

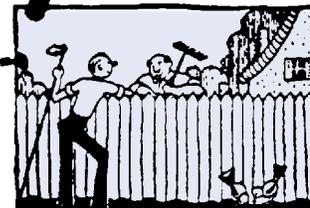


The Garden Spray



Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.
Affiliated with The Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

June 2001, Volume 59, Number 6



June 12 Dinner Meeting

Dinner: 6:30 PM ; Business: 7:00 PM ; Program: 7:30 PM

Location: Lake Harriet United Methodist; 49th and Chowen Avenue South

Cost: \$9.00 if reserved in advance, \$10.00 at the door if extra meals are available.

Reservations are necessary.

*Call in your reservation if you are not on the permanent reservations list
See page 11 for reservation and cancellation details.*

The Program --Containers



Our June speaker will be Anita Kerper. Her presentation will focus on creative container gardening including site selection, types of containers and types of designs. Additionally, she will cover new annuals on the market that can be used for containers or for the garden at large.

Anita is a co-owner of BloomScapes Inc., a St. Paul landscape company offering design, installation, and maintenance of all types of plant materials. She has been a member of the horticultural industry since 1983. She has a bachelor degree in Horticulture as well as certification as a Nursery and Landscape Professional with MNLA.

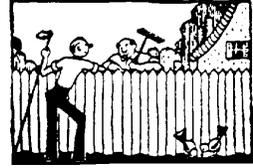


*Pot o Lisianthus
'Forever Blue'*

Future Club Events

July 19-22: National Convention
August 12: Club Tour
August 18-19: Flower, Food & Foto Show
September 11: Dinner meeting
October 9: Dinner Meeting

November 13: Dinner meeting---New and unusual perennials by Debbie Lonnee from Bailey's Nursery
December 4: Holiday Party



Editorial Enticements

By Chuck Carlson, Editor

Spring is a time period when gardeners in Minnesota get overloaded. I am a bit concerned that we in the club are also getting overloaded with club activities. I hope this isn't true and that we are still having fun with the club activities and gardening. I know I am. But, I was a bit disappointed at the turn out for the perennial garden weeding on May 19th. Hopefully this isn't indicative of anything.

I also want to stress that it is all important to volunteer for convention tasks. Without you disaster will strike. Remember many hands make light work.

I thought the Plant sale and Auction went well. I had an enjoyable night and early indications are that it was financially successful also. The plant material was the best I have seen over the years. Congratulations to those on the committee and thanks for your work.

I am writing this on a day when we received some light rain after a day of cloudy weather. For this I was grateful since I just finished planting four of my annual beds. Now I am hoping that it doesn't freeze.

I will leave you with a little poem I found. I hope it gives you a little inspiration as it did me.

In the bulb there is a flower:
In the seed an apple tree:
In cocoons a hidden promise:
But butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter,
There's a spring that waits to be.
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.

Natalie Sleeth 1985

See you at the June dinner meeting.

Perennial Garden

We will have 150 or so perennials to plant on June 2. Please attend the planting so we can complete the task in a timely manner. Only three workers showed up for the last session. We work every other Saturday throughout the summer. Please plan to attend these sessions. We usually start at 9 AM and work for an hour or two. There is always weeds to pull and donuts to eat.

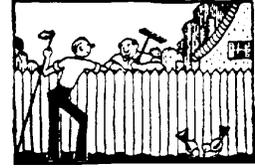
Bob & Kay



JUNE

Witness the power of June at its pinnacle;
Charming the sour and soothing the cynical.
Witness the source of it, fragrant and pure:
Mountains of compost and rotting manure.

Work @ Perennial Garden June 2
Board Meeting June 5th
Dinner Meeting June 12th
Flag Day June 14th
Fathers Day June 17th
Summer Begins June 21st



President's Column

MGCM President Carole Ann Brekke

Did I see you at the Plant Auction? If you were one of the 40 plus who served on that committee, "Thank You!" for your time and energy that made such a great evening and fun club event. We picked up healthy pre-ordered flats of annuals, shopped for unique plants in the Country Store and participated in the silent and verbal auctions. Eldon Hugelen said, "The Plant Sale and Auction was very good, there was a lot participation and the people who attended had fun!" Why was the evening a success in every measurable way? Because of the committee! As Chairman, Doug Whitney had experience leading this committee, help from a core of seasoned plant auction workers and many energetic newcomers.

