Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc

2005, Volume 63, Number 3

Upcoming Events

Date Location Event

Mar. 15 LHC/MF Marshall Field's and Bachman's Flower Show

LHC	Dwarf Conifers
WLC	Plant Auction
	TBA
	Tours
Arb.	FFF
LHC	Flower Arranging
LHC	Wildflower Gardening
LHC	Landscaping Wildlife
	WLC Arb. LHC LHC

LHC = Lake Harriet Church

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church MF = Marshall Field's Downtown Arb. = U of M Landscape Arboretum

March Garden Club Event:

Bachman's and Marshall Field's 42nd Annual Flower and Garden Show

March 15th, 2005

On Tuesday, March 15th at 5:30 PM, the evening will start with dinner at the Lake Harriet Church. This will be followed by a short talk by Dale Bachman. After having dinner, the bus will pick up members at 6:30 PM. The bus has capacity for 50 people. The cost will be \$12 for dinner and bus transportation. **Send reservation to Carole Ann Brekke no later than March 11th**. There will be no permanent reservations honored.

See page 4 for Reservation Form and details on the show

Permanent Reservations Not In Effect

Reserve with Carole Ann Brekke by March 11th



A Word from the President

by David McKeen

Greetings,

With the daylight hours lengthening with each passing day, I sure get excited to get the seeds growing. So far, I have started geraniums, lisianthus, plectranthus, begonia, eucalyptus, and several varieties of annual grasses. Starting seeds is a great way to try growing different varieties that we may not be able to find at the local greenhouse. I also find I have many extra plants to donate to the general store at the plant auction May 3. I encourage everyone to give it a try.

My thanks to Mary Maynard, Nancy Bjerke, and Margaret Hibberd for being the chairs for the F.F.F. show in August. We still need some chairman for the club tours and Christmas party.

Do you find yourself often struggling to pronounce the latin names of plants? I know I do. For those of you who receive the "Fine Gardening" magazine, they have a pronunciation guide in the back of each issue. They also have help on their web-site.

Just go to www.finegardening.com/hearlatin and they have a huge list of plant names from which to learn from. Just click on the name and a nice lady pronounces it for you. How easy is that. Soon we will all be speaking like Mary Maynard.

See you all for the trip down to the Bachman/Marshall Fields flower show March 15th.

David McKeen

A Note from the Editor

Wow. So far, this editor business has been easier than I thought it would be. Thanks very much to everyone who has submitted material for our first three issues of 2005. I am very grateful for those of you who have taken the time to share some of your gardening knowledge with other club members.

Another reason that editing has been so easy for me so far is, of course, that Jason has been doing all of the hard part -- actually putting the Spray together each month. He makes it looks easy, but I know that it's not.

I love the Bachman's/Field's event. There's something wonderful about stepping out of those elevators on the Twelfth Floor and steeping into the fragrant air. It reminds me that spring actually will come again this year. Getting the insider's view of the show from Dale Bachman is a great bonus, of course. We are so lucky to be able to hear from him each year. And there's nothing quite like going through the show with fellow gardeners -- searching through the display for labels of plants we haven't seen before and hoping that they're hardy in Zone 4. And simply enjoying the artistry of the presentation and the fragrance of the flowers we won't see again for another two months.

By early March, sunrise will be before 7:30 a.m., and sunset will be after 5:30. The equinox is coming. We have survived another winter, and real spring is right around the corner.

Mary Maynard

Getting To Know Our Board

Denise Rust is Recording Secretary of the Garden Club

Denise was born and grew up in the faraway land of San Diego, CA, where the lawn was green year-round and such tropical delights as passion flowers, banana trees and lemon bushes grew in one's yard and her biggest connection to the soil at that time was to trim the perimeter of the backyard lawn with hand clippers and hope she would not be greeted by too many pesky insects in the process.

By high school her family moved to Iowa, where she attended Clear Lake High School and Luther College, Decorah, with majors in Social Work and Classical Languages. An early foray into digging in the dirt included asking permission and having a shot at planting tomatoes and a few flowers behind the apartment building where she lived in Decorah.

