

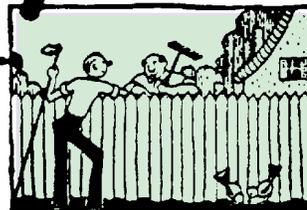


# The Garden Spray



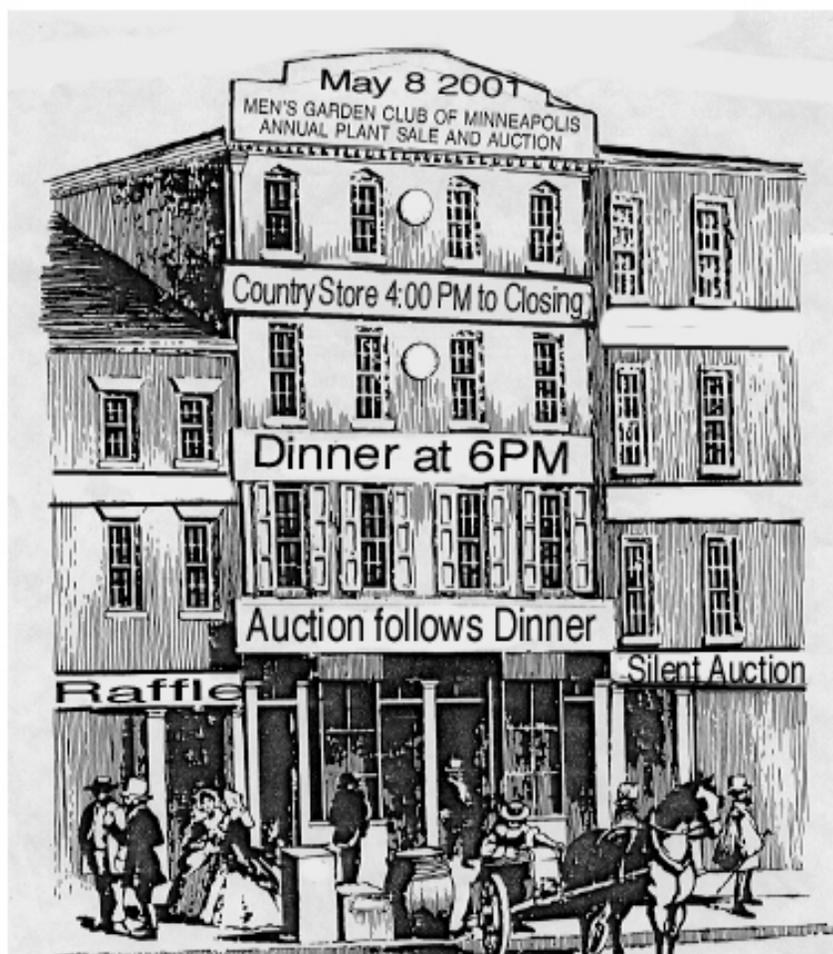
May 2001, Volume 59, Number 5

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



## May 8 Meeting ---- Plant sale and Auction

**Permanent Reservations are in effect, see page 15**



### Location:

Westwood Luthern Church  
9001 Cedar Lake Road  
East of Cedar Lake & Hwy 169

### Time:

The festivities start at 4:00 PM  
with The Country Store opening

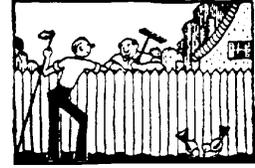
### Cost:

\$9.00 reserved, \$10.00 at the  
door if space available

## Future Club Events

June 12: Dinner meeting, Containers  
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  
December 4: Holiday Party



# Editorial Enticements

*Howard Berg sent me the write-up below. Being our treasurer, he wanted to spread the word about raising money. So he is your guest editor this month. Chuck*

## The Plant sale and Auction

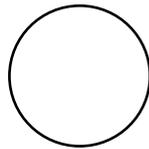
*By Howard Berg*

The sale is to provide some of the revenue necessary to operate the club. It is a vital function to earn money for the club which contributes to other gardening organizations. Money raised also helps defray expenses of our club. If we do not have the income we would have to raise our dues or drop some of these valuable activities the club does each year. The auction gives us a chance to meet for a fun activity and to buy and sell new plants.

I have been searching the old records and as far as I can determine the plant auction started on May 7th, 1946 after our club was only four years old. The auction has been held annually for 55 years and getting bigger and better every year.

Thanks to the members who bring plants for the Country Store and help put this big one day event together.

I also found this little trick was taken from the May 1972 Garden Spray.



Hold this circle to your face and blow on it.

- If it turns blue, call your physician.
- If it turns brown, see your dentist.
- If it turns purple, see your psychiatrist.

