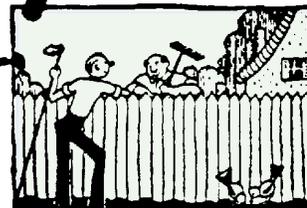




The Garden Spray

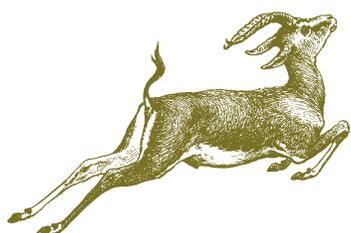
Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
January 2003, Volume 61, Number 1



This Month at MGCM

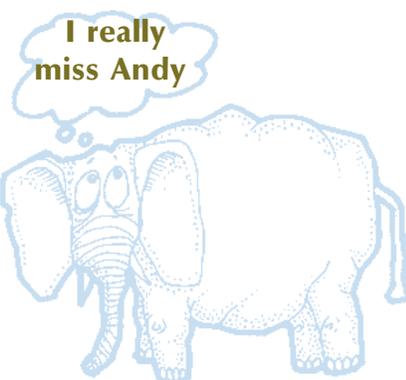
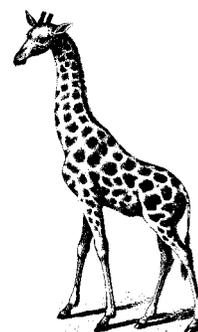
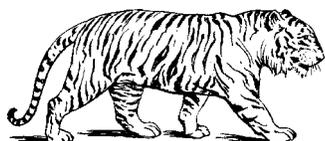
Tuesday, January 14 Dinner Meeting

See Page 11 for details and dinner reservations



A Journey to Kenya

This past summer MGCM member Andy Marlow had a chance to spend almost six weeks in the East African nation of Kenya. He spent part of that time teaching at Daystar University in Nairobi. Then his wife Phyllis Stromberg met up with him and they were off for two weeks of safari. Andy will share their photos, videos and experiences in this program. He might even have some photos of plants, in addition to the fabulous animal life of equatorial Africa.



Looking Ahead

Details for the years schedule on page 11

Editorial Enticements

By Chuck Carlson

We had a wonderful Holiday Party and the committee and its chair Anne Buchanan worked out all the details to perfection. Thanks from me and I hope all those that attended will also say thanks the next time they see anyone on the committee.

This Year's Turkey

We had a new twist on the Turkey parade. Our new president Nancy Bjerke was decked out in a turkey costume for the changing of the presidency. She must have been impressed, for she sent the following email message to me "Did you notice the importance of Turkeys not only in the club but the world. Miss World for next year is the current Miss Turkey." But, Nancy, you will always be our Miss Turkey.

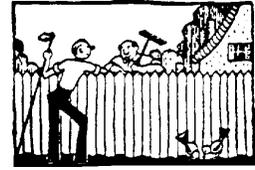


Nancy Bjerke receiving the turkey transfer from President Warren Nordley. Lynda Carlson & Jackie Overom assisting.
Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

The Silent Auction

By the way who won the silent auction for the Gary Giester creation of the candles? I think we would all enjoy seeing it in their garden or lit up as holiday lights.

Thanks to everyone who gave their time and dollars to have all those silent auction articles and thanks to all who spent their money on the silent auction. The club gener-



ated \$1207.50 for this new twist at the Holiday party. The party per the budget was supposed to be a function that the ticket sales cover the expenses. Our treasurer, Dave, indicates that the ticket sale almost covered the expenses and the silent auction was a great success. Thus, instead of our typical loss, we realized a gain of approximately \$765.



Anne Buchanan chair of the Holiday Party showing part of the silent auction items
Photo by Chuck

Eldon Hugelen and Duane Johnson are now the Sunshine Committee.

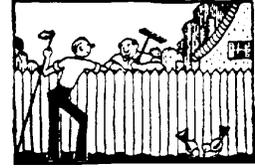
Phil Peterson after many years of service, almost single-handedly, has stepped down. Thanks Phil for your years of service. A new committee has been formed, Eldon will be the chair. So please contact them when you or your spouse have any health problems, hospital stays etc. Many of us would like to know and at least respond in some way be it prayers, thoughts, cards etc. Please spread the word.

Along this same line, if you know a member that receives an accolade has a major birthday or has a memorable experience, let your newsletter editor know. I think most of us would all like to be part of your lives and enjoy getting to know you better. If no one speaks up it will be kind of a dead club.

