

September 11 Dinner Meeting

Dinner: 6:30 PM; Business: 7:00 PM; Program: 7:30 PM Location: Lake Harriet United Methodist; 49th and Chowen Avenue South Cost: \$9.00 if reserved in advance, \$10.00 at the door if extra meals are available. See page 11 for reservation details--In Sept only taken by Kay Wolfe

The Program: Garden Pathways Most every garden has a pathway or has a need for one. Come and Hear Diane Klausner

She will cover design principles, materials that can be used, installation and planting options. Diane is a registered landscape architect with 17 years of experience.

Additionally, she is a lecturer at the Landscape Arboretum.

Contest photos will also be on display at the September meeting

Future Club Events

September 11: Dinner meeting-

Program- Garden Pathways

by Diane Klausner

October 9: Dinner Meeting--

Program- Garden Lighting

by Carl Schrader of Twin Lakes Landscape

November 13:Dinner meeting

Program-New and unusual perennials

by Debbie Lonnee of Bailey's Nursery

December 4: Holiday Party



Editorial Enticements

By Chuck Carlson, Editor

The convention went off without a major hitch with many hands participating. I think you all should be proud of our club.

The August tour to St. Cloud provided a wonderful garden experience, although the attendance was too small. If there was a reason, let us know for future planning.

The Flower Food and Foto show was again a success. The display of flowers, vegetables and photos were just great. Thanks to all who participated. I know everybody doesn't take pictures but I know more of you take pictures than just those that entered. Next year just pick one or two of your best and enter.

I really think you are missing a good opportunity when you didn't enter the flower and vegetable show. Twenty people that entered doesn't seem like enough participation for a club that has 126 members. I know each of you have flowers and vegetables in your garden so next year I hope each of you select a few items and join the fun. The show would be even better with you participating.

Salpiglossis

I am looking for some advice about starting Salpiglossis (Painted Tongue), from seeds. I planted 36 cells with seeds last March and I was able to successfully grow 6 plants. I want to try them again next year and I hope someone has had better luck growing them and will share their knowledge with me. Nancy Bjerke Editors comment: Professor Deno in his book "Seed Germination Theory and Practice" shows 100% germination @ 70 degrees in 2 weeks & 100% germination @ 40 degrees in 7-9 weeks

Club News

TV Star

Mel Anderson on Friday, August 3 was on Channel 5 News. He was featured in a segment on looking up ancestors who came through Ellis Island. Both of Mel's parents came from Sweden.

2002 CALENDARS

The 2002 Gardener Calendars will go on sale beginning at the September club meeting. The price will remain at \$4.00 each, which is truly a bargain when you see what other calendars are selling for. Keep in mind this is a money-raising activity for the club's general fund and helps to sustain our many other activities & philanthropy. We ask for the support of all members in the purchase of these calendars. Not only can you buy them for yourself but you can give them as gifts. They also make nice Christmas cards for those special friends or relatives. If you cannot make the September meeting, they will also be on sale at the October and November meetings, or you can contact Dave Johnson (Fridley) or Don Trocke (Phone numbers are in the directory).

Churilla

Bob Churilla was in a car accident on Wednesday, August 15. As of this writing he is in a coma at the Intensive Care at Hennepin County Medical Center. He also has a broken arm, a fractured pelvis and a collapsed lung.. We wish him the best and a full recovery. Our prayers are with you Bob.



President's Column

MGCM President Carole Ann Brekke

It was about 10:30 AM when I ventured outside after church Sunday morning. Seemed like a perfect day to plant the five perennials I had recently purchased before tackling my extensive "to-do list" for the day. I thought it shouldn't take long to find a new home for just five plants. The weather was mild and sunny, there was a breeze and the birds were in the garden, too. I was just going to stick them in the ground. But, you know what happens when you feel you have been deprived from a healthy dose of garden therapy. First, I noticed a few large weeds and thought they should leave the garden before the new plants were added. As I put them in the yard waste container, I noticed the daylilies were finished blooming and those ugly stems were bare. The exception was my favorite daylily, Pinocchio, that never seems to quit. Once I charted it blooming for 2 1/2 months. It still has five new stems forming buds. I figured it wouldn't take long to cut all the other spent stems from the lilies.