- If it turns red, see your banker.
- If it turns yellow, call your lawyer and make a will.
- If it remains the same color, you are in good health and there is no reason on earth why you should not attend the Club's Plant Auction and Sale.

# The Trapper

*By Chuck Carlson and Carole Ann Brekke*

## The Great White Trapper or Dave Gets Trapped

During the bus ride to the Dayton Bachman Flower Show, Dave Moenke told a story of trying to live trap a raccoon that had been a problem. One early morning (1 AM) he heard a noise and his trap had done its thing. But, when he investigated, it was apparent he trapped something other than a raccoon. To his dismay, it was a skunk. He used a long pole to lift it up and take it to the open lot next door. His next door neighbor heard the commotion and asked if he needed help. When told of the problem, he promptly turned off his outside light and closed his door. Can you imagine trying to get the skunk out of the cage without getting sprayed? I think it got done and Dave smelled ok so it must have worked out. If you need help releasing a live skunk from your live trap, call Dave. He....."*Has Pole Will Travel*".

# Future Board meeting

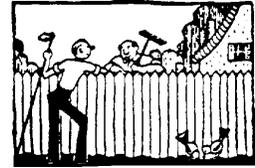
Tuesday, May 1, 7:30 PM  
Board of Directors meeting  
Margaret Hibberd's house

# President's Column

*MGCM President Carole Ann Brekke*

Are you a "connected person"? I never thought of that phrase, until a high school teacher riding my bus, gave me that title last week. We see each other Thursdays for 8 minutes when I shuttle Apple Valley High School seniors to Valley Middle School for time with the 6th graders as part of the Dare Program for drug education. We have talked about gardening, of course. Usually, I have an answer or an idea to help in her gardening plans. She was surprised when Mike Eisele boarded the bus the first week and greeted me. I know him because my daughter was his babysitter and because I worked at Eisele's Greenhouse for six years. The teacher and I have talked about many things and many people, but most recently about quilting. She said she always wanted to learn how to sew quilts together on the sewing machine, but hers was old and only went forward and back. She was delighted to hear that was all the stitching that was necessary. Then I handed her a schedule for a Beginning Machine Quilting class. That was when she said, "You are the most connected person I know." It seems to me if you feel strongly about something you love, the branching out comes naturally. There are times when my connections get too numerous and I painfully have to prune back a bit and choose only those relationships and passions that are most dear to me. To be connected means to be linked or joined together.

That is how I feel about our club. If I have any horticulture question, someone has the answer or a place for me to find it. Generous club members have delighted



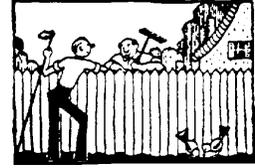
me with new plants that I have shown an interest in. Every year I wait for spring-time to see if the many unusual plants from Eldon and the Fire and Ice hosta from Bob Olson have made it through the winter. My husband is making me a very large copper arbor for my newest treasure, the wisteria I received from Jerry and Lee Shannon last year. So, what is your connection to MGCM?

Do you come for the dinner meetings and only visit with the same people, or do you branch out and meet someone new each time? Do you always serve on the same committee with the same people, or are you planting some new seeds this year and getting to know some new faces? Do you feel connected enough to MGCM to set aside time in July to help with the National Convention? If you have been on the side lines looking over the garden fence, maybe the Convention is a perfect time to make some new connections and some new friends! Will I see you there? I hope so, we are all counting on you!

*.....If I'm missing,  
check my garden!  
Carole Ann*



**All the flowers of all the  
tomorrows are in the  
seeds of today**



# Last Month's Program

By Maurice Linbloom

Mary Lerman and Neil Anderson combined to present an interesting program about the history of Lyndale gardens and the latest about perennial research at the University of Minnesota.

Mary Lerman opened the presentation with a brief history of Lyndale gardens. Colonel King, the first superintendent of parks for Minneapolis, was also instrumental in the establishment of the Park Board in 1883. He owned a large amount of land around his Lyndale farmstead at 39th. and Bryant South. Most of the land that was eventually Lyndale gardens was very swampy and low lying, and it often required filling in order to make it suitable for gardens. Several slides that were shown revealed the early conditions that were present.

Theodore Wirth, the second Superintendent of Parks, wanted to have an instructional garden as part of the system, and this was the impetus for building the Rose Garden. The Rose garden became very popular, especially after the completion of the Bandstand at nearby Lake Harriet by Mr. Lowry, the owner of the streetcar company. Several slides showed citizens and performers from the bandstand using the rose garden as back drops for formal pictures. Lilies and peonies were added to the rose garden area from 1912 to 1920.