Pre-ordered flats of annuals were delivered and organized the day before and were ready for pick up ahead of time. The Country Store was excellent because of the variety of healthy plant material, store bought and home grown by our members.

Silent auction bids were made for a tree rose, unique hostas and elephant ear plants, a copper foliage plant from Texas and a stand with grow lights and plant trays from Bill Hull.

There were plenty of raffle items, too!

The verbal Auction started at 6:30 PM and finished around 7:30 PM. By 8:45 PM the church was cleaned up and we went home at the usual time. Why was it such a great club event? Because many members serving on a large project like this makes light work for everyone.

Doug Whitney said, "The large number of committee members made it easier on everyone's physical and time demands."

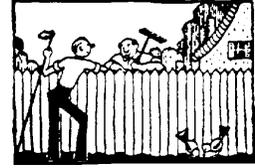
I believe this same commitment is essential and possible for the National Convention. Mel Anderson is looking for help in the hospitality room that will be open every day. If the shifts are two people for three hours, he needs at least 24 people. Mary Maynard needs bus monitors and help with the box lunches and beverages for the three days of garden tours. Bob Voigt is looking for enthusiastic help with fund raising.

How much time are you willing to give to make the National Convention as great a success and as much fun as our own Plant Auction. We need you to help in any way, as much or as little as you can. Check out the time schedule for the convention events, look at your own calendar for those days and see when you are available. Then come to the June 12 club meeting, look for the Convention Committee chairs and be ready to sign up. Wouldn't it be great to say, "The Convention was very good, there was a lot of participation and the people who attended had fun!"

How is this possible? Because, A large number of committee members make it easier on everyone's physical and time demands. We are counting on you to help make *Gardening Fun in 2001* a reality on July 19-22.

If I'm missing...
.....check my garden!
Carole Ann
June 2001





Last Month's Program

By Doug Wittney

I wish to thank everyone who participated in the MGCM Annual Plant Sale and Auction on May 8, 2001. I am confident in declaring it the most financially successful sale we have ever had. Howard Berg will report the tally when the books are closed on the event (and not before). However, I can tell from the glee in his voice that we set a new high this year.

I speak for the entire Club in expressing our deep gratitude to the following businesses for their very generous donations of plant and garden material to the sale. Please support them with your business.

- Bachman's
- Heartland Gardens (Dave Moehnke)
- Klier's Nursery and Garden Center, Inc.
- Linder's Greenhouse and Garden Center
- Malmborg's Garden Center and Greenhouse
- Edina Hardware, Inc.
- Hennepin Coop Seed Exchange, Inc., in Golden Valley
- Turf Supply Co., in Eagan

Also thanks to Dr. Pellet's operation, The Landscape Plant Development Center at the Research Center of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. He also needs your donations for the development of new hardy plant material.

I take my hat off to you club members who personally purchased and donated gardening tools, accessories and material for use as door prizes and raffle prizes.

We of the Plant Sale Committee wish to thank all members who donated materials to the Country Store. Also, thanks to all members and guests who purchased garden materials in the pre-auction order process, at the Country Store, and at the auction.

We are especially grateful to Westwood Lutheran Church for the wonderful Christian hospitality and the use of the auditorium for two days and the kitchen for one day.

We are exceedingly grateful to you, Gary Rosin, The Auctioneer, for assisting us yet again this year. We pray good health for you and for your safe return to us next year.

I am personally indebted to each and every member of the Plant Sale Committee and every participating club member for making the sale a huge success and for making my yoke easy, my burden light, and my role so much fun. I am richly blessed to be among you and to have a small part in serving you and MGCM. I thank God for the opportunity and for the beautiful day of life He donated to all of us who enjoyed this year's event.

**I pray to remain in your service.
Douglas R. Whitney**



See Page 8 Convention Help

Board Meeting Summary



Margaret Hibberd,
Secretary

Meeting Date: May 1, 2001

President's Report

We need more work on our non profit 501 (C) (3) status & it is tabled until fall.

Vice President's Report

He met Debi Lonnie of Baileys and she could give a presentation on new and unusual perennials, probably September, but is flexible. He also talked with Mike Heger and although he has spoken to the club before, we thought maybe he could talk about different things than his last presentation.

