

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc 2004, Volume 62, Number 4

### MGCM Schedule

#### The Year-2004

**Fvent** 

Location

Date

Date L	ocauon	Event
April 6*	LHC	Field/Bachman Flower Show
May 4**	WLC	Plant Auction
June 8	Tour	McCauley's Peony garden
July 10 &11		Public Tour
Aug. ?		Club Tour
Aug. 21-22	ARB.	FFF Show
Sept. 14	LHC	Henry & Purcell Orna. Grasses
October 12	LHC	S. Nordstrom Monrovia Plants
Nov. 9	LHC	Lorrie Stromme Trees and The Law
Nov. 26	KGC	Wreath Making
Dec. 7	LHC	<b>Holiday Party</b>
Jan. 11,2005	LHC	Nelson's talk on Liliums

LHC= Lake Harriet Church

 $WLC = Westwood\ Lutheren Church$ 

KGC= Klier's Garden Center FFF= Food Flower & Foto Show

\* early start time 5:30 pm

#### This Month-April Tuesday, April 6, 2004

Gathering & Conversation -----5:00 pm Dinner-----5:30 pm Program-----During Dinner Bus Leaves for Flower Show-----6:30 pm

## The Program The Dinner

The dinner will be served at 5:30 with a short program about the flower show given by Dale Bachman. Dinner will be at the Lake Harriet Church.

## The Show The Field-Bachman Flower Show Garden of Make Believe

A show for children and friends of flowers. A floral fantasy world where you will take a dream like journey conceived by artist Hilton McConnico and designed by David Beahm. It will be a fantasy land of natural colors highlighted by dramatic lighting. There will be a series of rooms, each featuring unusual combinations of plants: like forsythia, citrus trees, cacti and bromeliads. All this plus some interactive displays.

#### The Logistics

The bus will pick up members at LHC 6:30 PM on Tuesday April the 6th. Their will be no permanent reservations honored. The charge will be \$9.00 for dinner with no extra charge for riding the bus. See page 11 For Dinner and Bus Reservation Details and Form. Members must indicate if they plan to ride the bus but after the bus is full (54) any remaining requests must furnish their own transportation to the show. So if you want to ride the bus get your reservations in early.

<sup>\*\*</sup> early start time other details in the May newsletter



### Utterances From The Prez

By Ellyn Hosch

Chrysanthemum or Dendranthema? Brunnera or Anchusa?

#### How important is a name?

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis has been known by one name for its entire history. During that history, the club has seen many changes. There are some in the club who believe the club should keep its name and there are others who believe the club should change its name. The question of a name change has been ruminating for a number of years. The Board feels that it is time to bring the question to the members.

Last year the Board commissioned a special committee to develop a list of candidate names. Club members were invited to give suggestions to the committee. At the same time, the Board informally surveyed the club members about their feelings on the name change. We received mixed feedback, with strong sentiments both for and against a name change.

To make the overall process simpler and more clear cut, the Board decided to take two votes as opposed to one vote. The first vote at the September general club meeting will be a Yes or No vote on whether the club should change the name. At this vote, new candidate names will not be part of the balloting. If the vote is against a name change, no further voting will be required. If the vote is for a name change, a second vote will be held at another meeting to select one of the candidate names. The Board felt this was the best way for the members to clearly express their opinions.



Every member will be provided with the opportunity to state an opinion at the September meeting. If you would like to speak at the meeting, please contact Mary Oelke. She will keep the list of speakers. If you have a strong opinion, you can share it with your fellow club members. A Yes or No vote will be held

after members' opinions are communicated.

Please mark Tuesday, September 14, on your calendar and make a special effort to attend and vote on this important matter.



## **Harold Gulde Has Moved**

His new address is:

Harold J Gulde 3330 Edinborough Way # 613 Edina MN 55435

### **Member Renewal**

This renewal didn't get into the directory.

