



Just Remember the Reason for the Season



Editorial Enticements

By Chuck Carlson

Another year will come to completion this month and another year for our club and this newsletter. I am most appreciative to all those that have supplied copy for the newsletter.

First of all I want to thank Mary Maynard and Phil Smith for their diligence in providing wonderful monthly articles. Beyond that, I thank Ellyn Hosch, Davis McKeen, Bob Olson, Tim McCauley, Howard Berg, Anne Buchanan, Andy Marlow, Merl (MT) Pulley, Jack Kobe, Lynda Carlson, Maurice Lindblom and Kay Wolfe for their articles. Also, Lloyd Wittstock receives my thanks for supplying monthly pictures.

Of course, we all have to thank Warren Nordley for being president and giving us his thoughts and wishes in the presidents messages.

You can see by the above that it takes many to make a village, I mean many to produce a newsletter. I was very pleased with their efforts but I know there are others out there that can impart their knowledge. I and the club need your inputs. As of this writting I have copy only from Mary Maynard for next year. It could be a thin newsletter in January.

If you want a newsletter that has some meat in it you must pick up that pen or hunt and peck on that keyboard and send in your efforts. Winter is a good time since you can't get those fingers dirty in the garden. I know you can, so do it. I know some of you older folks have seen the TV show, *Have Gun will Travel*. Well I ...Have computer, will edit... so send it to me.





Scenes from 2001 Holiday Party

Aboce: Patti & Duane Reynolds & Henry Halvorson

Right: Alice Nordley, Jackie & Tim Overom, Doug & Carole Ann Brekke and if front Warren Nordley





President's **Column**

MGCM President Warren Nordley

Good gosh, the year is over already. At the risk of sounding like more political rhetoric that we've all come to loath, I thought it might be constructive to take a look at what the club did and did not accomplish this year. Sort of a "where we've been and where we're going" review.

What we did not accomplish was meeting our expectations for increasing membership. We're still in good shape, mind you, but I think we need to maintain our focus going forward. Our gains during the year were substantially impacted by the losses we incurred and, with the opportunities we had and the effort that was put forth, I just thought we would have done better.

Perhaps the most significant event during the year was our disaffiliation from National, a somewhat painful process considering the tradition and memories that were involved. Nevertheless, I think the club became stronger and more unified as the result of its action. The plant auction and general public tour were both financially successful, no small accomplishment what with the growing competition in these two areas. Valley Fair was very rewarding and shows good financial opportunity for the future. We celebrated our 60th anniversary in grand style at the Arboretum and our contribution to Beren's cabin was most gratifying. Our perennial garden flourished, partially the result of better communication with the Park Board. The holiday party will add a few new twists but, since the event hadn't taken place before this magnificent edition went to press, the jury is still out. A new photo directory was produced that, on a personal basis, seemed to highlight my drooping eyelids and shocking lack of hair but, otherwise, appeared

to be well received by the membership.

Looking forward, I think we have other challenges besides membership. As older members eventually drop out and are replaced by newer members, how do we maintain that zest, that chemistry, that magical something that makes us unique? The world keeps changing around us but we need to hang on to those things that are precious to this club. Additionally, the Beren's cabin project was perfect for us. What other opportunities are there down the road that will also provide us exposure, prestige and a deep sense of satisfaction? At the same time, we need to be sensitive to the time constraints of our members and be selective in the projects that may become available.

My thanks to each of our board members, almost all of who were new. They were a great team and one that was willing to embrace change. Thanks to all the committee chairs, their respective committees and to all the members who helped make this club the success it is. And thanks for the opportunity you've given me. It was great fun.

Editors comment: We all thank Warren for leading the club and the board for this past year. Thanks Warren!!! You not only lead us, but put up with our fun at your expense. Below are a few instances of that.



Treeman

Warren the Politician

Warren the Jester





The **November** Program

By Andy Marlow

We learn gardening in our youth, and continue to try to recreate the gardens we

experienced as young people when we become adult gardeners. And if our upbringing has a heavy dose of ethnicity in it, so will our gardens. That's the thesis behind Growing Home: Stories of Ethnic Gardening by Susan Davis Price, published by the University of Minnesota Press. The book won the Best Book of the Year Award from the American Horticultural Society and it made a wonderful topic for the November

MGCM dinner meeting, as Ms. Price spoke about the individual stories in her book and showed slides of some of the tellers of those stories.

