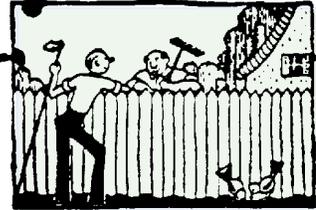




The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2004, Volume 62, Number 10



MGCM Schedule

The Year-2004

This Month

Date Location Event

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	Nelson's talk on Liliums

LHC= Lake Harriet Church
WLC= Westwood Lutheran Church
KGC= Klier's Garden Center
FFF= Food Flower & Foto Show



Tuesday, Oct 12, 2004

Gathering & Conversation -----6:00 pm
Dinner-----6:30 pm
Business Meeting-----Approx.7:00 pm
Program-----Approx.7:30 pm

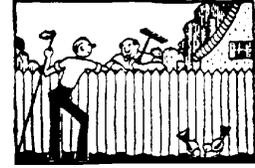
The Program

NEW PERENNIALS AND SHRUBS
COMING ON THE MARKET

By Suzette Nordstrom of Monrovia Growers

- Our speaker Suzette Nordstrom was originally from South Dakota but now resides in Minneapolis.
- Suzette worked for landscape garden centers in South Dakota for 5 years
- After this she has been representing Monrovia for 15 years in the states of MN, SD, ND, and NW Iowa.
- Monrovia is one of the world's largest producer of container grown plants, with more than 2,500 different varieties.
- Monrovia was founded in 1926 and has introduced hundreds of patented plants, 300 of which are Monrovia exclusives.
- The company produces more than 22 million plants each year.
- Monrovia has pioneered many new technologies and new plant introductions.
- Learn more by coming to the October meeting .

Reservations are necessary for dinner and permanent reservations are in effect
See page 11 for details on reservations



Utterances From The Prez

By Ellyn Hosch



In my last column, I mentioned that at our November meeting the slate of Officers and Directors is presented and elected. We will have several people leaving the Board this year. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank them for their service to the Club.

First, let me extend a special thank you to Dave Johnson (Fridley) who has served as our Treasurer since 2002. Dave has skillfully handled the routine financial business of our club, including taking dinner payments, writing checks to the caterers, the church, and others, balancing the books each month, dealing with our investments, and filing our tax returns. In addition to these duties, Dave's leadership and personal efforts enabled the club to get our nonprofit tax status at both the federal and state levels. Dave reviewed the regulations and completed the lengthy forms required to receive our current status. This status is important to our club and Dave's work was indispensable.

Nancy Bjerke, our Immediate Past President, will be leaving the Board this year. It has been my pleasure to serve on the Board with Nancy. Her sense of humor and her willingness to pitch in whenever work needed to get done made her a positive influence for the Board and for the Club. As Past President, she guided me with lists of things to do and always gave me sound advice.

Mary Ann Oelke has been our Recording Secretary since 2003, faithfully recording our Board meeting minutes and decisions for both the Board and for publication in the Spray. Mary brought her common sense approach to each issue discussed by the

Board. Her steady contribution to the leadership of the Club will be missed when she leaves the Board at the end of this year. To Dave, Nancy and Mary Ann: **THANKS!!**

If Nancy or another member of the Nominating Committee has approached you to serve on the Board, I hope you have responded positively.

The work of the Board is important to the smooth operation of the club. The Board handles the routine business of the club, but also deals with issues that impact the future direction of the Club. I strongly encourage you to step forward to serve the Club by being a member of the Board. Happy Gardening!

Top Ten Reasons To Attend The Oct. Meeting

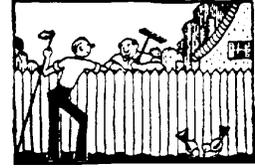


By Chuck Carlson

10. Your mind needs a garden fix.
9. Your garden need a fix
8. You need to bring your neighbor since his garden needs a fix.
7. You need a diversion from pulling weeds and cleaning up your garden.
6. You have to talk to someone about gardening.
5. Your finger nails are dirty and you don't want to be the only one.
4. Your better half needs some alone time.
3. The food is good.
2. The company is good.

AND , the number one reason to attend the October meeting of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis:

You might learn something about new plants for 2005.



