Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc 2004, Volume 62, Number 3

# **MGCM Schedule**

# 2004 Meetings

**Event** 

Location

Date

LHC	Peter Olin
	<b>Gardens of New</b>
	Zealand
LHC	Field/Bachman
	Flower Show
WLC	<b>Plant Auction</b>
ay	<b>Tour McCauley</b>
	Peony garden
	Public Tour
	Club Tour
ARB.	FFF Show
LHC	<b>Henry &amp; Purcell</b>
	Orna. Grasses
LHC	S. Nordstrom
	<b>Monrovia Plants</b>
LHC	<b>Lorrie Stromme</b>
	Trees and The
	Law
KGC	Wreath Making
LHC	<b>Holiday Party</b>
LHC	Nelson's talk on
	Liliums
	LHC WLC ay  ARB. LHC LHC LHC LHC

LHC= Lake Harriet Church
WLC= Westwood LutherenChurch
KGC= Klier's Garden Center
FFF= Food Flower & Foto Show

\* early start time 5:30 pm

## **This Month**

## Tuesday, March 9, 2004

<b>Gathering &amp; Convers</b>	sation6:00 pm
Dinner	6:30 pm
<b>Business Meeting</b>	7:00 pm approx.
Program	7:30 pm approx.

## The Program

The March program will show what those that took Arboretum trip to new Zealand saw and enjoyed. The medium for this show will be slides taken and shown by Peter Olin. It will include views from the cities of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Queenstown, plus the podocarp forest and Milford sound. Some of the highlites will be slides of the new Botanic Garden in Auckland and some private gardens, the Wellington Botanic Garden and Christ Church Botanic Garden, and some wilderness areas. It sounds like this will be a delightful program with some hortcultural scenes we don't normally see. Come on down, up or across as the case my be, I'm sure you will enjoy. Not only that, there will be some good conversation and a good meal.



A typical scene, you may see Photo By Henry Orfield

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



# Utterances From The Prez

By Ellyn Hosch

"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself." Andy Warhol

Just as a garden changes over the years, so do garden clubs. We have been through a number of changes over the past couple of years, and we will be presented with a few more this year.

As you know, Peter Olin has resigned his position as Vice President. Nancy Bjerke, chair of this year's Nominating Committee, is seeking a replacement to fulfill the Vice President position. The primary duties of the Vice President are to plan and coordinate the programs for the monthly club meetings and to serve as President in the following year. In order to make the Vice President position more manageable this year, we are creating a Program Committee to plan those programs that Peter has not already completed. I think that this is a great idea and that we should make this a permanent committee. Special thanks for Nancy Bjerke, Margaret Hibberd and Kay Wolfe for taking on the remaining programs. Many hands make light work.

It was announced in the January Spray that Chuck Carlson, our editor extraordinaire, will be stepping down at the end of this year. Chuck has single-handedly managed the entire production and distribution process for the Spray for quite some time. Since assuming this level of responsibility could be seen as too daunting a task, the Spray committee is considering ways to lighten the load. For example, the job could be made more manageable by having a team of editors who each take one or two months. If you are interested, contact Chuck Carlson. Many hands make light work.

One other potential change facing us this year is a change in our name. Last year

the Board chartered a committee led by Jerry Shannon to develop propose alternative names for consideration by the general membership. We will be bringing this question to you in an upcoming meeting. Stay tuned.

I encourage each of you to consider taking advantage of the opportunities presented by these changes to become more involved in the club. A garden club is like a garden, what you get out of it is proportional to what you put in. Join your other club members in making the changes that will help our club to thrive. Many hands make light work.

# **News Makers**

Two of our members were news makers. It is nice to see the recognition for our gardeners. Of course we all know they are extraordinary, now others do.

Gary & JoAnne Geister are finalists in a container contest Run by the *Fine Gardening* magazine. See the April 2004 issue. Congratulations and good luck.

Rodger Sefelt was mentioned in the *Northern Gardener* about his passion for hydrangeas. It was in the letter from the society's CEO letter called "Grow On".

# FFF Special Awards



The Food Flower & Foto show has been scheduled for Aug 21& 22. But some plans have to be made early. This will allow you to get your seeds or plants and be ready to exhibit those jewels of the garden. Any plant can be exhibited but there is always one featured flower and vegetable that will get a special award. This year it is the *Zinnia* for the flower and any *Herb* for the vegetable.

