight.  
But keep in mind if it is cool,  
They will sit around like an old stool.

June has a day to respect the flag,  
For what it means but don't treat it, like an old rag.  
There is also a Sunday, to honor the man we call Dad.  
A man to respect and have feelings of glad.  
It is the month of the first day of Summer,  
And that's, what we call, a no bummer.



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

*- Slim Acres*



# JUNE 13th GARDEN OUTING:

This event will occur “rain or shine”

**A Drive-yourself Tour to Tim and Karen McCauley’s  
—plus two optional Excelsior area  
nursery/gardens:**

**▣ Jay & Dory Venero**

**▣ Ben & Hideko Gowen**

**Cost: \$8—reservations must be  
made by Tuesday, June 8.**

**Send checks to—  
Bob Redmond  
1016 E. Minnehaha Parkway  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55409-1229**

## **ABOUT THE GARDENS** **A highly biased evaluation** **by Bob Olson**

When Tim and Karen McCauley moved to their new home in Chaska across from the Arboretum, it was not exactly a bucolic setting. Their property was in the center of an old alfalfa field with marginal soil, barren rocky ground and no windbreak. It was a long-term project (involving extensive soil preparation) to create a feasible landscaping scheme for this windy and sunny location. Then, as if carefully selecting, planting and painstakingly tending large numbers of shrubs and perennials wasn’t enough, they found themselves plagued by bands of marauding deer, savage rabbits and assorted

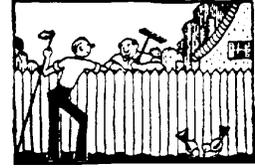
miscreant rodents. But the McCauley’s have pluck and determination. Switching to “environmentally tolerant” varieties of shrubs and perennials helped some, and hard work and guile did the rest. Now the garden is established and Tim and Karen have an endless store of now-humorous tales to tell of “disaster overcome”.

In his article in the November *Spray*, Tim whetted our appetite for seeing peonies. He told of meeting the son of the famed peony hybridizer S. H. Lins and Tim’s subsequent quest for a complete (or as complete as possible) collection of Lins peonies. Peonies are well suited to his garden and once begun, the pursuit of antique peonies became a near obsession.

Collecting out-of-date peonies is not as easy as one may think. Fifty years ago immensely skilled peony hybridizers were fairly numerous. Invariably they had other professions—it has probably never been possible to make a livelihood just dealing in peonies. They had “daytime jobs” and operated out of their homes, or they had hybridizing as a sideline with a nursery business. It takes many years to go from seed to flower, and then to production, for peonies. And for some reason new peonies have never commanded great prices. This was a labor of love. Now those great hybridizers are gone and most of their stock with them. Almost all the peonies in America are produced and distributed by a few giant dealers, Klehm’s and Wayside Gardens are two of the better ones. But, like other large distributors, they are more interested in volume and profit margin than in preserving old cultivars. A collection like Tim’s is rare, and the specimens should be in full bloom in early June.

There are other treats for the June outing as well. Two fine Excelsior area gardens/nurseries on the way to the McCauley’s will be open to us. Jay and Dory Venero run a boutique hosta and perennial nursery just west of Excelsior. But this is a lot more than a

*Continued on page 5*



## June Tour Cont.

*Continued from page 4*

topnotch collection of hostas for sale. The meticulously groomed display garden and manicured grounds are worth a journey. Carefully selected choice perennials and exquisitely grown annuals set off a collection of unusual and impressive rare conifers, colorful flowering shrubs and Camperdown Elms. (About 1840, the Earl of Camperdown's head forester, David Taylor, discovered a mutant contorted branch growing along the ground in the forest at Camperdown House, in Dundee, Scotland. The Earl's gardener produced the first Camperdown Elm by grafting it to the trunk of a Wych Elm, the only elm species that the Camperdown will accept as a root stock. Every Camperdown Elm in the world is from a cutting taken from that original mutant cutting and is grafted on a Wych Elm trunk, usually 4 - 6 feet above ground. Camperdown Elms were quite popular in the Victorian era, when landscape curiosities were in vogue. Many examples were planted in elite gardens extensive enough for tree collections). And recently Jay purchased a huge collection of thousand pound (and up) boulders from a floor display at the Home and Garden Show. He is in the process of creating a "water feature." It should be a showstopper when completed. During the early construction phase you could see (and admire) the 20-24 inches of beautiful black topsoil that graces the Venero property. They started with pretty good soil and over the years have improved it with amendments like organic matter in truckload amounts and with mason's sand. The rich friable soil literally crumbles in your hand and is a prime reason for the awe-inspiring perennials and annuals.