New Editor Needed

We are having a hard time filling the post for the editor of the newsletter. Please don't be bashful, just volunteer. You can make it your newsletter but past editors, Chuck Carlson & Andy Marlow will give you help in getting started. The club has; a clip art program & Adobe Acrobat for generating the PDF format and my guess is that if you need some other program it can be obtained.

Just say yes I can do it.

Or

Have computer, will volunteer.

Also when you pay your dues for this year, Please sign up for the newsletter committee and volunteer to write, stamp, fold, mail or be the editor and chair of the committee.



New members

MGCM has A new members:

- Carol Scheier
- Jasen Rathe
- Jim McKee

We welcome you into the club and hope you find your niche in the club. We recommend you participate in the committees. This is where you get to know us and we get to know you. Have fun and we hope you learn more about gardening.

Correction For Last Month's FFF Results

The FFF First-Time Exhibitor wrong in the tally on page 10 of last month's newsletter. Rudy Allebach was listed as the best first tie exhibitor. It should have been Anne Buchanan with 45 points.

The management is extremely sorry for this error and we apologize to both individuals involved.

The editor

The Name Change Vote

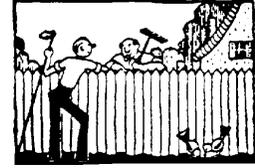
The September 14, 2004 business meeting of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis was called to order by President Ellyn Hosch. It was established that a quorum was present and voting could take place.

Dave McKeen moved that the name of the *Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis* be changed to another name to be determined at a later date. The motion was seconded.

After discussions which included presentations of points of view as to whether the name should be changed or remain the same, the vote was taken.

Eighteen people voted to change the name; 33 voted to retain it. The motion was defeated.





Last Month's Program

By Chuck Carlson

The ABC's of Ornamental Grass By Mary Henry Margaret Purcell

This program provided an excellent summary of ornamental grasses. It started with a bit of history and then proceeded to give some details of the subject ornamental grasses. The talk was supplemented with slides that showed some of the traits of various specimens and ended with a slide showing a boarder featuring grasses and companion plants.



The following are some of the highlights of the presentation.

What are ornamental grasses? There is no real definition but the closest one can come up with is; they are plants that are grasslike but excluding turf grasses.

Hardiness is one of the early problems in ornamental grasses becoming a mainstay in the horticultural community of Minnesota. Thus, in 1987 4 each of 165 types of ornamental grasses were planted at the arboretum as a research program conducted by Dr. Mary Meyers. After six years 85 types were deemed hardy for zone 4a. This 1987-1993 study has been written up in a University of Minnesota booklet BU6411. It is called *Ornamental Grasses for Cold Climates*.

Grasses are separated into two groups: Cool Season Grasses and Warm Season Grasses.

Cool season grasses emerge early and thrive in the coolest part of the season. They can even go dormant in hot weather but

seemingly come alive when cooler weather returns.

They also flower during mid season. Some examples are *Festuca* (fescues), *Deschampsia* (hair grass), *Sesleria* (moorgrass) and *Helictolrichon* (oat grass).

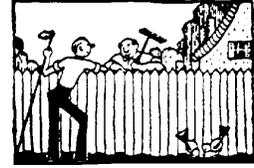
Warm season grasses on the other hand emerge very late and that is one reason you don't see them in garden centers during the April-May buying frenzy. Flowering occurs late summer or fall. Some types used in our area are *Pennisetum* (fountain grass), *Panicum* (Switch Grass), *Spartina* (cord grass) and *Miscanthus*.

Grasses are defined as either clumpers or runners. Beware of runners, they can take over your gardens via rhizomes (typical of ribbon grass). The only way to control these is with a barrier above and below ground level. I had the "feesey" strain without a barrier and it took three years to get rid of it. Clumpers on the other hand are well behaved, Most warm season grasses will not reseed in our area, so control is not a problem.

Grasses also can be classified as; upright, arching mounds, cylindrical, upright arching etc. Just make sure you know what you are getting or you will become like me a planter and mover. Remember the right plant for the right place.

We also learned a new word, at least for some of us it was new. The word is *susurration*. It represents that sound the wind makes when blowing through those free standing grasses.

The program ended with questions from the audience, plus a hand out was provided that listed grasses for our area keyed to environmental conditions. It also included information on books and sources for plants and seeds.



