



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
October 2001, Volume 59, Number 10



October Dinner Meeting

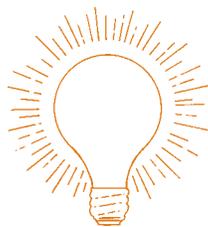
Tuesday, October 9, 2001

**Speakers: Mark & Lisa Hanson of
Touchstone Accent Lighting.**

The focus of the talk will be; layout design, fixture options, creativity and costs. Come and learn how to light up your garden or the entrance to your house. Mark has been in the landscape lighting business since 1986 and started Touchstone in 1996. They are a full service landscape lighting company serving both residential and commercial clients.

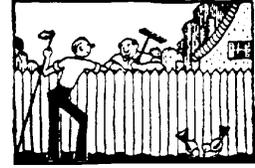


It should be an illuminating experience.



Future Club Events

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 9: | Dinner Meeting--
Program- Garden Lighting
by Mark Hanson of Touchstone Accent Lighting. |
| November 13: | Dinner meeting
Program-New and unusual perennials
by Debbie Lonnee of Bailey's Nursery |
| December 4: | Holiday Party |



Editorial Enticements

By Chuck Carlson, Editor

We sure have a full service club with dinner meeting, garden tours, flower shows, awarding of scholarships, photography opportunities (plus contests), opportunities to volunteer, the holiday party, a monthly newsletter and many other opportunities. But, I believe, the best part of our club is our members, their gardening knowledge and their willingness to pass it on. If you need to know something, just ask and you will be informed.

Soon you will be getting a letter, asking you to again reapply for membership. I hope each of you will again sign-up for another year. Also, if you know someone who has a real interest in gardening, spread the word about the club.

The club's web-site is taking shape, thanks to Andy Marlow. Reviews of the site are presently being accomplished and I am sure announcements and its address will be coming soon.

Six of us were at the regional meeting in Fort Dodge, Iowa. We had an interesting day of seminars, food and camaraderie. The next meeting will be in Fremont, Nebraska in the fall of 2002.

I have heard that the board will be needing a recording secretary, a vice president and two directors for next year. Please think about serving in this capacity. Don't be bashful, just let Ritchie Miller know you are interested. We truly need your help in giving the club direction for the coming years. Next year will be our 60th year and with your help, we hope to continue for many more.



Pumpkins & Sunflowers

By Chuck Carlson

Bring your pumpkins and sunflowers to the October dinner meeting for the big contest. Give the Bobs some competition.

For those of you who don't grow the big sunflowers but grow those with small flowers, bring some in for display.

If you grow the small pumpkins, bring those in also. It would decorate the table.

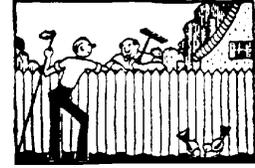
Pumpkin Facts

- Biggest in US (Ohio) 1140 #'s
- Biggest in Minnesota (Bethel) 923 #'s
- The name has evolved from Pepon (Greek) to pompon (French) to Pumpion (English) to Pumpkin (American).
- Pumpkins are 90% water.

Sunflower Facts

- The tallest 25 feet 5 1/2 inches.
- The biggest head 32 1/2 inches.
- They can grow 12 inches higher in a day





President's Column

MGCM President Carole Ann Brekke

My backyard neighbors look at my garden from their kitchen windows and regularly compliment me on the view. I consider it a gift to them, as they are busy and have other interests and priorities. Shortly after I enlarged my garden and created the small pond on the edge of the patio by the back door, a large black lab puppy moved in across the street. Within the week, I ventured to their house to introduce myself. Then, I had the uncomfortable task of telling them that their large puppy was bathing in my small pond with the lily pads and fish. The family had moved from a farm, and the dog who had run free, was now a city dog. They built a fence and we were good neighbors for many years.

I am an animal lover through and through. We have always had a dog. When our children were small, we did the gerbil, turtle, gold fish thing and have now graduated to cockatiels and six Koi in my pond. As soon as I venture out to the garden each spring, my dog joins me. He stays in the yard and strays from my side only if a squirrel or rabbit comes into view. We are very compatible in the garden. Behind our house live two dogs in fenced in yards. There are dogs on both sides of our house and also dogs at the five houses across the street. We have all been quite compatible, and I think the absence of rabbits is because of the presence and barking of all the dogs.