On Highway 41, not far from the Venero's, is the remarkable home nursery of Ben and Hideko Gowen. Ben has collected peonies and lilies for over 50 years—and although he has few if any Lins cultivars,

there are numerous other classic and choice peonies in his extensive collection. In a field below the homestead he has hundred-plant-long rows of peonies he uses for his cut flower business. Lilies, his other love, are also in countless number and varieties and provide the other major source of cut flowers in this eclectic garden.

The Gowens' place is a contrast in interests and concepts. Ben grows his peonies and lilies in rows on the south side of the property while Hideko grows her hostas and wild flowers in a more traditional garden setting on the north side. Hideko, who is among the most respected and famous hosta growers in America, has perhaps the most extensive collection of hostas in the Midwest—more (by far) and rarer specimens than the Arboretum. Everything is carefully tended and lovingly grown. Some are her own hybrids, many are not-yet-released varieties sent by other cutting edge hybridizers for Hideko's evaluation, and a few are those she and I found growing wild in the wilderness areas of Japan in 1995.

So, this is a three-part outing:

- A visit to a magnificently landscaped formal garden where you will be able to purchase many of the featured perennials.
- A visit to an eclectic garden with classic (and non-classic) peonies, countless lilies, and a world-class collection of hostas.
- And we finish with a visit to the home of two old friends—the McCauleys, where we can see the fruits of their long but eminently successful struggle to create a garden in an unexpectedly hostile environment.

You won't want to miss it.



*Tree Peony 'Kinko'*

# Scholarship Tour

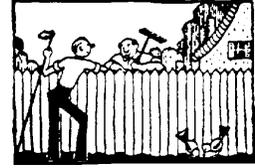
By Kent Petterson

## 7th BIENNIAL DISTINCTIVE GARDENS TOUR

The Distinctive Gardens Tour is one of MGCM's most successful programs. This biennial fund raiser sponsored by the Club is back this summer, 12 noon to 5 PM, Saturday July 10 and Sunday July 11. This club event has awarded thirty-five \$1,000 scholarships to students of horticulture in Minnesota. Six of our member gardens will be open for public tour.

By now, all members should have received a packet of six driving tickets and four bus tickets. We have reduced the number of driving tickets to six because almost everyone is able to sell that count and we wanted as a committee to simplify your and our efforts related to unsold tickets requiring return. We would request everyone make a strong effort to sell at least six driving tickets. We would like to fill a couple of buses too! All of you will be interested to tour with your families, but don't forget your business colleagues or neighbors who may not even be gardeners, but love beautiful gardens. Our Scholarship funds are depleted, in fact short for this years distribution of our normal three awards. Please emphasize the fund raising aspect of our effort and at the same time talk of our friendly welcoming club to new potential members. If you know of any opportunities for publicity please contact Kent Petterson at 612-332-1821 or Elaine Siegel at 952-927-9539 or email to [terrace@winternet.com](mailto:terrace@winternet.com)

Six home setting gardens in the south metro area at their best. Each filled with ideas for plants and your landscape design. An event of interest to all gardeners and plant lovers with all proceeds to student scholar-



ships. Garden types included are Rose, Perennial, Terraced, Container, Cottage, Shade, Bog, Cactus, Vegetable, Water and a Rooftop Garden with a goat. Touches of sculpture, birdhouses, garden structures and a bit of whimsy plus the added twist of the gardens at the book showrooms of Terrace Horticultural Books available for tour this year for the first time.

Driving tickets with a map are available for \$10.00 per person. A special tour by air conditioned motor coach for \$24.00 will be offered on Saturday with boarding at 11:45 am at the Lake Harriet United Method church, 4901 Chowen Ave. South in Minneapolis.

Contact Audrey Grote or Mary Ann Oelke at 952-935-3104 or email to [mensgardentour@aol.com](mailto:mensgardentour@aol.com) for information to order driving or motor coach tickets. Tickets will be available at each garden both days.

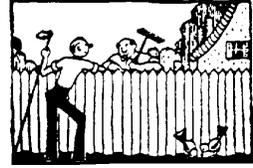
### Gardens featured on the tour:

- John Dahl at 4144 13th Ave. South in Minneapolis has over one hundred roses on a corner lot plus his naturalized boulevard garden. John raises sun and shade plants from seed including geraniums, lisianthus, gazanias, zinnias and impatiens. Learn the recipe for his wonderful roses.

- Gary and JoAnne Geister at 3615 Westcott Hills Drive East in Eagan have a large lot carved into seven terraces. Garden structures, containers, waterfall, and sculpture accent their garden. A woodland path leads to Lake Geister. This year Fine Gardening Magazine has featured an example of their unique container gardening.