Donald Untiedt 3317 East 37th St Minneapolis MN55406-2757 email--shannonoaks@aol.com



### What Am I



## **April**

By Chuck Carlson

April is the month they say, "April showers bring May flowers". That is true, if last fall one does lay, Those bulbs whose energy does empower.

It is also the month we change our clocks, To have more time at night. To work the garden and move the rocks, Just to see our plants in their delight.

April is the time to plant an early crop, Of cabbage, spinach peas and greens. If planted before the temps do drop, Covers will come upon the scenes.

Soon will come the warm days of May, When the last of April is all gone. We can then make hay, From the garden and the lawn.

So April is the start, Of the glorious outdoor gardening season. The winter blues can then depart, And we can garden, without reason.

If you don't know or want to see how smart you are, go to page 10



### **New Director**

The board appointed per the By Laws a new director. This new director is Don Trocke. Congratulations and Thanks!!

The appointment was necessary due to the move by David McKeen from director to Vice President.



## Last Month's **Program**

By Andy Marlow

As winter wears on in Minnesota, we all begin to wish we could take a trip south - far south - to escape the cold, the snow and the long nights. A sure cure for winter-weariness (I may have coined a new word) is to go so far south that you are no longer in the northern hemisphere. For most of us, that's just a fantasy, but for Peter Olin it has been reality. As Director of the University of Minnesota landscape Arboretum, MGCM member Olin has been fortunate enough to lead a garden travel group to New Zealand. And we were fortunate that he shared some of the sights and his thoughts about them with MGCM members at our March meeting.

New Zealand is a neighbor to Australia, well south of the equator, where our winter months are their summer months. Peter's trip at the end of January was timed to catch many plants in their peak season. The country is made up of many islands, but most of the landmass is contributed by just two; aptly named North Island and South Island.

The Arboretum group's trip began at Auckland at the top of North Island. Auckland is New Zealand's largest city and home to many spectacular gardens. Among them is Domain Garden, with rare native ferns and tropical flowers. Among the ferns Peter showed were the spectacular tree ferns that were, literally, the size of our trees. There were also great evergreens. A particularly large and beautiful Norfolk Island Pine dominated the area around a rose garden in full bloom. The Domain area is also home to the Wintergarden, a large conservatory under glass featuring gloxinia, petunias and fuscias.

Another stop was the Auckland Botanical garden, a fairly new garden, but a place where plants, particularly trees and shrubs, have been growing for a long time. A highlight was an

unusual spindle tree. The area is also home to a home demonstration garden with a complete house, a South Africa Garden, rock garden, herb garden and rose garden.

Native plants and animals are protected and conserved at the Waitakere Nature Preserve just outside of Auckland. The tree ferns here, Black Tree Ferns, are huge and a giant Kauri tree growing to 100 feet tall.

The Auckland portion of the trip also included a tour of private gardens. The homes and gardens were stunning, particularly the ones that were either on the water or had extensive water features. The climate is Mediterranean, allowing for gardening year round.

From Auckland, the group traveled south to the spa area at Rotorua. The whole town is one giant garden, with a beautifully landscaped and quaint town hall. The area is very geologically active, having numerous hot springs and geysers.

Further south the group cam to Wellington, New Zealand's capitol. It is situated on southern tip of North Island overlooking the straight between the North and South Islands. The botanical garden at the top of the mountain looming over Wellington provided spectacular views of the garden's plants and of the surrounding land and sea.

Christchurch on South Island is one of the most picturesque cities in the country. Its Botanical Garden is likewise pleasing to the eye, with extensive annual plantings blooming away at the time of Peter's visit. Some 45,000 annuals are planted there, setting off the large collection of native and non-native trees. Because of its climate even California Sequoias flourish. Peter pointed out that roses grow beautifully in all of New Zealand with great bloom in January.

We all watched in envy as Peter showed slides of their overnight at a sheep ranch and of a boat trip through the fjords that interrupt the Remarkable Mountains of Milford Sound at almost the southern end of South Island. It was an evening of a trip tale well told and illustrated. I would consider it the trip of a lifetime, had I only been able to go myself.