She was given the book idea by her publishers, but was told she could implement it in any way she saw fit. She did it by telling the stories of more than thirty Minnesotans who have imported the style and tradition of their native or ancestral lands into their gardening. Consequently, she explores gardening techniques and plants brought from every part of the globe.

She told her MGCM audience about the Korean gardeners who live at the Cedar Square West high-rises near the University of Minnesota West bank campus. They speak little English and have felt rather isolated. Their gardening activities have helped them build a sense of community and made them all happy. A characteristic plant of their gardens is balloon flower, which is beautiful to see, plus the root is used in Korean stir-fry.

She also told about Maiju Köntii, a Finnish workman who lives near Cromwell, just this side of Duluth. A special Finnish summer rose and an abundance of birch trees remind her of his ethnic roots.

Another story focused on Igbo, a Nigerian immigrant, who grows the characteristic hot peppers of his homeland and bottles them for holiday gifts. He also grows a unique Ibo vegetable that's a member of the squash family. It's grown everywhere Nigerians settle, no matter that the climate is quite

different from their Africa home.

Her stories include that of Kevin Oshima, a third generation Japanese-American. He was thoroughly acculturated to American, paying little attention to his heritage. But he discovered bonsai, and has made it his vocation. He grows and shapes bonsai, over winters them for their owners and teaches others how to shape their plants.

A transplanted Swiss gardener, with a small urban lot, gardens intensively in window boxes as is done in the rocky soil of the Alps. He builds and sells window boxes, and evangelizes their use by others.

The final story that caught this writer's attention is that of Aleta Olson, who lives in the country near Glenwood. Her house burned down when she was 90 years old. Friends and neighbor thought, surely she would move to town and retire from gardening. Instead she rebuilt her home and still sells what she grows at the Glenwood farmer's market.

Ms. Price is also the author of Minnesota Gardens: An Illustrated History, which won many awards and resides in my library at home. If her track record with that book and the small taste of Growing Home we got at the November meeting are any indication, Growing Home should definitely be on your holiday gift wish list.



Susan Davis Price Photo by Lloyd



Board Meeting Summary



Summarized from Ellyn Hosch's Secretarys Report

Meeting Date: 5 November 2002 Board members present: Nancy Bjerke, Carole Ann Brekke, Lynda Carlson, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Dave McKeen, Don Morgenweck, Warren Nordley and Jackie Overom plus next years secretar Mary Oelke

Secretary's Report

The October meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted by Dave Johnson. The costs for the Beren's Cabin project are currently estimated at \$2134 plus the cost of the plaque. The 60th Anniversary event almost broke even. A motion was approved to discontinue funding the LPDC. A motion was approved to take the \$300 that would have been donated to the LPDC and donate it to the Arboretum. This change in the budget will be taken to the membership in the next general meeting. Everyone is encouraged to support the calendar sales which are behind projections. Board members were asked to give inputs for the 2003 budget. The budget will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Membership Secretary's Report

Two new candidates were approved for membership; Judy Taylor and Leroy Cech.

Eighty-four renewals have been submitted. Everyone is reminded to send in your renewal form.

The November/December issue of the Northern Gardener included an article featuring our garden club.

Old Business

Dave Johnson will seek input regarding the 501c3 application. A committee will be formed to complete the application to achieve our non-profit status.

New Business

Dave Johnson will be completing the 2001 tax return by the 15 November deadline.

Phil Peterson will be stepping down as the chair of the Sunshine Committee. Nancy Bjerke will work with the committee to select a new chair.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on 10 December at 7:00 PM at the home of Warren Nordley.



New Members and Changes

Change of address

Phil Peterson has a new address and telephone number, as shown below.

Phil Peterson The Colony of Eden Prairie #233 431 Prairie Center Drive Eden Prairie MN 55344 Ph 952-949-3433

New Members

Welcome to the latest members Leroy Cech and Nancy Duncan. Their address are shown below.