Membership Report

There are no new members, so we remain at 125 plus 2

Committee Reports

Hospitality

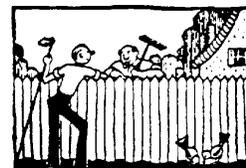
Return to old tables in back format worked better for clean-up.

Photo Album

Started taking pictures at the April meeting. Now the best format may be a 3 ring binder to insert pages for new members.

Valley Fair

Because 8 people worked on April 28, we earned \$500 for those approximately 32 person hours. They want us back. We should make it clear to members that the Valley Fair money could be used for club activities like more and better speakers, lower dues, photo album, etc.



Old Business

MGCM Handbook

Kay reported it is ready, but we need to add committees for Valley Fair and Youth Gardening
History Update

Work continues on old books of materials.

New Business

Planting at Lake Harriet Methodist

The church would like us to do some plantings around the entrance to make it more welcoming for their congregation and would reduce some of our rental charges in return. Howard will talk to the auction committee to see if there would be left over plants from the auction that could be used.



Zinna 'Burpeeana Giants'

Future Board meeting

Tuesday, June '5, 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
Wayne Engelman's house.

[See page 8 for Convention Help](#)

Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

June is peak time for roses. For the onetime bloomers, this is the one time. For recurrent bloomers, this is the first big flush of flowers.

There is nothing quite like a

rose garden in June. As our friend Jerry Olson has often pointed out, roses can have the longest bloom period of any perennial, starting in June and continuing all the way to hard frost. And, the variety is amazing, from formal standard roses to the tiniest miniatures.

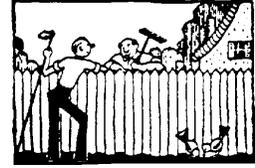
Dramatic hybrid teas, informal shrubs, impenetrable hedges, romantic antique roses.

Of course, roses come with a rap: Many people believe that Roses Are Too Much Work, and shy away from them. And roses can be a lot of work. But they don't have to be — at least if we start with some basics.

Selecting a site.

Roses generally require at least six hours of sun a day. They are not shade plants, although there are a few that do better in more shade than others. Also, roses like good soil with good organic materials, and maybe a little more acidity than a typical Minnesota garden provides.

They need good air circulation to minimize the risk of disease. I also recommend spacing roses throughout the



landscape, instead of putting them all together in one bed. While rose beds look stunning and allow for some consistency when it comes to water and fertilization, it's also a lot easier to transmit diseases from one plant to another if they are close together. So, when you see all those great rose beds on tours, you know you are not visiting the homes of Lazy Gardeners. Because Lazy Gardeners wouldn't be diligent enough to keep mildew and blackspot in check in such close confines.

Fertilization

Roses are heavy feeders, and they'll do better with a good fertilization program. Many rose enthusiasts have a regular program of weekly fertilizer applications, rotating among several fertilizer types, like fish emulsion, liquid foliar fertilizers, etc. No Lazy Gardener in his/her right mind should sign up for a program like that.

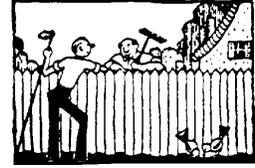
I have had reasonably good luck with Ortho's Rose Pride granular fertilizer, which is supposed to be good for six weeks or so. The last application should be done no later than mid-August, because you don't want tender fertilizer-induced new growth when cold weather hits.

Disease control.

The two main diseases that affect roses in our area are blackspot and powdery mildew. These are both fungi, and they affect almost all roses to some degree or another. In my opinion, blackspot is by far the more serious disease, since it can cause a lot of leaf drop — virtually defoliating a shrub in severe cases. (It doesn't usually kill the bush, but it sure can make it ugly.) Many modern shrub roses have



(Continued On page 7)



Confessions

(Continued from Page 6)

been bred for some disease resistance, but in a bad blackspot year, even the toughest rugosa can show some symptoms. In general, the rugosa's have the most natural resistance to blackspot. Blackspot winters over on old leaves, so it's a good idea to make sure that all the old rose leaves are cleaned up around the bush and disposed of (not composted), and to mulch well under the bush. It's counter intuitive to us Lazy Persons, but a preventive spraying program with one of the common rose fungicides (like Ortho's Funginex, or several others that I can't think of) can save time later. So I recommend doing a preventive spray early in the season (probably after the rose has leafed out, but not long after that) just in case. If nothing develops, I'd probably spray monthly for prevention. (In practice, I don't usually do this — but I often struggle with blackspot, especially on some of my vulnerable varieties. I'm sure I'd be better off if I did a better job of prevention.)

