



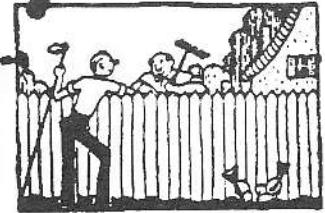
The Garden Spray



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

Affiliated with The Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

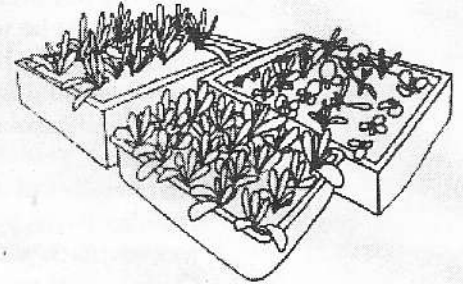
January, 2000, Volume 58, Number 1



This Month's Program Propagation Techniques by Bob Stepan

Do you have a plant which you like and it's not hardy?
Do you want more specimens of that expensive plant you bought?
Do you want to reclaim one of your plants ?
Do you want to save money on plants?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions come to the January dinner meeting and learn how. Bob will be speaking on sexual and asexual propagation. Plus other topics to assure your success in propagation



Propagation is the key to Gardening

Tuesday, January 11

Dinner : 6:30 PM Business : 7:00 PM Program : 7:30 PM

Meet at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church 49th and Chown Avenue South

Cost: \$9.00 if reserved in advance \$10.00 at the door if extra meals are available

Reservations are necessary.

Call in your reservation if you are not on the permanent reservations list.

See page 11 for reservation and cancellation details.

Club Events Preview

February 8---Dinner Meeting Water Gardening
by Soni Forsman

March 21---- Dinner & Dayton-Bachman Flower Show

April 11----- Dinner Meeting-- Garden Photography by
Lloyd Wittstock

May 9----- Dinner, Plant sale & Auction

June 13----- Dinner Meeting--Daylilies by Northstar
Daylilies

July 8-9----- Weekend Public Garden Tour

August 6----- Sunday Club Tour

August 26-27--- Food Flower & Foto Show

September 12--- Dinner Meeting--Chuck Levine

October 10 ----- Dinner Meeting-- TBD

November 14 -- Dinner Meeting-- TBD

December 5 ---- Holiday Party

Editorial Enticements

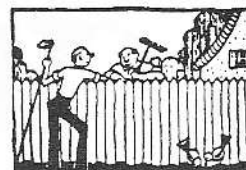
Chuck Carlson Editor

As I write this, the Y2K year is almost upon us, so I think it would be a good time to thank all who made this year's club events a success. Thanks from myself and the board!!! I have to specifically thank Eldon Hugelen who put aside some of his life to be our president. He thinks, this coming year he will have time to do all his gardening. But, he has a new project, taking care of his new dog. Good luck Eldon and thanks for serving as our president. You all know Eldon is a fan of bib overalls but if you weren't at the Holiday Party, you missed seeing his formal, black with white pin striped, bibs. Quite a sight to behold.

Speaking of the Holiday Party, I hope you enjoyed it. I did and those around me appeared to enjoy it also. I know we didn't have the normal parade of turkeys but, the board did make a good substitute. The changes were made for financial reasons as well as the lack of facilities to roast that many whole turkeys. Thanks must go to Jan and Duane Johnson and their committee for the fine party. Thanks!!!

I must also thank all of you who wrote for the *Spray* this last year. Without your inputs, the newsletter would have been really short and dull. Thanks!!! Don't forget to get started writing during the winter months for 2000.

I also want to invite, urge and encourage each of you to do some extra planning and planting in your garden. During the next two years we will be needing gardens for two major tours. In 2000, we need gardens for the Biennial Scholarship fund raiser. Plus, in 2001 we will need even more gardens for the



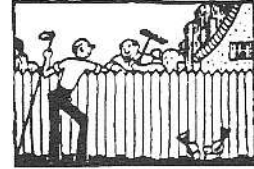
national convention. Planning ahead will do wonders for a garden. I might even try some planning this year. Remember, gardens big or small are supposed to be seen not just heard about.