Soon I was busy cutting back every out of bloom and overgrown plant. Last year Margaret gave me a Datura. It was huge by the end of summer and this spring there were many little seedlings. I allowed one to grow up and now was the time to remove it and let a bit of sun shine on the surrounding plants. I am trying to rid my garden of the rudbeckia that shows up everywhere. The plants look like coneflower when small and I haven't figured out how to tell the difference, so, out came all the rudbeckia in bloom. My yard waste container was

almost full by now, several hours had passed and no plants were planted. I was having a wonderful afternoon. I thought about the wet spring, the hot summer and the rocks that kept me busy. I learned a lot this summer. The transformation from overgrown shrubs and rocks to a garden in the front of our house. It was worth the work and time it took. It has brought many compliments and everyone agrees, "The shrubs should have gone a long time ago" just as Eldon thought in April of 1991. We love sitting on the front steps, just enjoying the new plantings and listening to the artificial spring, bubbling water.

Do you know what to do if you forget to plant calla lilies bulbs and you are having a garden tour in 2 1/2 weeks? I thought I would cover them with water, let them soak for a day and then plant them. I discovered by leaving them in the water it takes about 20 days to develop miniature plants with small delicate blooms. Funny how a mistake created the most conversation when the Convention attendees visited my garden.

I learned it didn't take much effort to gather a crew of MGCM members to spend one evening at Lake Harriet Methodist Church to do a little gardening. Just an invitation, a few plants, a little soil and cookies is all that was needed. I came to know gardeners are the same everywhere. We have the same passion, the same challenges, the same struggle with finding enough time to be in the garden. What makes the difference is the climate. I wonder how "Herman's Pride" is doing in Texas. Soon my plants were in their new homes, and others had been moved or removed. Now for patience till spring to see if I chose those homes wisely. All that was left to do was give them a long drink. By the time I went indoors and thought about that "to-do list" it was 4:30 PM. Six

(C0ntinued on page 11)



Last Months Program (FFF) Food & Flowers (FF) Fotos(F)

By Mary Maynard

The 2001 Flower, Food and Foto Show went very well this year. As usual, it was held at the Arboretum, and was quite well-attended, especially considering the rainy weather on Saturday.

All in all, we had 20 entrants in the flower and vegetable categories. Here's a quick recap of our winners:

Best In Show & Best Flower
David McKeen, Lisianthus 'Heidi Pink Rim'
Best Vegetable

Jim Dzandzara, Pepper 'Sante Fe'
Reserve Champion Flower
Bob Livingston, Caladium leaf
Reserve Champion Vegetable
Bob Voigt, Beans

National Flower Award
David McKeen, Lisianthus 'Heidi Pink Rim'
National Vegetable Award

Ken Hibberd, Eggplant 'Baby Bell'

Flower Sweepstakes
Dave and Delores Johnson
Vegetable Sweepstakes
Bob Voigt

Best First-Time Exhibitor

Ellyn Hosch

We had several entries that drew consistent crowds. All of the lisianthus entries were spectacular, and there seemed to be a knot of admirers around them most of the time. And Jim Dzandzara's pepper plants got a lot of attention, as usual. Also, Dave and Delores's outstanding coleus containers were subjects of great amazement and general envy. And all of the vegetable entries gathered crowds Once again, the flower and vegetable judges made a point of noting the excellent quality of the exhibits in the show.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this show a success.

By Chuck Carlson

The 2001 Foto part of the Flower-Food & Foto show has again produced some excellent photographs. Everybody that participated should be proud of their work. Thirteen people entered either slides or prints. Though we would like more participation, this did provide some challenges for the judges, Andy Marlow, Joe Stenger and Ellyn Hosch who perused about 200 photographs (approximately 80 slides and 120 prints).

Lloyd Wittstock did an excellent job of organizing the effort and putting together the demonstration boards showing some of the prints. Thanks to all . The following is a summary of the major winners.