Denise spent eight years as a juvenile probation officer based out of Mason City, IA, again trying some behind-the-apartment-building horticulture. She married and moved to the Twin Cities in 1983, where she spent the next three years working on a Master's in Pastoral Care at Luther Seminary.

Her family includes husband Jeff, an engineering manager at DataCard Worldwide in Minnetonka (they make the machines that make embossed plastic cards), and daughter Jamie, a sophomore studying Youth and Family Ministry at Augsburg College, Minneapolis. Denise and Jeff live in Brooklyn Park.

Denise works two part-time jobs, one as an assistant preschool teacher at Messiah Preschool in Mounds View, and another as a fitness coach at Curves in Brooklyn Center. She is very active at her church, teaching adult Bible classes, serving as adult education liason and serving as drama coordinator and contemporary worship leader. Other activities she enjoys include reading, crafts, and travel. The most interest-



ing trips taken in recent years include group tours to Israel, Turkey and Greece (the family was in Turkey when the Iraq war began), and also Germany and the Czech Republic.

In addition to belonging to MGCM, she is a MSHS member and volunteer and has been volunteering at the conservatory at Como Park for a number of years. Her garden interests focus on perennials, annuals and a few vegetables, and she enjoys putting together her own container gardens. Her largest collections in the perennial category include hostas, lilies, and iris.

Note on the Plant Exchange

If anyone has plants to share, have Don Stuewe put you on the Plant Exchange list. We will publish the list in the next issue of the Spray. He has about 20 people on the list already.

There is no gardening without humility.
Nature is constantly sending even its oldest scholars to the bottom of the class for some egregious blunder.

~Alfred Austin





2nd Annual Bachman's and Marshall Field's Flower and Garden Show: *Music in the Garden*

Marshall Field's and Bachman's have partnered with Garden and Landscape Designer Julie Moir Messervy and Tod Machover, Professor of Music and Media at MIT Media Lab to create a musical and interactive floral experience for this year's show-goers.

Scenery will reflect the Cote D'Azur, with sparkling sea landscapes and old Mediterranean-inspired building façades. Art inspired by the work of early 19th Century artists including Matisse, Dufy, Braque, Picasso and Chagal, will be displayed through various mediums throughout the show.

Music in the Garden will again feature an element of engaging recreation for the younger guests while keeping in mind the expectations of the traditional visitor. Interactive aspects like an instrument petting zoo and sensory music environments will challenge guests of all ages to imagine, explore, play and grow. In addition, Marshall Field's and the McPhail School of Music have collaborated to provide regular musical performances and interactive experiences.

Reservations Required for Dinner & the Bus

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

Field's-Bachman's Flower Show Please reserve a place for my guests and me for the Bus and Dinner on March 15th, 2005		
Members Name:		
Guest Name(s):		
Enclosed is my check fordinners @ \$12.00 each for a total of \$		
I need places on the Bus		
Reservation and payment must be received no later than March 11th.		
Send to Carole Ann Brekke,		
709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville MN 55306-5161		



Gloria Danielson: Herbs

February Program Report

by Mary Maynard

February's speaker was Gloria Danielson. She is a long-time member of the Minnesota Herb Society. Gloria's interest in herbs was piqued when she visited Plimouth Plantation and Sturbridge Village in New England in the early 60's. Her favorite local herb specialists are Shady Acres in Chaska and Kelley and Kelley in Long Lake.

The Herb Society was formed in 1963 by Helen Olson, a member of the Hills and Hollows Garden Club in Edina. Being involved with herbs must be healthy, because Helen is now 104 years old and still lives in her own house. When the Snyder Building was opened, the Herb Society moved to the Arboretum and membership was opened up. The Herb Society maintains the herb garden at the Arboretum on Tuesdays.