The house directly across the street have three children. Joey comes over every spring to ask for plants for his new garden. When I trim the apple tree, he and his friends collect the branches to burn in their fire pit in the back yard.

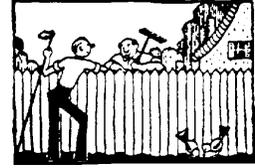
The children have helped with my rocks, fed my fish and have taken my dog for walks. I enjoy the children and their visits to my yard, and they enjoy bringing new friends to walk the garden path, sit on the bench under the Linden tree and feed the fish. We, too, get a long together.

Then came their dogs. The first was a six year old Chocolate Lab. He spent a lot of time at our house running through the hostas and eventually bit my smaller dog while the children were walking him on a leash. \$300.00 later, and after many complaints from frightened dog walkers who were also attacked by their dog, the lab was gone. Then came Lady, a smaller dog who also likes our house and is usually free to run. We just shoo him home when he comes over. Then a small black and white kitten came to live with them.

I remember the day Michelle carried in her arms the little ball of fluff for me to see. I didn't see that a kitten would be a problem because cats are indoor pets. I was wrong. Every day, she creeps across the street and makes her way through the garden. I can only imagine what she does there. Then one day she chased a squirrel up the Black Walnut tree. She sat in the tree, about ten feet above the grass trying to get down.

Eventually, she held on with her front claws, swung her back legs around and backed down the tree. It was quite comical to watch. Then last week she had climbed the arbor where the clematis grows and was sitting on the railing of our deck, under the Finch feeders. I made another uncomfortable call and asked them to come for their cat. Doug said he was proud that I had the courage to make the call. Then came late Tuesday evening when Doug and I came only to see Lady come up the driveway from our backyard. Then he said, "The cat was sitting by the pond

(Continued on page 7)



Russ Backes

With sadness we announce that Charles (Russ) Backes has passed on.

Russ was 82 years old and married to Ruth for 59 years. Russ has been retired for many years but in his work life he was an electrical engineer for Pillsbury and General Mills. He was a member of our club since 1975. Russ we will miss you, and we hope you now have the garden of your dreams.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife Ruth, his children and his grandchildren. God Bless you all.

Bob Churilla

By Chuck Carlson

Five weeks ago Bob had an automobile accident which left him unconscious and with broken bones plus lung problems. He spent time in the hospital solving these problems and is now at the Bethesda Rehabilitation Hospital at 559 Capitol Blvd., in St Paul. He is still not responding to various stimuli but has showed some signs of hands and feet movement. We all hope and pray for his recovery. We also send our best wishes to Lorraine and pray for her strength and ability to cope with the situation.

Change of address

Chuck Cutter
9600 Portland Ave Unit 317
Bloomington, MN 55420
Ph-952-884-0766

'Autumn Red' Mum



Harold Gulde

By Chuck Carlson

Harold is presently residing at the Minnesota Masonic Home in Bloomington.

He has been having trouble with his legs and ability to walk. He is now getting around with the help of a walker and hopefully will regain enough strength to return home in the future. His address is: Minnesota Masonic Home
Harold Gulde Unity Center room 251E
11501 Masonic Home Drive
Bloomington MN 55437

I know he would appreciate any communications. Visitors are welcome, cards are appreciated or give him a call. The Phone is 952-948-7480.

Best wishes for a fast recovery and our best to Phyllis in her time of stress.

Autumn Red is Here

Information from the Yard & Garden News in an article by Beth Jarvis

A number of the garden centers in our area have had a supply of the Autumn Red Mum. This is the first maximum released by the University of Minnesota and is being distributed as a My Favorite(TM) plant.

It is a large plant and once established it grows to four feet wide and two to three feet high. A mound with thousands of blooms and hardy to Zone 3B. Pinching back is not necessary.

If you didn't get one this fall, look for it in the spring.

Board Meeting Summary



Margaret Hibberd Secretary

Meeting Date: August 7, 2001
Present: Board members—Howard Berg, Carole Ann Brekke, Wayne Engelman, Margaret Hibberd, Dave Johnson (Fridley), Tim McCauley, Ritchie Miller, Warren Nordley & Jackie Overom. Special presenters Kay Wolfe and Robert Kean were also in attendance.