Photo Sweepstakes--Chuck Carlson
Best of Show & Best Slide--Dave &
Delores Johnson's Pool: Photo By Ada
Hegion

Reserve Champion & Best Print--Marigolds, Swiss Chard, Dahlias, Cosmos & More: Photo By Lloyd Wittstock

Special Award Slide--Hydrangea macrophlya 'Lanarth White': Photo By Rodger Sefelt

Special Awards Print--Hydrangea macrophlya 'Magnificent Mophead: Photo By Rodger Sefelt

Special Awards Print--Sweet Million
Tomato: Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

Best Photo by First Time Exhibitor--Peony Flowering Tulip 'Carnival de Nice: Photo by Maurice Lindblom

Special Award by First Time Exhibitor--Containers at a Private Garden in Illinois: Photo by Audrey Grote





Board Meeting Summary



Margaret Hibberd Secretary As taken by Jackie Overom

Meeting Date: August 7, 2001

Present: Howard Berg, Carole Ann Brekke, Wayne Engelman, Dave Johnson (Fridley), Tim McCauley, Ritchie Miller, Warren Nordley, Jackie Overom, Absent: Margaret Hibberd

Presidents Report-

Carole Ann read thank you notes sent from convention attendees. There was lots of praise about a very successful convention.

Vice Presidents Report-

Warren has a speaker in September to talk about garden pathways. October will be on lighting in the garden.

Secretary's & Treasurer's Report-

Accepted as reported. The main topic was that the convention is coming out with a profit.

Membership Secretary-

We have 128 members

Committee Reports-

<u>Calendars</u>- Dave Johnson reported that we ordered 400 calendars and picked them up at the convention. We will sell them for \$4.00 each.

Old Business-

MGCM Handbook- It will be done in September

New Business-

<u>Hort. Society</u>- We need volunteers for the state fair.

<u>Perennial Garden</u>- Kay Wolfe will have a meeting at her house to decide on what to do. It is upsetting that the water-

ing was not done as promised by the park workers.

<u>Valley Fair</u>- Warren will check in with Dave Moehnke and check on the status of more work there.

Green Thumb Award-Those members that did not formally register for the convention but did volunteer will be counted as attendees toward MGCM's perfect attendance. That includes those who hosted garden tours at their homes.

Thank you Recognition for Duane and Patti Reynolds- The club will pay for the hotel room at the convention . Also we will give them a special gift.

<u>Scholarships</u>- Howard reported that four scholarships of \$1000.00 each have been decided upon. The winners have been chosen.

<u>History Pictures</u>- Howard has a full box of old club pictures and is hoping someone in the club will organize them for future enjoyment.

501C- Howard is working on this status. We will need to pay income taxes from 1997 through now. Richie moved and Tim seconded that this tax money should come out of the biennial tour fund.

Sept. Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 4, 7:30 PM Board of Directors meeting Jackie Overom's house



Confessions of A Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

Well, after that miserable hot spell this summer, my dahlias look absolutely awful. If I didn't know what they're capable of looking like, I wouldn't even start writing about overwinter storage of tubers — I wouldn't even grow them again! But, the weather is a little cooler, and there's still hope for some late summer blooms, so I think I'll dig and store my dahlia tubers again this year.

When it comes to keeping dahlias over the winter, there are three basic approaches, and variations.

Approach Number One:

Titled: Don't do it.

Most Lazy Gardeners adopt "Approach Number One". Treat dahlias as showy, moderately expensive annuals. This is definitely the laziest way to go, and has some distinct advantages. It has the fewest steps. It also allows you to try out a few new dahlias every year without having to dig up more lawn to make space for them. And it prevents you from being tempted to save even substandard tubers out of motives of thrift and economy.

If you select Approach Number One, you can stop reading now and move on to a more interesting article.

Approach Number Two:

Titled: *Have a generous gardener Friend or Hang out with people who use Approach Number Three* . They will often end up with extra tubers that they will need to give away in the spring. Sometimes they will even pot them up and

start them for you in the spring. You can't be choosy about varieties, but the price is right. If you select "Approach Number Two", you can stop reading now and move on to a more interesting article.

