

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc 2003, Volume 61, Number 4



This Month at MGCM Tuesday, April 8, Dinner Meeting

Permanent reservations are in effect See Page 11 for details and dinner reservations

The Program: Gardening and Hostas By Bob Olson

Bob will talk about some of the things he learned about gardens and hostas. He claims most of it was learned from the members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. He has had a "love affair with hostas" for 20 years and an early protege of the late Bob Savory. This man got Bob into collecting and even hybridizing hostas. Bob also traveled all over America and even to Japan collecting interesting and unusual hostas. His garden has been on many garden tours, including those of the National Conventions of the Men's Garden Club of America and the American Hostas Society. Knowing all this how could you not attend the April Dinner Meeting.

If you aren't convinced yet that you must attend, below are a few comments from some of our members.

Bob has been president of our club, a clamored for speaker, President of the American Hosta Society for 6 years and currently the editor of their national publication, The Hosta Journal (a 90 page color magazine). Chuck Carlson

"Bob Olson, notable resident of St. Louis Park, hosta expert, and world traveler. Star attraction of the 2001 National Convention in Minneapolis with his witty and informative presentation.

The only person I know who not only has a hosta named after him, but named hostas after his family members. I am glad he didn't name one for me, it would probably be 'Zounds' or 'Abba Dabba Do'." Mary Maynard

"Bob Olson is my personal hosta guru. Everything I know about hostas I learned from him." Andy Marlow" "We (Rog Koopmans & Bob Olson) have traveled to Hosta events and roomed together around the U.S.. and through Japan. Bob is a keen observer of Toilets, he even photographs toilets! I have slides to prove this". Rog Koopmans

-- His programs are something I would walk a mile to hear". Chuck Carlson

Olson' "Bob's humor is effervescent always gets us to laugh at ourselves with his insightful views of life's foibles and ironies

If you ask Bob for gardening advice, beware of his zest and enthusiasm. When I requested a few cast-off plants, he gave me three lawn bags full. On another occasion he convinced me that getting a truck load of horse manure delivered would be no problem, and that I could spread it on my gardens all by myself in one day". Kay Wolfe



Hosta 'Bob Olson'

Our Plant Sale & Auction

By Doug Whitney

On Tuesday, May 6, 2003, MGCM will hold its major annual fund-raiser, our Plant Sale, Auction and Country Store. This fundraiser earns the lion's share of the club's annual budget.

This April, 2003 *Garden Spray* includes the "Pre-Auction Order Form" (See page 3 & 4) which has worked so well in the past two years. The forms will also be available at the April 8, 2003 Club Dinner Meeting. All of the prices, ordering information and other details are on the form.

The Plant Auction Committee continues to attempt to improve the social and fellowship aspects of this special meeting. We are still trying to streamline the auction format in order to insure that the event is interesting, well paced, ends on time, and continues to be well attended throughout the evening.

I have been asked to explain three aspects of the auction process.

- Why does the auctioneer begin with a minimum bid ? Why not let the pricing begin with a bid from the floor ? Well, every year members get up by ones and twos and leave the event well before the auction has finished. They are tired, bored or have lost interest. By starting with a minimum bid we are trying to save time and keep the overall pace and duration of the auction from bogging down.
- How can the bidders be sure that the minimum price isn't set too high by the minimum bid ? Well, the auctioneer doesn't set the

minimum price. The Plant Auction Committee asks Dave Johnson and/or



Richie Miller, the committee members who purchase most of the auction plant materials, to the tell the auctioneer a starting price that is well below retail but very close to our cost. However, this year we are going to experiment by allowing the bidding to begin from the gallery on some materials. We will then return to the minimum bid format. We will then adopt the opening bid process that takes the least time, unless that process for some reason returns drastically lower profit margins. Remember, we are doing this to have fun and to support the club.

• There are many questions every year concerning the recurring phenomena of the auction process. A short description follows:

The Committee volunteers put 8 or 10 flats, perhaps two flats each of four different colors, on the auction table. The bidding proceeds where upon the successful bidder walks up to the table, removes two flats , and gives his auction ID number to Lloyd Weber. After the winning bidder has made a selection, all other bidders get the next selections at the winning bid price, after that anyone can make a selection. The Committee removes the remaining unsold flats and proceeds to the next variety of plant materials. The theory is that Committee feels that this process is the fairest for all concerned and yields the highest return for the Garden Club. If members choose to split a flat, that's fine, but it gets charged to the account of one member who has to collect from those with whom the flat was split. Please don't ask to have partial flats billed to a bid number account.