Board Meeting Summary

Sumarized from Mary Oelke's Secretarial Report

August 31, 2004

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

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Dave McKeen is in the process of confirming the October speaker.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. To date there have been no requests for speakers at the September club meeting. Nancy Bjerke will take the minutes in September.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A deposit of \$430 was paid to Westwood Church in order to reserve the space for next spring's plant auction. The board decided to have the treasurer renew the club's CD when it comes due. Only 28.7% of the members attended the August Club Garden Tour.

The treasurer's report was approved. Dave Johnson filed the 2003 non-charitable tax return for the Men's Garden Club.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Three people have recently applied for MGCM membership. They are Carol Schreier, Les Spiegel, and Kathe Drake. Their membership applications were approved by the board. Including the three new members and the death of Frank Vixo, the club membership is now 117.

Don Stuewe has rewritten the membership application form to include a plant exchange option. It will be ready for distribution at the September meeting. The telephone committee will be asked to contact members

who are slow in returning their forms. An induction to the club needs to be arranged for people who have joined since March. The role of the new member sponsor was discussed. The by-laws require that each new member has a club sponsor. Should this be changed?

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nancy Bjerke reported that the Nominating Committee will meet after the September Club Meeting. The nominating committee will be looking for a secretary, vice-president, and one board member.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ellyn Hosch passed around a sample ballot for the name change vote. Ballots will be counted by Mary Oelke and Leroy Cech. A request for an absentee ballot was discussed. After some discussion, the board decided the by-laws require a member be present at the meeting in order to vote.

The name change vote cannot occur unless a quorum of 47 members are present at the meeting. Anyone who would like to speak to the name-change issue should contact Mary Oelke (952-935-3104) before the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A letter was received from the Scholarship Awards Committee recommending Catherine Stephen, Eric Mader, and Terri Stark to be recipients of this year's MGCM Scholarships. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the board accept the recommendation of the Scholarship Awards Committee.

Andy Marlow requested an annual budget addition of \$250 for support of Web Hosting.

Freddy Glasoe's last radio show will be on Saturday, September 3. Ellyn Hosch will call in to the program on behalf of MGCM.

The next board meeting will be held at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 28 at the home of Dave Johnson, 5291 Matterhorn Drive, Fridley.

Confessions of a Lazy Gardener:

By Mary Maynard

At times I think autumn is my favorite time in the garden. It's a little cooler, the air is crisp and the light seems especially clear. And some of my favorite plants are at their best in the fall. Here are a few of my favorites.

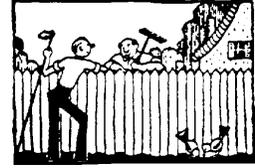
Ironweed (*Vernonia novaboracensis*). This tall annual makes a great background plant. In my garden, it gets about six feet tall, with clusters of purple aster-like flowers at the top. Ironweed starts blooming earlier than asters — mid-August or so — and the dark green foliage is attractive all season long.

Goldenrods. (*Solidago*). I grew up on a farm, and goldenrods grew wild in the road ditches. It never occurred to me to grow goldenrods in my garden. But I'm finally learning! One of the fun ones that I have growing in our little park is *Solidago* 'Fireworks', which has small sprays that cascade in every direction. And understated beauty!

Chrysanthemums. I never get tired of the Minnesota releases, like Minn. Queen, Minn. Ruby, Minn. Gopher and Zonta. They bloom comparatively early in the fall and have been pretty reliably perennial in my garden with a 6" mulch of oak leaves in the fall. And 'Clara Curtis' is tough as nails, although perhaps a little difficult to keep in one place, but that just means there's more to share with your friends in the spring!

Bush clover. (*Lespedeza thunbergii*). I enjoy the lavender-pink blooms of 'Gibraltar' for about a week each fall, before the first frost sends them packing. But it's a glorious week!

Japanese anemones. 'September Charm' found a spot it likes on my boulevard, and even after last winter it has not completely



abandoned me. While I wish it would bloom a little earlier, it adds a touch of autumn grace to my tangled fall boulevard.

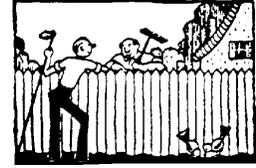
Grasses. Ah, the grasses! The quality of fall gardens has improved tremendously with the increase in use of ornamental grasses. When the panicums and miscanthus are blooming, the slightest breeze sets the whole garden in motion. And they persist through the winter to give some shelter to wildlife and winter interest to those of us trapped inside.