- Mary Maynard and Phil Erwin at 4375 Dart Ave. in St. Louis Park have mixed perennial borders front to back. Their landscape has over 100 Hosta plus daylilies, roses, and ornamental grasses. Unusual perennials, annuals and tropical plants are included in their extensive borders.

- Kent Petterson and Terrace Horticultural Books at 503 St. Clair Ave. in St. Paul have a theme of parsley, sage, rosemary and



## Scholarship Tour Cont.

*Continued from page 6*

thyme in a display of mixed borders, window boxes and pots. The brick cottage setting for the book showrooms will be open both days to buyers. A 20% discount up to the value of purchased tickets will be offered.

- Bob and Phyllis Redmond at 1016 East Minnehaha Parkway in Minneapolis offer their colorful traffic-stopping garden. With both shade from mature trees and sun their yard is packed with annuals and perennials. The whimsical fun of caricatures, birdhouses and large garden structures fill the landscape.

- Jerry and Lee Shannon at 1847 Eleanor Ave. in St. Paul have a garden filling 2/3 of an acre. It is the setting of one of the most spectacular private gardens in the Twin Cities. Unusual collected plants are displayed in specialty gardens such as shade, rock, cactus, bog, dwarf conifer, vegetable and a rooftop garden with a goat. Jerry and Lee's garden is a favorite every tour.



*Scenes from the Auction  
Photos by Lloyd Wittstock*



# Board Meeting Summary

By Mary Oelke

## April 27, 2004

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

### . President's Report

Ellyn received a request from Joan Berthuine regarding the possibility of MGCM participating in *Wirth While Weekend*, June 18-20. Joan would like people from our club to set up chairs and act as greeters for the Sunday noon event at the Rose Garden. Bob Voight would be the coordinator. In addition she would like the club to provide a speaker for that event. The Board agreed to commit the club to helping at the Sunday Event, but not to commit to a speaker.

### Secretary's Report

The minutes of the March Board Meeting were approved.

### Treasurer's Report

Dave McKeen distributed the treasurer's report in the absence of Dave Johnson. Dave has filed for an income tax return extension so the return is not due until August. There were a record number of pre-sale plant orders for this year's plant sale on May 4. \$70 has been received from three people as memorials for Walt Gustafson. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

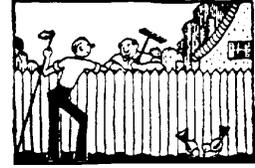
### Membership Secretary's Report

Membership in the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is 110. Don Stuewe has mailed three membership applications to prospective members.

### Committee Reports

#### Valley Fair:

Eight people worked at Valley Fair



earning \$400 for the club. Since the Club has budgeted \$1000 as Valley Fair income, Don Trocke will try to schedule another work day in the hope that more people will turn out.

#### FFF:

Nancy Bjerke will submit a notice of the Flower, Food and Foto Show to *The Northern Gardener*.

#### Public Garden Tour:

This committee is meeting at the home of Mary Maynard on Saturday, May 1.

#### New Business

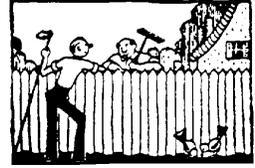
It was decided to invite the Garden Spray Committee to the September Board Meeting which will be held at the home of Dave Johnson. They will be asked to share their thinking about the future of *The Garden Spray*.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 25 at 7PM at the home of LeRoy Cech, 212 Interlachen Road in Burnsville.

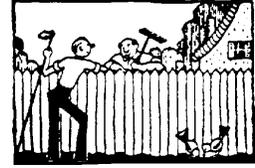


Ruth Berg & Marion Carlson talking to Bob Voigt  
at the Plant Sale & Auction  
Photo by Lloyd Wittstock



*Top two photos are at the check out table  
The left photo is John Sims paying his bill  
to Elaine Spiegel. The right photo has Elisebeth  
Johnson, Patti Weber, Elaine Speigel & a suprised  
Lynda Carlson. Photos by Chiuck Carlson*

*The photo to the left is Jerry Shannon inspecting  
some flowers. Photo by Lloyd Wittstock*



# Book Review

By Delores Johnson

## **Perennials For Minnesota And Wisconsin**

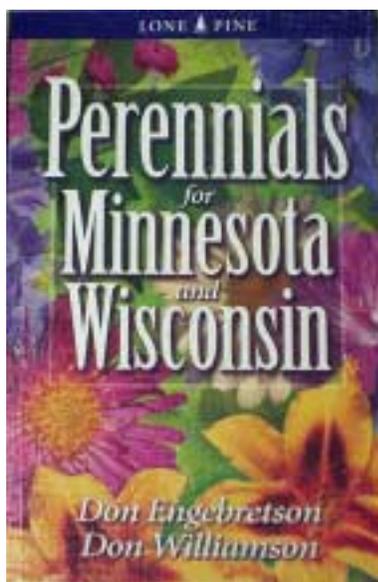
Written by Don Engebretson and Don Williamson

Published by Lone Pine Publishing

First printing 2004 Cost \$18.95

This soft cover book contains reliable information for a novice or an experienced gardener. The clear vivid color photographs, tips for planning a garden, preparing the soil, selecting, planting, caring for, and propagating perennials, to problems and pests, make a gardener want to read it from front to back! The book will go far in giving you first the inspiration and then the tools to create a garden that would be attractive to anyone that loves flowers. I was impressed with the alternatives given in so many treatments for diseases and pest control.