• What about the remaining materials that weren't selected by anyone? Anyone with a bid number can wait around until the live auction has closed to attempt to purchase what is left over.

(Continued on page 5)

Preorder form for the May 6 Plant Sale

Name

Phone number

Order total and check amt. enclosed 48 plants/flat \$20/flat and \$11/half flat. Send Order to Doug Whitney By April 15 Or Bring to the April Dinner meeting



_		Quantity of	Quantity of	
Genera	Variety and/or Color	Half Flats	Full Flats	
Ageratum	Blue Leilani			
Ageratum	Hawaii Blue			
Ageratum	Hawaii White			
Alyssum	Snow Crystals White			
Alyssum	purple			
Begonia, fib	Super Olympia Mix			
Begonia, fib	Super Olympia Pink			
Begonia, fib	Super Olympia Red			
Begonia, fib	Super Olympia Rose			
Begonia, fib	Super Olympia White			
Brachycome	Brachy Blue			
Browallia	Bells Blue			
Calendula	Bon Bon Yellow			
Cleome	Rose		1999	
Celosia	Red			
Celosia	Pink			
Dianthus	Super Parfait Raspberry			
Daisy	Dahlborg Yellow		10000	
Dusty Miller	Silverdust		1.7	
Flowering Kale	Emperor mix		8.00 M () ()	
Impatiens	Blitz 2000 Pink			
Impatiens	Blitz 2000 Salmon		12 C	
Impatiens	Blitz 2000 Rose			
Impatiens	Show Stopper Bright Red			
Impatiens	Super Elfin Blue Pearl'		1.	
Impatiens	Super Elfin Bright Orange			
Impatiens	Super Elfin Ruby (new)			
Impatiens	Super Elfin Lipstick			
Impatiens	Super Elfin Mix			
Impatiens	Super Elfin White		Notes -	
Additional requested plants		Quantity of Half Flats	Quantity of Full Flats	

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Preorder form for the May 6 Plant Sale

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Genera	Variaty and/or Calar	Quantity of Half Flats	Quantity of Full Flats	
and and a second se	Variety and/or Color	riali riato	ruiriats	
Lisianthus	Heidi Blue Rim			
Lisianthus	Heidi Deep Blue			
Lisianthus	Heidi Rose Pink			
Lobelia	Blue Horizon			
Lobelia	Blue Trailing	1		
Lobelia	Rose Trailing			
Lobelia	Palace Blue			
Marigold	Antique Yellow			
Marigold	Lemondrop			
Marigold	Orange			
Nierembergia	Mont Blanc White			
Nierembergia	purple			
Nicotiana	Avalon Bright Pink	ght Pink		
Nicotiana	Antique Peach			
Nicotiana	Antique Red		in the second	
Pansy	Blue	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
Pansy	Mix			
Pansy	Yellow			
Pansy	Majestic Giant			
Petunia	Fantasy Pink Morn		1	
Petunia	Super Cascade Pink		1. 2	
Petunia	Super Cascade Rose			
Petunia	Super Cascade White			
Petunia	Super Cascade Red	-		
Salvia	Sizzler Red		1000	
Salvia	Victoria Blue			
Verbena	Red			
Verbena	Imagination			
Vinca	Peach			
Vinca	Punch		1	
Zinnia	Dreamland mix			
Additional requested plants		Quantity of Half Flats	Quantity of Full Flats	



Board Meeting Summary



Summarized from Mary Oelke's Secretarys Report

March 4, 2003

Board Members Present: Nancy Bjerke, Lynda Carlson, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Dave McKeen, Mary Oelke

President's Report

President Nancy Bjerke called the meeting to order. Jack Kolb's thank you letter to the club for his birthday celebration at the last meeting was passed around.

Vice-president's Report

The March Membership Meeting will be held on March 18th. It will include a talk by Dale Bachman as well as a tour of the Bachman—Marshall-Field Flower Show. Busses will be available to take people from the church to the flower show.