Superintendent Wirth also wanted to have a perennial garden as part of Lyndale gardens and a 500 foot perennial border was begun in 1925. A number of members of MGCM have seen the original plans for this garden. It featured different plants than we use today, including purple

loosestrife! In 1928-1929, 350 tons of rock from a collapsed cliff at Diamond Bluff, near Red Wing, Minnesota were brought to Minneapolis by rail and then by horse carts to a location just south of the perennial border, to be used to construct a rock garden. The rocks were placed in a grove of young oak trees. Both the perennial border and the rock garden flourished until WWII when the shortage of labor caused them both to be abandoned. Two fountains were added to the rose garden area, one in 1944, (the turtle fountain), and another in 1962.

A windstorm in 1981 destroyed some of the trees around the rock garden and in 1983 a tornado moved through the area and completely uncovered the area of the rock garden, destroying the oaks that were now large trees. The park board with the help of the rock garden society worked to restore the garden. Improvements have been made continuously, adding a cascade in 1986, irrigation added in 1989, and a new area in 1991.

Neil Anderson discussed the herbaceous perennial trial gardens that the University of Minnesota utilizes for its research. One of these is the perennial garden that MGCM helps to maintain and others are at Morris, Minnesota, and at the St. Paul campus of the University. New gardens are to be established on the coast of Lake Superior, and inland from there to test perennials in harsh conditions. The gardens maintained by the University, are some of the few Northern USA trial gardens.

Plants are evaluated in these gardens for 3 complete seasons and are graded on hardiness, invasiveness, and disease resistance. Hardiness varies from species to species, but also within a species. Some perennials prove quite hardy, but have an invasive habit or reseed too easily. Examples would be *Asclepias incarnata* "Ice

*(Continued on page 14)*

# Board Meeting Summary



*Margaret Hibberd, Secretary*

Meeting Date: April 3, 2001  
Present: Howard Berg, Carole Ann Brekke, Wayne Engelman, Margaret Hibberd, Dave Johnson (Fridley), Tim McCauley, Ritchie Miller, Warren Nordley

## President's Report:

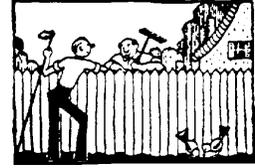
Meetings have been held for the Convention Tour Committee and the August Club tour Committee. We received 10 Arboretum passes for our club association with the Arboretum and we can also get \$5 off our yearly memberships because we have joined as a club. The Board decided to raffle 6 passes at the April dinner meeting and 4 at the plant auction in May. The club may do a planting at the dinner meeting church to defray some of our rent expenses..

## Vice Presidents Report:

The Dayton-Bachman Show trip was lovely from all reports. Anita Kerper will be the June speaker. The Valley Fair work may be as more than last year because we were the first group to do garden work there and we really impressed them. We brought a lot of workers and worked fast. The Perennial Garden and Valley Fair would compete for workers during the same time period. Hopefully can we manage the Perennial Garden and Valley Fair project with our available workers.

## Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

These reports were given and approved.



## Committee Reports:

Calendar:

Dave reported a final profit of \$728 for 2000. The budget expectation will be reduced to \$800 for 2001.

The Convention:

The present need is getting the word out to the members to encourage participation? We need to have the positions described and get numbers of member volunteers needed.

Hospitality:

We may have to go back to the "old tables in back" format, to get better clean-up.

Plant Auction

Plans coming along well. They are calling members to remind them to get the pre-orders in for flats.

## Old Business:

Handbook:

Kay is still working on it and should be ready for May Board meeting.

Photo Album:

Plans are proceeding.

Historian Committee:

Howard, Dave and Delores Johnson, Clyde Thompson, and Maury Lindblom are working on old books from Bill Hull.

## New Business

Raffle:

There will be a rabbit trap and greenhouse tent to auction at the April meeting.



# Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

## Starting and Growing Dahlias the Lazy Way

All of us who got to see Carleton Nelson's garden one last time on last year's tour no doubt remember all of his beautiful dahlias. And the State Fair Dahli Show (on Labor Day weekend in the Ag-Hort Building) is a stunning exhibit where we always see a few familiar names on exhibitors tags. Just when a lot of other things are starting to look a little tired, dahlias are just coming into their own, and can liven up the landscape in a big way. They're also great cut flowers, and one or two blooms can make a dramatic display.