See page 6 for an article on herbs and next month an article about the Zinnia.



# What Am I



## You don't know. Here is another hint.



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

# March

By Chuck Carlson

March is the month that the blustery winds blow. And last year's leaves it surely does throw. From other yards to mine and off again. The brightening sun and the wind, will dry things again.

But stay off the lawn until it's dry or you'll commit a gardening sin.

Plus, don't venture out on your garden to rake. And leave the shovels in the shed, for the garden's sake.

For if you start before it is dry, Your soil becomes, too hard to pry You might even have to say good-by.

March is also the month to celebrate, St. Patrick, and his deeds oblate. The Irish adore the color, we know as green And sometimes things become obscene When orange, malt & hops, are on the scene.

The month also boasts, the first day of Spring. It 'is the time for gardeners, to wake up and sing. For now we know the rains will come. And we can go out to be among, The flowers, the birds, and spread the dung



The board has accepted Peter Olin's resignation as Vice President and has approved per the bylaws to accept David McKeen as your new Vice President. His position as a Director is now open. See Nancy Bjerke if interested



# Last Month's **Program**

By Mary Maynard

Duane Otto was February's featured speaker. Duane has been a landscape gardener at the Arboretum for 16 years, and one of his responsibilities is planning and designing the annual beds and containers each year. He's responsible for the large annual beds on the hill next to the Snyder building (until this year, when the new Visitors Center is going there), and the long median leading up to the entry station, along with the

narrow bed along the sidewalk in front of the Snyder building and all those wonderful containers and moss baskets on the terraces. Duane selects a different theme or color scheme each year. That's the glory of annuals — you can have a fresh clean slate every year and don't have to live with last year's mistakes. Not to imply, of course, that Duane ever made any mistakes.

By choosing a theme each year, it's possible to limit choices, makes decision making a little easier. Overall, about 20,000 annuals and 3,000 tulips are displayed each year. All annual plants are ordered — Bailey's grows them to plug stage, then Bachmans grows them out the rest of the way. A spring display of tulips and cool season annuals like pansies goes in about April 15, and it is replaced by the summer annuals after Mothers Day.

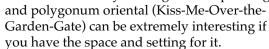
Over the years, Duane has used more and more tall plants in his plans. He showed us a couple of slides from his early years, where plantings were much more uniform height — very colorful, but not nearly as dramatic as his more recent plantings.

In 2003, the color scheme was complimentary violet and yellow/orange flowers. For 2004, the theme is red and pink flowers with white, gray, silver and red foliage. It should be a lot of fun to see!

Duane brought great slides that covered several years of his planting plan.

Here's a quick rundown: 1998 featured heirloom (more than 50 years in cultivation and antique (more than 100 years in cultiva-

tion) flowers. (According to this definition, I am an "heirloom", although there are days that I feel more like an "antique".) The beds seemed to overflow with amaranthus, zinnias, celosias, annual phlox, and big bold cannas. A couple of slides had a lot of people taking notes: euphorbia marginata 'Summer Icicle' can be very striking in mass plantings,



Duane Otto

In 1999, Duane decided to use citrus colors — Yellow and orange and green. The 'Clear Sky Citrus Mix' looked good enough to eat. (Wait, we can eat pansy flowers. I hope the display didn't get eaten before Mothers Day.) The gardens featured all the fun corals and golds and yellows, punctuated by dramatic "elephant ears" and gaudy Canna 'Tropicanna' and softened by Nicotiana 'Lime Green' and 'Starship Lemon Lime'.

In 2000, Duane selected royal colors red and violet, with predictable dramatic results. The purple foliage showed up everywhere — from Colocasia 'Black Magic' and 'Illustris' to perilla to ornamental kales to the immense canna 'Grande' to bright red castor beans. Add bright red pelargoniums and purple wave petunias, and the impact is huge.

