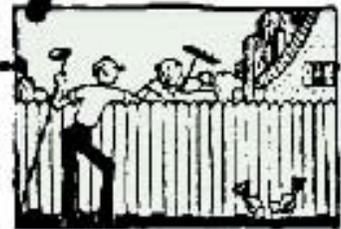




The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
 2005, Volume 63, Number 1



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Jan. 11	LHC	<i>Lilium</i>
Feb.	LHC	TBA
Mar	LHC	TBA
Apr	LHC	Dwarf Conifers

LHC = Lake Harriet Church

January Dinner Meeting Tuesday, January 11, 2004

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



Duane Reynolds on *Lilium*

MGCM's own Duane Reynolds will be the January 11 speaker on *Lilium*. Being a past president of and frequent speaker for the North Star Lily Society, Duane is a very knowledgeable speaker and we are fortunate to have him.

But he does not just talk lilies, he also has many years experience growing them in at his New Hope home where some of you may have seen his lilies on garden tours. Several MGCM members are also members of the North Star Lily Society which draws most of its members from Minnesota, with a few from Iowa, Wisconsin and even Canada. We are fortunate that many types and varieties of lilies are hardy and will even increase in Minnesota. The history of lily growing and hybridizing in Minnesota ranges from before Julius Wadecamper and his famous Borboleta Gardens in Fairbault through to Hugh and Ruth Cocker in Rochester to Tim Zimmerman with his beautiful lilies at Arneson Acres in Edina.



A Word from the President

by David McKeen

As this is my first message to you as club president for 2005, let me tell you a little bit about myself. I have been a member of the club for ten years now. The main reason for joining was to socialize with other gardeners and exchange valuable information with each other (and have fun in the process). Through the years I have served on several committees that include the perennial garden, Flower Food and Foto, and the plant sale and auction, and have served on the board for the last three years.

I was born and raised in Minneapolis, and my father's goal was to have green grass in the yard and some vegetables grow in the garden. But with four boys and a dog, the grass always struggled and the vegetable garden never produced very much due to the two silver maples in the back yard and four boys who would rather play at the park than to pull weeds in the garden. But my mother always found time to grow nice morning glories, petunias, and marigolds. I guess their love of gardening was instilled in me because I have been the landscape gardener for the Minneapolis Golf Club for the last 24 years. People often tell me I have a great job and I think they're right. My responsibilities are to design and care for the annual and perennial gardens. I also grow 70% of the plant material used on the golf course in the club's greenhouse.

When I'm not at the golf course, I enjoy being at home with my wife Kathryn and playing in our rose garden and enjoy growing annuals in containers and windowboxes.

I look forward to serving the club as president and working with a great group of people serving on the board of directors.

Who are the *new* newsletter editors?

Mary Maynard - Well, here we are. Two new co-editors trying to fill some very big shoes. We are looking forward to learning as we go, with the help of Chuck and Andy, who have set such a high standard. When I first joined the club, Ed Culbert was the newsletter editor. With each editor since then, we have had significant changes. Andy gave us a new look and feel with his desktop publishing skills and his own special style. And Chuck moved us into the electronic age, where now many of us receive our newsletter via e-mail. (By the way, if you haven't ever tried the electronic version, I strongly recommend it. The photographs are in color, and the newsletter looks terrific.)

Jason and I will be counting on the contributions of members to maintain the quality you have come to depend on. Please give some thought to writing an article now and then. Since you have read my Lazy Gardener column over the years, you know that it isn't really necessary to know anything to get yourself published in the newsletter. We look forward to help from the 2005 Spray Committee and from the Photography Committee. The terrific photos you see in this edition came from Lloyd Wittstock and Chuck Carlson. We are indeed lucky to have such talented members.

Thanks in advance for all of your support. We look forward to serving you this year.