President's Report:

Carole Ann welcomed Robert and Kay. Mary Maynard has resigned as FFF Chair and will no longer be taking dinner reservations next year. Carole Ann has the application forms if anyone is interested in applying for National offices or committees.

Vice President's Report:

The September program will be on Garden Pathways. Touchstone Accent Lighting is now doing the October presentation. January program is still open, perhaps something from members. He has the meeting dates set with the church, however the dates have not been set for the Marshall Field - Bachman Show in March, so he is waiting to set that meeting date.

Recording Secretary's Report:

Last month's minutes of the board meeting was given and accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

We are waiting for a refund from the bus company for the second bus reserved for the August tour and paid for in advance, but not needed. A \$4000 CD was cashed for the four scholarships to be given this year. This fund still has another

\$4000 in another CD. The end of August report was given and accepted.

Membership Report:

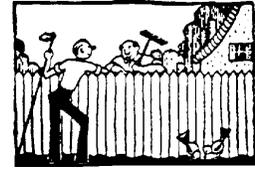
We remain at 128 members. October is renewal time and the renewal information will be sent out in a separate mailing.

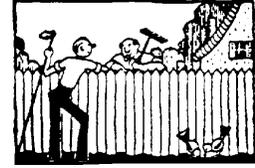
Committee Reports:

Perennial Garden:

Kay Wolfe and Robert Kean attended the Board meeting to explain the situation with the Trial Garden. They had a meeting at Kay's house to discuss the problems and 18 people attended and were interested in staying with the project and getting it to work. Major problems have been lack of watering, many and large weeds not controlled because only licensed applicators can apply herbicides and the lack of labels. The constant weeding takes the joy out of working on this project. We need to get clarification of the commitment of the Park Board, especially about watering and weeds, and would like a decision by the end of the year. Also it was suggested that the size of the trial area be reduced to about the northeast 60% of what it is now and perhaps that could be better managed. Robert's draft of the letter to Mary Lerman, to be copied to the Park Board was reviewed. On a motion by our MGCM Board it was approved that it be sent. The committee had also discussed different ways of having people work at the site, i.e. if Saturday mornings are not convenient, perhaps some weekday work groups could be set up. Warren brought up the idea that we have provided a lot of hard labor for this project and they have not used very much of our gardening expertise. Perhaps we could look for projects such as helping with gardens at the Habitat for Humanity homes, nursing homes, horticultural therapy gardens, etc. Robert thought that if Mary Lerman and

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Recipes

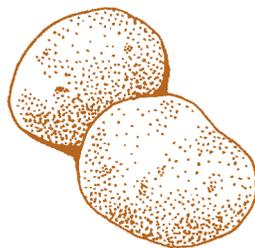


By Phil Smith

I enjoyed the recipe in August Spray, and thought I would send one of my favorites. I enjoy cooking and do about 90 % of our cooking during the 6 months we spend at our Florida home. They have a farmer's market nearby and we get lots of fresh vegetables and fruits. We usually can get about 6 or 7 large peppers for a dollar, choice of colors including purple. With gardeners having fresh veggies this time of year, I thought some people might like this low calorie soup. Potatoes are used as the thickener.

PEPPER SOUP

- 4 or 5 large sweet peppers, chopped, all yellow, all red, or mixed
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 Tbs olive oil
- 3 Tbs diced fresh cilantro (or substitute 1 Tbs. fried parsley or tarragon)
- 1 Tbs minced garlic
- 6 cups low fat chicken stock
- 2 large Yukon Gold potatoes, diced, (about 2 cups)
- ** white pepper to taste



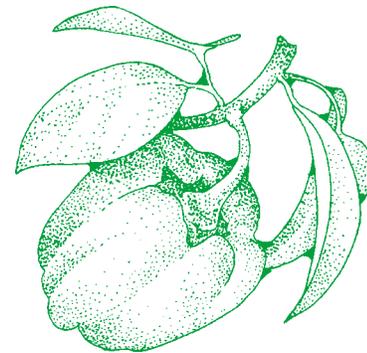
Saute peppers, onion, cilantro and garlic in olive oil until tender. Suggest using large stock pot. Add chicken stock, potatoes and pepper, cover and cook until potatoes are tender (about 30 minutes). Process in batches in blender or food processor until well blended. To serve, suggest garnish of a dollop of sour cream, or splash of sherry or balsamic vinegar, or sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese.