Ann Buchanan sent me the following about Jack Kobe.

"Jack was unable to attend the holiday

(Continue on page 4)



Nancy's Turkey Tracks

MGCM President Nancy Bjerke

When I received my feathers along with the turkey crown I felt like I was auditioning for the Holidazzle Parade. If you missed the Holiday Party, you don't know about the new turkey outfit. Certainly, it will inspire members to compete for the election of the Vice President and President positions. I will bring it to our next meeting so that you can see it, try it on for size and think about your future role in the club. Some of you asked me if Carole Ann Brekke, the creator of the stuffed turkey, made the costume and no she did not sew it. The Holiday Party committee got it from the Minnesota Opera Company where in its former life it was worn by a singer in one of their productions.

Ann Buchanan, chair of the Holiday Party Committee, and her group did a fantastic job organizing another entertaining event to end the year. Warren's slide presentation about the history of the club taken from the archives was revealing and I wonder what else is stored in the historian's file cabinets. Warren Nordley, has a summary of 2002 in his December Spray column. I encourage you to read his column as he believes that it goes unread.

Warren's analytical approach to a problem, issue or event has meant that we as a board reviewed all options before making a recommendation. While he will continue on the board in 2003 we are losing Don Morgenweck and Carole Ann Brekke. The past few months Don has been setting up our tables at the church for our dinner meetings. Carole Ann has been our conscience reminding us to be sensitive to our members' needs and concerns. We will miss them on the board but look forward to our new members and their contributions. Welcome Mary Oelke, secre-

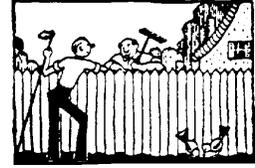
tary and Rudy Allebach, director. I think they will enjoy being on the board. It is an opportunity to learn how the club operates and meet new and not so new members.

I am pleased to be the 2003 President and I look forward to working with the board and the committees that support our efforts. It should be another outstanding year with members garden tours, a plant sale and auction, the FFF Show, Valleyfair work days and the Holiday Party. Last year the Perennial Garden gave all of us who worked on it a feeling of accomplishment as it looked like a garden instead of neglected plants struggling to survive. If you are interested in the unofficial trial results, I think Kay Wolfe can provide you with a list of the plants that survived without water. This could be a valuable list for those of you who are planning on summer trips and can't water your plants.

Although this is a column written by the current Turkey, turkeys are not visitors to my yard, yet. Deer are my gardening partners: I plant and they eat the results. In the future you may be reading about my gardening partners in this column. As I write this they are not in sight by I can tell from their droppings they are not far away. I think I have tried most of the deer repellents with some of them effective for while, that is until my deer friends decide that the plants are tasty even with repellent. The larger deer can reach the bird feeders and they help themselves to the sunflower seeds. At least the feeders can remain outside overnight now as the raccoons are sleeping someplace out there and not raiding them during the night. You may also learn about my war on buckthorn which has been ongoing for the past five years. I win a few battles, rest and prepare for the next conflict. I think I have finally eradicated the Poison Ivy which makes it easier to tackle other plant problems.

I want to welcome our new members and encourage them as well as seasoned members to contact me with questions, ideas,

(Continued on page 9)



Editorial Enticements

(Continued from page 2)

party this year because he was at another ceremony. He received a distinguished service award as a member of Golf Course Superintendents Association of Minnesota for 49 years, and his contribution of 5 articles for the 75th year edition of their monthly publication "Hole Notes". He also has been a MGCM member for 39 years. I told him we hope he is with us also for 49 years! "



Jack Kobe
Photo by Chuck

Dave and Delores Johnson moving.

On January 15 they will move out of their garden with a house. We will all miss seeing that wonderful garden as I suppose they will also. Many happy memories I am sure will remain. Many thanks for being on many tours. Their new abode will be at 1455 Skyline Drive in Golden Valley MN55422. They will be having an estate sale in the spring but, If you need lights, trays, big pots and other garden items give Dave a call now. Their phone number is 763-544-0111.

Kudos for Award Winners

Three awards were given which have not been previously announced. They were the Distinguished Service Award (previously called the Bronze Medal), the President's Cup and a third was a music award.