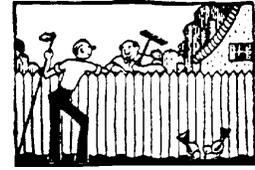
Dahlias look so very exotic and tropical that many of us believe that only experts can grow them. I am here today to say that — with all due respect to Harold Gulde and Jerry Shannon and the other experts in the Club — even Lazy Gardeners can grow a perfectly fine assortment of dahlias. Here are some observations on the subject:

1. Dahlias bloom later in summer and into fall. To get an early start, some

people start the tubers indoors, although this is not really necessary. Place the tuber horizontally, with the eye facing up. If starting indoors, use a long, shallow container and a light potting mix or seed starting mix. I particularly like the containers that are about 3 inches wide and 6 inches long. Give them plenty of water, good drainage and good light and they should pop right up. Outdoors, plant the tuber about six inches deep, again horizontally (not vertically like a carrot would grow) with the eye facing up. Planting them this deep gives the tall plants more stability, I guess. The main thing to know about starting dahlias — indoors or out — is that they need warm conditions. There is no point in starting dahlias unless the soil temperature is about 70 degrees. The tubers will just sit there and do nothing until it's warm enough. And maybe, for something to do while they're not growing, they'll rot.

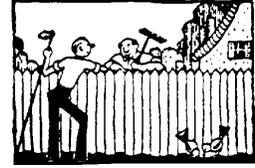
2. Dahlias are good eaters, and they like soil that is rich in organic material. Last year, Margaret Hibberd's dahlias were a lot earlier and more prolific than mine, and one of the reasons was probably that she fertilized. A little bulb food in the hole when planting out is a good start. I'm going to try it this year. Watering is good, too.

3. Most dahlias are tall plants, and need to be staked for best results. It's advisable to install the stake before planting the dahlia, since putting the stake in later is risky, and one can easily impale the tuber in the process. I have used comparatively flimsy bamboo stakes for the past few years, and they seem to work fine. Carleton Nelson had 450 concrete reinforcing



Photos by Chuck  
Top-- Dahlia 'Mickado'  
Lower--D 'Larado'  
Grown by Harold Gulde

(Continued On page 11)



# The National Flower

*This is the second article on designated flower and vegetable for the Food Flower and Foto show. As some of you know a National Award is given to the best entry for two items, the Lisianthus and the eggplant. The following article written by Ellyn Hosch covers the Lisianthus. An article by Sher Curry on the eggplant was in the March issue. Let's see how many entries we can have for these two plants. The editor*

## Lisianthus

*by Ellyn Hosch*

When the Flower, Food, and Foto Show Committee chose the Lisianthus for the flower of the year, I knew little or nothing about it. Planning to compete in this year's show, I started researching Lisianthus on the Internet. Here is what I found:

Lisianthus (*Eustoma grandiflorum*) is also known as the Texas Bluebell, bluebell or Prairie Gentian. An annual in Minnesota, it is a half-hardy perennial native to the prairie from Kansas down to Texas. In the wild, it is blue. Not satisfied with one color, plant breeders have created varieties in violet, lavender, pink, white, red, and white with a pink or lavender rim. Some varieties have double petals and look much like roses.

If you were planning to start from seed, you are too late. It takes about 4 to 5 months to get them to the point where they will bloom. When buying plants, choose stocky ones with plenty of leaves. Plant six inches apart in a sunny spot in moist, well-drained soil. Lisianthus like full sun to partial shade. Fertilize every four to six weeks if you do not incorporate slow-release fertilizer at planting time.

Once you've planted them, don't disturb them as they resent having their roots disturbed. If you want to plant them in a pot, it is generally recommended not to mix colors. Height ranges from 6 inches to 28 inches depending on variety. Use some kind of support for taller plants.

With a little sun, water, and food, you will be rewarded with 6 weeks of bloom. Feel free to cut the flower stem and bring the flowers indoors because more stems and flowers will form on the lower leaves that are left behind. Cut flowers will last up to three weeks.

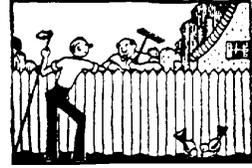
With the number of Lisianthus varieties available, we should have many interesting entries for our annual show. I'm planning to plant a couple of varieties. See you at the Food, Flower and Foto show on August 18 and 19.