Jason Rathe - I am very excited to be both a new member to the club and co-editor of the newsletter with Mary. As an English major in college, I was very disappointed when the English Factory shutdown and

(cont. on following page)

(cont. from previous page)

found work instead with a small telecommunications firm in the Twin Cities. In the six years I worked for Spanlink Communications, I held a variety of positions - Human Factors Specialist, Technical Support, Field Services, Custom Software Development and finally Technical Sales Support. I was able to learn a lot about computers and a variety of software programs.

I have currently escaped the work-a-day world and am pursuing a full-time Masters Degree in Horticulture at the University of Minnesota. I look forward to meeting all of you in the coming months!



New Member Spotlight

Jean Doolittle: 4860 171st Lane NE, Ham Lake, 55304, H 763.434.5515, W

612.668.3591(Mpls Public Schools), jean.doolittle@mpls.k12.mn.us

Hobbies: biking, sewing, photography, reading, gardening (of course!).

Checkoffs: Arbor Day, Food, Flower & Fota Show, Garden Tours, Photography.

How did Jean hear about us? Jean attended a garden tour.



Mailing List: Please help us update

It is another year for our club and mailing lists must be updated. Part of the process is to determine who gets the newsletter via the **postal service** and who gets it via **email**. We would like more on the email list since it would save the club money. It does require approximately \$15 per year for each mailed newsletter. Thus if you have email and were not previously getting the newsletter via email, tell us you are willing to get the newsletter via email. The e-mail version also has the advantage of being in FULL COLOR.

It will be sent in a pdf format and you can receive it if you have Acrobat Reader on your computer. Acrobat reader is available as a free download from <www.adobe.com> or you can go to the clubs web site, <www.tc.umn.edu/~amarlow/mgcm> and click on the free adobe reader button.

Also as part of the generating the mailing lists we also have to take into consideration of the permanent reservations for dinner as a reminder.

For this coming year (2005) if you were on the postal list in 2004 you will remain on it and if you were on the email list in 2004 you will remain on it. Also if you were on the permanent reservation list in 2004 you will remain on it.

If you want a change your status let Chuck Carlson know at <chuck@carlson.org> or Phone 763-571-0463.



Holiday Party Recap

by Warren Nordley

Our holiday party on December 7th seemed to be well-received and it's been gratifying to hear the many compliments from those who attended. We had a terrific committee and they are well-deserving of any accolades that may come their way. The following is my biased assessment of the event: the tables and overall decor were absolutely beautiful, the name tags were fun, the silent auction had greater variety and interest, the awards ceremony was quite touching, the buffet concept seemed to work well and the entertainment was unusual and pleasing for most.



Festive Table Arrangement

The silent auction drew lots of activity and we were delighted with the results of over \$1000 in income. I'd like to especially thank those club members who,
(cont. next page)



The Pageantry



Food was great

(cont. from previous page)

themselves, donated items that represented their time, creativity and talent. Additionally, Don Stuewe who wasn't even on our committee, deserves particular recognition for the wide variety of items he solicited for the cause.

All in all, the committee and the audience were outstanding. And why wouldn't they be - they're gardeners after all



Chuck, double winner



Ann Buchanon with the Smith Trophy



Foley Trophy Winner: Bob Voigt



The Clock



2004 Outstanding Service Medal

by Kay Wolfe

Bob Livingston was awarded the Outstanding Service Medal for 2004. Bob joined MGCM in 1971. He served as Secretary, Vice-President, President in 1975, and then Past-President. He was awarded the Lehman Trophy for the best garden on the summer tours in 1972, and received the President's Cup in 1978. Bob has served on many committees, in recent years as a member of the Photography Committee and the Flower, Food, and Foto Show Committee, serving on the latter as a photo contest judge. Bob says that MGCM has been a big part of his life, and that he attends meetings every month. He commented that that certainly has been a lot of meetings. Try the math for that: 33 years times 12 meetings per year! Close to 400 club events!