In 2001, the last year that Duane had slides for, the color theme was all white. Duane pointed out that this can be very challenging, and we need to be more aware of texture and foliage for good results. For instance, Duane had 3 different white tulips in one bed — one double, one lily-shaped, and

(Continued on page 9)



# **Board Meeting Summary**

Sumarized from Mary Oelke's Secretarial Report

#### From January 27, 2004 meeting

Members Present:

Rudy Allebach, Nancy Bjerke, Leroy Cech, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Dave McKeen, Mary Oelke, Peter Olin, Don Stuewe.

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

An audit of MGCM records for the year 2003 was done by Joseph L. Stenger. He stated that the club's records for the year 2003 fairly represent its financial condition. He also commended Dave Johnson for his detailed record keeping.

A letter was received from People for Parks who are trying to find funding for the Longfellow Gardens.

#### Vice President's Report

The following programs have been arranged or is in the process.

- February—Duane Otto—New Annuals and Color Schemes at the Arboretum
- March—Peter Olin—Gardens of New Zealand
- April—Bachman Marshall Field Flower Show

#### **Secretary's Minutes**

The minutes for the November meeting were approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

The end of the year report was mailed to Board Members. To accommodate the changed board meeting date, 2004 reports will go from the 25th of the month to the 24th of the following month. The Treasurer's Report for January 1 to 25 was distributed. A Federal Income Tax Refund was received. A request for a state refund has since been submitted.

The treasurer keeps track of attendance at the monthly meetings, but those who don't

eat often don't get counted. It is suggested that those people also check in with the treasurer when they arrive.

#### **Membership Secretary's Report**

The 2004 Directories have been mailed to those members who did not pick them up at the January meeting. An application for membership was received from Margaret Landry. The motion was made, seconded and passed that she be admitted at a member of MGCM. The current membership is 110.

A suggestion was made that the photo directory be updated to include new members

#### **Committee Reports**

The Flower, Food and Foto Show has been scheduled for August 21 and 22 at the Arboretum.

#### **Old Business**

Name Change: Jerry Shannon will make a name change presentation at the February meeting. Voting on whether a name change is wanted will occur at the March meeting.

Memorials: Suggestions for the spending of memorial money received by MGCM are wanted.

#### **New Business**

Gold Rose Award--Money is being solicited for the establishment of a Bob Churilla Golden Rose Recognition Award. Since Bob Churilla was a past president MGCM, the board authorized a donation of \$100 or less.

<u>Vice-president</u> Peter Olin has resigned due to a lack of time.

#### **Next Board Meeting**

The next board meeting will be held at 7 PM on Tuesday, February 24 at the home of Mary Oelke.





# Herbs --- FFF Featured Veg.

By Anne Buchanan

"Gardening with herbs, which is becoming increasingly popular, is indulged in by those who like subtlety in their plants in preference to brilliance. ---- Helen Morgenthau Fox

This year's FFF choice in the special vegetable category is Herbs (that's right—herbs are listed under the vegetable category!). Herbs have been used as food and medicine since the beginning of civilization. In fact, flower gardens were derived from earlier herbal gardens. Written records of the use of herbs date back to the first century AD.., when Dioscorides wrote about the healing virtues of plants he had gathered growing in the Mediterranean region. Nowadays, we easily find such seeds in catalogs, or perky plants at the Farmer's Market or local nurseries.

Herbs are defined as "plants of which leaves, stems or flowers are used for food or medicine, or in some way for their scent or flavour" (Oxford English Dictionary). Herbs are not only attractive and aromatic, but are remarkably useful and versatile plants. This family represents a delightful variety of plants for your annual garden, kitchen garden, or medicine cabinet!

You might try your hand at old favorites such as peppermint, thyme, sage, rosemary, or parsley. Or think about scented geraniums, mugwort, beebalm, horseradish, garlic, sorrel, rue, savory, betony, feverfew, and the list goes on.

The category for herbs has many choices. Here are some tidbits to help start your herb planning:

<u>Chives</u> (Allium Schoenoprasum): perennials with dry, puffy lavender blossoms, one of the first herbs to flower and harvest in the spring. They were found in China by Marco Polo and used for their mild onion flavor and as an antidote for poisoning. They self-seed, and clumps can be divided every few years. Here's a recipe for chive butter: 1 c. butter, 4 Tbs. Chopper chives, 1 Tbs. lemon juice—great on scrambled eggs!