Lloyd Wittstock received the Distinguished Service Award. Lloyd has been a member since 1982 and has served as a director, been on many committees over the

years, a chair of the Photo committee, A regular participant in the Flower Food & Foto Show. (He has had entries in all three categories and was the big winner of this year's photo contest), a constant attendee of all events and our official photographer at dinner meetings. This award is given to only one person a year and this year we congratulate Lloyd and thank him for his service.

The President's Cup is given each year and the recipient is selected by the reigning president. It is given to the person who the president feels has helped him the most over his tenure plus the person cannot be a member of the board. This year's winner, is none other than the great **Richie Miller**. By the way Ritchie gave a great history of the parade of turkeys to the Holiday Party gathering.

A music award for playing the piano at our holiday parties over the years was given to **Henry Halvorson**. His music at the gatherings prior to the holiday dinners has always been enjoyable and we thank Henry for tickling those keys.

Congratulations to Lloyd, Ritchie and Henry.



Lloyd W Ritchie M Henry H.
Photo by Chuck Photos By Lloyd W

Attention - Buyers Wanted for 2003 Calendars

We need your support in buying 2003 calendars. This is one of the club's money-making activities and sales to date are well below expectations. The price is only \$4.00. It

(Continued on page 9)

Board Meeting Summary



Summarized from
Ellyn Hosch's Secretarys Report

Meeting Date: 17 December 2002
Board members present: Nancy Bjerke, Carole Ann Brekke, Lynda Carlson, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Dave McKeen, Warren Nordley and Jackie Overom.

Presidents Report

The Holiday Party was well received. The Holiday Party Committee is to be congratulated on their outstanding success.

Vice Presidents Report

Andy Marlowe will be presenting at the January meeting on his trip to Africa.

Secretary's & Treasurer's Reports

The reports were approved as submitted. The costs for the Beren,s Cabin project are currently estimated at \$2300. The Holiday Party was subsidized \$400. However, the Silent Auction generated \$1200 in revenue.

The 2003 budget was approved by the board as submitted and will be presented to the membership for their approval.

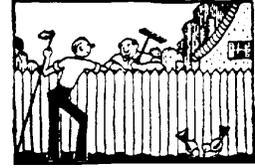
A motion was approved to require that all no shows on the permanent reservation list, or those making reservations, be billed via letter for the cost of dinner. This is a slight change from the current policy, which is to bill for unsold dinners only.

Membership Secretary's Report

Two new candidates were approved for membership: Brian Bernwick and Marilyn Moon. This brings the total membership to 112.

New Business

The club needs to find storage for the various items that have been stored by individual members.



Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on 7 January at 7:00 PM at the home of Nancy Bjerke.

Permanent Reservations

Last year's permanent reservations will remain in effect for the January meeting. But in February and the rest of the year a new list will be created.

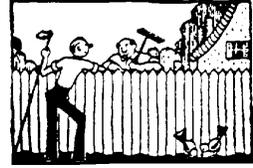
The new list for permanent dinner reservations will be generated at the January dinner meeting. If you do not plan on attending the January meeting, let Carole Ann Brekke know if you want a permanent reservation for dinner.

The benefit to being on the permanent list is that you do not have to call or email Carole Ann Brekke for a reservation. But, you must call or email if you want to cancel or add a guest. All members not on the list must call to reserve dinner.

Remember if you make a reservation (permanent or otherwise) for dinner you are responsible for the cost if you do not attend or cancel. You will be billed if you don't cancel. See details on page 11.

Those receiving the Newsletter by the postal service and have a permanent reservation will have a P on the mailing label. Those receiving the newsletter by email, the permanent reservations will be shown in the email message area when you receive the newsletter.

Permanent reservations will not be in effect for The Field/Bachman Flower Show (March), The member Tours (July & August) and the Holiday Party (December). All of these require mail-in reservations because of bus reservations and other planning. These mail in reservation forms will be in the newsletter at the appropriate month.



Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

Is Less, More? Spring

Those of you who have been forced to visit my gardens know that I have a lot of stuff. I am a sucker for every new thing that comes along, and I cannot bring myself to get rid of things that don't really perform all that well. As a result, my garden is a hopeless jumble. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

But, I've been wondering recently whether it wouldn't be possible to create a very pleasing sunny garden with very few different types of plants (and perhaps avoid breaking the budget). How about only five or six different perennials for Spring, another five or six for summer, and another five or six for fall? Plus, maybe some tender bulbs and a few annuals. This will be my premise for articles in the next five months.