All in all, I think the Mens Garden Club of Minneapolis had a very good year in 1999. Lets start the millennium with a big horticultural bang in Y2K.



Above: Eldon Hugelen & dog, Millie.
Photo by Carole Ann Brekke.
Below: Jan & Duane Johnson Chairs of
Holiday Party Photo by Chuck



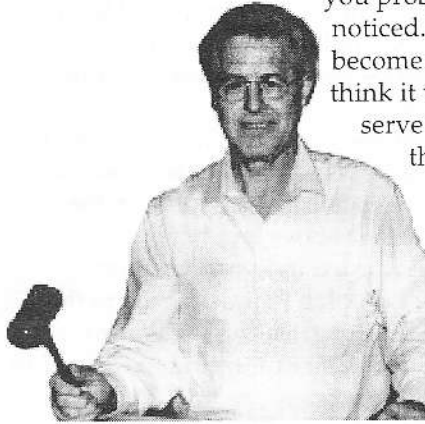


Presidents Column

MGCM President Ritchie Miller

Ritchie's Ramblings

That tall, dark and handsome fellow that you thought you were electing to be your President; well, it was all just a good disguise. I'm really a short, gray-haired, self-deprecating, quiet sort of fellow that you probably haven't even noticed. Impeachment may become a reasonable option. I think it will be a pleasure to serve as your President for the next year.



*Ritchie Miller
Photo by Chuck*

I don't come to you with any specific goals for achievement because my predecessors Maury, Mary, and Eldon have already done all the big things that

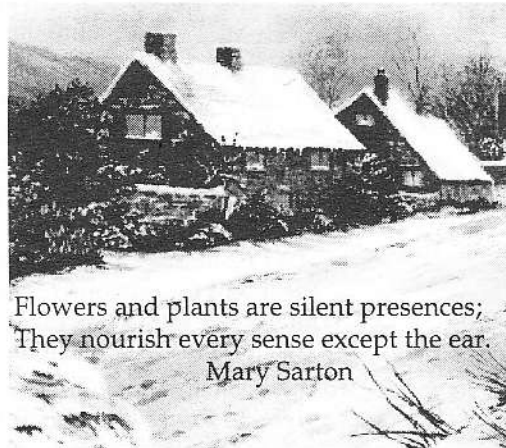
need to be done. It seems that maintenance of the good things they've begun will be my primary emphasis. Many thanks to Eldon for the leadership and excellent performance he provided to us.

Welcome to new Board members; Jackie Overom and Carole Ann Brekke. Jackie is our Membership Secretary and Carole Ann is our Vice President. They are going to serve the club very well.

We have an absolutely wonderful club. Gardeners must generally be a friendly, sharing lot; it sure seems that our members are that way. This club has a rich heritage that should be preserved for posterity. There is no historian or committee that I'm aware of, at least such a committee is not one of our standing committees. This may be our shortcom-

ing. I think it would be wise to collect all of our historical information, decide on what should be retained, catalog it, and decide on how it should be stored for ease of retrieval. I would be very grateful to anyone that would come forward to chair such a committee. Please talk to me if you would accept such a chairmanship. This could be a "fun" job, an "educational" experience, and what a "club trivia game" master you would become.

This has been more rambling than I should be entitled to receive, so I sign off until next time.



Flowers and plants are silent presences;
They nourish every sense except the ear.
Mary Sarton

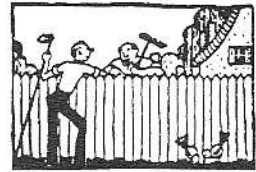
Future Board Meeting Locations

Tuesday, January 4, 7:30 PM

Board of Directors meeting
Ritchie Miller's house

Tuesday, February 1, 7:30 PM

Board of Directors meeting
Carol Ann Brekke's house



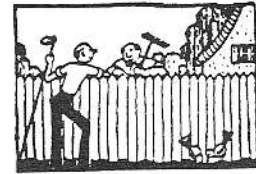
Last Month's Program

By Chuck Carlson

The Holiday Party

The Holiday Party started with conversation and punch and ended with the giving of the greens. In between we had the presentation of the bird by our president, a delicious roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings, scholarship presentations, entertainment by *The Accents*, and the presentation of awards. The awards presented were:

- The Industrial award: Given to a non-residential garden of distinction. This year the honor went to The Emmanuel Christen Center at University avenue and Osborn Road. Rumor has it that Len Brenny has been the guiding force for this garden. It is a nice garden and worth a trip to see it.
- The Presidents Cup: Selected by the President to someone not on the board for service to the president. Eldon selected David McKeen.
- The Bronze Medal: This award was given to Kent Petterson. It is given for extraordinary service to the club over an extended period of time. Cited accomplishments were: a member since 1986, Many years of service as a board member, President of the club in 1990, Committee chair of the Community Garden for many years, served on a number of committees and has served on the Scholarship committee as its Chair almost since its inception.
- The Lehman Trophy: Selected by the Tour Committee for the best garden on tour. We had many nice gardens this year and the selection went to Dave and Renada Moehnke
- The Blackburn Trophy: Given to the Flower Sweepstakes winner of the Flower Show. The recipients were Dave and Delores Johnson for the second year in a row.
- The Tom Foley Trophy: Given to the Vegetable Sweepstakes winner of the Vegetable Show. Again it went to Bob Voigt.
- The Robert R. Smith Trophy: Given to the best first time exhibitor of the Flower and Vegetable Show. This years winner, Marilyn Brummer
- The Photo Sweepstakes Trophy Given to the person with most award points in the Photo Contest: Awarded to Lloyd Weber. Not only did he win this sweepstakes award but was a first time exhibitor.
- Rookie of the Year Certificate is given to someone who in their first full year of membership has given service to the club which is above and beyond the norm. Awarded to Lynda Carlson.
- The Big Pumpkin Plaque: Given to the person bringing the largest Pumpkin to the October Dinner meeting. Awarded to Bob Voigt.
- The Big Sunflower Plaque: Given to the person bringing the largest Sunflower seed head (with or without seeds) to the October Dinner meeting . Awarded to Bob Stepan.
- Scholarships: Three scholarships of \$1000 each were awarded to individuals seeking a degree in some field of Horticulture: The recipients were Anna Mau, Rita Minnichsoffer and Heather Schuelke. Each were guests of the club at the party and each were recognized for their accomplishments. They responded with comments including a thank you to the club.
- A Special Award: Andy Marlow was presented a plaque for meritorious service to the club as the Spray editor. His service spanned over 8 years.



Board Meeting Summary

Margaret Hibberd, Secretary

Meeting Date: November 30, 1999 Present: Howard Berg, Carole Ann Brekke, Chuck Carlson, Margaret Hibberd, Eldon Hugelen, Dave Johnson (Fridley), Mary Maynard, Tim McCauley, Ritchie Miller, Jackie Overom, Kay Wolfe.

The Secretaries and treasurers reports were given and approved.

Vice-presidents Report:

Ritchie reported the program for January will be Bob Stepan on starting seeds and propagating plants. It was decided that the format for last year's Dayton-Bachman flower show will be repeated. We should emphasize that dinner at the church could be served over a range of time example 5:30 to 6 PM. The February meeting is Soni Forsman speaking on Water Gardening and the Dayton-Bachman show meeting will be March 21.

Committee Reports

- Calendars: Dave reported that they have sold 355, 80 are on order and 25 are saved for our own use, so 120 remain to be sold. Dave will do some calling of those who have not bought any.
- Holiday Party: Eldon said Duane reported 70 had signed up as of about November 30.
- Spray: There is a possibility of an all St. Louis Park edition. A special award of appreciation has been

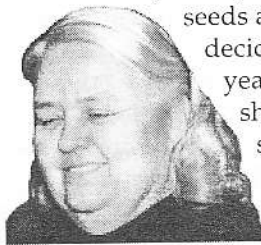
prepared for Andy Marlow as he retires from many years as Spray editor.