Dame's Rocket (Hesperis Matronalis): a sweet-smelling herb most fragrant at night, and found originally in Italy. This is a hardy biennial, growing 2-3 feet tall, spreading 10 in. It self-seeds, so you may fine little dame's rockets all around the next year. It likes full sun or light shade, and well-drained soil. The flowers are nice in tossed salads or as dessert decorations, or in potpourris.

**Bay** (Laurus nobilis): A shallow-rooted evergreen tree native to Southern Europe, bay was respected by the Romans. Made into wreaths, bay was used as a mark of excellence for poets and athletes, and signified wisdom and glory. The phrases 'poet laureate' and 'resting on your laurels' come from its species name. It grows up to 26 feet in zone 8. Mine is about 40 in. tall, and gets regularly clipped in the summer. If you are very patient, propagate by cuttings. Leaves can be harvested at any time. Fresh leaves are stronger flavored than dried ones, and can be used in soups, stews, and stocks, or added to poached fish like salmon, or put in jars with rice to flavor the rice. Bay leaves are added for flavor, and are not eaten.

Lavender (lavandula): Its name was derived from the Latin *lava*, meaning 'to wash'. It was and is used for bath salts. Many have also used it for its insect-repellent properties. Lavender is hardy to zone 5, and short varieties can be grown as a low hedge which can be trimmed after flowering. Some use lavender in borders or on top of dry walls. They like full sun and well-drained, fertile soil. The flowers dry well and their oil is used to make sachets. Flowers can also be used to flavor vinegar, or crystallized. It is said to have strong antibacterial action that helps to heal cuts, and it also repels moths!

**Bergamot** (Monarda) commonly called (Continued on page 7)



#### **Herbs Continued**

(Continued from page 6)

Bee Balm. Also called 'Oswego tea', this hardy perennial was used by colonists after the Boston Tea Party had eliminated their supplies of tea from India. These are hardy in our zone 4 and the flower colors range from pink, lavender, white, to red. Newer shorter and mildew-resistant varieties have become popular in recent years. The flowers can be added to China tea to make an Earl Grey flavor, and the chopped leaves can be added sparing to salads and stuffing. The dried flowers keep their color well.

Catnip (Nepeta). Also known as catmint, this perennial is a zone 4 favorite in our gardens. Nepetas are aromatic and not prone to pests—except those listed below. They are easy to grow and make nice borders, and grow in sun or light shade. They don't like to have soggy roots, though. With their sprawling habit they can add much to container plantings. They can be cut back hard after flowering to encourage a second bloom. But, beware of neighborhood cats, who smell a bruised root or stem. Cats have become so delighted with catnip that they can destroy a plant after division.

**Basil**: (Ocimum basilicum) a strong favorite, prized for its role in pesto. This plant comes in many interesting colors, textures, and flavors. Some you might like are: Lemon basil, cinnamon basil, sweet basil, spicy globe basil, purple ruffles basil, and Greek basil (fine-leaf, miniature). Basil is easily grown from seed. With its long taproot, it dislikes being transplanted. One source suggested growing basil between tomato plants, because it repels flying insects, reminds you to use fresh basil with tomatoes, likes as much sun and water as tomatoes, and the tomatoes help protect the basil from the wind. Frequent picking encourages a bushy plant, discourages flowering, and keeps the stems from becoming too woody or bitter. The juice of basil is said to repel mosquitoes.

**Evening Primrose** (Oenothera) isn't often thought of as an herb, although it is frequently used in Britain—one author reports that the roots are boiled and taste like sweet parsnips!

The oil is now used in herbal remedies for depression. I've planted a boulevard garden with it surrounding a fire hydrant. In early June it makes a fabulous yellow display. A hardy biennial, it is 3 ft. tall, and fragrant in the evening. In autumn, a tiny whorl of leaves grow from the roots of the faded plant, ready to be mulched and flower the next spring. Be advised, it does spread

Scented Geraniums ((Pelargonium) were originally native to South Africa. Victorians loved the aromatic foliage and used the oil for perfume. These are annuals in Minnesota and are typically propagated by cuttings. These plants can be grown in groups in the garden or in containers, and are good growers, look good, and smell wonderful. The leaves release their fragrance when lightly brushed. Look for many interesting varieties representing flavors such as lemon, rose, orange, lime, variegated, peach, or peppermint.