With the full knowledge that I will never abandon all those other varieties, here are my nominations for Spring Basics:

1. Daffodils.

I love the look of daffodils, but, more to the point, deer and rabbits don't like them, and they naturalize quite readily, so that, unlike tulips, they can be considered true perennials. And, of course, they come in many sizes and colors so we can branch out from the traditional yellow. While I can think of nothing finer than a stand of good old King Alfred daffodils in the early spring, I admit to being tempted by those new pink forms in the catalogs...

2. Iris.

Siberian irises are just about perfect, although their bloom time is too short. They are less susceptible to iris borers

and bacterial rot that plague bearded iris. And their upright foliage lasts well throughout the season. I also like the variegated irises, like *iris pallida aureovariegata*, which has a season-long interest (though the blooms are not spectacular). And, even though the bearded types are a little bit of a pain, I will always have some in the garden. They're worth the trouble to me.

3. Peonies.

Does anyone not have peonies? Despite the fact that they do best with some sort of support, and they seem to attract hideous thunderstorms that beat the flowers to death, they are fabulous in the spring. Again, too, their foliage holds up well and can serve as a backdrop for later, lower perennials. I love their blowsy, almost gaudy display. And for people with more restrained tastes, there are the single varieties that can steal the show tastefully. And they almost never need to be divided.

4. *Brunnera macrophylla*.

I don't think I'd ever do without this versatile plant. It thrives in both sun and shade, and has large round green leaves that hold up through the season and provide a bold foliage contrast. And in the spring and early summer it puts out delicate, true blue flowers that can bring your blood pressure down about 20 points. *Brunnera* also self-sows readily (but not invasively), so you can share these with your friends. And, it laughs at black walnuts! How much closer to perfect can a plant get?

5. *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* "Overdam".

I love this grass. It's a cool-season variegated grass, so it's up and glowing in the garden before the *miscanthus*'s and *panicum*'s have even thought about breaking dormancy. And, it has the same upright form and stiff blooms, typical of "Karl Foerster".

(Continued on Page 9)

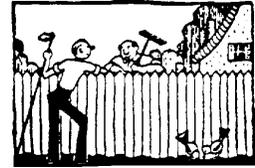
Softwood Cutting [©] Propagation

By Phil Smith

There are two customary ways to easily increase ones stock of plants for the garden. One is sexual (i.e., by seeds) and the other asexual, or vegetative propagation. Asexual propagation may be accomplished by various means, including stem cuttings, root cuttings, leaf cuttings, stem and air layering, divisions and meristem culture.

For the home gardener, favorite plants may often be reproduced and multiplied rather quickly and easily by means of stem cuttings. Some years ago, I remember that member and Golden Valley neighbor Dave Johnson and I would start impatiens from seed, a little earlier than normal seeding time. When the seedlings were a few inches high we would cut out the top couple of inches to root as cuttings, thus doubling our stock of each variety at very little expense.

Some kinds of plants, including annuals and perennials, root much easier than others, and softwood cuttings generally are much easier to root than hardwood cuttings. Cleanliness is one prerequisite, and care in using sterile materials will increase the success rate. This includes sterilized containers, rooting medium, and use of alcohol to clean the knife in between the taking of cuttings. Some growers recommend the use of a hormone rooting powder available at garden centers, but I have generally found it unnecessary for the plants I wanted to reproduce. Over the years, I recall rooting annuals (such as coleus, impatiens, begonias and geraniums/pelargoniums), perennials (such as mums, dianthus, sedums, delphiniums, geraniums-Crane's Bill, aubrieta, cerastium, nepeta and saponaria), as well as various house plants.



The usual technique is rather straightforward. The cutting is made just below a leaf node, the lower leaves removed, and the cuttings placed in a cool and shady place for perhaps 30 minutes to form a callus over the cut surface. The cuttings are then "stuck" into the moist rooting medium. It is best to stick the cuttings so that they are not touching, in order to discourage fungus or rotting of the leaves. The containers of cuttings are placed in a cool but light location out of direct sun. Care must be taken to keep the medium moist enough to encourage formation of roots but not so wet as to encourage fungus and diseases.

Various materials may be used to support the cuttings in the containers, such as peat moss, vermiculite, perlite, sterile sand and sterile soil. I usually use a mixture of fine vermiculite, sand and peat moss. Some growers are successful merely placing the cuttings in water, but this often produces brittle and fragile roots. However, I have often rooted coleus cuttings in water. Species which root easily, such as mums, are often merely rooted in moist sand. No matter what the medium, when roots of about half an inch have formed, the plants may be potted up for growing on in the usual manner.