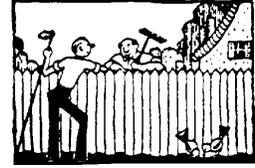
Editor's Comment

Some of you may not have known Phil when he lived in our area. He and his wife Wanda had one of the better gardens in Minneapolis. A long time member of the club who still maintains his membership even though he now lives in Montana and Florida. He included the following note when he sent me the above recipe. Chuck

We have had a very hot dry summer with only about 3/8 of an inch of rain since June 15. Lots of nearby fires, but none real close to here. Our gardens have been nice. Would enjoy a visit from any members who may be touring this area. We are about 15 miles north of northwest corner of Yellowstone Park.

Cordially, Phil Smith





Garden Tours -2002

By Chuck Carlson

Our member and Director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Peter Olin, asked me to spread the word about some upcoming tours, called Great Gardens of the World.

These tours are cosponsored by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. All tours are scheduled for 2002. The first one goes to the Desert Southwest in February. There are also eight others to the Floriade in the Netherlands. The Floriade takes place every 10 years so if you miss this one you will have to wait until 2012. Each tour not only takes in the Floriade but goes other places also. Some of these places are; Spring Gardens of Holland, The Chelsea Flower Show, Gardens of Ireland, Gardens of Sweden and the Tuscan Gardens. Pick up a pamphlet at either the Horticultural Society or the Arboretum for more details. You can also call or email Pat O'Brien, 952-443-1443 or [patob@arboretum.umn.edu]



Our poet

I noticed our resident poet, Kathryn McKeen has been published by our national newsletter and also in the last issue of the Green Bay newsletter *The Tiller*. We ran her poem, *A Devoted Gardener's Wife* in our newsletter many months ago. Congratulations!!

Presidents Report

(Continued from Page 3)

again today looking at the fish!" One more call! I think they now know how we feel. I hope I am done making telephone calls.

We all have critter problems in our gardens. I believe I would rather deal with visitors like Lady and the cat, than munchers like rabbits, wood chucks and deer. We need to live in harmony, with our neighbors and their pets, animals in the wild and mankind. Peace!

If I'm missing....

.....check my garden!

Carole Ann

October 2001



Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 2, 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
Tim and Karen McCauley's house

Morrie's New Garden

By Maurice Lindblom

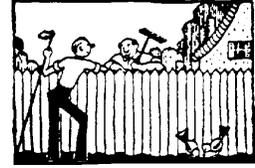
Last December I moved to a different house. There had been several other occupants before me, but the last one had done nothing for the garden and yard so I spent a lot of time during the winter planning various projects for the gardens.

One item in the yard that intrigued me was a semi-circle of rough field stone in the northwest corner. It appeared as though it might have been an enclosure for a tree, or perhaps it had been a garden.

I stripped the sod from the semi-circle to use for some walls I was building, (that is another story I will tell at another time). The soil beneath the sod was black and rich and ideally loamy in texture. "This must have been a garden", I mused as I dug and turned over the soil.

Gradually, other evidences of another garden and another gardener appeared. Like the shards that archeologists find in ancient sites, each piece I unearthed revealed a little more. Plastic plant stakes were the first to appear. Most without names of plants on them and then several that bore the letters PHLOX GLOBE, apparently a variety from years ago. Then my spade struck something metallic..a small round object. It was a tag from a rose bush. The inscription was difficult to read, but after washing it I could see "CHRYSLER IMPERIAL", and the letters AARS. A familiar item to any one who has grown roses.

As I was digging, the neighbor came over and in talking with him, I learned that the first occupant of my house had grown beautiful roses in the garden I was exploring. As archeologists do, I combined evidence from my digging with the



testimony of "native peoples" to complete my discovery of an earnest gardener who loved phlox and roses and had built a wall to enclose his treasures.

Years from now, will those who occupy the houses where we live be able to tell what kind of gardeners we were?