> Nancy Duncan 3957 Standish Ave Minneapolis MN 55407

Leroy Cech 212 Interlachen Rd Burnsville MN 55306



Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

Well, it's winter. For those of us with no surviving houseplants, gardening is over for the season, and it's time to look back at a very odd gardening season. I particularly enjoyed the frost into June and the snow in September. Not to mention the unbearable heat and humidity in July. And West Nile virus wasn't that fun!

In the midst of all my complaining, I did get a chance to try out a few new things in

2002. Here are the ones I remember:

Ageratum 'Leilani Blue'. This was heralded as the replacement for Ageratum 'Blue Horizon', the tall ageratum that's good for cutting. Having been an early adopter of 'Blue Horizon' and generally resistant to change, I wasn't at all sure that I needed a replacement. And I'm not ready to switch. 'Leilani Blue' is shorter than 'Blue Horizon', and might have slightly larger flower heads. But I like the extra height afforded by Blue Horizon.

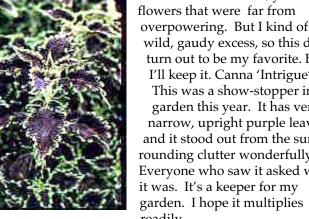
Alocasia 'Hilo Beauty' (Cream Spotted Elephant Ear). Well, it would have been tough to pass this one up based on the catalog description, but it wasn't all that impressive on my patio. The variegation in the leaves was fine, but it didn't get very big, and I'm used to big when it comes to Elephant Ears. I'm going to give it another year, but I was underwhelmed this year.

Alternanthera ficoidea 'Sessilis Alba' (White Calico Plant). I got this tender annual from Singing Springs Nursery, which is a new favorite of mine. This was a pretty container plant, and I'd get it again. It looked nice with the above-mentioned Alocasio 'Hilo Beauty'.

Astromoea mongolica. This perennial is a relative of Kalimeris incisa (Orphanage Plant), which I have had for several years. It is about 24-36 inches tall and has small double white flowers that bloom much of the summer. I planted this in our butterfly garden in the park, where it was almost immediately overpowered by giant blazing stars, but it still held its own. I'm going to get more of these when I find some extra space in my own gardens.

Canna glauca 'Panache'. Have I ever mentioned how much I like cannas? I got this one this year because it was advertised as having "elegant and refined" flowers. Which

it did — delicate coral/vellow overpowering. But I kind of like wild, gaudy excess, so this didn't turn out to be my favorite. But I'll keep it. Canna 'Intrigue'. This was a show-stopper in my garden this year. It has very narrow, upright purple leaves, and it stood out from the surrounding clutter wonderfully. Everyone who saw it asked what readily.



Coleus 'Black Magic'

Coleus 'Black Magic'. I

tried a bunch of new coleus's this year, and many of them were really nice. But this was my favorite. It's a vigorous, healthy grower, and it is perfect in a container with Colocasia 'Illustris'.

Colocasia esculenta 'Chicago Harlequin'. This is another elephant ear that has gotten a huge write-up in Plant Delights, because of its variegation on the stems. It's a vigorous grower, but the white streaks on the stems did not make it so distinctive that I'd buy it again.

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60th Anniversary Musings

Clips from past newsletters selected by Howard Berg, Historian

60 YEARS AGO DECEMBER 1942

December 7, 1942. This was our first annual social dinner meeting and was well attended when 40 members and 36 guests (mostly wives) gathered in the main dining room at the Athletic Club. This dinner set a precedent which has been followed ever since with great success as it has proven one of the most enjoyable events of our club year. President Tom Hughes presided and after welcoming the ladies and guests, introduced Harry Anderson who led the group in singing the national anthem, followed by a special song with words by George Luxton extolling the virtues of some of the garden experts in the Club.

Mrs. H. B. Tillotson, whose garden we visited on our Minnetonka tour, was the principal speaker and was especially effective in entertaining the ladies present with her description of the woman's part in gardening for the war effort. Herb Kahlert ran his movie of the garden tours, together with some very fine shots of his own garden. Dr. F. A. Olson showed a fine group of colored slides taken during our tours and also some taken at various flower shows which he had attended during the summer. At the conclusion of the program, Upsher Smith and Herb Kahlert put on our first raffle and many prizes were distributed to those present.