Insect control.

There are several insect pests that can affect roses —aphids, thrips, cane borers, to name just a few. With constant vigilance (not a strong suit of the typical Lazy Gardener), these pests can be controlled organically. While I dislike using insecticides, I am a fan of systemic insecticides like the one that is included in some rose fertilizers. Since the insecticide is drawn up into the plant, it is only the insects that actually are chewing on the roses that are affected — not everything in the general vicinity.

Pruning.

Pruning can be a pain, but it doesn't have to be a full-time occupation. If you live in a high rabbit population area, you can get a lot of your pruning done for you

over the winter by rabbits. Then, in the spring, start by cutting off things that are clearly dead. Wait until the bush leafs out, then remove that canes that you'd hoped weren't dead, but actually are. Then take a look at the overall form of the bush, and remove weak canes, or canes that cross each other. But don't knock yourself out on this. It isn't that big a deal. In winters like this past one, though, there can be significant die-back on even the toughest roses. I will not try to convince anyone that cutting down a seven-foot 'Robusta' with inch-thick, thorny canes is easy or fun. It is a dangerous occupation, requiring long sleeves, thick pants, those gloves with rubber-coated fingers and palms, eye protection, and good lopping shears. (My 'Robusta' bush periodically dies to the ground, only to send all sorts of new growth from the crown. I think it's a plot to keep my blood pressure up.)

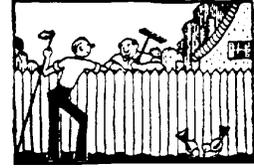
By the way, I believe the best way to dispose of rose prunings is to cut them into short segments and put them in paper grocery bags for the trash people. The rose thorns don't catch on paper like they do on plastic bags. I suppose you could just bundle them up like other branches, but in my experience, trash haulers are reluctant to pick up bundles that resemble medieval torture devices. I think this is because they don't wear those rubberized gloves.

I don't try to compost or shred rose branches, just because the thorns seem to last a long time, and they can be nasty surprises in the compost bin.

Winter Protection

One of the biggest complaints that people have about roses, is that they require all this winter protection. And it's true that the tender roses, like the hybrid teas, floribundas, etc., won't survive our

(Continued on page 11)



Convention Help Needed

The convention committee needs your help. Please consider signing up to help. Here are some of the tasks that need help. Please see the various chairs at the June Dinner Meeting and sign-up to work. If you can't be at the meeting call Duane Reynolds or better yet call the committee chairs listed below.

Convention Tasks

Thursday - July 19

8 AM-5 PM Registration-- see Duane Reynolds
8 AM-5 PM Hospitality & Merchandise Sales-- see Mel Anderson
8 AM-11:30 AM Committee Meetings—Signs for room assignments.-- see Duane Reynolds.

Friday - July 20

7 AM-8 AM Breakfast & Table Decorations --see Lynda Carlson
8 AM-4 PM Registration --see Duane Reynolds
8 AM-5 PM Hospitality & Merchandise Sales-- see Mel Anderson
12 PM-4:30 PM Tour Arboretum Bus Guide & Lunch helper--see Mary Maynard
6 PM Dinner & Table Decorations --see Lynda Carlson

Saturday - July 21

8 AM-12 PM Registration See Duane Reynolds
8 AM-5 PM Hospitality & Merchandise Sales --see Mel Anderson
8:30-11:30 AM Garden Tours Bus Guide & distributor of drinks--see Mary Maynard

12:00 PM Lunch & table Decorations --see Lynda Carlson

1:30 PM-4:30 PM Seminar Helpers --see Russ Smith

Sunday - July 22

7 AM Breakfast & Table Decorations --see Lynda Carlson
8 AM-3:30 PM Hospitality --see Mel Anderson
8 AM-12 PM Merchandise Sales --see Mel Anderson
10 AM-3:30 PM Garden Tour Bus Guide & Lunch distributor --see Mary Maynard