While herbs have most often been grown in a separate space dedicated to just herbs, Gloria's presentation discussed the use of herbs as companion plants in our flower and vegetable gardens. Gloria pointed out that most herbs are movable, so that they may be tried in different spots to see where they best fit. While most herbs prefer full sun, there are a few that work quite well in the shade. Almost all herbs require well-drained soil. Gloria also pointed out that herbs are thought to provide some protection for other plantings. Calendulas, for instance, protect beans, and marigolds and chives are believed to protect roses. Also, thymes are perfect in rock garden settings, and mints and tansy form a nice transition between cultivated gardens and "wild" areas beyond.

Gloria went on to provide a very complete list of herbs that could be used in our gardens, divided by size. Here's a sample:

Tall Herbs:

Angelica. Will take some shade, and will self-sow if it finds a spot it likes.

Borage. Sprawling habit, fuzzy leaves, and delicate

striking if floated in a punchbowl. Costmary (Bible Leaf). Will take some shade, small white/yellow button flowers, good background plant.

blue flowers that are

ground plant.
Lovage. Looks like giant celery. Flavor like celery but much stronger. One of the oldest salad herbs.
Sweet Cicely. Needs shade, white flowers, decorative seeds.



Lovage

Medium Herbs:

Anise. Looks like Queen Anne's Lace.

Chives. Onion chives bloom in May; garlic chives have white blooms in August; curly garlic chives add more interest.

Lavender. Old-fashioned fragrance. Phyllis Gulde has had beautiful lavender beds outside, but not everyone has had the same luck.

Lemon balm. Delightful plant, but very invasive (just ask Tim McCauley).

Rosemary. Not winter hardy, difficult to winter over. Some have had some luck treating it like a geranium.

(cont. on page 7)



Hello Mexico

by M.T. Pulley

You can imagine the beautiful green and growing flora of the Banderas Bay area. Puerto Vallarta is on about the same latitude as Hawaii and is also on the Pacific Ocean. (Three other great things about PV; less than four jet hours south of North Dakota--it's in the Central Time Zone, eggs are sold by weight and the bus drivers make change.)

Banderas Bay is surrounded by the Sierra Madre Mountains. Several rivers flow into the Bay from the valley. The Cuale River flows through downtown Vallarta (pronounced: By-ar-ta.) The stalwart Ameca River is north of the airport and is the border for the state of Nayarit. Most of the local fruits and vegetables are grown in the Ameca Valley. During the winter season the area exports watermelon, cantaloupe, mango, papaya, pineapple and bananas.

I don't know much about tropical horticulture but can almost always identify a coco palm. The coconut tree is related to the kernel palm. This specimen (source



of palm oil) is growing on my patio. I enjoy the stature of this palm and how it dapples the sunlight for my reading area.

A sprawling bougainvillea used to grow over the arched gateway and property wall. But after it rained for a couple of days in early February, the soil was the soaked



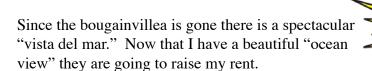
bougainvillea blew down in the wind. The debris blocked the cobblestone footpath running past the front gate. As luck would have it, the winds carried in a straw basket of plastic foliage from somewhere, looking like a creation by the Slothful Gardener? Or, perhaps an entry at the FFF Show that won a 3rd place ribbon. Category: Floral Arrangements.

Anyway, phone calls were made to have the bougain-villea removed from the path. Some guy came in with a dull machete and hacked apart the bougainvillea. He threw the debris inside the gate blocking access to my patio. A tree person, or a resourceful gardener, could have rescued the bougainvillea by trimming it, hoisting it back up and maybe tying it to the brick archway over the gate. It's too late now. So the only actual gardening activity here is 'removal of debris.' Every once in a while Pancho comes by after school and beats away at the stack of branches. (The proper tool for this job is a trailer mounted chipper. There are none for six hundred miles and you couldn't get it up the narrow footpath.)

(cont. on page 7)



What's good about March?
Well, for one thing, it keeps
February and April apart.
- Walt Kelly



Text: M. T. Pulley

Photographs: Michael Downend

Herbs (cont. from page 5)

Low Herbs:

Salad burnet. "Cucumber without the burp". Tolerates dry soil and some shade.