Old Business

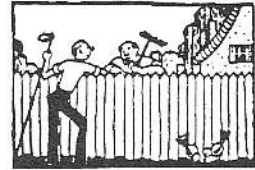
- By-Laws: Kay will work on finalizing and printing them. They will be combined in a Handbook with the Committee Descriptions.
- Membership Renewal: We discussed how to do partial years. In the past we have done it by the half year for our dues (\$5) and MSHS (\$10) and \$7.50 to National for May 1 to September 30. This will be repeated for year 2000.
- Rookie of the Year: Lynda Carlson was voted in as Rookie of the Year for 1999.
- Tours-Scholarship and Biennial: The Board discussed and recommends continuing the Biennial Tour and leaves it to the Tour Committee to decide the details
- Committee Descriptions: They were discussed a few adjustments made and a motion made to accept them.

New Business:

- MGCM Membership sign: Eldon investigated the cost of having a new supply of these signs made and Jackie will also get a price.
- MSHS Interactions: Roger Sefelt, MSHS liaison, said they are increasing interactions and outreach to clubs and are offering rooms for a meeting once a year.
- Departing Board Members: Tim wished to acknowledge the great work of departing members Chuck Carlson and Mary Maynard. Eldon will write an article for the Spray.
- New Members: The Board voted to accept John Webb, 3253 Holmes Ave. S. #1, Minneapolis, MN 55408-3458. John is Manager of Programs and Volunteer Services at the MSHS.



Margaret Hibberd
Photo by Chuck



Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard



Mary M
Photo by
Chuck

They're here, the seed catalogs and their promise of summer glory and bountiful harvests. The opportunity to find the new plant that will be the perfect addition to the garden. The hope of having something new that all your friends will covet.

The chance to graciously share a new discovery. Over the years, I've found some "keepers" that always perform for me. Here are some of my favorites:

- Ageratum "Blue Horizon". Used to stop traffic in front of my house when it was first on the market. Still a great all-around flower.
- Jung's Yellow Belle pepper. Produces peppers that are yellow from the start— smallish but abundant.
- Pepper 'Biscayne' A cubanelle type that produces a lot of long, green peppers. They turn a beautiful orange when mature.
- Pepper 'Bulgarian Carrot' Hot carrot-shaped pepper that turns bright orange, hence the name. We have grown these two different years but have yet to use them in cooking. (Hot peppers are Phil's bailiwick and I'm Norwegian.) Rumor has it that they are very hot.
- Dahlia "Park Princess". An old standard, very nice. Big pink cactus flowers on a bushy plant that doesn't need staking. Striking in the landscape.

- Purple basil "Osmin". Very dark purple, 18-24" tall, looks great against silver foliage like artemisia "Valerie Finnis". Tastes OK, too.
- Gaura lindheimeri ('Whirling Butterflies'). Nice lacy flowers in mid- to late summer. Sometimes will winter over, often reseeds. Very popular these days. Seed was hard to get last year.
- Snapdragon "Liberty". Not too tall, not too short, nice display. Margaret Hibberd won the FFF "National" Flower award in 1999 with it.
- Salvia coccinea "Coral Nymph". A large plant with striking pink flowers. Always in good form for the State Fair Flower Show.
- Verbena bonariensis. Getting a little more common around Minnesota, but still striking, with its stiff, angular stems and flowers perfect for butterflies in mid to late summer.

However, as we all know, there is also the chance to acquire the biggest disappointment since "Waterworld".

We might plant verbena bonariensis seeds and end up with 0% germination. Verbena bonariensis are hard to get started under lights, but self-seeds enthusiastically outside. Let me know if you need any! They start coming up around Memorial Day.

