



Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2006, Volume 64, Number 2



Blooming Boulevards: Jim Nelson

Jim Nelson is a retired attorney, teacher and chaplain who has advised the Minneapolis City Council on gardening issues for thirteen years. He has accumulated 7,000 hours in the Master Gardener program and has been a Tree Care Advisor for the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

His garden won an award from the National Wildlife Federation and was one of fifteen gardens profiled in their 1995 book. In 2003, his garden won the Nate Siegel Award for the Best Garden in Minneapolis.

Come join us for the February program, as Jim discusses chromatics, vistas, patios, birds, butterflies, tree roots, rain gardens, best management practices for storm water... oh, my!



.....
...while the joy of gardening is personal, untold pride comes to neighbors when they are greeted on their strolls through the city by beautiful gardens...
.....

February Dinner Meeting Feb. 14, 2006

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

Dinner Reservations

Permanent reservations for the February dinner meeting are in effect. Permanent reservations are shown by the "p" on the mailing label or by the email message for those receiving the newsletter by email.

Reservations or cancellations are required by the Friday before the meeting. Call or e-mail Carole Anne Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation.

For last-minute cancellations, call LeRoy Cech (952 435-7621). If he can sell it, you won't be billed.



A Word from the President

by Kristine Dieters

Last month's program was a treat for me. As a new gardener, I really enjoyed learning about all the varieties of magnolias, rhododendron and azaleas that we can try in our zone 4 gardens. Patrick Vettling did a wonderful job explaining how we could select plants to give us many months of color.

The program reminded me of when I first got interested in gardening. I moved to Seattle, Washington in the fall of 1995. I noticed immediately that landscaping in urban Seattle was very different than anything I had noticed in Minneapolis or Duluth. Most yards were filled with interesting bushes, plants and trees and had only little scraps of lawn. That first spring, I was amazed at the variety of flowering shrubs. Especially impressive to me was the broad leaf rhododendron that everyone had growing around their front steps much like we have our arborvitae. Each spring my husband and I would drive around to look at the rhodies much like we now go looking at the lights at Xmas. We lived in an apartment so we couldn't do much gardening but I thought then that when I had a house someday, I wanted to fill my front yard with beautiful flowers.

I also discovered in Washington that these beautiful shrubs were not just something that existed in the confines of the city. While hiking one day on the Olympic peninsula, we discovered an entire mountainside of rhododendron growing beneath the large cedars and firs. I hadn't thought about the fact that this forest environment was really their native home. To see these

Upcoming Events		
Date	Location	Event
Feb. 14	LHC	Blooming Boulevards
Mar. 14	LHC/MF	Marshall Field's and Bachman's Flower Show
Apr. 11	LHC	Feng Shu
May 9	WLC	Plant Auction
LHC = Lake Harriet Church		
MF = Marshall Field's Downtown		
WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church		

shrubs in the wild was a true experience. However, from Patrick's pictures, I think he has captured that same feeling in his oak forest. It inspires me to think about where I can try a few of these plants in my own yard.

One of the aspects of our club that I enjoy is the varied interests that our members have. The suggestions last year led me to several programs that turned out to be top notch and very educational. I look forward to our programs this year and to continue my growth as a gardener.

Kris



A Note from the Editor

by Jason Rathe

Hi to everyone:

Like Kris, I had a great time at the January meeting and learned a lot from Patrick Vettling about azaleas, rhododendrons and magnolias. I was really impressed that he doesn't irrigate. I think of azaleas and rhodies as water hogs, but need to rethink that now. Look at our Meeting Notes section for names of the various species he presented and talked about.



Fiddlehead and moss

I was lucky to spend three weeks on the south island of New Zealand over the Christmas and New Years holidays. It was a family trip -- but I snuck in some plant-related high-jinx. Here are a few of the many pictures we took on the trip.



Through the tree ferns



Umbrella Fern
(*Sticherus cunninghamii*)



Rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*)

I realized on this trip that I liked observing the gamut of plants in a place - from the natural and endemic to those intentional implants in gardens and landscapes as well as the escapees in fields and along roadsides.

I think it is noteworthy that the Kiwis have adopted a plant as their national symbol. All the national sports teams use the silver fern (*Cyathea dealbata*) as their logo. I think this must say something positive about their relationship to the living things around them.

Thanks.