The speaker at the April meeting will be Bob Olson.

Secretary's & Treasurer's Reports

Both reports were approved.

Membership Report

A motion was passed to approve Bev Hofmann, Janet and Paul Tolzmann and Sherry Ost for MGCM membership. The club now has 117 members.

Old Business

501 c 3 Statute

Dave Johnson has completed the application form. Ellyn Hosch and Doug Whitney will review the form with him before it is submitted in March with the \$500 fee. Name Change

The balloting of the board members on whether or not to address a name change this year was completed. Most of the members are open to such a change. A committee needs to be formed to decide what the new name might be before the question is brought to the members.

New Business

Ellyn Hosch will review the club handbook in light of the club's disaffiliation from the national group.

Plant auction pricing was discussed. Some concerns will be brought to the Plant Auction Committee.

Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on April 1 at the home of Mary Oelke, 5745 Duncan Lane, Edina.

Plant Sale & Auction Continued

(Continued from page 2)

The mission of the silent auction, live auction and country store plant sale is to raise money for the annual operating budget of MGCM. We would be engaging in a shameful conflict of interest to do otherwise.

If there are any annuals you would like to see offered this year that do not appear on the "Pre-Auction Order Form", write in your order (1 flat minimum) in one of the blank variety columns on the Form. Call Eldon Hugelen or Kay Wolfe if you have suggestions about perennials you'd like to buy at the Country Store. For specialty and premium materials you think would be interesting or exciting for the Silent Auction or Live Auction, we'd appreciate your help in locating the particular material you suggest. Call Bob Stepan for assistance and coordina-

The Tomato is this years FFF vegetable of the year. Next month there will be an article on growing tomatoes. If you are growing them from seed, start them under lights by April 10th.

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Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

Less is More-Summer

As I get older, I search more and more for simplicity. However, my urge to acquire every new plant that comes on the market makes simplicity a little difficult to achieve in the garden. If I could start all over (which I never will), I would limit the plants in my garden to a few staple perennials and plant bunches of them. For the summer garden, I'd go with these:

1. Asiatic lilies.

While these don't last as long as I'd like them to, they are beautiful when they're blooming, and quite trouble-free. With a little work and attention, we can select a number of different varieties that can extend the overall bloom time. They make dramatic cut flowers, too. And, while I have heard that lilies can have virus problems, mine have been problem-free for years.

2. Daylilies.

I almost didn't include these, not because I don't like them, but because I have too many of them, and too many daylilies is a design challenge for the likes of me. But I'm pretty sure I'd never be without them. Even if we don't count the repeat bloomers, we can have daylilies in bloom from Memorial Day to Labor Day with a little attention to bloom period. Among my favorites are 'Penny's Worth', which is very small but is the best repeat bloomer I know of, and 'Bitsy' which is taller and has small yellow flowers plus it also reblooms reliably. And years ago



I got 'Donna Lennington' from Coopers, and it's great. A large, mid-late season bloomer with great substance and fragrance and long bloom period. And anyone who's looked at a catalog or visited North Star Daylilies knows that there are thousands of varieties to choose from. The one thing that bugs me about daylilies is that they get all these yellow and brown leaves later in the season. The author of The Well-Tended Perennial Garden suggests shearing all the leaves off after blooming and letting new leaves grow back, but I'm not too sure about that. I tried it with mixed results: leaves grew back well on some plants, not so well on others, and shearing left a huge hole in the garden. Daylilies are also willing to grow under black walnuts.

3. Phlox paniculata.

People have described phlox as "the backbone of the summer garden", and I have really enjoyed my 'Starfire'. With careful selection for bloom time and mildew resistance, and careful siting for air circulation, phloxes can pick up the blooming slack where asiatic lilies leave off. From my perspective, phloxes have two problems: powdery mildew and reseeding. Powdery mildew can be managed to some extent by selecting resistent varieties, careful site selection and by thinning plants to five or six strong stems. Phloxes will reseed occasionally, and it is important to remove those seedlings, since they will not grow true to their parent, and will revert to shades of purple. I bet we've all seen gardens where phlox seedlings have been left to grow and prosper, often crowding out more desirable varieties. If you haven't seen a garden like this, call me in August and come and see mine!