Sweet marjoram. Compact, nice restrained plant. Parsley. Good source of vitamins A, B1, B2, C, iron. Summer Savory. Used as a salt substitute. Plant under pole beans.

Thymes. For cooking, select either English or French varieties. For stepping stones, select "Mother of Thyme". Many flavors of thymes.

And, finally, Gloria reminded us to make use of edible flowers: Nasturtiums, Johnny Jump-Ups, Calendulas and 'Gem' marigolds. Our thanks to Gloria for this informative session.

Fred Glasoe is making good progress toward his goal of walking unassisted. He is still at Mount Olivet Home, 5517 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis for now, but is on a path to return home.

SUNSHINE

COMMITTEE

Mel Anderson is still at Walker Methodist Home at 3737 Bryant Avenue South, Minneapolis, Room R-363. According to Mel's son Grant, Mel has suffered a recurrence of his brain tumor. Grant says Mel has his good days and his not-so-good days, but would definitely welcome visits.

Marilyn Moon is Sunshine chair. The Sunshine Committee sends cards and flowers to members who are hospitalized, ill or confined to their home. If you know of someone who needs a little sunshine, call Marilyn 952-996-0788.

Hydrangeas Galore!

by Rodger Sefelt

Last year was quite eventful for hydrangea lovers. We saw the mass release of the long-awaited Zone 4 'Endless Summer' blue mophead hydrangea. Professor Michael A. Dirr of the University of Georgia, author of reference books on trees and shrubs, finally released his *Hydrangeas for American Gardens*, printed by Timber Press. And, not to be forgotten, the American Hydrangea Society (AHS) out of Atlanta, Georgia celebrated its 10th anniversary.

After many years of open-field testing and limitedquantity release in 2003, Bailey's Nurseries of St. Paul MN had a large-scale national release of its

Endless Summer TM plant, Hydrangea macrophylla 'Bailmer.' (Most people will insist on calling it 'Endless Summer' instead of the more forgettable 'Bailmer'.) Countless northern gardeners (as well as a few southern gardeners - with unpredictable spring frost) were wishing for a hardy and colorful hydrangea which would be more resilient than 'Nikko Blue' or 'All Summer Beauty'. They got their wish when approximately 2 million 'Endless Summer' hydrangeas were marketed last year. They were available all over the country at local nurseries and garden centers

and through a number of mail order sources. Preliminary reports on how the plants performed in 2004 is showing mixed results. Generally speaking, larger plants performed better than smaller sizes in gardens and landscapes.

American hydrangea growers have been growing in number over the years with the increasing popularity of this plant. In the old days hydrangea lovers on this continent had to seek out catalogs, articles in outdated books and texts which were not really aimed



at gardeners. The eagerly awaited *Hydrangeas for American Gardens* (with its accompanying CD) could become the ultimate hydrangea bible for gardeners in this country and Canada. The hard-bound book contains over 200 pages of data and photographs which will help gardeners select and care for hydrangeas. There is botanical background on the various species and information about disease, drying, propagation, pruning, pests, and a glimpse at hybridizing and future developments. The CD, *Hydrangeas for American Gardens: A Photographic Essay*, on CD-ROM contains 921 photographs and current nomenclature.



'Endless Summer' Hydrangea

Now over 10 years old, with membership in the hundreds, the AHS is still an overlooked resource and an underutilized source of information on hydrangeas. Although meetings, lectures and tours take place in the Atlanta area, gardeners from anywhere can join the AHS for \$20 individual membership/\$25 household and start receiving their quarterly newsletters. They contain lectures from the meetings,

growing tips, and a large variety of features on hydrangea-related subjects. Being a member also creates the opportunity to contact other members for the purpose of problem-solving and information exchange.

LOOKING FORWARD - 2005

If 2004 was eventful, 2005 offers its own anticipations and expectations. Gardeners are waiting to see how 'Endless Summer' acts in their own gardens. Additional introductions are starting to show up, and some of them are hardy or marginally hardy here. And with the coming of each new year, there seem to be more



plant sources as well as more places to get information about hydrangeas.