Bob's gardening interests were previously lilies, perennials, and roses, but currently his interests are dwarf conifers, hosta, vegetables and container gardening. Bob has been a mentor gardener for dwarf conifers, and has given talks on his favorite subject at MGCM dinner meetings and elsewhere. His talk certainly stands out in my mind as one of the better programs! Bob says that he still sits at dinner with his friends that were active in the club in the 1970's, such as Jerry Olson, Fred Glasoe, and Jerry Shannon. With friends like this, he said that he could always get an answer to any question he had about gardening.

The Outstanding Service Medal is given to a member for outstanding sustained service to the Club. The



winner is selected by the last five medal winners. Those on this year's committee were Kent Petterson, Joe Stenger, Mary Maynard, Lloyd Wittstock and myself. I was honored to chair this committee.

Thank you , Bob, for your outstanding service to

Announcements

Fred Glasoe is staying at the Mount Olivet Home, receiving therapy and building up his strength. His address is Room 412, Mount Olivet Home, 5517 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419. His phone number is 612-822-9992.

Our members Elaine & Les Spiegel had a death in their family. Elaine's father passed away. We send them our sympathy for their loss.



2004 Award Winners

Award	Recipient	Award Description
Photography Award	Chuck Carlson	Awarded to the member who accumulates the most points in the photography competition at the MGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show.
Robert L. Smith Trophy	Anne Buchanan	Awarded to the first-time exhibitor who accumulates the most total points in the horticulture competition at the MGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show.
Tom Foley Trophy	Bob Voigt	Awarded to the member who accumulates the most points in the vegetable competition at the MGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show.
Blackburn Trophy	Mary Maynard	Awarded to the member who accumulates the most points in the flower competition at the MGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show.
Lehman Trophy	Lloyd and Patti Weber	Awarded to the member(s) with the best garden on the summer tours.
President's Cup	Chuck Carlson	Awarded by the outgoing President to the non-officer, non-director who provided outstanding assistance to the President during his/her term.
Rookie of the Year	Margaret Landry	Awarded to outstanding first year member(s).



The Lazy Gardener: **New Years Resolutions**

by Mary Maynard

Gardening is about optimism. Every year, we get a fresh start, a chance to right the wrongs and compensate for the neglect of the last growing season. Since the days are now getting longer and spring is just around the corner, here are my resolutions for 2005.

1. I will continue the battle with Creeping Charlie in the lawn. I made progress in 2004, attacking early and often with Weed-Be-Gone (or equivalent broad-leaf herbicide containing Dicamba). But I know that I cannot relent, or it will all be back with enthusiasm next year. I am quite sure, though, that I will not be painting individual leaves of creeping charlie, like Bob Olson did. I believe we have discussed before that Bob will never qualify as a Lazy Gardener.

2. I will prune the plum trees, at least getting rid of the completely dead branches. My wild plum trees were planted by my next-door neighbor, and they are not well-sited. But the fragrance of the blossoms in spring makes their junky habits worth it.

3. I will prune the grapevines while they are still dormant. This is a perennial resolution, and so far I have never succeeded. The recommended time to prune grapevines is in, say, late February. If we wait until they break dormancy, every pruned tip “weeps” sap for days. It’s like the grapevine is crying for its lost branches. There have been times that I have avoided the part of the garden that has the grapevines after I’ve pruned them late -- out of guilt.

4. I will make more use of mass plantings. It’s hard to resist the next new perennial, but purchasing everything and simply plopping it into a bare spot results in the hodgepodge without visual appeal, especially in the parts of the garden that are generally viewed from a distance.

5. I will find a better place to plant my peppers. My little strip of garden on the south side of the house gets warm the earliest, but the trees are getting bigger, and the peppers aren’t getting enough light. Unfortunately, there is not a good alternative.

6. I will edge the sidewalks at least once. It’s amazing how much of the sidewalk the grass can cover. I edged for the public tour last July, and it made a world of difference.

7. I will trim along the flowerbeds at least once. Again, amazing what a difference a little trimming can make. I may try it again!