## **Board Meeting FFF Flower** Summary

Sumarized from Mary Oelke's Secretarial Report

Tuesday, February 24, 2004 Board Members Present: Nancy Bjerke, Leroy Cech, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Mary Oelke, Don Stuewe Absent: Rudy Allebach, Dave McKeen

#### **President's Report**

Dave McKeen has agreed to be the vicepresident of the Mens Garden Club. It was suggested than in the future, monthly programs be planned by a committee headed by the vice-president.

Programs for 2004 have been selected. They are shown on page one of this newsletter

#### Secretary's Report

The January minutes were approved.

#### Treasure's Report

Chuck Carlson's Slide Show netted \$30 which he donated to the club. Dave Johnson is getting ready to file the Federal Non-Profit Report. 49 members and 3 guests attended the February meeting. The treasurer's report was approved.

#### **Old Business**

The name change for the club was discussed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that there be a yes/no vote at the September Meeting as to whether or not to change the name of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. If the vote is affirmative, a name will be voted upon at a future meeting.

Kay Wolfe and Mary Maynard have agreed to head the Memorial Fund Commit-

#### **New Business**

The board is in the process of selecting a new director to replace Dave McKeen who is now the club's vice-president.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Nancy Bjerke on March 30 at 7:00 PM.

#### FFF's Featured Flower: Zinnia

This year, the MGCM Food Flower and Foto Show's featured annual flower is the zinnia. Zinnias are native to Mexico, and come in a wide range of heights and colors. Zinnias come in virtually every color except true blue — there's even a green variety and heights range from six inches to over four feet.

Zinnias are easy to start from seed, and can be sown outside. We impatient people can start them indoors, but they should be started in peat pots that can be planted directly, since zinnias don't transplant graciously. They do best in well-drained soil, full sun, and with some "elbow room", since they have a susceptibility to powdery mildew, which can make the leaves look bad but rarely affect the blooms. They do best with warm soil and infrequent watering.

While most varieties of tall zinnias are Zinnia elegans hybrids, there have been recent developments in the low-growing Zinnia angustifolia. The Profusion series have garnered a couple of AAS awards for their mildew resistance and long-lasting bloom. I believe some MGCM members are particularly fond of Profusion White.

Some of the most popular varieties of Zinnia elegans include 'State Fair', 'Dreamland', 'Cut and Come Again', and many more. They look great in borders, containers, as edging, and are excellent cut flowers. No garden should be without them!





# Confessions of a Lazy Gardener:

By Mary Maynard

#### **Self-Sowers**

Self-sowing flowers are the Lazy Gardener's dream come true: seeds that plant themselves! Of course, they plant themselves where they want to grow, so we need to do a little bit of management. Here are some guidelines to gardening with self-sowing flowers:

- 1. Plan for some informality. If you prefer orderly borders with evenly-spaced plants, the randomness of self-sowers probably won't work for you without significant transplanting and rearranging. But if you're willing to go with the flow and see where nature takes you, the results can be enchanting.
- 2. Be patient. Some flowers that self-sow readily don't germinate until the soil is warm, so if you're doing a lot of cultivation early in the season, you might be eliminating the next season of bloom. (Lazy Gardeners are not generally known for excessive cultivation.) As an example, Verbena bonariensis is famous for not peeking out of the ground until almost Memorial Day.
- .3. Be prepared to be ruthless. Some years, good germination will result in a veritable carpet of new seedlings. It is important to thin these seedlings to give some of them a chance to mature properly. It seems wasteful to consign these extra plants to the compost pile, but Lazy Gardeners typically don't get around to potting up all the extras...
- 4. Be prepared to manage the overachievers. There are a few self-sowers that are such a nuisance that they should not be allowed to go to seed at all. Garlic chives, for

instance, can be very difficult to get rid of. Those of us who remember the rock garden in our Fragrance Garden know how difficult it can be to get rid of garlic chives growing out of cracks in rocks. And Tim and Karen McCauley can wax eloquent about their experiences with lemon balm. Cutting off the seedheads before they have a chance to mature and distribute seed will save work and annoyance later.