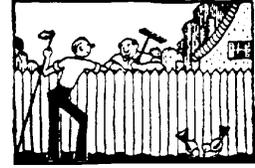
The plants that remain and the shards they recover, will give them the same joy of discovery that I had in my new back yard.



Phlox 'Bright Eyes'

The Garden-- One of the vast number of free outdoor restaurants operated by charity-minded amateurs in an effort to provide healthful, balanced meals for insects, birds and animals.

From the Green Bay newsletter "The Tiller".



Save Those Vines

By Margaret Hibberd

Tired of buying vinca and ornamental potato vines every year? I have been working on ways to save them and offer some ideas.

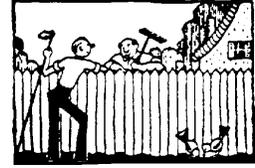
The vinca vines are the easiest. After rejecting the experience of bringing my big outdoor pots into the house and having them drop leaves all winter, I started taking Mason jars full of cuttings and rooting them in water. This is slow and not all make roots, but the winter is long and by March I could pot up groups of them in 4" pots for return to the big pots by mid-May with extras to give away. This might be faster if they were dipped in rooting hormone and put in moist vermiculite with light and bottom heat. Last year I tried removing the whole plant from the big pot and burying it about 4" deep in the garden, kind of like a rose tip idea. I forgot where I put it until I saw it peaking out in the garden in early May. Then I dug it up, washed it, and returned it to the big pot. I think this works because the vinca vine is almost hardy here and needs only a little winter protection.

The ornamental sweet potato vine, *Ipomoea batatas*, is the same as the edible sweet potato and is a far from hardy here. It does indeed make an underground tuber and Ritchie Miller was the first one who told me he had eaten it. These are in a different family from the Irish potato, *Solanum tuberosum*, and are not propagated by cutting them into small pieces with eyes and planting those. As recommended in *Fine Gardening*, this sweet tuber can be stored like a dahlia, i.e. after washing and air drying, I stored it in coarse vermiculite in a plastic bag at 40 to 50 degrees F. with my dahlia area. I potted

these up about April 1, but did not provide any warmth and I did not get any sprouting until they got warm outside the end of June. The Rodale "Growing Vegetables" recommends two methods for the garden sweet potato. One is to submerge half of it in a pan of water in a light window at 75 degrees F. for a month before planting time. Or they can be laid horizontally in pots of sand and covered with 2 inches of sand and kept warm and moist on a light window sill. With either of these methods, rooted slips are produced that are broken from the parent by twisting when wanted for planting. This is probably a good idea because I left mine attached to the potato and the squirrels dug them up and ate them. For the ornamental varieties, *Fine Gardening* also recommended just taking cuttings and rooting them in a glass of water set in a brightly lit place but out of direct sun. These can be potted up when they have two inch roots and kept on a warm sunny window until planted outside. I think these Rodale and *Fine Gardening* methods are worth a try, but wonder if our winter windows here are as warm as they might be farther south. We might need to try a little extra light and/or bottom heat.

Good luck, or after reading all this you might decide it is a bargain to just buy these vines!