This manual has given me a lot of joy while reading it during my coffee breaks and makes me wish for a bigger garden!



*Dicentra spectabilis (Common Bleeding Heart)*

Photo by Chuck Carlson

## The 10 Tenets Of Renegade Gardening

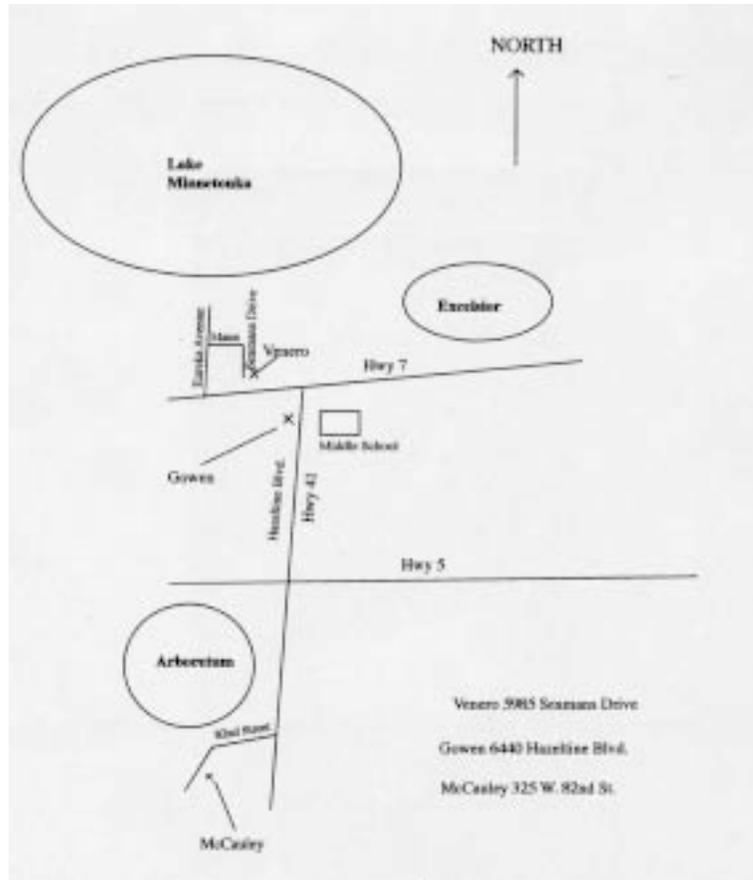
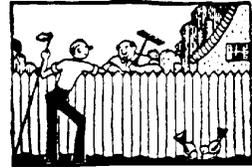
1. Gardening should be challenging, relaxing, and fun.
2. Renegade Gardeners are cautious and wise when perusing the plethora of products and plants sold by the commercial gardening industry
3. Gardening involves commitment
4. Renegade Gardeners learn the Latin names of the plants they grow.
5. Gardening is not always easy.
6. Renegade Gardeners come to realize that lawns are essentially a dumb idea.
7. Gardening and rock music do not mix.
8. Renegade Gardeners buy first from local growers.-
9. There is nothing wrong with cutting down a tree on your property.
10. Irreverence is essential.

*Editors Comment.*

The above tenets were written by Don Engebretson and each has expanded verbage to further explain the premis. This can be found in Don's web site [[www.renegadegardener.com](http://www.renegadegardener.com)]

# Reservations Required for Dinner at McCauleys

Permanent reservations are not in effect.



## *Reservation for Dinner at McCauleys*

**Please reserve dinner for my guests and me  
for Dinner on June 13 2004**

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

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

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_ dinners @ \$8.00 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservation and payment must be received no later than June 8.**

**Send to Bob Redmond,**

**1016 East Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis MN55417**



# MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



## CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Ellyn Hosch  
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 5745 Duncan Lane, Edina, MN 55346-1603  
 Membership Secretary: Don Stuewe  
 3624 Robbinwood Terr, Minnetonka MN 55305  
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 5291 Matterhorn Dr., Fridley, MN 55421-1324  
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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.

Return to:

# The Garden Spray

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.  
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See you at the June Tour on June 13th