- 5. Remember what the seedlings look like. While some seedlings are very distinctive, others aren't all that different from weeds, so it's important to know which is which so we don't cultivate them out in the spring. (Lazy Gardeners have fewer problems in this area than more energetic gardeners.)
- 6. Have a Plan B. Weather and soil conditions can wreak havoc with a plan that depends on self-sowing. There's always the possibility that one will need to find something new to fill in a hole where the self-sown flowers should have been. But think of it as an opportunity to try out something new.

Here are a few of my favorite self-sowers.

Verbena bonariensis. Self-sows quite reliably, but is slow to emerge in the spring. I haven't bought a pack of verbena's for years, but I always have enough. I often don't see any new seedlings until around Memorial Day.

Datura. Another annual that will self-seed readily, but needs warm soil. Since these plants get very large, it is important to thin relentlessly. They tend to reseed in warm, dry spots. May not be where you want them to be. Transplant carefully!

Anise hyssop. One of the more energetic self-sowers, anise hyssop can be a little bit of a nuisance. But it grows both in sun and quite a bit of shade, and blooms in late summer for a long time. I got my original plant from thinnings at the Fragrance Garden, and I've never run out.

Golden Feverfew (chrysanthemum (Continued on page 7)



#### **Self Seeders Continued**

(Continued from page 6)

partheium 'Aureum'). For such a little thing, this can leave a lot of seeds behing. Tiny seedlings are bright chartreuse righout of the ground, quite easy to distinguish. Needs a fair amount of thinning, but otherwise trouble-free.

Centaurea montana. There are times that I think this is more trouble than it's worth — when I'm trying to get the volunteers out of the irises, for instance — but on the whole I think the silver-gray foliage and true blue flowers that rebloom throughout the summer are worth it.

Siberian iris. I don't typically think of iris as self-sowers, and I definitely don't count on new seedlings, since the parent plants are tough perennials. But I am never surprised to see a new one pop up somewhere — often in cracks between rocks, etc. I have an old "regular" Siberian that my neighbor gave me. I doubt that the fancy new hybrids would self-seed.

Snapdragons. I almost always get a few snapdragon seedlings each spring. Generally, I let them grow where they are and enjoy the spontaneity of them. Of course, the self-sown seedlings are quite small compared to the ones we start indoors, so it's a while before we're enjoying any color.

Asclepias incarnata (swamp milkweed, butterfly weed). I love the native pink version of this perennial, which grows pretty well in regular sun. The butterflies do indeed love it, and it self-sows quite readily. I have this in the butterfly garden in our park, and I started out with one plant, now have about eight. The white version, 'Ice Ballet' spread out many new seedlings in my garden, but the parent plant didn't come back. Hmmm.

Chasmanthium latifolium (Northern Sea Oats). This is a great grass, which is not quite hardy here. I love the graceful drape of the seed heads, which drop over the winter and

give us a scattering of new seedlings every spring. This is one case where it's a good idea to know what the seedlings look like, since it's not hard to confuse them with crab grass or pigeon grass when they're first coming up.

Echinacea purpurea. I have no idea where I planted my first purple coneflowers in the garden. The originals are probably long gone, but I seem to have plenty of replacements every year. This is a wildflower from my youth on the South Dakota prairies and will always have a special place in my heart, even if it does get aster yellows now and then!

Digitalis grandiflora. This perennial foxglove has been a very reliable plant in my garden. Not only does it rebloom nicely if I cut it back, but it has naturalized in one spot in the garden and I can always count on a few new seedlings every year.