Gardeners waiting to see how their own 'Endless Summer' plants behave need to remember that there are at least a couple of variables, which will influence how plants perform. Bloom color is affected by soil



H. paniculata 'Lady in Red'

acidity or alkalinity established the previous season. Acidic soil provides available aluminum for blue blooms and more alkaline soil ties up aluminum for the plants and produces pink blooms.

If you had a blue 'Endless Summer' in 2004, it was because it had acidic conditions in 2003, and if it was pink, it was previously grown in more alkaline soil. If you want blue blooms to remain blue or pinks to flip over to blue, maintain or create acidic soil conditions. Aluminum sulfate is frequently the soil acidifier of choice for hydrangea growers, but be careful not to use excessive amounts which can be harmful or even kill plants. To go the other direction use lime (pelletized limestone).

After soil acidity, it is a good idea to give some thought to location. In our part of the country, the ideal yard would have enough locations for all hydrangeas to be where they would get direct sun only in the early-to-mid morning and no direct sun in the late afternoon. Too muh sun can lead to heat and drought stress (blooms and canes drooping) and the need for more remedial watering. Once in their ideal location, with the desired soil acidity, it would be helpful to have all hydrangeas heavily mulched (especially dur-

ing the warmest months of the year).

Anyone who did not get 'Endless Summer' yet should not worry about availability. Bailey's is projecting sales of at least 3 million this year, and they are even expecting sales of one half million in Europe and Asia.

Other plants which might be of interest to Zone 4 gardeners include the following:

- 1. *H. paniculata* 'Little Lamb'/PeeGee relative with snowball blooms/Z4/Forest Farm/Or
- 2. *H. macrophylla serrata* 'Shamrock'/compact pink lacecap/Z4/Heronswood/WA
- 3. *H. macrophylla* 'Lady in Red'/red lacecap, purple fall leaves/Z5-9/Wayside Gardens/SC

What we see here in Minnesota is only the tip of the hydrangea iceberg – because our growing conditions support only a small percentage of all the different species and cultivars that are growing around the world. In the US., however there are many growers as well as specialty growers on the east and west coasts in more hospitable climates; there are countless mail-order catalogs if your local stores do not have what you want; and there are websites for research and discussion.

SOURCES AND MORE INFORMATION

Hydrangeas for American Gardens, Michael A. Dirr, Timber Press, 2004, ISBN 0-88192-641-8 American Hydrangea Society, P.O. Box 11645, Atlanta, GA 30355-1645

American Hydrangea Society Newsletter, Winter 2004/Vol. 10 Issue 4.

www.americanhydrangeasociety.org www.hydrangeasplus.com (hydrangea specialty grower/retail mail order)

http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hydra/ (Hydrangea Forum discussion website)



January Board Meeting

Convened 1/25/05

Present: Leroy Cech, Elizabeth Hamilton, David McKeen, Denise Rust, Don Stuewe, Don Trocke.

Absent: Rudy Allebach, Kristine Deters, Ellyn Hosch.

Meeting called to order by President David McKeen. No secretary's report was available.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Profit from holiday party was \$449.25, due largely to a very successful silent auction.

Preliminary discussion on billing no-shows at dinner meetings. Club has been absorbing cost for those extra dinners not sold to walk-ins. Club policy will be decided at next board meeting.

\$10,000 currently in checking will be transferred to two certificates of deposit with different maturity dates for more profitability.

Club's checking account was switched from a \$30/mo. processing fee account to one with no fee.

COMMITTEES

Audit: 2004 books passed inspection in an audit by Joe Stenger with commendation for past Treasurer Dave Johnson.

MEMBERSHIP

Current membership is 110. New directories will be available at the Feb. meeting with those not picked up to be mailed.

Nate Karol and Jean Doolittle approved as new members.

Discussion of process of induction of new members at club meetings. Would like to see a process of mutual acquaintanceship at the ceremonies.

NEW BUSINESS

All 2005 standing committees have a chair except Members' Tour, FFF and Holiday. Will push to fill these vacancies.