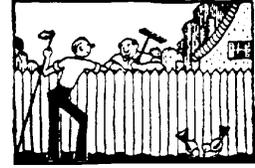




20 Ways To Kill Your Seedlings

Copied with permission from the web site www.tradesecretgardens.com

1. Buy bargain seeds, 10 cents a pack is more than enough to pay. With all the time and effort to raise your seedlings, it's a sensible place to cut corners.
2. Store your seeds in a greenhouse. High temperatures and humidity during storage lowers the germination rate.
3. Recycle pots but don't bother to clean and disinfect them with bleach or in the dishwasher. You might find you have cleaned off some particularly virulent disease that could have grown along with your seedlings.
4. Why use sterile mix when soil from your garden is readily available? Garden soil encourages good fungal growth.
5. If you insist on using expensive germinating mix, then use the smallest amount possible or you will only encourage good root development.
6. Avidly follow the identically worded instructions printed on the back of each and every variety of seed pack .
7. After planting your seeds, water your germinating mix to saturate the soil to capacity. Do not allow it to drain for a few minutes but add a cup or two more water for good luck before enclosing in plastic wrap or a plastic bag immediately.
8. Do not cover your well drained seed pot with plastic as this might result in optimal germinating conditions.
9. Some seeds need to be sown on the surface of the germinating mix because they need light to germinate, and some require total darkness. Only compulsive gardeners follow such picky instructions.
10. When setting up your "grow" lights use the fewest number of the smallest wattage and oldest fluorescent lights you can find. The light from 2 year old fluorescent bulbs is particularly feeble and highly recommended.
11. To promote the tallest spindliest plants, place your lights one foot or more away from the growing tip. Or alternately, to encourage brown crispy leaves, lower the lights so that they touch the tender seedling leaves. This is particularly effective in combination with very dry soil.
12. Why stop at 14 hours? Keep lights on all day and night.
13. Never fertilize. Yellow is an attractive leaf color. Alternatively, apply fertilizer too often at full strength or stronger and don't wait to use it until after the first true leaves emerge, but start your regular fertilizing schedule as soon as you sow the seeds.
14. Carefully prick out seedlings by grabbing them by their brittle stems.
15. Never thin. 50 scrawny plants are better than 10 healthy ones. The more the merrier.
16. Why water gently? Several good blasts of scalding water from the kitchen faucet should do the trick. A good alternative is ice cold water. That sets them back beautifully.
17. Keep the soil soggy at all times. If you let the soil dry out, it allows air to get to the roots which unfortunately stimulates their growth.
18. Check to see if the seedlings need water every third or fourth week.
19. Don't toughen up your seedlings , on their first day outside, place them in a windy spot in full sun.
20. Finally, we recommend that you never label the seed pots so that you can spend hours of amusement trying to identify the few surviving plants.



Board Meeting Minutes

(Continues from page 5)

the Park Board respond favorably to our clarification requests, the Perennial Trial Garden would not take so much time, and we would have time for Valley Fair and some new projects.

Valley Fair:

Dave Moehnke had reported that there have been some communication problems, but we can still expect payment at the end of the season for our earlier work. There was talk of a work date for fall clean-up and it looks like there will be work opportunities for next year, so we will leave the committee on the application form.

Old Business

MGCM Handbook:

Kay had finished the draft and pointed out that the Board has never approved the History, Valley Fair and Youth Gardening committees. On a motion by Ritchie and a second by Margaret, the History and Youth Gardening committees were approved. We will wait on the Valley Fair committee until we get a definition. The Board thanked Kay for all her hard

work on the Handbook. They will go in new member packets and can be available to members. Jackie will get quotes on printing 50 or 100, or maybe less.

Convention Follow-up:

The Board gives a big thank you to Duane and Patti Reynolds for their excellent work on the 2001 Convention. The board approved a gift be presented to them for all their work. An Uncle Foggy evergreen will be presented to them.

Photo Album:

More pictures will be taken at the September meeting. October is the final month for taking pictures at the dinner meeting. If people are missing after that, they can send in their own pictures.

New Business

Budget Process, Convention Money and Scholarships will be discussed in October.

New Board members for 2002:

The positions of Recording Secretary, Vice President and 2 Directors are open.

Next meeting October 2 at home of Tim and Karen McCauley .

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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CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Carole Ann Brekke

709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306-5161

Vice-President: Warren Nordley

14001 Frontier Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337-4741

Recording Secretary: Margaret Hibberd

1850 Roselawn Ave., Falcon Heights, MN 55113-5519

Membership Secretary: Jackie Overom

14024 Frontier Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337-4728

Treasurer: Howard Berg

10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305-2615

Past President: Ritchie Miller

4249 Twin Oak Lane, Robbinsdale, MN 55422-1336

DIRECTORS:

Dave Johnson

5291 Matterhorn Dr., Fridley, MN 55419-1324

Tim McCauley

325 West 82nd Street, Chaska, MN 55318-3208

Wayne Engleman

11311 Oakvale Road So, Minnetonka, MN 55305-4359

THE SPRAY

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

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Managing Editor & Production Manager-----Chuck Carlson

The committee: Fred Glasoe Mary Maynard Robert Olson Rich Van Sickle Lloyd Wittstock

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The Garden Spray

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Charles J. Carlson, Managing Editor

1001 Hackman Circle

Fridley, MN 55432-0463

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