8. I will be brutal with the non-performers in my gardens. This is a perennial entry on my list of resolutions. While I keep some plants around for sentimental reasons (the “average” iris that my Mom gave me, or the daylily from an old neighbor), there are several other plants that do not do anything for the garden but seem to stay on from year to year. This year for sure I’ll get rid of those veronicastrums that do nothing but look sick and spindly. And I’ll dig out that veronica that develops such ugly “legs” by midsummer. This is the year. Really.

9. I will actually distribute the compost from my compost bins. Somehow, compost distribution got missed last year, so both my bins are full to overflowing. The FINO system (First In, Never Out) appears to have its limits.

10. I will not feel too guilty if I don’t keep all my resolutions. This is one I’m generally able to keep! After all, making a list of resolutions is easier if you have a lot of repeats from year to year!

Have a very Happy New Year!



“...it must have looked like the star of Bethlehem.”

An article appeared in the Star Tribune recently about the World War II experiences of MGCM member, Clyde Thompson. This is an excerpt.

Flying back to home base in England after dark on Christmas Eve, the airmen were exhausted. Clyde Thompson, piloting a B-17 “Flying Fortress” in one of the last squadrons in the formation, had joined the Army Air Forces in February 1942. This was his 31st mission. If he completed 35, he could go home.

To evade German fighter planes, every Allied plane was flying dark...On the craft ahead of Thompson, even the blue lights were out. The tail gunner was holding a flashlight as a guide. Thompson had been squinting at the tiny light for hours, trying to stay 50 feet away, nose to tail and wingtip to wingtip.

“It was so hairy in that dark that I’ll never forget it.”

...

The squadrons were running short of fuel because wind had slowed them over the target, an airfield near Frankfurt, Germany. The group’s commander finally decided it was more important to get the bombers down than to maintain their blackout. At his order, hundreds of lights sprang out of the dark skies.

“I always said it must have looked like the star of Bethlehem.”

In the Christmas story, the bright light guided the Wise Men to the birthplace of Jesus. The airplanes’ bright lights guided the bombers safely to their landings. The lieutenant touched the runway with warning lamps lit for all four fuel tanks. Five minutes’ worth was all he had left.

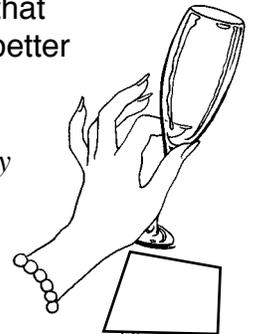
* (Dec. 19th, “Long Ago, Far From Home”, Trudi Hahn).



A New Year’s Toast To Gardeners Everywhere

I wish you enough sun to keep your plants growing.
 I wish you enough rain to keep your plants alive.
 I wish you enough vitality to work your garden.
 I wish you enough time to satisfy you garden dreams.
 I wish you the ability to smell the roses.
 I wish you enough friends to share your passion.
 I wish you enough faith that you made your world a better place.

- rewritten for gardeners by
 Chuck Carlson



Unraveling the Past

by Jason Rathe (new co-editor)

I like owning an old house. It is a continuous process of unearthing layers of the past. In my 1900's duplex in Northeast Minneapolis, I wonder at the misplaced birch trim around the doors and floors. Was this 1950's change a supposed improvement in style? Remodeling after a fire? Or maybe this is simply when they changed the house to a duplex?

The same speculation can be directed towards the plants in the yard. In the narrow bit of turf along the house stands a 25 foot tamarack. It is a bit beaten about, but, aside from a few broken branches, it is healthy.

While experts deem the tamarack a bad choice for city conditions, it is as beautiful as any tree in the neighborhood. The same can be said of the Norway pine in my front yard (is a 15'x15' space a 'yard'?). The tree is taller than the tamarack and has a Gumby-like bend half-way up the trunk. The tree isn't exactly dense with its long, fragrant needles, but it doesn't look bad, if not a little cramped for space.