*Photo by Chuck  
Eustoma grandiflorum  
Lisianthus 'Heidi Blue Rim'*



**Gardening Fun In 2001**  
**CONVENTION REGISTRATION**  
**Natinal Convention**  
**July 19-22, 2001**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota**



**REGISTRATION FORM FOR MGCM MEMBERS ONLY**

**MEMBER**

**MEMBER/SPOUSE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: MN \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name On  
Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK APPROPRIATE TITLE**

**CHECK APPROPRIATE TITLE**

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Member at Large \_\_\_\_\_  
Life Member \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Member at Large \_\_\_\_\_  
Life Member \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ National Officer
- \_\_\_\_\_ National Director
- \_\_\_\_\_ National Past President
- \_\_\_\_\_ National Committee Chair
- \_\_\_\_\_ National Committee Member
- \_\_\_\_\_ Region Officer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Club Officer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Club Editor
- \_\_\_\_\_ Judge

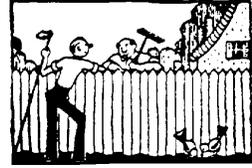
- \_\_\_\_\_ National Officer
- \_\_\_\_\_ National Director
- \_\_\_\_\_ National Past President
- \_\_\_\_\_ National Committee Chair
- \_\_\_\_\_ National Committee Member
- \_\_\_\_\_ Region Officer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Club Officer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Club Editor
- \_\_\_\_\_ Judge

**Club----MGCM**

**Club——MGCM**

**Make Checks payable to MGCM and mail with registration forms to:**  
**Duane Reynolds**  
**7116 39th Avenue**  
**New Hope, MN 55427-1303**  
**Phone: 763-537-6512**

# Gardening For Fun in 2001 TGOA/MGCA National Convention MGCM Member and Spouse registration



The Minneapolis Men's Garden club members and family can register for individual convention activities. Most members will be helping in some area of the convention and may not be able to attend certain events, tours, meals etc. You have a choice regarding what you wish to purchase. If you purchase everything then the cost comes to \$163 as compared to the listed price of \$195.

## THURSDAY - JULY 19

Registration

Hospitality & Sales Room Open

8:00 AM - 11:30 AM Committee Meetings

1:00 PM - 4:30 PM Directors Meeting

## FRIDAY - JULY 20

Registration

Hospitality & Sales Room Open

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Buffet Breakfast at Hotel \$17 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_

8:45 AM - 11:00 AM Membership Meeting

12:00 - 4:30 PM Tour Arboretum and gardens (box lunch) \$16 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_

6:00 PM Dinner at Hotel/Memorial Service/Photo

Contest Slide Show \$25 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_

## SATURDAY - JULY 21

Registration

Hospitality & Sales Room Open

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Buffet Breakfast at Hotel \$12 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_

8:30 AM- 11:30 AM Garden Tours \$10 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_

12:00PM - 1:00 PM Buffet Lunch at Hotel \$18 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Seminars free

Dinner on your own at Mall of America

## SUNDAY - JULY 22

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Buffet Breakfast at Hotel \$19 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Membership Meeting

10:30 AM-11:30 AM Council Meetings

11:45 AM - 3:30 PM Garden Tours/Box lunch \$16 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_

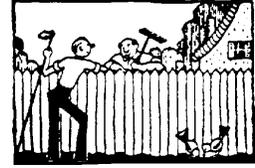
6:00 PM President's Reception

7:00 PM President's Banquet \$30 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_

Name

Total \$

Fill out a form for each person attending



## An Iris Tour

By Lloyd & Patti Weber

The 2001 "Northern Tour" sponsored by the Iris Society of Minneapolis will be June 9. The bus tour of four gardens including Anderson Iris Gardens in Forest Lake, Holly Lane Iris Gardens in Osseo, Brook Park Gardens in Brooklyn Park and a private member's garden. These gardens contain "guest irises" from the country's biggest names in iris hybridizing. New and unusual hybrids have been supplied to these tour gardens from 26 hybridizers. This is an opportunity to view the best in American iris. The one day tour will leave from the Holiday Inn North in Brooklyn Center. Registration is at 7:00 a.m. with buses leaving at 7:30. The fee will be \$25 and will include a beverage and a box lunch. Contact Lloyd or Patti Weber a 763-572-8158 before May 15.



Top Iris Siberian 'Harpwell Happiness'  
Bottom I. Varigata & I. 'Pacific Coast Hybrid'



## Pre-ordered Flowers

Doug Whitney says----Those of you who pre-ordered flowers can pick them up early if you are able to come early.

They will have these available at 3:30 PM. If the weather is good these may be outside. This will allow you to load them in your car prior to your shopping at the Country Store which opens at 4:00 PM

## Perennial Garden Wants You

*A note from Bob Redmond & Kay Wolfe*

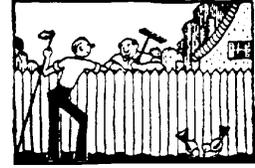
The following dates have been set for work days in the Perennial Garden;  
5/5, 5/19, 6/2, 6/16, 6/30,  
7/14, 7/28, 8/11, 8/25, 9/8, 9/22,  
10/6, and 10/20.