Sundry Notes

1) Andy Marlow's database has 104 renewals for 2006. Fifteen members did not renew. 2005 members can still renew at anytime. The new directory will be available at the February club meeting.

2) Andy Marlow updated the MGCM website (<http://www.minneapolisgardenclub.org>) to reflect changes for 2006. He created email addresses for the president, the membership secretary and the editors of the Spray. They are, respectively, president@minneapolisgardenclub.org, membership@minneapolisgardenclub.org and spray@minneapolisgardenclub.org. These addresses will automatically forward messages to the office holders.

New Member Spotlight

New member: Trina Kuriger

1257 Osage Street, St. Paul, 55117, H 651 489.4016
trinakuriger@kuriger2.com

Occupation: State of Minnesota - BCA

How did you hear about us? Kristine Deters.

NOTE: A hats off to Kristine Deters for referring another new member!!!!!!

Committees checked:



Food, Flower and Foto Show



Plant Auction

Condolences

The club extends our condolences to Chet Groger on the death of his wife Em on January 8. Chet and Em were married for 64 years. We remember Em as a gracious and lovely person who will be sorely missed. Funeral services were on January 15.





Patrick Vetting: Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Magnolias

January Program Report by Jason Rathe

Patrick Vetting gave a great talk at the Garden Club meeting in January. He related his experiences growing, selecting and breeding hardy magnolias, rhododendrons and azaleas from his acreage in northern Anoka County.

One thing he stressed with azaleas and rhododendrons is drainage, which he doesn't have a problem with in his natural, sandy soil on the Anoka sand plain. If your luck is worse, and you deal with the unfriendly clay of most areas in the Twin Cities you have to go to greater lengths for success. He recommends planting in raised beds and taking greater care to winter mulch.

See the replications below (page 10) for the slides he presented. The plant species and cultivars are organized by bloom time.

One plant that got people's attention during the talk, was the Seven Son's Tree, or *Heptacodium miconioides*. Although marginally hardy (rated Zone 5-8), Patrick has had success with it and recommends giving it a try for its late summer flowering and heavenly, jasmine fragrance.

He also spoke highly about the species rhododendron,

Rhododendron brachycarpum 'Tigerstedii'. While this plant is often overlooked because of its rather inconspicuous flowers, Patrick thinks it deserves a second look because of its extreme hardiness, reliable burn-free foliage and vigorous growth. It sounds like it would be a good architectural plant for the shade garden.



Heptacodium miconioides

Not only is Patrick a plant breeder but he also is a plant namer.

He christened a new introduction from Wisconsin magnolia breeder, Dennis Ledvina, 'Golden Rain' for its uniquely downward facing yellow blooms.

If you have problems finding magnolias, azaleas and rhododendrons at your local nursery, try Klehm's Song Sparrow Nursery by mail-order (songsparrow.com).

See Page 10 for Presentation Slides!!



The Rose That Is Not A Rose Aka; The Lenten Rose

By Chuck Carlson

Minnesota is not the place that comes to mind if you are thinking of blooms in the winter. But if you want some early spring blooms, you should plant some Hellebores. It is not only a plant with early blooms but also one with some interesting foliage. If propagated via seeds, the time from seed germination to the growth of a mature plant clump could be from five to six years. A few years ago, I transplanted a few hellebores I purchased at Creek Gardens and hope to see my first bloom this coming spring. That is hope to the third power and I am not holding my breath to see it happen.

Helleborus is a small genus, containing 15 species and are native to Europe and Asia. Most people think, the plants we grow are *H. orientalis* hybrids. Today's belief is that *H. orientalis* is a distinct species. Further it is believed that the present Lenten Rose grown in our gardens are hybrids of nine species. Crosses are very easy between various species and it is becoming the norm to call these *H. X hybridus*. In fact it has formally been proposed. Also in 2005 the Perennial Plant Association called the *H. X hybridus* the "Perennial Plant of the Year".

Hardiness

The new varieties are said to be hardy from Zone 9 to Zone 4. In the "North" a good snow cover is felt to be necessary. Thus here in Minnesota it would be wise to provide a layer of mulch.

Light Requirements

Hellebores grow best in partial to full shade. It likes to be in the shade of deciduous trees but in the cooler north the plant can take a bit more sun.



Soil Requirements

The soil should drain well and be humus-rich and fertile.

