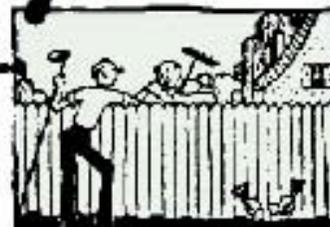




The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc

2007, Volume 65, Number 03



MARCH FORAY COMO PARK CONSERVATORY

Since Macy's department store will no longer have their Spring flower show in their eighth floor auditorium, the Men's Garden Club has decided to go to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's annual winter flower show at Como Park on Saturday, March 3.

More than 2,000 flowers have been brought in from Chile and planted in the sunken garden. There are also two other tropical areas to experience, including a new one that houses ferns, tropicals, orchids, and an aquarium.

A new, large gift shop is also open for exploring. The shop contains many gardening-oriented gifts and books. There is also a possibility that we may be able to get a peek at some behind the scenes activities. Details are being worked out.

We will also be eating lunch at the cafeteria at Como Park. They offer a nice selection of sandwiches, soups, salads, pizza, drinks and Caribou coffee. Each member must pay for his or her own meal at the cafeteria.

There will be a bus pick-up at the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church at 9:30 a.m. on March 3. There will be a \$5 charge per person for riding the bus. We will have approximately 2 hours at Como Park to see the exhibits and eat lunch. Everyone must be back on the

The March Meeting will be a trip to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park on Saturday, March 3rd.

Meet at Lake Harriet Church by 9:30 a.m.

bus by 12:30 p.m. We will arrive back at Lake Harriet Church by approximately 1 p.m. See you there!



Sunken Garden at Marjorie McNeely Conservatory



Thoughts from the Prez

by Margaret Landry

Poetry and Gardening

At our February meeting, Bob Livingston asked me about my love of poetry and got me thinking about the similarities and connections between poetry and gardening. Since my garden is currently dormant, thoughts have grown like weeds, enhanced by words of wiser folks.

Gardening produces poetry:

“I grew up in this town, my poetry was born between the hill and the river, it took its voice from the rain, and like the timber, it steeped itself in the forests.” -

Pablo Neruda

Walt Whitman said, *“To have great poets there must be great audiences too.”*

The garden club provides a channel for gardeners to become greater and gardening audiences to develop through garden club events such as the FFF show and our garden tours. Walt Whitman wants you to participate in these events! And bring friends!

Isn't every day in the garden an event? According to Robert Lowell, *“Poetry is not the record of an event: it is an event.”*

And the photos we see at the FFF show are records of some of those events. So, perhaps the photos are closer to poetry...

Miller Williams advised, *“Write drunk, revise sober.”*

Who among us has not made errors of gardening judgment when we were high on the infinite possibilities of exciting, unfamiliar plant materials, and had to make changes when reality came with the cold, hard light of day and weather conditions?

“We can only approach the gods through poetry,” according to Thomas Moore. Actually, I think we can get pretty close with gardening. Who else feels the breath, energy, scent and heat of, and hears the sound of, God when gardening? I feel very much in the present moment, in contact with concrete reality, but also connected with the infinite when I garden.

“A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be ultimately at peace with himself. What one can be, one must be,” per Abraham Maslow.

Likewise, gardeners must garden.

Top 10 Reasons I Garden (not in any order):

Stress relief * **Fresh air** * Creative expression **Exercise** * Connect with neighbors * **Food** Environment-enhancing * **FUN** * *Birds, bees, butterflies* Beauty



A Note from the Editor

Editor's Note:

Finally, the first hint of spring is in the air. With any luck, we won't have another string of 22 days with below normal temperatures. And Daylight Saving Time starts on March 11, which will make our evenings longer, and might allow some of us to get out and survey the gardens in the light. And maybe March will bring us some much-needed moisture! And maybe I'll get past my inertia and get my seeds ordered. Now that the sun is getting higher and the days are getting longer, it again seems possible that we will have summer. A few of you are probably well into the propagation business, but for us Lazy gardeners, it's probably time to start sterilizing our pots and checking the lights to get ready to start new seeds.

It was fun to see Sue and Larry Bagge at the February meeting. I am inspired to learn a little more about Ikebana before the FFF Show in August. Not that I am aspiring to emulate the masters that Sue introduced to us, but my floral design skills definitely need help! Thanks to Larry for bringing Sue to the meeting. I have a feeling that Larry is going to have some very interesting programs this year. I can't wait for April, when I will learn all the things I'm doing wrong with dahlias!

A Note for April Meeting...

Carole Ann will be out of town, so Dave McKeen will take the reservations for the April Meeting....

The April club event will be graced by Jerry and Karen Zierdt, longtime members of the Minnesota Dahlia Society. They will give a presentation on "Growing and Knowing Dahlias: colors, forms, types and characteristics."