We will need extra workers for May the 5th since April 21 was a wash out and the garden is so wet. This also means we will not be at the perennial garden on April 28. It is really important that everyone possible be there on May 5 so we can get two weeks of work done.

Starting time is about 9 AM and we usually work for two hours. Please mark your calendars.

We do need some volunteers for some dates to supervise and bring "goodies". Please call Bob or Kay if you can do this.

. If you are on the committee we expect you, and if you are in the club (or guests) we invite you .



## Confessions

*(Continued from Page 6)*

rods for stakes. (I'm sorry to say that Carleton does not qualify as a Lazy Gardener. Nobody raising 450 dahlias in a year that he's "cutting back" can hope to join the ranks of the Lazy.) I have read that some people don't stake, but rather grow their dahlias up through the smaller round tomato cages. Seems like it should work, but I haven't tried it. I have stakes, and I don't have cages. Too lazy to get cages.

4. Not all dahlias are tall plants that need staking, however. There are several cultivars on the market that grow only two feet tall or so and do fine on their own. The most well-known of these is probably 'Park Princess', which has a nice 4-5 inch pink cactus bloom. Another one that I've had for a couple years is 'Fascination', which has dark red foliage and a striking magenta bloom with a yellow center. I really like things with unusual foliage, which can make an impact in the garden even when there are no flowers. I'm trying several more dwarf varieties this year from Swan Island Dahlias.

5. Dahlias need light, but they do not need to be in full sun for 12 hours per day. Six hours of sun seems to be enough, especially if they are sheltered from sun during the hottest part of the day.

6. For show-quality flowers, you need to do some disbudding.. Disbudding means removing the two side buds and allowing the central main flower bud to reach its greatest potential. By disbudding, you get fewer flowers, but the ones you get are the best that they can be. Side buds should be pinched out as early as possible, but not so early that you mangle the central bud. I generally disbud for a while — mainly to get good specimens for the FFF and State Fair shows, then let the rest go in order to have scads of smaller

flowers up until the first frost.

7. Watch for grasshoppers. Dahlias don't seem to have too many pests. An occasional slug maybe. But their bloom time coincides with grasshopper season, and one grasshopper can really do a number on a dahlia bloom. If you find a grasshopper on your dahlia, shoo it off to the neighbor's yard. Chances are, your neighbor has more tasty things in his or her yard.

So, go for it. Try a couple of dahlias and see if they work for you. And if you like them well enough, stay tuned this fall for a refresher course on digging and storing dahlia tubers.

## Gardening in the Sky

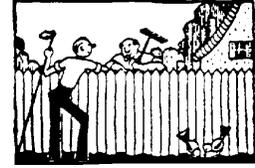
*By Jerry Shannon*

### Gardening in the Sky alias Roof Gardening

Throughout the history of man, roof gardening has occurred and continues to this day, The fabled Hanging Gardens of Babylon were one of the Seven Wonders of the World, built in 500 B. C.. In the first century A. D., the Greek historian Diodorus Siculus described the gardens being 100 feet long by 100 feet wide and built up in tiers so that it resembled a theater. The highest tier being 75 feet off the ground. (Osmundson, 1999 113-114)

During the reign of the Roman emperors, large villas often had roof gardens. One was the Villa of the Mysteries, as it is now known, outside the northwest gate of Pompeii, which was buried under 13 feet of volcanic ash when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D. Careful excavations and restoration techniques have allowed us to know how the gardens were constructed and even to

*(Continued on page 12)*



## Gardening in the Sky

*(Continued from page 11)*

know what types of plants were used in the garden, (Osmundson, 114-115)

During the Italian Renaissance, numerous roof gardens were built. Pope Pius II, who reigned as pope from 1458-64, established a summer papal center in Pienza, Italy. His own palace, Palazzo Piccolomini, contains the roof garden. During his reign, the garden was the scene of many papal audiences. (Osmundson, p. 116).

An Italian roof garden that Lee and I visited in 1998, in Lucca, sits on top of a 120 foot high fortified renaissance tower, built in 1384. Four 15 foot high live oaks grow in a 2 foot high raised bed. The tiny garden appears in a 1660 drawing of the city of Lucca, but the exact date of its establishment is unknown. (Osmundson, p. 116-117).

In the Americas, many roof gardens occurred in the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan and are referenced in the writing of the Spanish invaders who razed the city in 1521 under the leadership of the Hernan Cortes. (Osmundson, p. 117).