We'll look forward to your entries at the Food, Flowers, and Fotos Contest in August!



#### As Rosemary is to the Spirit, so Lavender is to the Soul.

- Anonymous

Garlic is as good as ten mothers.

- Anonymous



# Getting To Know Our Past Presidents

Data collected by our Historian Howard Berg edited by Chuck Carlson Editors note: This is a series of past presidents in the club who are still members in the club. This is an attempt to make the club a bit more personable by getting to know our members better.

Dave Johnson joined our club in 1965 and his longevity with the club is exceeded by only four other active members. Dave was the club's 30th president who previously served as treasurer, was on the board and many committees. He was also the first chairman for the public tours which raises money for the scholarship fund.

Dave is a native of Forest Lake, Minnesota where he grew up on a farm and was a member of the Future Farmers of America. He would very much have liked to be a farmer but Dave went to Gustavus Adolphus's College and graduated with a degree in Business Administration. That pushed him out of the farming and after some interim employment, including the U. S. Army and a tour of duty in Japan, Dave joined and retired from Northern States Power Company.

Through the influence of Dwight Stone and other members at Northern States, Dave joined the MGCM and became a more than active member for many years. He headed the National Convention Dinner Committee in 1967 and used his persuasive talents to obtain almost all of the food on the menu without cost from local producers. Again, in 1971, when he was President of the Club, he put the same talent to work in obtaining railroad ties, dirt and material for the Fragrance Garden as it was then known. This garden gives Dave his

greatest feeling of accomplishment as a Club member.

In addition to working on all of the committee assignments in the MGCM, Dave managed to keep busy as a member of the Board of Management of the YMCA, as a member of the Y's Men for the at least 50 years and as an active member in his church and other civic groups. He was named the NSP Citizen of the Year in 1971.

Dave is one of the few if not the only MGCM member to be awarded the Lehman Trophy twice. He claims roses are his special interest though he grew annuals and vegetables well. Prior to his lastest move, the Johnson basement gave birth to from 3000 to 5000 seedlings to supply 4 family gardens. They were all started under lights in a total space 6' by 6' but they did expand into the laundry room and outside covered areas. This gave Dave a tremendous variety from which to choose, and led to a beautiful and varied garden each year.

He and his wife Delores reluctantly left their garden & home on Cutacross Road and moved a short distance away in Golden Valley. We as a club will really miss seeing the "Cutacross Garden" on tour. We thought they were through gardening but they installed a water feature and garden beds around their condo. We should have known old gardeners never quit they just seed and plant until they can hoe no mo.





# **Getting To Know Our Members**

Data collected by our Historian Howard Berg edited by Chuck Carlson

This month have chosen two members to get to know a little better. They are Dave McKeen and Don Trocke.

#### **David McKeen**

David McKeen joined our club in 1994 to gain some more hands on information. He was born in Minneapolis in 1959 and his schooling involved Vocational Horticulture. This has done him well in his job as the Landscape Gardener for the Minneapolis Golf Club. As well as being a member of our club he is also connected with the North Star Rose Society and the American Horticulture Society.

He has wore many hats in MGCM. This included the FFF Chair, and a Director. He also has volunteered on the Perennial Garden, Valley Fair and Plant Auction committees.

Roses and annuals are his primary garden interest. Dave says he enjoys the social time with others in the club and helping others enjoy gardening. He and his wife, Kathryn garden at their home in St Louis Park.

#### **Donald M Trocke**

1940 was the year Montrose Minnesota, celebrated, since that was the year **Donald M Trocke** was born. Eventually he settled down in Bloomington with his wife Geri

His occupation is installing linoleum & counter tops so now we know where to go to get help.

Don joined the club in 1994 to learn more about plants and his sponsor was Clyde Thompson. His favorite plant to grow is the peony but grows many other things.

In the club he has served on the following committees; Arbor Day, Calendar, FFF, Perennial Garden, & Valleyfair. He has remained with the club because of the many interesting people, excellent tours, fine monthly Programs.

# **New member**

Our last member accepted into the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is Margaret Landry. We hope she will be pleased with our group and will participate in our committees and functions.