My favorite grasses are *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster', *Miscanthus* 'Variegatus' (even though it's only marginally hardy here), and *Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal'. But there are many, many more to choose from!

I am ambivalent about autumn. I love the gardens, but I don't enjoy saying good-bye to another year. And, of course, I'm not fond of all those fall chores, but that's another story!



Happy Halloween



Sweet Potato Vines

By *Sudie Hoffman*

It is hard to find large decorative pots of flowers in the Twin Cities that don't have a few luscious sweet potato vines cascading down the sides. The enjoyment of having these wonderful vines on one's deck and patio does not have to end with their visual aspects. The potatoes that mysteriously erupt in those pots in late summer can provide the essential ingredient in West African Peanut soup, a perennial favorite in health food and vegetarian restaurants. Just pull out the sweet potatoes from your container garden, clean and peel them, and send them through a Cuisinart. They can be used immediately or frozen in freezer bags for later use.

The *Sundays at Moosewood Restaurant* cook book offers this version of the soup:

Serves 6 to 8

2 cups chopped onions

1 tablespoon peanut or vegetable oil

1/2 teaspoon (or to taste) cayenne or other ground dried chiles

1 teaspoon grated peeled fresh ginger root
1 cup chopped sweet potatoes (white potatoes can be substituted)

4 cups vegetable stock or water

2 cups tomato juice

1 cup smooth peanut butter

1 tablespoon sugar (optional)

1 cup chopped scallions or chives

Saute the onions in the oil until just translucent. Stir in the cayenne and fresh ginger. Add the carrots and sauté a couple more minutes. Mix in the potatoes and stock or water, bring the soup to a boil, and then simmer for about 15 minutes, until the vegetables are tender.

In a blender or food processor, puree the vegetables with the cooking liquid and the tomato juice. Return the puree to a soup pot.

Stir in the peanut butter until smooth. Taste the soup. Its sweetness will depend upon the sweetness of the carrots and sweet potatoes. If it's not there naturally, add just a little sugar to enhance the other flavors.

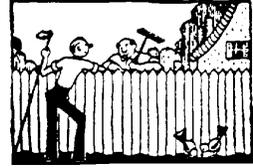
Reheat the soup gently, adding more water if necessary for a thinner soup. The garnish of chopped scallions or chives is an integral element of the soup.

The soup making experience can be as pleasant as spending those first few days in the spring planting your garden. It is highly recommended that the soup be made on a Saturday morning between 11:00-12:00 while listening to the Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour with host Michael Johnathon on SCSU's KVSC 88.1. If you can't get good reception, listen on their Web Site at www.kvsc.org <<http://www.kvsc.org/>> and click on "listen live." Johnathon's short monologue about pursuing our hidden gifts of music and art, at the end of the program, greatly enhances the flavor of the soup. Works well on both sunny and rainy days.

This was submitted by Sudie Hofmann a past member of MGCM who has attended our public garden tour and is a member of the Department of Human Relations & Multicultural Education St. Cloud State University.



Sweet Potato Vine



Pumpkins & Sunflowers

October meeting is the time to bring your BIG sunflower heads and pumpkins. You might get awarded for your efforts.



**I hear MGCM
needs a new
editor.
Please volunteer
Your services.**

Club Membership Renewal

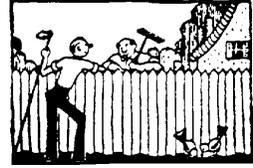
Mail or bring in your renewal dues to the October meeting. New renewal forms will be available at the meeting. Do it at the meeting and save the club postage. You will get a phone call if we don't find your name on the roster for 2005.

Annual Meeting in Nov.

Annual Meeting is set for the November meeting. The 2005 Board will be presented and voted upon.

Thanksgiving

If you have any Thanksgiving stories, happenings or something to give thanks for and want to share, send me a note. Maybe we can have a page in the November Spray dedicated to giving Thanks.



FFF Follow up Letter

A letter from Peter Moe of the Arboretum was received and paraphrased below. It does show we are appreciated and the show is welcomed. We thank Marilyn Brummer for her work in coordinating the event. The committee did a wonderful job since everything was first class. Those that entered their prize vegetables, flowers and designs are also to be commended.