Propagation by cuttings is an enjoyable and satisfying means of reproducing favorite plants, either for the garden or house plants.



*Delores Johnson, Norm Brummer & Lynette Uzzell at the Holiday Party
Photo By Chuck*

Youth Gardening

By Ada Hegion

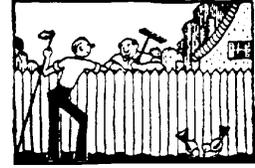
For some time the Youth Garden Committee has been small and inactive. However, all of the members, Carole Ann Brekke, Doug Whitney and myself have quietly maintained our interest in youth gardening. Yesterday, I was delighted to receive a call from Nancy Bjerke who reports that Jan Johnson, Bob Voigt and my friend, John Sims, have joined the committee. With all of this talent I am optimistic that we can find ways to pass on our love of gardening to youth.

This will be one way to insure that there will always be new and enthusiastic members for the garden club.

One project has already unexpectedly come our way. Both John Sims and I are mentors for third grade students at North Star School at 2410 Girard Ave. North in Minneapolis. Last year a young teacher, Mary Beth Schwartzbauer, died suddenly of a heart attack. She was beloved by her students and by her colleagues. A memorial committee in the school has been working on plans for a living memorial within the school. The family contributed \$2000 towards the memorial.

Staff would like to create a garden within the school in her memory. Dr. Farzaneh Kia recently discussed this goal with us. When we expressed interest she talked to the principal, Dr. Samuels who requested that we work with the committee to develop and implement a plan.

There is a space within the school that was at one time a fish pond with a fountain. For safety reasons the pond was drained and left empty. This area is in a central location with children passing by to classes and activities throughout the day. There are areas close by where small groups of students work



with teachers or mentors. Above is a lovely mural painted by an art teacher within the school. Electricity and water are readily available in the area. The dimensions of the space (two areas 9x9) lend themselves to the development of a small, interesting garden. It could be lovely and at the same time present opportunities for children to learn about gardening. I will connect members of the committee to schedule a meeting early in the New Year.

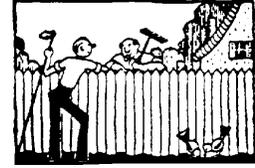
Eldon Hugelen and Ritchie Miller have generously agreed to look at the area, as their schedules allow, and make suggestions.



*Jan Johnson lighting the candles at the Holiday Party
Photo by Chuck*



*The Entertainment at the Holiday Party
Photo by Lloyd Wittstock*



CONFESSIONS CONTINUED

(Continued from page 6)

6. My mother's early daylily.

OK, this is kind of cheating, because I'm not including all daylilies here. But my mom gave me a daylily that blooms earlier than the peonies, and provides a fragrant yellow-gold accent way before any other daylilies have even considered the possibility of blooming. I have no idea what variety this is, but I'd never be without it. I am also willing to share, because this is a good grower. Maybe I'll bring a couple to our sale this year.

OK, that's six spring perennials. But what about polemoniums? And alchemilla mollis? And centaurea montana? And rhubarb? (Yes, rhubarb!) And Gas plant? Minor bulbs? The good kinds of tulips? And geraniums? Poppies? Bergenis? The choices are endless! Thus, you can see why I haven't limited myself to just six.



Editorial Enticements

(Continued from page 4)

has some great garden pictures, so if you haven't bought any yet, pick up a few for family and friends. They will be available at the January meeting or they can be delivered to you. Order by contacting our calendar chairman, Don Trocke. His phone number is 952-941-1677.

The Budget

The 2003 budget will be voted on during the January business meeting. The proposed budget can be seen on page 10. Look it over and be prepared to vote on it.

Warren Nordley

We all owe Warren a group thanks for acting as our president for 2001. Many things

were accomplished and changes made to make our club viable to more people but still keep it a top of the line garden club. Thanks Warren for your two years of service as vice president and president and I know the board will appreciate your next year's contribution and guidance as you serve as past president.

Also for those of you that don't know, Warren had a heart attack and was in the hospital IC unit for 5 days but came home on Sunday December 15 and expects a full recovery without any major damage. We are thankful for the outcome. All I can say is be cool, do your physical therapy and do whatever Beverly commands.