7 PM Presidents Banquet & Decorations --see Lynda Carlson

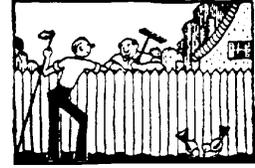
Valley Fair Report

The Valley Fair contact seemed very pleased with our results and wants us back again ASAP. She (Pam Avery) would use us as often as we could get the minimum of 5 people together. Possibly non-working members could be available mid week to assist. Out of the base of 18 ... we had 8 there on Sat. To bad, as if we had 3 more members show up, we would have been rewarded an additional \$250. This is

the easiest fund raiser there is. No months of preparation, no committee meetings and no set up/take down.

Those in attendance were Howard & Ruth Berg, Wayne & Lois Engelman, Eldon Hugelen, Warren Nordley, Mary Maynard, and myself.

And a good time was had by all
...Regards Dave Moehnke



Daffodils

Russ Smith sent this story to me as a possible inclusion in the Spray. A sad but a delightful story yet with hope that I couldn't resist including. It was taken out of the book "Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul -101 Stories to Sow Seeds of Love, Hope and Laughter". The editor

Love and Daffodils Forever.

They had just celebrated their 39th anniversary in April when Bill went for his annual checkup. Always in perfect health, he was unprepared for what the doctor found. Symptoms Bill had ignored as "old age" led to questions, palpitations, more questions, and finally instructions for a battery of tests. "Just to be on the safe side," the doctor said. When Bill took the news home to Constance, she refused to consider that it could be something serious.

Fortunately, it was April and the gardens beckoned. There was more than enough work needed to prepare the beds for the coming season, and they threw themselves into the now-familiar yearly routine. They spent their days, as always, surrounded by trays of flowers and bags of mulch, wielding their favorite trowels.

As the summer progressed, 30 years of gardening rewarded them with a showplace of color. Benches and swings were placed amid the bounty of flowers, and they spent nearly every evening during the summer relaxing and basking in the beauty. As they worked, Constance began to notice a subtle change in Bill. He seemed to tire more easily, had difficulty rising from his knees, and had little appetite. By the time the test results were in, she was no longer so sure of a good prognosis.

When the doctor ushered them into

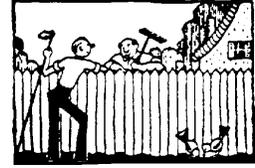
his office, she knew. His demeanor was too professional, too unlike the friend they had known and trusted for so many years. There was no easy way to say it. Bill was dying, with so little hope of curing his illness that it would be kinder to not even try. He had perhaps six months left, time enough to put his house in order, but little time for anything else.

They decided he would stay at home, with help from visiting nurses and hospice when the time came. Their children were both far away, one in Oregon and the other in Chicago. They came for extended visits, but with jobs and children, neither could come permanently. So Bill and Constance spent the ending time as they had spent the beginning time, alone together. Only now they had their beloved gardens, a great comfort to them both for that entire summer.

By September, Bill was fading fast and they both knew the end was near. For some reason Constance couldn't understand, he seemed to be pushing her to get out more. He urged her to call old friends and have lunch, go shopping, see a movie. She resisted until he became so agitated that she conceded and began making her calls. Everyone was more than willing to accompany her, and she found she did take some comfort in talking over lunch or during the long ride to the mall.

Bill passed away peacefully in October, surrounded by his family. Constance was inconsolable. No amount of knowing could have prepared her for the emptiness she felt. Winter descended upon her with a vengeance. Suddenly it seemed dark all the time. Then the holidays came, and she went to Oregon for Thanksgiving and to Chicago for Christmas. The house was cold and empty when she returned. She wasn't quite sure how she could go on, but

(Continued on page 10)



Daffodils

(Continues from page 9)

somehow she did. At long last, it was April again, and with April came the return to longer and warmer days. She would go from window to window looking out at the yard, knowing what needed to be done, but not really caring if she did it or not.

Then, one day, she noticed something different about the gardens. They were coming to life sooner than they had in the past. She went out and walked all around and through the beds. It was daffodils. Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of daffodils. She and Bill had never put many spring plants in their gardens. They so enjoyed the colors of summer that they had only a few spring daffodils and hyacinths scattered here and there.