The tree I have the most intimacy with, but until very recently couldn't determine the type, is in my neighbor's yard. It stands taller still – maybe fifty feet with a round crown that drapes over the top of my house. Fallen branches have broken several rafters in my roof, and two years ago a pair of kestrels nested in its branches. These small, blue-winged raptors were constant companions when we sat outside. We thrilled to their cooing and would watch as they perched on the light post and swooped to catch their insect prey.



Most people guessed *this* was a birch or aspen, but one day I finally snatched up a fallen branch for closer inspection. The leaves were not like a birch or aspen and the buds were extremely large. When squeezed an amber-red resin oozed onto my thumb. It didn't take too much research at the library to figure out this was a balsam poplar.

My interest is piqued. Who planted these three unlikely trees? All three are denizens of the northwoods. All three are considered poor landscape trees. Were they wilded from a summer cabin? Whatever the origin, I forgive the past owner for the birch woodwork – I can't imagine not being able to look out my front window to admire the orange colors of the pine's checking bark or a fall without the tamarack's much-anticipated show as it turns golden yellow before dropping needles in drifts on the concrete patio.



Tamarack (*Larix laricina*) in nature



Lilium Program

(cont. from page 1)

Duane's slide program will include lilies in the order they appear in the garden during the growing season, including Asiatics, Martagons, Trumpets, Orientals and finally the late blooming Orienpet crosses. He will also discuss basic lily culture and then you too will be ready to become part of the history of growing lilies.

Laura Martin in Garden Flower Folklore states that many of the 200 species of lilies are native to the US and plant breeders have done extensive hybridization work on them, making them more hardy and free flowering. According to the Victorian language of flowers, the lily is a symbol of majesty and Greek and Roman mythologies often mention the lily as do legends from China and Japan. Lilies have been cultivated for over 5000 years, since the Sumerian culture in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley.

Lily buds can be added to chicken broth for "lily-drop"

The lily has often been associated with religious figures. It was considered the flower of St. Anthony, the protector of marriages; was thought to be the symbol of the Virgin Mary; and was a sacred symbol of Venus, the Roman goddess of love and beauty. Roman mythology also associates it with Juno, the queen of gods and goddess of marriage. According to the myth, when Juno was nursing her son Hercules excess milk fell from the sky. Part of it stayed in heavens, creating the Milky Way, and part of it fell to earth, creating lilies.

Romans used a concoction made from the lily bulbs to treat corns and sores on their feet, and they prob-

ably carried the plants to England for this purpose. Lily boiled with yarrow in oil was used for burns, and lily seeds were used in a drink to cure a snakebite. The bulbs beaten with honey were placed on the face to clear the complexion and make wrinkles disappear.

Lilies have always been popular as church decorations, but in Victorian times they removed the pistils and stamens so as not to offend anyone (another thought, could be it was to avoid getting those lily pollen stains on the altar cloth.) European superstition held that lilies offered protection against witchcraft and kept ghosts from entering the garden. Lilies are edible and even tasty. Fresh lily buds can be added to clear chicken broth for the final 3 minutes of cooking for "lily-drop" soup.



Martagon lily



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Inside

Page 1	January Program
Page 1,11	Lilium
Page 2	A Word From the President
Page 4-5	Holiday Recap
Page 6	Outstanding Service Award
Page 7	Awards
Page 8	Lazy Gardener
Page 9	Clyde Thompson
Page 10	Unraveling

Club Officers:

President: David McKeen
2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park
Vice President: Kristine Deters
1736 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights
Membership Secretary: Don Stuewe
3624 Robinwood Terrace, Minnetonka
Treasurer: LeRoy Cech
212 Interlachen Rd., Burnsville
Past President: Ellyn Hosch
436 Sheridan Ave. S., Minneapolis

Directors:

Rudy Allebach
3414 The Mall, Minnetonka
Elizabeth Hamilton
8219 Russell Ave. S., Bloomington
Don Trocke
10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

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.
Mary J. Maynard, Co-Editor
4375 Dart Avenue
St. Louis Park, MN 55424

**FORWARDING AND RETURN
POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

First Class Mail

*January
2005*