Approach Number Three:

Titled: Do it Yourself.

The most important factor in the do it yourself method for successful dahlia storage is temperature. They store best at temperatures between 40 and 45 degrees during storage, but they cannot ever freeze. If you don't have a place where you can store them at these temperatures, the likelihood of keeping them over the winter is slim. Some people have space in a refrigerator. Russ Smith has an insulated cupboard in his garage. Margaret Hibberd has a cousin with an unheated crawl space. Other people actually have root cellars, which seems almost like cheating. I have had reasonable success with a styrofoam cooler in my tuck-under garage, which effectively limits the number of tubers I can keep over the winter. If you don't have a cool place to store tubers, I'd advise going to Approach Number One or Two.

OK, if you're still reading, let's get started!

- 1. Let the dahlia foliage freeze, then cut the foliage off. If possible, wait a couple of days before digging.
- 2. Dig the tubers carefully, and keep the plant label with the tuber. Tubers have a distressing tendency to all look alike, and once you lose track of which is which, it's all over! Avoid cutting into tubers if possible. You should be doing this on a day when the temperature is above freezing, needless to say.
- 3. Wash the dirt off the tubers with a hose. Some people are very diligent about getting all the dirt off, then cleaning the tubers in a 10% bleach solution to kill bacteria and fungus. This is commendable, but doesn't exactly fit the Lazy Gardener

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Confessions

Continued from page 6 model.

- 4. Let the tubers dry out and kind of harden up for a couple of days in a frost-free location, like the garage. Newly-dug tubers can have kind of a tender skin, and they hold up better if they are allowed to toughen up a little bit. But don't leave them for too long, because they will get overly dry. They need some moisture to survive the winter.
- 5. Develop a plan to keep track of the dahlia name. Many people just write the variety name on the individual tubers with a waterproof marking pen. Commercial growers have stamps made up for each variety, but this is probably overkill for a Lazy Gardener. I have had reasonable success working on one set of tubers at a time, and marking the bag they're stored in. There is no best plan, but there needs to be a plan.
- 6. Carefully cut the individual tubers away from the main stem. It is CRUCIAL that every tuber have an eye, or bud. The eyes are located at the end of the tuber closest to the stem. If you don't get an eye, throw the tuber away, because it is not going to grow. If you're not sure if you got an eye, you can keep it to see what happens in the spring. If possible, let the cut ends of the tubers dry for an hour or so before storage. You will probably have way too many tubers than you can possibly use. You should consider sorting through the individual tubers and selecting a few of the bestlooking ones, and discarding the smaller and weaker-looking tubers, unless you have unlimited storage space or are seriously into increasing your dahlia stock.
- 7. I have studied at the feet of a couple of masters (Carleton Nelson and Harold Gulde) when it comes to tuber

- packing for storage. I see no sign of Carleton or Harold being Lazy Gardeners, but their technique for tuber storage is so elegant and simple that it almost makes one wonder if they have hidden Lazy Gardener tendencies somewhere. Basically, the individual tubers are stored in plastic bags. I like the long tubular bags that newspapers come in. Put one tuber at the bottom of the bag, fold it over a couple times to that the tuber is isolated, then put another tuber in, fold over a couple more times, and repeat until there isn't any more room. Then store that bag, and other bags with tubers of the same variety, in a paper bag labeled with the variety name. This has gotten me about 60% survival, which is about as good as it gets. It should be noted that there is no general consensus on THE best way to store dahlias. Many people store them in sand (heavy) or peat moss. Margaret Hibberd stores hers in coarse vermiculite. But I have had good luck with this simple approach, and recommend it to Lazy Gardeners everywhere.
- 8. Pack the bags into whatever cool storage area you have and wait for spring. I keep a thermometer in my styrofoam cooler to check the temperature every once in while.
- 9. If your storage area starts warming up in the spring, it's probably just best to pull the tubers and pot them up to start in a warm spot. But we've already talked about that in previous issues of the newsletter. If you've read this far, Thank you for your kind attention.