President Hughes announced that the next meeting would be the annual business meeting when the new officers would be elected and installed. He stated that the proposed constitution and by-laws would be

presented and should be adopted if satisfactory. The time was fixed as January 11, 1943,, and the place was to be the Oak Room at the Athletic Club.

50 YEARS AGO DECEMBER 1952

December 11, 1952. The Annual Christmas Dinner Party was held at Stouffer's Restaurant and Bob Adams and his committee outdid themselves for the occasion. Despite the miserable

weather 124 members and guests were on hand to enjoy the festivities.

The Dufourd skit "Over The Garden Fence" as interpreted by our own Hollywood stars, Quist and Janes, was a scream and will be long remembered.

P. W. Young, Bill Block and Vern Roufs did a fine job with the color pictures of member gardens taken during the past season. The souvenirs and door prizes collected by Bill Hull and donated by Donaldsons, Bachmans, Mossberg, Toro, Cargill and Northrup King, added to the enjoyment of the party.

Dr. W. J. Breckenridge's presentation of "How to Attract Birds" was both beautiful and instructive and greatly enjoyed by all.

25 YEARS AGO DECEMBER 1977

MGCM Christmas Party at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Monday December 5, 1977 at 6:15 P.M. We had an attendance of 257 members and guests. An organist (Ardis Nelson) playing during the dinner, entertainment by a female barber shop quartet, The Sunshine Special.

On November 8th 1977 a recommendation from our MGCM directors was voted down. It would have made payment to MGCA optional.

Chuck King gave the November program symposium on greenhouses. Also Vern Carlson started growing under lights, but to get his chrysanthemums to a final bloom he built a 8' by 12' glass green house and Fred Glasoe got windows from Rusco . Jerry

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Making a Large Wreath

By Phil Smith

One of the holiday decorations I have always favored is a nice evergreen wreath. Small ones are fairly easy to make using a wire frame purchased from a garden center. However, we enjoy a large wreath made for the outside of the home, such as above the garage, a visible gable end of the house or a large panel adjacent the entry. Several years ago, I devised a simple and inexpensive way to make a wreath up to about five feet in diameter, and have made one nearly every year since.

I buy a 4'x8' sheet of tempered 1/4" thick pegboard, or a half sheet if available. Pegboard has holes about an inch apart and is normally used with hangers or brackets for storing tools, etc. With pegboard, one can make a wreath frame 48" in diameter, and when fitted full with evergreen branches, a wreath of nearly five feet diameter may be produced. Of course, any smaller size can also be made. The technique is to locate the center of the piece of board, drive a small nail at the center, fasten a string or flexible wire to the nail and to a pencil at the outer end, and scribe the outer and inner circles of the frame. For a four foot size, the frame width should be about 5 inches between the outer and inner edges, for strength. Smaller sizes can have a smaller frame width. I like to make one of the four foot size, and then one or two smaller ones cut from the remaining circle. An electric hand held jig saw is useful to cut the circle edges.

Any available evergreens may be used to complete the wreath. I prefer some type of fir, since the needles have a rounded end and are softer. Spruce needles are sharp and sticky and gloves need to be worn. I have also used arborvitae and scotch pine. When in Montana for the holidays, I use Douglas fir since they

are abundant on our land. When in Florida, I prefer the beautiful Frazer fir. I have found in FL that the tree lots will often give away the branches from poorly shaped trees or sell them for a small sum.

I take four to six branches (depending on how full the foliage is) about 12" to 18" long, place them on top of one another, and arrange to an attractive bunch. Hold the bunch by one hand on top of the frame, and with the other hand, wire the branches to the frame. It helps to place the frame on a table or a couple of saw horses. Any flexible wire may be used, but I prefer the kind sold for tying steel rebar for concrete. Cut a piece about 8 to 10 inches long, bend it into a hair pin, place it over the branches, stick both wire ends through holes in the pegboard, and twist the wires tight underneath. With the wires tight underneath, one wire is normally adequate to hold the bunch of branches tight against the frame. Then, take another bunch and overlap the first bunch about a third to half, covering the first wire and the thicker branch ends. Proceed to place bunches of branches around the frame. When you come to the last space, lift up the ends of the first bunch and place the thick ends of the last bunch under the first one before wiring.