New Members

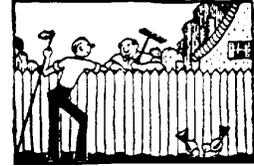
Welcome to the following new members; Brian Bernwick and Marilyn Moon. Their addresses and phone numbers will be in the new directory which will be available at the January dinner meeting. Welcome and we hope you will enjoy the time spent with us.



Nancy's Turkey Tracks

(Continued from Page 3)

concerns or anything else they want me and/or the board to know about. My telephone number is 952-476 8057 and my E-Mail address is bbjerke@msn.com. This is a garden club with talented members who put energy into everything they tackle. The 2003 Directory will be ready in January and along with the contact information about the members is a list of the committees. The committee chair is noted and the names of the members who signed up for the specific committees are listed. The chair will contact committee members, set up meetings and coordinate tasks. If you are interested in an event and want more information contact of the committee chair.

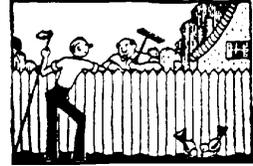


MGCM PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2003

<u>Committee or Function</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Net</u>
Arbor Day		200	-200
Awards and Trophies		250	-250
Calendars	1100	800	300
FFF		800	-800
Garden Spray		1000	-1000
Holiday Party	2400	2600	-200
Holiday Party - Silent Auction	800		800
Hospitality	3900	4300	-400
Membership		400	-400
Perennial Garden		200	-200
Photography		50	-50
Plant Auction	7600	4200	3400
Program		800	-800
Slide Show	200	50	150
Sunshine		200	-200
Tour - Club	1000	1200	-200
Tour - Other	200	200	0
Valley Fair	1500		1500
MGCM Dues	1200		1200
MSHS Dues	1500	1500	0
Arbor Membership		60	-60
Arbor Donation		300	-300
LPDC/HRC Donation		300	-300
MSHS Donation		200	-200
Bank Interest	600		600
Bank Charges		300	-300
Honorary Members Dues		100	-100
Insurance		500	-500
President Contingency		500	-500
Office Supplies		240	-240
Legal Expense/Taxes		300	-300
Raffles	100		100
Scholarships*	3000	3000	0
Historian		500	-500
Miscellaneous	600	600	0
Memorials (to designated fund)	50		50
Youth Gardening		100	-100
Total	25750	25750	0

All amounts in dollars (\$).

* This money is from a designated fund, generated from the Biennial Tour.



Reservations

Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2003
Last Years Permanent Reservations are in effect.
Reservations are necessary by Friday, January 10.

Call or email Carole Ann Brekke (phone 952-435-6029) (Email numsix24@attbi.com)
for your reservation if you are not on the permanent reservations list or
you need to cancel your permanent reservation.
You will be responsible for the cost if not cancelled

For last minute cancellations on Monday or Tuesday call Dave Johnson
Phone 763-571-2713
If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

January 14 Details

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

Registration, Gathering & Greetings
Permanent Dinner Reservations Sign-up
Calendars Available
Dinner and Conversation
Visitors & New members
The Business Meeting (Budget)
Awards
The Program - Kenya, Africa by Andy Marlow

The 2003 Schedule of Events

February 11, Dinner meeting
March 18, Dinner & Field Bachman Show
April 8, Dinner Meeting
May 6, Dinner, Auction & Plant Sale
June 24, Members Tour
Roses & Early Gardens
July 15, Members Tour
Perennial Garden Tour

August 16 & 17, FFF Show
August 24, Members Tour
Grasses & Fall Gardens
September 9, Dinner Meeting
October 14, Dinner Meeting
November 11, Dinner Meeting
November 28, Wreath Making at Kliers
December 2, Holiday Party



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Nancy Bjerke
 1035 Heritage Lane, Orono, MN 55391-9342
 Vice-President: Ellyn Hosch
 436 Sheridan Ave So, Minneapolis, MN 55405-1913
 Recording Secretary: Mary Oelke
 5745 Duncan Lane
 Edina, MN 55346-1603
 Membership Secretary: Jackie Overom
 14024 Frontier Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337-4728
 Treasurer: Dave Johnson
 5291 Matterhorn Dr., Fridley, MN 55421-1324
 Past President: Warren Nordley
 14001 Frontier Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337-4741

DIRECTORS:

Rudy Allebach
 3414 The Mall, Minnetonka MN 55345-1239
 Lynda Carlson
 5105 Halifax, Edina, MN 55424-1419
 David McKeen
 2834 Vernon Ave So, St Louis Park, MN 55416-1840

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