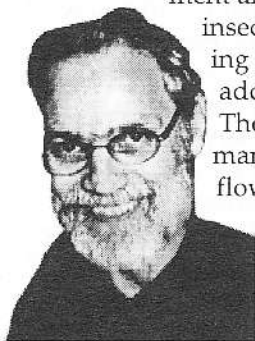
Other disappointments may be ageratum 'Red Top'. It might turn out to be not all that red and pretty spindly to boot. Or, chenopodium giganteum, so glowingly depicted in the catalog, might turn out to be a fancy version of (gasp!) Lamb's Quarters. Or, dahlia "Fascination" will be shipped so late that it only starts budding in October, and you never see a flower (nice purple foliage, though). Or, salvia pratensis hematoides may turn out to be the biggest dud you ever saw, and all your gardening friends will remind you

(Continued on page 10)

Yuppie Hostas and Budgets

By Bob Olson

Hostas have become "hot" in the past couple of years. Probably because our ever faster pace of life cuts into the discretionary time available for gardening. Only the truly dedicated will now suffer the agony of growing hybrid roses with their demands for a fastidious environment and constant protection from



Dr. Bob
Photo by
Chuck

insects and fungus (usually requiring lots of labor-intensive care in addition to dangerous chemicals).

The same might be said of the so many other gorgeous perennial flowers—they are a lot of headaches. Hostas on the other hand are relatively carefree and therefore appeal to Yuppies (not just the Men's Garden Club). They are the ideal

Yuppie plant: they have a complicated nomenclature system, they come from Japan, they require almost no care and they are very expensive. What more could Yuppies (and MGCM members) ask for?

Fortunately, some of us in the MGCM got into hostas years ago before they were "discovered" and learned some things about them that may save some time, heartache and money.

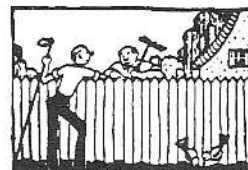
First, is don't buy the latest hostas: they are overpriced to say the least (how many one-crown plants are really worth \$250, particularly when you know you should be able to get it for \$25 in three or four years)—let Fred Pearson and Roger Koopmans buy the latest hostas so you can go to their gardens see if you really

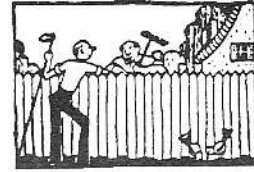
like them.

Second, don't buy a plant you haven't personally seen and greatly admired: the hype in the catalogues and brochures is worthy of the best of Madison Avenue (or the worst from a used car salesman). Several of us have yielded to the temptations to buy an attractive sounding name and description—they sound particularly attractive in January when the new catalogues come out and our sales resistance is weakest. Usually it is a very expensive disappointment. Despite these come-ons there are just so many possible variations-on-a-theme of color and pattern, and if you are a novice you probably won't be able to tell the new wonder plant from several others you already have. If you are an expert you probably will be able to tell it from the others; but find it isn't as good as the old standard varieties. It's better to see it first, but those catalogues can be quite compelling.

Third, never pay over \$25 for a hosta, and hopefully you will make \$25 the rare exception. At the national hosta convention two years ago, my wife and I were asked to write up one of the gardens for the American Hosta Society Journal coverage of convention gardens. The garden we were assigned was wonderful and remarkable. It was wonderful for the innovative and novel way of using what was already there, the existing ancient shrubs and trees, while incorporating a marvelous variety of carefully selected and placed hostas and companion shade plants (all were wonderfully grown). It was remarkable because she hadn't paid over \$15 for anything in her garden—and here it was one of the finer ones on the national garden tour of the hosta society. Now it must be noted that she had made some shrewd trades starting with a lucky find at a plant sale and an auction pur-

(Continued on page 9)





January Business Meeting

By Chuck Carlson

The January business meeting will require a vote on the budget presented in the December *Spray*. Please review the budget and come with your questions and hopefully your approval. The board will also be installed at the January meeting. The picture below is included to provide any of the new members a chance to become better acquainted. Also everyone should be aware that any questions, problems, or wanted changes for the club should be brought to their attention



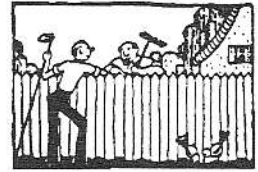
Photo by Chuck

Seated Tim McCauley and Howard Berg.
Standing from left to right; Margaret Hibberd, Eldon Hugelen, Ritchie Miller, Kay Wolfe, Jackie Overom, Dave Johnson and Carole Ann Brekke.