Flowers

In our area the flowers pop-up in early spring, are long lasting (sometimes 2 months), happen in many colors and come in single or double forms.

Water Requirements.

Like all plants, it needs a supply of water but will tolerate some dry periods. One can conclude that the plant doesn't like continuous wet feet.

Foliage

It is an interesting leathery umbrella like leaves that are divided in seven to nine segments. In other words the plant provides some good texture to your garden landscape. It also makes a good plant to naturalize in a woodland area. Some foliage will even remain evergreen.

(cont. on page 11)



2006 MGCM Scholarship Announcement

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis (MGCM) will be awarding at least one \$1,000.00 scholarship to students of horticulture in 2006. Students working full-time toward a degree and career in horticulture, landscaping or a related professional area are encouraged to apply. MGCM is a group of men and women interested in home gardening and landscaping and improving the communities in which we live. Over the last fourteen years we have awarded a total of \$38,000.00 for student scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to students whose career goals are consistent with the interests of the gardener members of MGCM.

Criteria of Application and Award

1. Student must be a resident of the State of Minnesota
2. Student must be accepted or currently enrolled full-time at a school within the State of Minnesota. The curriculum must be accredited or formalized.
3. Student must demonstrate career interest in areas such as gardening and landscaping consistent with the interests of home gardeners.
4. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2006. A committee of MGCM will choose the winner(s) and announce the recipients in August of 2006.
5. Finalists may be interviewed at a date and location to be determined.
6. Scholarships are awarded without regard to financial data, age, gender, race or religion.

Information Required

1. Fully completed application form.
2. A letter of recommendation from an individual (non-family) knowledgeable about the applicant's horticultural education, experience and goals.
3. A letter of recommendation from an individual (non-family) knowledgeable about the applicant's personal characteristics.
4. The school address and scholarship office contact name to which the student scholarship money should be sent.
5. Other information the applicant deems appropriate (optional).

Note: All required information, items 1 through 4 must be provided. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For applications or information contact: MGCM Scholarship, c/o Kent Petterson, 908 East River Terrace, Minneapolis, MN 55414-3629 or go to <http://www.minneapolismensgardenclub.org/html/scholarshipapp.html> to print an application. Applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2006

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis 2006 Scholarship Application



Mail this application, along with all the required materials to MGCM Scholarship, c/o Kent Petterson, 908 East River Terrace, Minneapolis, MN 55414-3629. Only applications that meet all the criteria and provide all the necessary information will be considered. Postmark deadline is May 1, 2006.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email address: _____

High School attended: _____ Graduation Date: _____

College or University: _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Horticultural Area of Study: _____

Year in School: _____ Expected Graduation Date: _____

Address and school scholarship office contact name where scholarship check should be sent: _____

Please answer the following questions on a separate page or pages and mail them along with the application and letters of reference.

1. Describe your educational and career goals
2. Describe the horticultural program in which you are enrolled or have been accepted.
3. Describe your personal horticultural experiences and related group involvements.
4. Explain in detail why you wish to pursue a career in horticulture or related areas.