Locations and dates of future 2005 Board meetings were decided (see Directory).

Known upcoming club meeting programs: 2/8 Herbs; 3/15 Marshall Field's Flower Show; 5/3 Plant Sale and Auction at Westwood Lutheran.

MSHS website has information about a MN Green plant material giveaway in exchange for a group's \$45 registration fee. If club participated, plantings could be used for the Perennial Garden, the Lake Harriet church or a site TBD. No action taken.

Suggestions for helping our membership get better acquainted were discussed. Topics for discussion left at dinner tables at meetings and a new feature of having members talk about travels at business meetings were considered.

The Bob Churilla Golden Rose Volunteer Recognition Award will be presented by our President McKeen at the MSHS State Awards Recognition Ceremony 2/5.

Club will look into purchasing its own P.A. system as the one at the Lake Harriet church is not always accessible for meeting use.

Next Board meeting will be 2/22 at 7:00 PM at Ellyn Hosch's

NEW DIGS:

Como Visitors Center

by Denise Rust

The dawn of a recent unseasonably warm Saturday (Feb. 12, to be exact) bode well for the Grand Opening of the new Visitors' Center at Como Park in St. Paul, where approximately 5000 visitors got a preview of the new digs as well as had a great day to visit their old favorite haunts in the zoo and conservatory. I served as a costumed character for the first hallf of the day, greeting dignitaries and the public as a spotted lavendar butterfly. Believe me, it is no small feat to flap one's arms (or wings) for three hours or to talk continuously while already dealing with larengitis, but it was a fun time.

The festivities began with a short parade up the walkway to the new Visitors' Center, with a ribbon cutting and speeches given by St. Paul mayor Randy Kelly and two state senators (I served as official escort for the two senators during their brief stay). Throughout the

day there were live music, classes, face painting, with staff, interpreters, and master gardeners on hand to share with the public and of course, all of us loveable costumed characters. Following opening ceremonies I was assigned to roam at will throughout the conservatory and nearby grounds. As the temperature reached into the 50s and my costume became warmer and warmer, I found myself spending more time on the walkway leading up to the new entrance. I simply told visitors that I and my insect friends had arrived early this year to participate in the festivities.

For those of you who have not seen the new Visitors' Center, it sits to the left of and back from the conservatory (where the main zoo entrance used to be). All entry to both zoo and conservatory will be



through its front entrance from now on; you will go down the hallway to the right to see the conservatory, and through the Center from front to back to enter the zoo. There is no admission fee charged, though a suggested donation is posted. The new Visitors' Center includes an Information Desk, A new restaurant called the Zoobota Cafe with indoor and outdoor seating, a gift shop serving the zoo and conservatory combined, upstairs classrooms, auditorium, and student storage space and downstairs space for campus storage and use. The enclosure for the coming Tropical Encoun-

ters is also visible.

You will note some change to the old conservatory; the former Fern Room and Gallery Garden are history, but later this spring will see the opening of the new enlarged (and handicapped accessible) Fern Room and the brand new Orchid Room. Blooming orchids will continue to be featured in the Palm Dome and North House, but other orchids will have their own space rather than residing in the greenhouse. The Bonsai Collection has already been moved

from behind the conservatory gift shop to its own new room. The conservatory gift shop will be closing soon.

The new Tropical Encounters exhibit will open this fall, with a walk-through view of such diverse creatures as rays, sloths, birds and insects; it promises to be a wonderful new addition to a favorite destination of many area families for generations.

The buzz about the new space on Grand Opening day was quite positive and the future of Como Park smells, well. . .delightful! Though I don't know if I'll ever view the space through the eyes of a butterfly again, I look forward to continuing years of volunteering there and watching things change and grow. I invite you to come out and see it for yourself, and celebrate with us!



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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Club Officers:

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3624 Robinwood Terrace, Minnetonka

Treasurer: LeRoy Cech

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436 Sheridan Ave. S., Minneapolis

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3414 The Mall, Minnetonka

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First Class Mail

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