4. Rudbeckia fulgida

'Goldsturm'. This is one of the most (Continued on Page 9)





Nancy's **Turkey Tracks**

MGCM President Nancy Bjerke

It is time to order perennials and the nurseries offer a wide selection of plants and prices just as an example of what can be done with a little time and effort. I picked out three plants: Coreopsis, Rosea, 'American Dream/ Sweet Dream' which is pink, Athyrium, Japanese Painted Fern and Liatris, Blazing Star to compare. One reason for the selection is that my deer friends don't care for these

plants. I am sure there are other places to look but you have to stop somewhere. Also catalog surfing is an interesting activity in cold weather to increase ones knowledge on the plants but nothing beats a trip to a nursery to see, touch and hold the real plant.

The chart displays the information by plant sorted by price. Bluestone, Roots & Rhizomes and Spring Hill do not sell single plants and Jung sells Liatris in multiple qualities only. Also Ambergate does sell potted plants but not by mail and are a bit higher than their bare root selections shown in the catalog. Some of the resources indicate the size of the pot while others do not tell you if the plant is potted or bare root stock.

Coreopsis, Rosea Coreopsis, Rosea Coreopsis, American Dream Coreopsis, American Dream Coreopsis, Rosea 'Sweet Dream'

Athyrium, Japanese Painted Fern Athyrium, Japanese Painted Fern

Liatris, Purple Liatris, Blazing Star Liatris, Blazing Star Liatris, 'Kobold' Liatris, 'Kobold' Liatris, 'Kobold' Liatris, 'Kobold'

Roots & Rhizomes Jung Bluestone VanBourgondien White Flower Farm

Bluestone Jung Ambergate Gardens Roots & Rhizomes White Flower Farm Spring Hill

Jung Bluestone Prairie Moon Wayside Ambergate Gardens Roots & Rhizomes White Flower Farm

\$3.00 each 4 for \$12.00 3" pot \$3.75 each 3 for \$9.95 \$4.17 each 3 for \$12.50 cell packs \$5.95 each 3 for \$16.95 2 1/2" pot \$12.95 each 3 for \$37.95 3" pot

Farmer Seed & Nurs'y \$2.95 each 3 for \$7.95 \$4.17 each 3 for \$12.50 cell packs \$5.95 each 3 for \$15.95 \$6.00 each bare root \$6.00 each 3 for \$16.50 3" pot \$10.95 each 3 for \$31.95 3" pot \$11.99 each 3 for \$31.99 pot (size ?}

> \$0.66 each 6 for \$3.95 \$3.50 each 3 for \$10.50 cell packs \$4.00 each 3 for \$9.00 (9 varieties) \$4.95 each 3 for \$12.95 \$5.00 each 3 for \$13.50 bare root \$6.00 each 3 for \$16.50 3" pot \$9.25 each 3 for \$26.25 3" pot

Liatris 'Kobold'







Coreopsis rosea

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Getting To KnowOur Past Presidents

Data collected by our Historian Howard Berg edited by Chuck Carlson

Editors note: This is the start of a series of past presidents in the club who are still members in the club.The selection process will be to present the earliest presidents that we have history available. Get your bio sketches to Howard. This is an attempt to make the club a bit more personable by getting to know our members better.

Phillip H. Smith-President in 1970

Phil was born in Hartford City, Indiana in the year 1936 and graduated from Purdue University in 1956 at age 20. His education was continued at Indiana University, where he earned a JD law degree. He practiced law in Minneapolis where he specialized in Trademark Law and wrote a book the subject.

He retired at the age of 57. He moved to Montana for the summer and Florida in the winter. He said he retired but in Montana Phil started a real estate development selling 20 acre lots at ski resort. He also built two homes for himself and his wife Wanda. The one in Minneapolis had a solarium on the second floor.

He has been a gardener since a boy and member of various organizations. Served as Past President of MN State Horticultural Society, as President for 7 years of University Foundation for MN Landscape Arboretum and U.S. Vice-Pres. of Delphinium Society for several years. He joined our club and the Gardeners of America in 1961. He chaired a number of committees, a frequent speaker and writer and was on many tours. His primary garden interests are Delphiniums and other hardy perennials, plus garden design and construction.