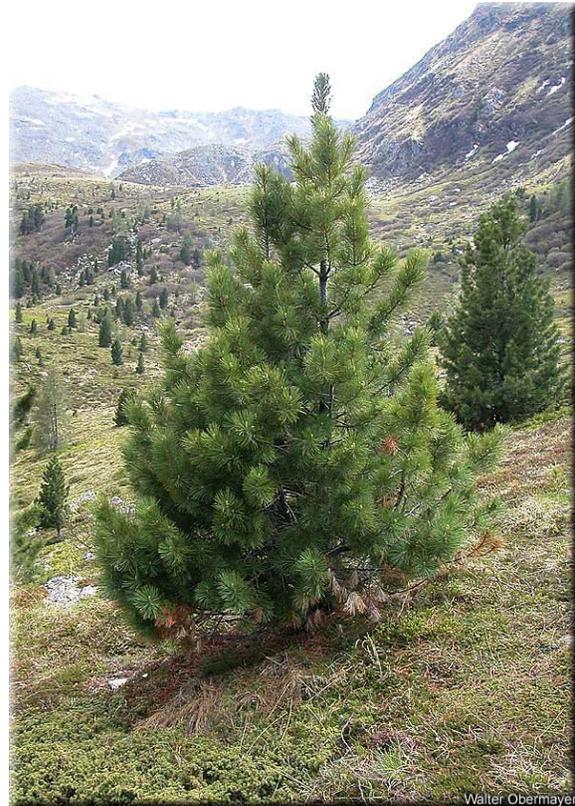
Signature: _____ Date: _____



2005 Arbor Day Committee Planting: Swiss Stone Pine

While this article is perhaps a bit late, I am pleased to announce that the MGCM Arbor Day committee did finally get a tree planted in 2005. For a variety of reasons, it didn't happen until October. The planting consisted of a specimen of Swiss Stone Pine (*Pinus cembra*, see photo) that is making a beautiful addition to background of the Perennial trial garden at Lake Harriet. This is described as a dense, slow growing, pine with medium wide conical form; 30-40 ft tall, 15-20 ft wide at maturity. The needles are medium length and bluish-green.

Special thanks are owed to two people. Kay Wolfe spent hours spent analyzing and studying the growth habits of conifers and poring over the catalogs of local nurseries looking for something suitable for the site. Jason Rathe (who is in the nursery and landscaping business) volunteered to purchase the tree wholesale for us. He and his crew not only picked up the tree and delivered it to the site, but they went ahead and planted it for us. (Note: this should qualify the Arbor Day committee for some kind of "Lazy Gardner" award from Mary Maynard).



Swiss Stone Pine
(*Pinus cembra*)
in native stand

With the start of a new year, I have made a resolution to be more proactive this year and to organize an Arbor Day event for the spring (the more traditional time to celebrate Arbor Day). Discussions are already in progress with the park board to identify additional sites in need of trees. We are also open to suggestions if anyone is aware of other opportunities.

Happy New Year and Think Spring!
Robert Keane



Magnolia, Azalea and Rhodie Slides!!

(cont. from page 5)

Early Bloom

R. duricum
R. mucronulatum
R ledebouri
R. April Rose
R. PJM
M. stellata
M. kobus 'Borealis'
M. Dr. Merrell
M. Leonard Messell

Mid-Season Bloom

M. Ivory Chalice
M. Butterflies
M. Elizabeth
R. Aglo
R. Olga

Late Bloom

A. Northern Lights series
R. Helsinki University
R. Haaga
R. Mikilii
R bracyhcarpum 'Tigerstedtii'
M. sieboldii
M. sinise

Financial Snapshot

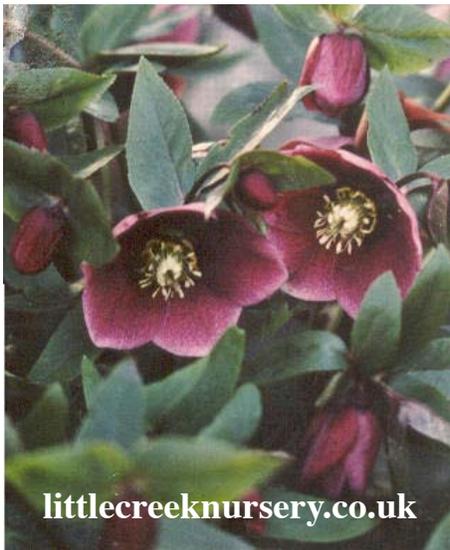
Checking - \$3,527.97
CD's - \$10,203.69
Cash - \$100

Total - \$13,831.66

48 members attended the January meeting



Mary Maynard took this picture of a magnolia at Powis Castle in Wales



Hellebores

(cont. from page 6)

A Negativity

A long exposure of the plant to bare skin can cause dermatitis but is usually mild and goes away in hours. Highly sensitive people should wear gloves to ward off these effects.

A Positive Note

The toxicity that causes dermatitis can also be a positive. The alkaloids in the plant make it undesirable for deer and they usually leave the plant alone during their foraging.

Propagation

Established plants can be divided but the recovery time is slow. Plants can also be propagated via seeds but it will take four to five years to produce flowers.

Longevity

Established plants will last for 20 years without dividing.

The Conclusion

This is a plant you will enjoy both for its foliage and early flowers. If you want flowers of a specific color or don't want to wait years to see the bloom—buy plants that are all ready in-bloom..



References

1. Perennial Plant Association
2. flower-gardening-made-easy.com



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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Club Officers:

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3624 Robinwood Terrace, Minnetonka
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