She did get into the Directory but the address was wrong.. See below for the correction.

Margaret Landry 3252 40th Avenue South Minneapolis MN55406



## Last Month's Prog. Cont.

(ontinued from page 4)

the third with yet a different form. As a special bonus, the white crabapple tree bloomed at the same time as the 'Swan Wings' tulip. This was a chance to feature Daturas and fancy annual grasses and artemisia 'Powis Castle' along with tall cleomes and nicotiana sylvestris and 'White King' Swiss chard and bold cardoons. I think white gardens are interesting and challenging, but they're just not gaudy enough for me!

Duane also gave us a little slide tour of Otto's Flora Dora, a gardening business run by Duane and his wife Renee near Watertown. In addition to offering perennials, dried flowers and hanging baskets, Renee is also a floral designer and wedding consultant. Flora Dora is open spring through fall, and it looked and sounded like a must-see destination. Their phone number is 952-955-3721.



# What Am I Disclosed

By Stapelia as told to Chuck Carlson

My full name is Stapelia Noblis. In case you are wondering my first name is pronounced sta-PEL-ee-a. My common names are Hairy Giant Starfish Flower and Carrion Flower

I can produce blooms that can be as big as 18 inches across. My friend Chuck said when I first bloomed my flower was 9 inches. I resemble a cactus but I am really a succulent.

Humid or dry air is just great but I really enjoy soil with good drainage. I also like water when my soil is dry but water me sparingly from September until spring. I don't care if I grow indoors or out but please bring me inside during the winter months since I can't stand freezing temperatures.

I can procreate by seeds but much speedier by having one of my side shoots cut off. It really doesn't hurt since I have a fast healing ability. Plant my offshoot in a well draining medium. But, the off shoot will grow better if the cut end is air dried to seal it for one day before planting.

I grow well in full sun that has some midday shade, have a beautiful flower plus I take very little care. My flower is a curiosity bloom that is stinky. It is an odor offensive to some humans but those insects that carry my pollen around take it for a juicy meal. I bloom when i get a little pot-bound and I like to hang over the edge of the pot. Please have a round edge so I don't cut my branches. Why don't you grow one of my relatives you might even like our crowd.

I had Chuck take a picture of my first flower. You can see it on this page.



Stapelia Nobilis A friend of Chuck Carlson

HOW TO FIGURE
THE COST OF LIVING
Take your income and
add 10%.

THE PATIENCE PRAYER God grant me patience.... and I want it right now!



# **Reservations for Dinner Meetings Permanent reservations are in effect.**

Permanent reservations are shown by the "p" on the mailing lable or the email message for those receiving the newsletter by email Reservations or cancellations are necessary by the Friday before the meeting. Call or email Carole Ann Brekke for your reservation or cancellations.

## You are responsible for the cost if not cancelled.

For reservations or cancellations Carole Ann at phone 952-435-6029) or Email numsix24@attbi.com.

For last minute cancellations call Dave Johnson Phone 763-571-2713 If hecan sell it, you won't be billed.



Clyde Thompson saw this picture in "The Northern Gardener" and said this is Minnesota's Claude Monet. In reality it is our own Fred (Claude Monet) Glasoe. Though Fred doesn't paint, at least he hasn't shown us any paintings but he does garden and we have seen those results.



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



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#### **CLUB OFFICERS:**

President: Ellyn Hosch
436 Sheridan Ave So, Minneapolis, MN55405-1913
Vice-President: David McKeen
2834 Vernon Ave So, St Louis Park, MN 55416-1840
Recording Secretary: Mary Oelke
5745 Duncan Lane, Edina, MN 55346-1603
Membership Secretary: Don Stuewe
3624 Robbinwood Terr, Minnetonka MN 55305
Treasurer: Dave Johnson
5291 Matterhorn Dr., Fridley, MN 55421-1324
Past President: Nancy Bjerke
1035 Heritage Lane, Orono, MN 55391-9342

DIRECTORS:

Rudy Allebach
3414 The Mall,Minnetonka MN 55345-1239
Leroy Cech
212 Interlachen Road, Burnsville MN55306-6427
Director
One director position is presently not filled

#### **THE SPRAY**

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Return to:

# The Garden Spray

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