Phil joined the club because of his interest in gardening and was developing a garden at a new home in Golden Valley. He was sponsored by Bill Brooks, and became close friends with Archie Flack, P.W. Young and many other members, including Roger Koopmans and Dave Johnson (G.V.).

He said his most gratifying experiences in the club were being elected President of club, winning the Lehman trophy in 1963 and being involved with starting the blind garden (also called the fragrance Garden) while I was president in 1970.

Phil is one of our members in absentia, whom most of you do not know or haven't even seen him but maybe this and the articles he has written over the past many months have given you a little insight into who Phil Smith is.

Robert C. Livingston-President 1975

Robert C. Livingston was born in 1927 in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. After leaving his boyhood home, he attended the University of Wisconsin where in 1951, he received a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

He is now retired but when working he was the General Manager for the Jack G. Brown Agency, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. He presently lives in Edina with his wife Alice.

He joined the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis in 1971 and has served on many committees over the years and has been on the Board of Directors. When on "the board" he served as Secretary, Vice President and President. In 1978 was awarded the President's Cup.

He has had many interests in his horticultural escapades which involved lilies, perennials, roses, hostas, vegetables and container gardening. But I believe his biggest interest is in dwarf conifers. He loved those conifers so much, he spoke to a number of

(Continued on page 9)



Confessions Continued

(Continued from page 6)

nearly perfect plants on earth. It is completely hardy, and increases nicely, but is not invasive. And it puts out masses of crisp, uniform, long-lasting black-eyed susan blossoms in mid summer. It never needs staking, doesn't seem to care about fertilizer or water or even light, to some extent. If I could only have three plants in my garden, this would be one of them.

5. Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'

When I first heard about this feather reed grass, I wasn't all that impressed. After all, to some extent, grass is just grass, isn't it? But I have become a believer when it comes to Karl Foerster. Like his relative 'Overdam', Karl is a cool-season grass, so he shows up early. And he blooms early, too, providing a longlasting, upright accent to the garden. Karl is also not too fussy about soil conditions or light. A classic, and bound to be a permanent resident in my garden if I can keep Phil from mowing it down by mistake.

6. Miscanthus 'Variegatus'.

What? Another grass? This is another of my favorites because of season-long interest. While it's not exactly the first thing up in the spring, and it's not going to like a real Minnesota winter if we ever have one again, it provides a near-white accent in the border all summer and fall and stands out in my back border. Well, that's six.

I thought about including Purple Coneflowers, because I really like them, but I've had to dig too many of them out because of aster yellows in recent years. And veronica's are a favorite, but many varieties get kind of mildewed and junky at the bottom, and they seem to require staking, which is not one of my strong suits. I'd never be without Penstemon 'Husker Red," but it doesn't always hold its own well in a cluttered garden. And Plume Poppies are terrific, but they can get a little over-enthusiastic at times. And a couple other of my favorites carry far enough into the fall that they're in the next installment. Stay tuned!

Past Presidents Continued

(Bob Livingston Continued from page 8)

groups giving up his knowledge and extolled their virtues.

He didn't have a sponsor when he joined since as he put it, he was a "walk-in". He just wanted to learn more about gardening and 33 years later, he claims he is still learning from the other club members.

As far as his most special things about the club is the plant sale and auction, and garden tours. He also said the people in our club are all great and he looks forward to each meeting. Bob is usually one of the first to show up at the dinner meetings and we also look forward to seeing him.

Are You A Perennial

By Chuck Carlson

For some reason people have been sending me emails relating to getting old. I can't figure out; why me? It must be that my friends are relating it to themselves. I would rather look at it by asking the question;

How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?

Us gardeners have other things we can relate to such as working with hoses, water, dirt, rain, plants etc., so we live by an old gardener's idiom;

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

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Hibiscus

By Phil Smith

New Grafted Hybrid Hibiscus

I have been growing some fantastic new

hibiscus plants in Florida which I think some members in Minnesota may wish to try as pot plants. They are brilliantly colored new cultivars of tropical hibiscus grafted onto vigorous root stocks, and grown by Zoe's Tropicals, a large wholesale nursery located southwest of Miami.