Where did they come from, she wondered as she walked.? Not only did the blooms completely encircle each bed, they were also scattered inside, among the still-dormant summer plants. They appeared in groups all over the lawn, and even lined the driveway to the street. They ringed the trees and they lined the foundation of the house. She couldn't believe it. Where on earth had they come from?

A few days later she received a call from her attorney. He needed to see her, he said. Could she come to his office that morning? When Constance arrived, he handed her a package with instructions not to open it until she returned home. He gave no other explanation. When she opened the package, there were two smaller packages inside. One was labeled "Open me first." Inside was a video cassette. Suddenly Bill appeared on the screen, talking to her from his favorite chair, dressed not in pajamas but in a

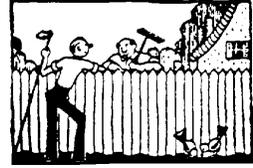
sweater and slacks. "My darling Constance," he began, "today is our anniversary, and this is my gift to you." He told her of his love for her. Then he explained the daffodils. "I know these daffodils will be blooming on our anniversary, and will continue to do so forever," Bill said. "I couldn't plant them alone, though." Their many friends had conspired with Bill to get the bulbs planted. They had taken turns last fall getting Constance out of the house for hours at a time so the work could be done. The second package held the memories of all those friends who so generously gave of their time and energies so Bill could give her his final gift.

Photographs of everyone came spilling out, images captured forever of them working in the garden, laughing, taking turns snapping pictures and visiting with her beloved husband, who sat bundled in a lawn chair, watching. In the photo Constance framed and put by her bed, Bill is smiling at her and waving his trowel.



Daffodil 'Monal'

Above Photo & words below from the Dutch Garden Catalog
The word Daffodil is generally used for the bigger varieties, like trumpet and Large cupped varieties but, botanically they are all Narcissi



Confessions

(Continues from Page 7)

winters without some protection from the elements. And the 'Minnesota Tip' method for winter protection is a lot of work. Even my 'Bag Lady' approach (forming a triangle around the bush with bags of leaves, then filling in the center with loose leaves) is enough work to make it not fun — and it doesn't provide the same level of protection as the Minnesota Tip. (It is also quite ugly in the landscape. Looks like you forgot to set your leaves out for recycling, or perhaps you have buried someone in your back yard.) Fortunately, there are getting to be more and more roses that require little or no winter protection. I tend to put about four inches of leaves around the base of hardy shrub roses, but I'm not even sure that they need it.

Selecting Roses

Personal taste plays a big part in rose selection, and I wouldn't dream of telling anyone which rose to buy. I suggest you spend some time with a catalog or two to familiarize yourself with what's available.

I'd suggest Sam Kedem's (Hastings) Town & Country Roses catalog

[www.kedemroses.com/]

or take a virtual tour of Spring Valley Roses in Spring Valley, WI

[www.springvalleyroses.com]

Well, this got long! If I haven't scared you off yet, please consider a rose or two. You won't be sorry!



*Rose & Photo by Chuck
Shrub Rose--Morden Centennial*

Reservation Details

Call Mary Maynard to make your reservation or to adjust the permanent list. Check your mailing label. If it has a "p" or "pp" (one or two reservations) you are on the permanent list. If there is no "p" on your mailing label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must notify Mary Maynard by the Friday before the dinner meeting to be assured a place at dinner. For you people getting the spray via email, check the message on the email to determine if you are on the list.

If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Mary by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the cost of your dinner. Mary can be reached at 952-926-7506. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person or send her an email at mary.j.maynard@healthpartners.com. If you have reserved a dinner and on Monday or Tuesday you have an emergency where you find you can't attend, call Howard Berg. If the reservation can be sold to latecomers or drop-ins, you will not be billed.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

Inside:

Page 1	Programs
Page 2	Editorial Enticements Perennial Garden June
Page 3	President's Column
Page 4	Last Months Program
Page 5	Board Meeting Summary Future Board Meeting
Page 6	Confessions
Page 8	Convention Help Needs Valley Fair Report
Page 9	Daffodils
Page 11	Reservation Policy

See page 8 for Convention Help

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THE SPRAY

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members.

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