White Pompon Feverfew (matricaria/tanacetum/chrysanthemum parthenium 'White Pompon'). I wish people would make up their minds on the name of this plant. It's a short-lived perennial, so the one that I bought years ago is long gone — but these pop up here and there in the garden and add a little white to the garden. They seem to fit in wherever they are.

I imagine a lot of MGCM gardeners have their own list of self-sowing favorites. Let's compare notes sometime! Seeds may be even better!

"A flower is an educated weed."

Luther Burbank

"Never yet was a springtime, when the buds forgot to bloom." Margaret Elizabeth Sangster



## Plant Sale and Auction

By Doug Whitney

On Tuesday, May 4, 2004, MGCM will hold its major annual fundraiser, our Plant Sale, Auction and Country Store. The schedule of events is as follows:

4:15 PM Country Store Volunteers who work the sale can buy in the Country Store; 4:30 PM SILENT AUCTION BEGINS

### 4:45 PM COUNTRY STORE OPENS TO EVERYONE;

5:45 PM Dinner is served; 6:30 PM Dinner tables cleared and stowed, chairs set up for Live Auction

#### 6:45 PM LIVE AUCTION BEGINS

Please remember: The lion's share of the clubs annual budget, between  $60\,\%$  and  $75\,\%$ , is raised during this event. A successful evening will help keep our annual dues at \$10 per member.

The "Pre-Auction Order Form" has been mailed It is being mailed to all members because we have dramatically expanded the number of varieties, size and containers in which the plants have been started. The forms will also be available at the April 6, 2004 Club Dinner Meeting prior to the Garden Show. All of the instructions concerning how to use the new order form, the prices, ordering information and other details are on the form.

Last year the Plant Auction Committee was very successful in our effort 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. It afforded greater time for fellowship and for revisiting the Country Store.

We hope to build on this success. I

encourage every member in the Club to help us in this effort. The one thing that everyone can do to make this year's event even more successful is to;

## CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING FROM YOUR OWN GARDEN TO THE COUNTRY STORE.

If you can't bring it in ahead of time, bring it with you when you come to pick up your order or when you come for the opening of the Country Store at 4:30 PM, or to dinner at 6.

This year we will be having several new members of MGCM to our annual Plant Sale and Auction. I'd like to introduce these new members to some information about the Auction part of the event. year I have been asked to explain three aspects of the auction process.

We used to begin the auction of each plant or group of plants with a stated minimum price. The minimum bid has been set below retail but above our cost. By starting with a minimum bid we were trying to save time and keep the overall pace and duration of the auction from bogging down. Last year we year we began the bidding from the gallery on some materials. It seemed to work well so we are going to expand this practice this year. If the pace of the event suffers, we will shift back to minimum bids. Should the top bid on any item fail to return a fair margin over cost, we will not accept that bid. Then we either hold the item(s) back for auction at a later time, or assign a price for sale at the Country Store after the Auction. However, I believe that this is unlikely to occur as everyone understands that this is a fundraiser for our Club.

In the past we have offered 8 or 10 flats of some material like geraniums, perhaps two flats each of four different colors, on the auction table. This has often resulted in the successful bidder selecting two flats of the geraniums. Then, perhaps one or two other

(Continued on Page 9)



#### **Auction Continued**

(Continued from Page 8)

members select a flat at the winning bid price, log their purchase, and the Committee removes the remaining 3 to 6 flats and proceeds to the next variety of plant materials.

This year we are going to experiment with offering such materials by color. This may prove to be too time consuming. Regardless of method, the high bidder is entitled to his/her choice (1 flat minimum) of the amount and selection of the variety upon which he/she bid. The second high bidder then gets to choose from the remainder (1 flat minimum). After that, whoever else may be interested in this material may select what remains on the table at the bid price, (no less, 1 flat minimum) subject to someone else getting that color or that flat first.

If members choose to split a flat at this stage, 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. It complicates the job of Lloyd Weber and Mike Nagangast, our data entry experts. It slows the auction and stresses our grace filled volunteers.