The wreath may be hung by merely placing the inner edge of the frame over a fairly large nail or screw. Or, a piece of wire may be fastened to the frame at the selected top, and a loop made in the wire for hanging over a nail.

Additional decorations may be added, such as large pine cones, berries, balls, ribbons or whatever one prefers. I like to merely add a large red bow at the bottom, and tie a set of lights on top of the evergreens. I like a single color set of the smaller type lights, such as all blue or white. After the season, merely cut and remove the wires and greenery and store the frame for use another year. Such a large lighted wreath visible near the entrance or driveway to a home is, I believe, quite attractive for the holiday season.



The Photo Directory

The 60th anniversary photo directory has been printed and distributed at the 60th anniversary luncheon, the November dinner meeting and will be at the Holiday Party.

Those who haven't received it by then can contact Chuck Carlson or get it at any meeting next year. Since the directory is contained in a three ring notebook it is prohibitive for the club to mail them. Also we will, at some later date provide supplements as new members and pictures become available.



Your New Board

Congratulations to our new officers and directors elected at the annual meeting. We look forward to a good year for the club under your direction.

Their pictures and names are shown in the column to the right. Please Thank them for taking on this endeavor, congratulate them, get to know them and inform them of your ideas and wishes to make the club even better. Also help them and your club by being a committee chair and/or committee members. Remember many hands make easy work. Not only will it be easy work but you will have fun also. This effort can also promote gardening and give something back to the community. The better the club, the more members and the more we can give back.







Past president Warren Nordley



Vice President Ellyn Hosch



Membership Secretary Jackie Overom



Corresponding Secretary Mary Oelke



Treasurer Dave Johnson (Fridley)



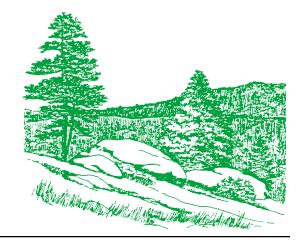
Director Lynda Carlson



Director Dave McKeen



Director Rudy Allebach





Musings Continued

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Shannon bought a house because it had a detached glass green house, James Dock has an 10' by 18'. Dick Lehman after reaching 70 years young built a 15' by 30' aluminum, glass concrete and cypress greenhouse, all have been heated with gas heaters and some have put in fans to move air to forestal fungus.

15 YEARS AGO DECEMBER, 1987

The annual Christmas Party to be held Tuesday December 8, 1987, at Augsburg College Center at 6:30 P.M.

The Augsburg Student Center proved to be an attractive, homey place—the most attractive spot in which we have ever held our holiday dinner. After the Parade of Turkeys and a excellent meal the Augsburg Cabaret Singers gave a fine presentation.

Bob Olson stated in the newsletter all have made my tenure as president enjoyable and active. But he concluded, I have to choose an individual to get the President's Cup. It's the hardest job I've had and finally it's a situation where I can't ask anyone to help me.

"Drift", an article in the Spray by Ed. Culbert, stated Jerry Shannon was promoted to Director of Elementary Education for St. Paul Public Schools, He has been principal for over a decade. Bill Hull whose "All Hell Broke Loose" a collection of stories about the Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940 was written up in the Star & Tribune Sunday "Arts" by Dave Woods.

10 YEARS AGO DECEMBER, 1992

The 1992 Holiday party is December 1, 1992 at Lake Harriet Methodist Church at 6:00 P.M. cost is \$12.50. Parade of Turkeys and all the trimmings for a hearty meal. The Minneapolis Boys Choir will highlight the evening with songs.

The Story of the Tree of Peace appeared is this issue. It is a fable of the Iroqquois.