Dahlia 'Larado' Photo by Chuck



From the Convention Chairman

By Duane Reynolds

A heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers-

Mel "Cookie" Anderson and whoever baked the "Hip Huggers" we don't know who baked them, but we can tell who ate them!!

Our speakers- Bob, Deb, Mary and Peter.

Mary the "Tour Queen"-when the busses were loading you could tell by the expression on Mary' face that you should stay out of her way-The Busses were going to ROLL, all the Bus captains and tour garden hosts and helpers who dig the holes and weld the ornaments— no one was left behind and no one got lost.

The hospitality greeters, coffee makers and percolator cleaner's, registration volunteers, photographers, name tag assemblers and cookie and bar bakers.

Kent for his generous donation, Ritchie and Malmborg's for their generous donation and our other strong supporters Ambergate, The Arboretum, Bachman's, Kare 11, Kelley and Kelley, MSHS, Ottens, Rice Creek Gardens, Savory's and The Star Tribune.

Lynda Carlson -the Great Meals, Chuck for the booklets, editing and constant support- He won the 1st place award as editor of the Spray- a proud moment. Andy-the articles and Art work and communication with headquarters, Russell-Speakers, Chuck Benson- decorations, Lloyd Wittstock-photographers, Ruth Berg displays (Howard helped) and Howard Berg and Dave "Fridley" Johnson- if Dave didn't pay the bills, we would still be waiting to check out. Well, the list goes on-Thank you.

A lot of clubs in TGOA think they have the best and the finest members in the organization. We have the Best and the Finest- always have and always will.

As I reflect on the convention-the things that went right - the flow of the tours, the order of the meals, the Club member involvement, it could not have been a more pleasant experience even given the fact that it was a convention and the power went out at the Hotel on Thursday.

I think the best part was the recognition for Bill Hull. The decision of when to attend and the best time for Bill to attend was left up to his daughter -Bill lives his life -one day at a time. When Bill was introduced, he received a standing ovation—When Bill stood he said "I love you guys". It was a good day—it was a good convention.

Duane Reynolds, Chairman of the 2001 TGOA/MGCA Convention



Bill Hull member since 1952 2001 convention dedicated to Bill

Editors Note: Duane we all owe you a debt of graditude for everything you did. We don't want to forget Patti either. We know she did all the behind the scenes work that for which Duane got the credit. Thanks so much Patti. I know you spent many hours.

Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah



Convention Fallout

From Duane Reynolds

Gardening Fun in 2001

Just a few thank you's

In behalf of TGOA/MGCA I would like to Thank You and your club and the organizational committee for all the work done to make the "2001" Convention a great success. You should be proud of all the people that assisted you in this great adventure. The whole program went in an easy flow with no hitches or glitches. You handled everything like a professional.

Give each of the gardeners who opened up their gardens for us to enjoy a special "Thank You". That, too, was a very special treat. ——And a thank you to each person who put on the Seminars.

Thank You" very much James McKay, President TGOA/MGCA

Duane-We enjoyed the convention and now back at the bank and feeding our "reg dogs". It is hot here everyday. It was fun. You did a great job and also your people. Thanks,

Louis Jones From Mississippi---- where it is hot and humid every day...

Hi Duane: We hope things are simmering down a bit for you and your buddies who put on the convention. As far as my wife and I are concerned, it was a top-notch convention. The Registration fee and the hotel were somewhat high, but you did return a lot for fees paid. We really enjoyed coming back to the general scene of our first MGCA Convention in '88. Yes it was hot then, too. If you have a time in the winter when you just abso-

lutely can't afford for the weather to be unreasonably cold, just declare a convention and invite some of us Southerners up and I guarantee the weather will warm up. But we enjoyed it anyhow. Aside from the convention, we immensely enjoyed the Mall of America. Truly it is fantastic. Thanks again for "a good show".