The early settlers in the Dakotas and Nebraska, in the middle of the nineteenth century built their houses of buffalo grass sod, stacked in 12 x 18 inch bricks for wall and over laid with overlapping shingles of sod. (Osmundson, p. 121)

During the late 1800's, before the era of air conditioning, in order to extend the theater season throughout the hot summer months, the period of theater roof gardens began in New York City. Winter Garden and Madison Square Garden theaters are two examples. The garden theater district lasted until the 1920's when air conditioning and motion pictures changed the tastes of the theater going public. (Osmundson, p. 123-124).

The Great Depression of the 1930's,

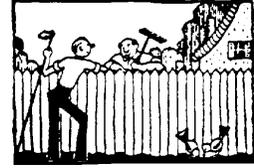
followed by the Second World War, virtually halted large scale public building construction until the 1950's along with the concept of roof gardens. The new generation of architects and landscape architects who were entering the field were unaware of the possibilities and the advantages of roof gardens and their construction was very limited until the end of the century.

Beginning in the 1990's, as concern for the environment became important, in both the United States and Europe, green roofs began catching on. Green roof tops with their plants cool the air and control the heat island effect. Computer models have shown that wide use of roof gardens and reflective surfaces could reduce summer temperatures in cities by several degrees. Another benefit of roof gardens is the control and virtual elimination of storm water runoff. (Lenart, Utne Reader, p. 22).

In Europe, green roofs are catching on even faster than in the United States, where 43 percent of German cities offer financial incentives for building roof gardens. In Chicago, the Department of Environment has established a roof garden initiative to encourage the development of green spaces in areas lacking traditional planting space. Reducing this heat island effect leads to less energy use through the creation of more energy efficient structures.

After seeing the roof garden in Lucca, Italy and seeing the roof gardens created by Harvey Buchite at Rice Creek Gardens in Blaine, Minnesota, Lee and I decided to create our own roof garden. The only logical space was on top of our sixty year old garden shed. I reinforced the dimension wooden frame with structural angle steel, rebuilt the roof and covered it with a one piece rubber membrane.

*(Continued on page 15)*



## Club News

### Directory Corrections

Frank Vixo's Phone number prefix should be 952.

### The Bruised and the Maimed

John Moon and Harold Gulde are both in the Edina Care Center recovering from surgery. We wish them well. Russ Smith was at the meeting with his shoulder all trussed up for 6 weeks just waiting for physical therapy to begin. Ritchie Miller had a fancy brace on his arm. He claimed he broke loose the ligaments sky diving but it was really from shoveling snow. Jackie Overom was also back after her surgery looking good and we hope she was feeling good and all is well. To all of them we wish a speedy and full recovery.

### Photo News

#### Photo Committee

The evening of April 10 was a busy one for the Photography Committee. It started with Chuck Carlson recording personality pics and ended with a productive meeting of the committee.

The motive for the mini photo studio is the call for a new member photo book on the part of Warren Nordley and the board. Members got to see the results of Chuck's work when he put the digital camera on preview mode. (A few said the results looked too life-like, but that isn't new at all.)

The committee talked over the photo opportunities and events for the year, the annual contest, and their interests. Several ideas stand out:

- First, the members invite everyone in the club to bring prints of their garden or of plant curiosities and so on to the meetings to be posted for

all to see.

- Second, the committee will organize and announce two photo shoots/get-togethers this year
  - One in June and probably at the Lyndale Park Rose Garden
  - The other to include a clinic on digital cameras, perhaps at the Arboretum in the fall.

All members are invited.

#### The Photo Contest

Prints and slides are due by July 31, but if you have some pictures taken during the annual convention and are a few days late getting them in to Lloyd Wittstock, be assured that his mailbox doesn't have a date stamper.

Also, we again encourage your participation—whether you contributed once, and not lately, or if you participate (eagerly or dutifully) each year, or if you never have before, we will be looking for your pictures. The rules for our photo contest was sent via email. Both slides and prints are accepted. Slides are appreciated for their clarity and color, and are judged separately from the prints in the contest. If you never tried slides, now you have a good excuse—the results can be very encouraging to your confidence in your abilities. Chuck is also (still) looking for slides of member's gardens for a slide show. Also this year you can enter electronically enhanced pictures.

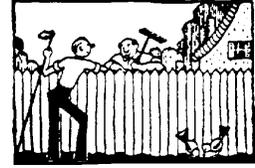
If anyone needs the rules, contact Chuck Carlson or Lloyd Wittstock. We would love to have some new participants.

### Arbor Day Activities

#### Saturday May 5

We will be planting three 'Candymint' Crab apples near the Rock Garden on the east side of Lake Harriet. The trees are a donation from the Coldren

*(continued on page 14)*



## Last Month's Program

*(Continued From Page 4)*

Ballet" and agastache, both of which reseed easily and Fragaria, which is invasive.