Some 1000 years ago, at a time when there was great conflict among nations, the

Peacemaker appeared among native people, bringing a message of peace, He persuaded the discordant nations to listen to him, When the people finally agreed amongst themselves to accept his message, 50 chiefs gathered in a circle around a white pine tree. The Peacemaker then planted the tree over the weapons to hold the conflict underground and away from the people, symbolizing the end of warfare. The roots of the tree, known as the White Roots of Peace, grew in the four directions spreading the message of peace. If any person or nation traces these Roots back to the base of nature, under its shelter. This tree is called the Tree of Peace.

5 YEARS AGO DECEMBER, 1997

MGCM 1997 Holiday party on Tuesday December 9. Starting at 6:00 P.M. Parade of Turkeys and Feast. During and following the meal, we were well entertained by the Coventry Caroler, who brought us all the familiar Christmas Songs and led us in a short singalong

This was Andy Marlows last Spray. He was editor for six years. He has turned the editors job over to Chuck Carlson.

Dr Bob Olson wrote an article on forcing hostas. It was taken from Mississippi Valley Hosta Society newsletter. The following were his steps

- Dig the plant before the ground freezes, and remove as much soil as possible.
- Plant in a plastic pot, not a clay one as it will crack when it freezes, using a peat-based soilless mix such as Promix, Sunshine Mix or anything you would use to raise seedlings
- Cut off all the leaves and water it well.
- Leave it out doors until it freezes then store it in an unheated garage or shed (not in basement). You want it unheated but out of weather"— It won't survive outside it gets fifteen below
- In your garage you will need to water

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Musings Continued

(Continued from page 10)

it from time to time—use a few ice cubes placed on top of soil (soilless mix). Snow is even better.

 Bring inside about two to three weeks before you want it to be in full foliage. Put it under artificial lights or in a sunny window (or in a greenhouse if you are so blessed.

Confessions Continued

(Continued from page 6)

But I'll keep the one I have, if it survives the winter.

Hamelia patens. This always looks so cool in beds at the Dallas Arboretum. It didn't do much, but I don't know if it's just not suited to our Minnesota climate, or if our weird growing season was just too much for it. Perhaps our growing conditions are a little different from those in Texas...

Iresine herbstii 'Aureo-reticulata' (Variegated Chicken Gizzard Plant). I have to admit that I got this tender annual strictly because of its common name. Who could pass up a Chicken Gizzard Plant, after all? This is a foliage plant, a member of the amaranth family with green and white leaves and pinkred stems. It formed a nice bushy plant about 18 inches high, and thrived in a container. It's a little gaudy, even by my standards, so I don't know that I'll get it again, but it performed pretty well.

Pentas lanceolata-rose pink selection. This was a pretty good performer in my garden this year — a taller variety than I'd seen other places, and it bloomed continuously in a container on the patio. The bloom stems were a little long and angular for my taste, but I really liked the color and the continuous bloom. Annual.

Stachytarpheta mutabilis 'Coral'. This annual is a weird plant. A member of the verbena family, with verbena-like flowers

blooming on only a very small portion of long green whips at any one time. It was always in bloom— somewhere along the stem. Not a keeper from my perspective, although several garden visitors asked what on earth it could be.

Stipa tenuissima (angel hair grass). I had fun with this grass. It never got as immense as the ones that Dave McKeen brought to the plant auction, but it grew well and provided a nice accent in containers.

Verbena rigida 'Polaris'. This was fun to grow. Verbena rigida has the flower heads of verbena bonariensis, but it only about 12 inches tall, so it's good for edging the front of a border. And 'Polaris' is a light lilac color (not white, as one might think with a name like 'Polaris') that blends well in the garden. The stems are long enough for cutting, and they flower past the first few frosts to extend the season.

Zinnia Benary's Giant Lilac. I really like zinnias, but I have a bad habit of thinking I need really tall ones, and then they turn out to be too tall and gangly and look goofy in the garden. In this case, I was also disappointed in the color, which was not lilac as far as I was concerned. Kind of a dusty pink, which wasn't what I was expecting. But I did get a special award at the FFF for my submission, so I guess I shouldn't really complain all that much. Next year I'm going to try to restrain myself and get something like 'Dreamland'.

The catalogs for 2003 are already arriving. I think I'll stop writing now and settle in with the new Thompson and Morgan catalog and see what I should try next year!



Pentas lanceolata (rose pink selection)

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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