At the Arboretum

2000 January & February Classes at the Arboretum. For more information, please call 612-443-2460, ext. 4 or E-mail: shirley@arboretum.umn.edu

- Painting Landscapes in Watercolor Saturday & Sunday, January 22-23, 1-5 PM, Paul Oman instructor
- Creating Topiaries with Herbs; Saturday, January 29, 1-3 PM, Steve Kelley instructor
- Designing Your Perennial Garden; Saturday, February 5, 10 AM to 12 noon Diane Klausner instructor
- Landscaping for Wildlife; Saturday, February 5 (at Arboretum) or Saturday, February 19 (at Dodge Nature Center) 1-3 PM, L. Peter MacDonagh instructor
- Fatal Flowers: Toxic Plants in the Landscape; Saturday, February 12, 1-3 PM Beth Jarvis instructor
- The Scented Garden; Wednesday, February 16, 10 AM to 12 noon Esther Filson instructor
- Natural Handcrafted Soaps; Wednesday, February 23, 1-4 PM, Deb Delmore instructor
- Willow Towers for the Garden; Saturday, February 26, 10 AM to 12 noon, Lee Zieke & Lindsay Lee instructors
- Creating Willow Towers Workshop; Saturday, February 26, 1-3 PM, Lee Zieke & Lindsay Lee instructors
- Travelogues Sundays, 1:30- 3 PM
Join Arboretum Director Peter J. Olin for slide lectures.
January 16 Gardens of Virginia
February 27 England
March 12 South Africa



Hostas

(continued from page 7)

chase that was artfully engineered, but nonetheless she ended up with many undeniably premium plants on a shoestring budget. You can do the same, probably even better. There are some terrific deals from time to time at our spring auction and the members of the club are very generous (and not particularly shrewd) traders of one plant for another—they seem more interested in seeing that others get good varieties of plants than anything else.

Finally, if all this fails just come over to my house and talk to my wife. She will make me give up one of the excess plants hanging around in pots looking for a spot in the garden, if you can convince her you will give an orphan hosta a good home (no deer in the neighborhood). Of course there is no free lunch in this world, so to get the plant you will have to take the obligatory tour of the garden.

Editor's note: Bob, I will be over in May to pick up a potted Hosta. There are no deer in my yard and I would love to tour the garden.

Lynda Carlson
Rookie of the Year

Kent Petterson
Bronze Medal Winner

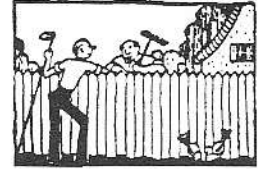
Kathryn and David McKeen
at Kliers making wreaths



At MSHS

A number of classes are available in January at the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Check their web site www.northerngardener.org or their magazine for details.

- January 11 Wildflowers of Minnesota-Stan Tekiela instructor.
- January 13 Winter Pruning-Tom Congdon instructor.
- January 18 Cuttings for Woody Plants-Peter Ascher instructor.
- January 20 What's New in Gardening for 2000- Kurt Schrader instructor.
- January 27 Perennials, Annuals and Vegetables for the New Millennium-Duane Reynolds instructor.
- February 8 Seed Starting-Peter Ascher instructor.
- February 10 Plant Combinations and Companions-Anne Pink instructor.
- February 22 Horticultural Writer's Workshop-Cliff Johnson instructor.
- February 24 Perennials for the Rock and Small Garden-Duane Reynolds instructor.



Lazy Gardener

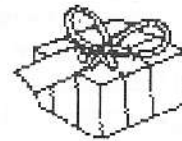
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that you gave it to them.

To minimize disappointment, it's important to study seed catalogs carefully. Some observations:

- A Lazy Gardener should avoid anything that is not listed as "Easy" to grow. If it's not easy, it's not going to happen in the Lazy Environment.
- It's chancy to select anything that requires evenly moist conditions, unless you live next to a swamp. Lazy Gardeners are not known for their assiduous watering habits during dry spells.
- Don't believe the color photographs. If it looks too good to be true, it's probably been touched up.
- Pay attention to hardiness zones. What makes you think that you can keep Zone 6 plants alive over the winter? Isn't there a fairly long list of Zone 4 plants that haven't made it in your garden?
- Don't even think about an item that even the catalog admits are susceptible to disease or pests. The Lazy Gardeners know full well that insects and plant diseases will be much more persistent about survival than the Gardeners will be about eradication.
- Think twice about purchasing annuals at \$4 per plant. Yes, that Hibiscus 'Red Shield' looks great at Norenberg Gardens, but is it really worth Four Dollars? Plus Shipping and Handling? Maybe it can be propagated from cuttings and you can mooch one off any of your not lazy friends who carefully nurtured cuttings through the winter? Now, will all these cautions stop us