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 in the Country Store after a firm price for these materials has been set. However, 1st dibs on post-auction remainder materials goes to auction workers who were actively engaged in the live auction.

After that, no one gets anything from the live auction for less than retail until event clean up is completed. At that time those who have fully participated in clean-up may get a price break from Ritchie Miller, Dave Johnson, Bob Stepan or myself...

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", send me a note and I'll attempt to find it (1 flat minimum). I'll contact you if it works out. Call Eldon Hugelen or Dave McKeen 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 coordination in this.

Don't hesitate to call me (612) 724-8034 with any other questions or if you need assistance extracting or delivering plant materials from your garden for the Country Store. I'll put the arm on someone to help you.

## How Are We Like Plants?

Found in the "Tiller", the newsletter of The Garden Club of Green Bay, Wisconsin

How are we like plants, or aren't we? In his book, Green Nature, Human Nature: the Meaning of Plants in Our Lives, author Charles Lewis explains, "The two life forms are joined in ways that denote an even closer relationship than most people suspect." "Scientists have found that the chlorophyll molecules of green plants bear an interesting similarity to hemoglobin, the prime constituent of mammal blood. Both are composed of a ring of carbon and nitrogen atoms surrounding a single atom. Their difference lies in the central atom, which is magnesium in chlorophyll and iron in hemoglobin."



### What Am I Disclosed

By Chuck Carlson

The plant this month is the Caladium (ka-LAY-dee-um). These bulbs are unbeatable for color in the shady garden. Planted in groups, they definitely make a statement. Their growing habit presents clumps of one to three feet in the South. But here in the North we find them best when kept in pots and grouped to become a wonderful display.

These bulbs like it hot and should be kept at room temperature or above when growing them and even when keeping the bulbs over during the winter

All leaves are arrowhead-shaped, anywhere from two to twelve inches in length. The leaves typically are veined, speckled or banded with a contrasting color.

There are some new varieties that will thrive in the sun, but most like shade to partial shade. It is one of the best plants for color in the summer and one that does not require a lot of work.

The plant performs best with moist soil, but must be drained. And, they like somewhat acidic soil.

Here in the North the bulbs generally are started inside and not taken outside until warm temperatures prevail. One can fertilize monthly, but cut back in the fall. When taking the bulb up for the season, dust with a fungicide. Store in a dry condition in peat moss or in vermiculite. If you really are interested in growing caladiums talk with Mell Anderson. He is a perennial winner with caladiums at our Flower show.

Remember warmth is a caladiums' best friend.



# It's All in One's Perspective

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad." "Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked. "Oh yeah," said the son. "So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have instead of worrying about what we don't have. Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends! Life is too short and friends are too few.



#### Reservations Required for Dinner & the Bus Permanent reservations are not in effect.

Send reservation form & Check to Carole Ann Brekke 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville MN 55306-5161

On Tuesday April 6th at 5:30 PM, the evening will start with dinner at the Lake Harriet Church. After having dinner, the bus will pick up members at 6:30 PM. Their will be no permanent reservations honored. Carole Ann Brekke will take mail in reservations for dinner and bus. The charge will be \$9.00 with no extra charge for riding the bus. The club is picking up the bus fee this year. Members must indicate if they plan to ride the bus and after the bus is full (54) any remaining requests must furnish their own transportation to the show.

The dinner will be served at 5:30 with a short program while you have dinner about the "Garden of Make Believe" by Dale Bachman.

## Field's-Bachman's Flower Show Please reserve a place for my guests and me for the Bus and or Dinner on April 6 2004

Members Name:
Guest Name(s):
Enclosed is my check fordinners @ \$9.00 each for a total of \$
I need free places on the Bus
Reservation and payment must be received no later than April 2
Send to Carole Ann Brekke,
709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville MN 55306-5161



#### MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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#### **THE SPRAY**

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Return to:

## The Garden Spray

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