Dear Marilyn

Thank you for all of your hard work to coordinate the annual Minneapolis Men's Garden Club Flowers, Food, Herb & Foto Show at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum on the weekend of August 21 & 22. The show was great and added something valuable for all arboretum visitors to see and learn from that weekend.

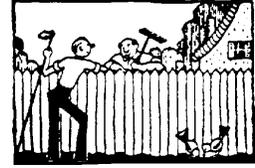
I am always amazed the diversity of the plants that people are growing in their yards in this area. Even though the Arboretum plant collections are very comprehensive there are always new and different flowers, vegetables and fruits displayed at the FFF show. I'm sure many of the people that visited the show will be inspired to try growing some of the plants they saw next year and maybe enter them in a show.

It worked very well to have a single contact from your club to handle the arrangements with the Arboretum staff. We knew exactly what was needed and when, Friday morning to Sunday evening and the whole process worked very well. Daniel Gjertso, Erik Moe, and Mike Orr from the Arboretum staff all told me that they enjoyed working with the MGCM volunteers.

I hope the Flower Food, Herb and Foto show is held at the Arboretum again in 2005. Thanks again to you and all of your club members that helped plan, set-up and run an excellent show.

Sincerely
Peter Moe, Director of Operations
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum





Found in the Tiller

The newsletter of the Garden Club of Green Bay

Awesome Artichoke Dip

1 - 10 oz. pkg. chopped frozen spinach, thawed and drained
2 - 14 oz. cans artichoke hearts, chopped
2 8 oz. cream cheese softened
1 1/2 c. sour cream
1 c. mayonnaise
2/3 c. grated parmesan cheese
3/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1 can water chestnuts, chopped
Throw all in crock and warm on low.
Serve with tortilla chips or crackers.

Flavorful Pecans

1 lb. pecans 1/2 cup melted butter
1/4 cup sugar
2 tbs. rose or Marsala Wine
1 tsp. nutmeg
dash of salt
Place just the pecans in a jelly roll pan and roast at 325 degrees. Bake for 20 minutes—
stir often.
Combine melted butter, sugar, nutmeg, wine, and salt. Pour over roasted pecans and put in oven 5-8 minutes at 325 degrees. Stir several times while there is liquid left. Stir and the liquid should be absorbed. Put on paper toweling to dry.

Garden and Household Uses for Baking Soda

Joey Green's Garden
published by Rodale, Inc., 2003

Sprinkle fruits with baking soda, then rinse well to wash away pesticides and insects.

Wash with baking soda to remove smells from your hands and to remove dirt, grime, and oil from hands.

Clean plastic or metal outdoor furniture by sprinkling baking soda on a damp sponge and wipe to remove spots.

Remove rust from tools with a paste of baking soda and water.

Remove skunk smell with one small box of baking soda, two cups hydrogen peroxide, one teaspoon dish washing liquid, and one gallon of warm water.

Get rid of ants by dusting with baking soda.

Any of the following mixtures can be used to prevent and to fight foliar infections such as powdery mildew and blackspot on roses, houseplants, and curcubit:

1. one teaspoon baking soda, five drops corn oil (such as Wesson corn oil), one quart water

2. one teaspoon baking soda, five drops corn oil, one drop dish washing liquid, one quart water

3. two teaspoons baking soda, four drops dish washing liquid, one gallon water

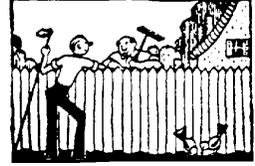
4. one tablespoon baking soda, one tablespoon dish washing liquid, one gallon water

Apply once a week for approximately two months. Reapply after rain. Before treating the entire plant, test the oil formulas on one of the plant's leaves and wait one day to make certain it doesn't burn the leaf.

Test soil for acidity by taking a sample of soil, wet it, and add a pinch of baking soda. If the soda fizzes, the soil may be too acid to support most plants and vegetables.

Neutralize the acidity of potting soil by watering the soil once with a mixture of four tablespoons baking soda and one quart of water.

To keep cut flowers longer, add one teaspoon baking soda to one quart of water.



Reservations for Dinner Meetings

Permanent reservations are in effect.

Permanent reservations are shown by the “p” on the mailing label 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@comcast.net**

For last minute cancellations

**call Dave Johnson Phone 763-571-2713
If he can sell it, you won't be billed.**



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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