Ratings for the most popular perennials were carried out last year by means of ratings given plants by interested people. The 2000 Minnesota Select top perennials were:

- Agastache rupestris "Blue Fortune"
- Dianthus chinensis "Bouque Purple"
- Monarda didyma "Pettite Delight"

Mr. Anderson distributed a handout of new plants that were in the perennial trials. This list is also available on the internet at {[www.florifacts.umn.edu](http://www.florifacts.umn.edu)}. He stated that annuals are also being tested at St. Paul, Morris and Grand Rapids

Some of plants listed and shown on his slides were:

- Artemisia "Ghizou"
- Heliopsis
- Sedum "Brilliant"
- Dwarf Alstromeria (Hardiness is important for these, since every hybrid may have a different degree of cold hardiness)
- Clematis hexipetela
- Gaura

The University is also starting some shade garden trials. The trial plot will have various shade conditions, (from 0% shade to 30-60-90% shade conditions). Kiringishoma and Astilbe are two of the varieties presently being tested.

There has been a lot of progress in the development of new varieties of Chysanthemums at the St. Paul test site. The newest is a large plant that is shrub-like mum called "Autumn Red" is a maroon and gold mum that is from 3-4 feet in height and 3-7 feet in diameter. A mature plant will have 7-10,000 blooms. Several plants in a row will make a hedge of blossoms. Development of this hybrid

took 12 years. Other new mums are "Peach Centerpiece" and "Sesquicentennial Sun", named for the Sesquicentennial of the University, of Minnesota. The "Sesquicentennial Sun" is a button mum with about two inch diameter blossoms that blooms in mid to late August. The plants are very frost tolerant and are 12- - 15" in diameter'

Research is also being carried out on re-flowering lupins and re-flowering lillies.

To sum it up; it was an interesting and informative program.

## Club News Continued

*(Arbor day continued from page 13)*

family in memory of former MGCM member Rich Coldren. The planting will take place at approximately 9:00 AM. We are encouraged to help with the perennial garden activities after the tree planting is finished.

### Saturday May 12

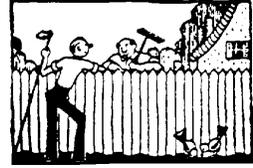
We will be planting Oak trees in the Lynnhurst neighborhood on the south side of Lake Harriet. This planting is being done in conjunction with the efforts of the park board and the neighborhood organization to beautify the park through removal of invasive species and restoration of the original oak canopy. Meet at 9:00 a.m. on Lake Harriet parkway between Penn and Oliver.

We hope you can attend one or both of these events. All members or friends are welcome.

Call Robert Kean (612-827-7216) with questions or for alternate plans if the weather is bad.

## For Rent

The club has a tiller for rent. Call Howard Berg for details.



## Gardening in the Sky

*(Continued from page 12)*

Next I built a two foot by two foot grid system out of one by four inch cedar. The grid is suspended one half inch above the roof surface so excess water can flow underneath. The grid system is attached on a eight foot aluminum channel screwed to the outside edge of the roof overhang.

We filled the grids with dead sod laid upside down and added the soil. This is a mixture of 50 percent garden soil and 50 percent Turface, a clay like material that holds moisture. My partner, Lee chose Dianthus, Aquilegia, Sedums and a short Potentilla.

If you run out of gardening space, go up and create an environmental green space on a roof.

### Garden in the Sky Bibliography

1. Roof Gardens, History, Design and Construction.  
Theodore Osmundson W. W.  
Norton and Company, Inc. 1999
2. Garden in the Sky  
Utne Reader  
March-April 2001 p. 20 & 22
3. Future of Rooftop Gardening? You Know, it's Looking Up  
Marge Hols  
St. Paul Pioneer Press  
Saturday, August 2, 2000

## Even More Club News Valley Fair

It is time for our second venture into the beautification of Valley Fair. Their horticultural staff is elated that we have volunteered for at least two visits to assist their staff in some of their annual flower bed preparation and follow up plantings.

This venture is easy, fun and very rewarding to our club treasury. The more people that come the more the treasury will receive. ( 5-10 people =\$500.00 / 11-15 \$ 750.00 / 16-20 \$1,000.00 / 21-25 \$1,250.00)

We simply do a clean up at the end of April followed by planting a month or so later. We are well taken care of, with refreshments and gratis park passes for the remainder of the function day.

Please be part of this event and join the crew by contacting Dave Moehnke if you haven't already done so. Our first clean up session is now set for Sat. April 28th 8:00 - noon. This event is prior to the parks actual opening, so your ride on the "killer" roller coaster will have to wait until our second visit when we plant !

## 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.

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