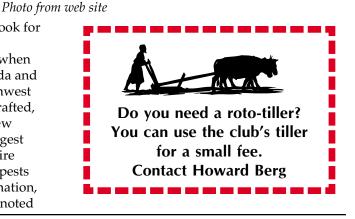
You can take a look at the these very colorful plants by visiting the web site, http:// www.floridaplants.net. The home page shows five of the more popular varieties, and by clicking on "varieties" you can see all 53 of the cultivars which they produce. The blooms average 9-10 inches. I learned of these plants two years ago and now have six varieties permanently planted in our garden in Florida. They are near the street and many people passing by in autos or bicycles stop and look at them. Rog and Kak Koopmans were visiting in Florida in February and they took two potted

plants back with them on the plane. Look for them this summer on their terrace.

I first saw these grafted hibiscus when visiting a nursery in Homestead, Florida and then attending a plant sale of the Southwest Florida Hibiscus Association. Being grafted, they are a little slow to take off (like new roses), so one should try to find the largest potted plants available. Hibiscus require spraying, being susceptible to various pests and diseases. For more cultural information, click on "plant Care tips" at the above noted web site.

Hibiscus are tender perennials and will not survive anything but very light frost. They will need to be moved indoors in winter just as Minnesota gardeners do with older varieties of hibiscus and other tender perenni-

> als. In my opinion, these new cultivars will do well as pot plants on a sunny deck in Minnesota, and hopefully some nurseries there will learn about these plants and start to stock them. Of course, they will need to be carried over the winter indoors or in a greenhouse. The Home Depot nurseries here in Florida have started carrying a few varieties of these new hibiscus, and maybe they will also do so in the north. Here, they sell retail for \$19 to \$35 each, depending on the size of the plants and the source, that is assuming one can find them. I got two plants for \$8 each at the above noted society plant sale although they were rather small. However, they have done quite well in the garden. I would encourage members to look at the noted web site and look for these plants.





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Hibiscus 'The Path' Phil Smith's Favorite Photo from the Web Site



Hibiscus 'Jami Lou'

See it at Rog Koopmans



The 2003 Schedule of Events

May 6,	Dinner, Auction & Plant Sale At Westwood Luthern Church	August 24,	Members Tour Grasses & Fall Gardens
June 24,	Members Tour	September 9,	Dinner Meeting
	Roses & Early Gardens	October 14,	Dinner Meeting
July 15,	Members Tour	November 11	, Dinner Meeting
	Perennial Garden Tour	November 28	, Wreath Making
August 16	, FFF Show at Arboratum		at Kliers Garden Center
August 17	', FFF Show at Arboratum	December 2,	Holiday Party

April 8, Dinner Meeting

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

Gathering & Greetings 6:00 PM Dinner and Conversation 6:30 PM The Program 7:30 PM

A Bedtime Story

By Chuck Carlson

I was going over some pictures I have saved over the years and the one below just popped out and said "What a bedtime story." Only a dedicated gardener would pick a bedtime story from the Burpee catalog for the grandchildren. Just look at those expressions. Isn't it great to be a grandfather and a gardener. Could this be the start of youth gardening.

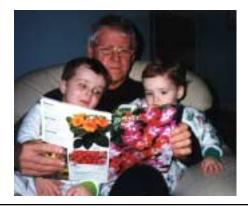
For those of you who are relatively new to the club and didn't know this gardener and

Reservations for dinner April 8, 2003

Permanent Reservations are in effect. Reservations are necessary by Friday, April 4. Call or email Carole Ann Brekke for your reservation if you are not on the permanent reservations list or you need to cancel your permanent reservation. You will be responsible for the cost if not cancelled. Contact Carole Ann at phone 952-435-6029) or (Email numsix24@attbi.com)

For last minute cancellations on Monday or Tuesday call Dave Johnson Phone 763-571-2713 If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

past member of our club, it is Henry Orfield. Henry is not only a great gardener but a superb garden photographer and by the looks of it a good grandfather. It wouldn't surprise me if he took this picture. Henry is now doing his gardening in Arizona.



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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



CLUB OFFICERS:

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THE SPRAY

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