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
March 3rd	LHC	Como Conservatory
April 10th	LHC	Dahlias

LHC = Lake Harriet Church (4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis)
MF = Marshall Field's Downtown
WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



Doug Whitney receives the Presidents Award from Kristine Dieters with Margaret Landry announcing. The Presidents Award is awarded by the outgoing president to the person who was most helpful during their time in office.



**Pictures from the
February Meeting on Ikebana
with Sue Bagge**



Slide of Japanese girls
with arrangement



Sue Bagge in action





SPACE BABIES

by Chuck Carlson

I started reading a bulletin about violets by Holtkamp and the item that caught my eye was a paragraph titled Violets from Outer Space. In one paragraph it stated that in 1984 Holtkamp Greenhouse launched 25,000 *Saintpaulia* seeds into space via one of NASA's shuttles. The violet seeds were in orbit for six years and were retrieved after traveling in space for about 750 million miles. After this long duration exposure they were known as space babies.

A program was generated to test the long term effect of exposure to radiation and lack of gravity. Many mutations were found and the first of these were



Clementine

crossed with a variety of violets called Optimara. Multiflorescence was one of the characteristics pursued. This gave violets an abundance of flowers that bloomed and bloomed. These varieties will have 20 or more blooms versus the normal of five to seven open at one time.

Below is a sample of Optimara Violets which have characteristics derived from those Space Babies.



Idaho

(cont. on page 7)



(cont. from page 6)

The trend seems to be to have vivid colors in both single and two- tone varieties. During the winter season may be just the time to try your hand at growing some *Saintpaulias* (violets to some of us). Try some you might like the challenge. If you like to propagate

plants this is one that is very simple. All you need is a leaf with a bit of a stem and some moist growing medium. Three months later you will have a number of plantlets that will emerge and can be separated to individual new plants.



North Dakota



~♪ AN EARLY SPRING ~♪ JACKETLESS IN THE BAY AREA

Over the weekend of February 16-18th, my wife and I enjoyed an early spring with a visit to the Bay Area. A highlight of our trip was bumming around San Francisco on Saturday. The weather was hot! With clear skies and temps maxing out near eighty the city was packed with folks enjoying the early spring.

We walked through neighborhoods full of planched trees, strolled through the Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park and spent a little time in the Japanese Tea Garden. The magnolias, rhododendrons, camellias and



Crazy python-like formations of *Gunnera* in the primitive plant garden at the Strybing Arboretum



Giant Groundsel a plant native to Mexico (*Telanthophora grandifolia*)



The Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park



Yeah! Magnolias!



Board Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: February 6th, 2007

PRESENT: Sharla Aaseng, Elizabeth Hamilton, Margaret Landry, Larry Larson, David McKeen, Denise Rust, Elaine Spiegel, Don Trocke

ABSENT: Kris Deters

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Board reviewed the way this year's Food, Flower and Foto Show, Aug. 18-19, will be done. There will be several others shows going at the same time and the Arboretum is hoping for a bigger draw with the various participants. Our part of the auditorium has been selected and the Arb is to do a lot of the publicity.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: There will be no Bachman's flower show in the Macy's Auditorium this year so Larry scouted out Como Conservatory and recommends the club go there in March instead. We chose to go there on Sat., March 3, will have a bus available from the Lake Harriet church, and will suggest people have lunch at the Zoobota Café at Como before we return.

For the June meeting we will not have a guest speaker but perhaps do a preview and preparation for our summer activities. As we would like to stress and encourage better club participation in the FFF Show, we could, for example, go over qualifications and staging for show entries.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: We have 100 members registered for 2007. As we only have 9 honorary members, one more person could be an honorary member. The membership handbook should be updated; this was last done in 1999. New club directories are being printed and will be available at the February meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: An audit of the books was completed and they stand approved. "We have money."

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Public Tour Committee will begin meeting later this month.

NEXT BOARD MEETING will be held Tuesday, April 3 at 7:00 PM at Elaine Spiegel's.



DESPITE THE HUNGER

DESPITE
THE HUNGER
WE CANNOT
POSSESS
MORE
THAN
THIS:
PEACE
IN A GARDEN
OF
OUR OWN.

- ALICE WALKER





Out of Salad Dressing?

tip from Chuck Carlson

Is your jar of jam or jelly down to the bottom of the jar and you can't get any on your knife to glaze that breakfast toast? Well you can save those gleanings for your next salad. To the jar, add a little olive oil a few herbs and spices, a touch of lemon juice, a little vinegar, a bit of water or a splash of white wine, cover and shake. Give it a taste and adjust any of the ingredients to your liking. Too sweet add a bit more lemon or vinegar, not enough body, add a bit more olive oil. For you garlic lovers a bit of garlic powder or a freshly squeezed clove will put on the finishing touch after a bit more shaking. Keep in mind after it sits, more flavor will be extracted from the herbs and spices.





Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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