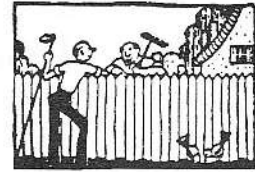
from avidly searching those catalogs for the next really cool plant? Probably not, the best we can hope for is, a few great finds or the fortitude to throw the next *salvia pratensis hematoides* in the mulch pile.



Free Gifts

By the time you get this you probably have given and received all your Christmas gifts. Here are a few you can use or give away for the rest of the Millennium. Not only that, they are free.

The gift of listening
The gift of affection
The gift of a cheerful disposition
The gift of laughter
The gift of a written note
The gift of a compliment
The gift of a favor
The gift of solitude



Club Announcements

A Challenge!!

By Kay Wolfe

The St Louis Park members of MGCM are having their own edition of *The Garden Spray*. Under the leadership of Bob Olson, the Park gang will write all articles for April, with features by Mary Maynard, Kay Wolfe and David McKeen. Our esteemed Editor says we can even have a cut of the royalties and advertising! The Park Gang is challenging you from other communities to compete with a Spray edition of your own! What a great way to lead off "Spray 2000"! What do you say, Clyde and the Edina gang, Bob V. and the Minneapolis mob, Tim and Andy and the Hopkins-Minnetonka bunch, Sher and Duane in the Crystal-New Hope menagerie and of course all of you in the northern and southern suburbs?

FFF Meeting

N Mary Maynard

The FFF committee will have a short meeting after the regular club meeting in January? The purpose of the meeting is to select the National Vegetable and National Flower for the 2000 FFF.

Perennial Garden

By Kay Wolfe

Are you interested in the Perennial Trials that MGCM is helping conduct at Lyndale Park? Various new perennials are being grown to obtain information on their actual hardiness and performance in Zone 4. The plants are being grown in the Lyndale Park Garden, at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, and at the University in Morris, Minnesota. This project is headed by the Horticulture Department at the University. MGCM is assisting the Minneapolis Parks at the Lyndale sight by designing, planting and maintaining the Minneapolis garden.

I am looking for club members who are interested in meeting with the University faculty and Park Board and defining MGCM's total role in the Perennial Trial Garden. To date MGCM has planted, weeded and watered. The club would like to be involved in obtaining the scientific data (evaluating and collecting data) as well. Defining this project is a great thing to do during the winter months! Please contact Kay Wolfe (612-922-0762) if you are interested.

Dinner meeting ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ Reservation Policy

Call Mary Maynard to make your reservation or to adjust the permanent list. Check your mailing label. If it has a "p" or "pp" (one or two reservations) you are on the permanent list. If there is no "p" on your label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must notify Mary Maynard by Friday, January 7 to be assured a place at dinner. If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Mary by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the cost of your dinner. Mary can be reached at 612-926-7506. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person or send her an e-mail at mary.j.maynard@healthpartners.com. If you have reserved a dinner and on Monday or Tuesday you have an emergency where you find you can't attend, call Howard Berg. If the reservation can be sold to late-comers or drop-ins, you will not be billed.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Ritchie Miller
4249 Twin Oak Lane, Robbinsdale, MN 55422-1336
Vice-President: Carole Ann Brekke
709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306-5161
Recording Secretary: Margaret Hibberd
1850 Roselawn Ave., Falcon Heights, MN 55113-9622
Membership Secretary: Jackie Overom
14024 Frontier Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337-4728
Treasurer: Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305-2615
Past President: Eldon Hugelen
7473 West 142nd St., Apple Valley, MN 55124-8584

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