Sincerely,
Dan and Ruth Blackledge
Jackson, MS

Greetings MGCM—Wow! What a grand convention—Your club can be proud of your successful convention-Russell did select excellent speakers-Mary and all the gardens were tops-The Hospitality and food were A+. Pat yourselves on the back

Jerry and Twilla Miller Des Moines IA

Hi, Everyone,

This is a VERY belated thank you for all of the hard work you did to make the 2001 Convention Tours a success. Without bus monitors, box lunch distributors, cooler managers, arboretum coordinators and general factotums, we would have been in hot water indeed. Instead, our tours were a big success. Thank you very much. I appreciate it immensely!

Special thanks should go to Marilyn Brummer and Peter Olin for coordinating the arboretum tours, to Dave and Delores Johnson for arranging for the best box lunches anyone had ever had, and for Brenda Reeves, who managed all of the beverages and coolers. Also to Ada Hegion's sister Mary Currie, who just happened to have a hand truck in her car, and who cheerfully carted all those coolers to and fro!

We have learned new things and beside work we had fun in 2001.

Many, many thanks! Mary Maynard



New & A Little Humor

By Chuck Carlson

The specimens I have shown on this page were found in a web sight. With their permission I have reproduced them for you. I thought they were just too spectacular to pass up. The web site is;

[www.tradesecretgarden.com]



Campanula 'Joan Eliott'



Burgandy Gaillardia

I also found a glossary of plant descriptive terms used by catalog writers which I have reprinted below also with their permission.

Glossary for Catalog Writers

Attracts Butterflies = Attracts bees. Beautiful Foliage = The flowers are pathetic.

Blue = Purple! Plant people are notoriously blue-purple color blind .

Delicate Flowers = You need a magnifying glass to see them.

Designer Colors = Paper bag beige. Dormant in hot weather = Looks dead most of the year.

Double Blooms =Has strange mutant flowers.

Drought Tolerant = Prone to rot. Edible Flowers = The deer eat it. Evergreen = Leaves turn dark maroon for the winter.

Excellent for cutting = The single flower is at the top of a spindly 2 foot stalk. Flowers all summer long = It had one minute, insipid bloom in June and I thought I saw another in August. Ground Cover = See "Vigorous". Hardy (No mention of zone) = Hardy in Surrey, England

Heavy Feeder = Yellowish foliage and puny flowers unless fed constantly. Invasive = It will come up through a foot of concrete

Late to emerge = Looks dead most of the year.

Native = It's a common weed. Nearly thornless = This plant has slightly fewer 3 inch razor sharp barbs than usual. Sow seed in situ = Say good bye to those seeds. The weeds will germinate first. Tall = It lies flat on the ground most of the time.

Tolerates lean soil = Leggy stems with occasional puny flowers if fed anything. Unusual = One of the ugliest plants on the planet.

Vigorous = the smallest particle of this plant will take over your whole yard and you can't ever get rid of it.

Winter interest = Probably looks stunning under the snow.



President's Column

(Continued from page 3)

beautiful hours in my garden on a beautiful summer day in Minnesota. I guess the list can wait. You know what the Chinese say......"If you want to be happy for a day, have a party... if you want to be happy for a week, kill your pig and eat it... if you want to be happy forever, become a gardener! Happy gardening! Hope to see you at the meeting September 11.

If I'm missing....
.....check my garden!
Carole Ann

The patriot would say,
Rise up and take Arms.
Whereas the gardener would say,
Rhyizome up and grab your hoes.
The flower gardener might
Empower the Flower
and the environmentalist wants to;
Protect the Rarus Botanicus



Dave & Delores Johnson's Pool Best of Show Photo by Ada Hegion It is a slide so come to the September meeting and see it in its real glory.

Reservation Details

For Sept. only--Reservations taken by Kay Wolfe

Call Kay Wolfe 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 mailing label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must notify Kay Wolfe by the Friday before the dinner meeting to be assured a place at dinner. For you people getting the spray via email, check the message on the email to determine if you are on the list.

If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Kay by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the cost of your dinner. Kay can be reached at 952-922-0762. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person or send her an email at opperwolfe@worldnet.att.net 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.

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