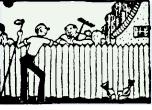


Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc March 2003, Volume 61, Number 3



## This Month at MGCM

### Tuesday, March 18 Dinner & Flower Show

See Page 11 for details and dinner reservations

### Come to MGCM's Evening at the Flower Show. You Can Enter the Fantasy World of Flower Fairies at Marshall Field's and Bachman's 39th Annual Spring Flower Show

Vibrant English gardens of roses and hyacinth, rustic cobblestone paths, grand arborvitae hedges, graceful weeping

willows will be the secret spaces where Flower Fairies frolic. It is revealed at this year's Marshall Field's and Bachman's Spring Flower Show. Flower Fairies by Cicely Mary Barker, interpreted by European floral designer Paula Pryke. The auditorium will be transformed into a breathtaking

English countryside setting, with fanciful flower fairies dwelling amidst the lush gardens. Paula Pryke, London's preeminent florist, renowned for her original, ingenious and dramatic flower arrangements, has partnered with Marshall Field's and Bachman's to transform the 8th Floor Auditorium into a whimsical flower fairy fantasy world. The <u>Flower Fairies</u> were created by Cicely Mary Barker, who was born in South London in 1895. In 1917 she began



working on the <u>Flower Fairies</u> books, a collection of watercolors that captivate the imagination while depicting the naturalistic world with scrupulous accuracy. These illustrations are what inspired Marshall Field's, Paula Pryke and Bachman's to bring Barker's enchanting flower fairies to life. Her beautiful images combined with stunning flowers are going to make

this year's show absolutely breathtaking! Flower Fairies features numerous animated and static fairies, glittery fairy dust sprinkled on cobblestone paths and fairy rings made of portabella mushrooms. You will encounter a horse stable featuring live ponies, a haven for live doves, and a rustic children's playhouse with a rabbit pit and live bunnies.

## **Looking Ahead** Details for the years schedule on page 11



## Editorial Enticements

By Chuck Carlson

Past President, Warren Nordley requested newsletter space to give reasons for a requested dues increase for 2004. This was voted on and passed by the present board of directors ( see board meeting New business).

### A Recommendation For A Dues Increase

### By Warren Nordley

This is a proposal to increase our dues to \$20 per year, effective 2004. The board is acting now so as to allow sufficient time to get membership approval prior to sending the renewal applications next fall. Actually, the board made the same recommendation last year but, with our summer filled with nonmeeting events, we were unable to get membership approval before the renewals were sent last year.

### **Arguments Against**

Arguments can be made against raising due such as: These are tough, economic times; there is no clear need since we have ample funds in the bank; an increase might cause a drop in current membership or jeopardize our ability to recruit new members; an increase might reduce volunteerism for future club fund-raising events. These my be valid points but we think they are outweighed by the following which you may find helpful in evaluating this issue.

### **Arguments For**

1. There has been increasing pressure from guest speakers for higher fees. A club of our caliber should not be willing to compromise on the widest selection of potential speakers. Several other garden clubs allocate more funds for speakers than we do.

2. We have a newly formed committee

called Publicity. There are opportunities out there in the garden world in which we could invest in a booth, let's say, in a garden show or in certain forms of advertising that would promote our identity and image. This, in turn, would be beneficial in our on-going endeavor to increase membership.

3. We would be better prepared, financially, should another Beren's cabin type opportunity present itself.

4. We are currently budgeted for a breakeven between income and expenses. Any unexpected expense for the year would result in deficit spending.

5. This increase would not go into effect until 2004.

6. Members are attracted to this club, not because it's a particularly good value but rather because of the knowledge and loyalty of it's membership, the programs and events we have and the contributions we make to the community. A membership fee of only \$10 betrays the image of quality that we cherish.

This is obviously a membership decision. The proposal to increase our dues will be voted on by secret ballot at our April meeting. Thanks for your consideration.

# A Quote by Dale Bachman

"It's been thrilling to work with Paula Pryke to recapture the fantasy and innocence of childhood that Barker's watercolors so magnificently portray," said Dale Bachman, president of Bachman's, Inc. "Guests are sure to enjoy the enchanting sights and sweet fragrances of this year's show."

With this kind of enthusiasm be sure you attend the dinner and the flower show for the next Men's Garden Club function on March 18. Dale Bachman will speak at the dinner.



## Nancy's Turkey Tracks

MGCM President Nancy Bjerke

Less than three years ago, I joined the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. I inquired about joining when I stopped to talk to Keith Monjak at the February Home and Garden Show in Minneapolis and within a few days an application arrived in the mail. Why did I want to join this club? I had heard about it through tour guide training at the Arboretum and knew that Keith Monjak and Stanly Crist were members. Both of them were great resources to us as tour guides. This was a club with a variety of activities supported by knowledgeable gardeners and I wanted to become a member. The application indicated that I needed a signature from a member who could vouch for me but I didn't want to wait until I could contact a member so I sent it in without a sponsor.

Jackie Overom came to my rescue and said she would vouch for me. Jackie and I had previously met at Tree Care Advisory training in 1999. After the April initiation rites were performed by Mary Maynard, I received the standard packet of information and I was ready to plant, weed, deadhead and enjoy other gardens.

One of my first tasks was to help weed the Perennial Garden, eat Bob Redmond's doughnut holes and wonder how the club was ever going to be able to plant and maintain such a large area. The members were discouraged the next year when many of the drought stressed plants died. They were encouraged last year when the plants that survived the dry conditions thrived and the total area had been reduced to a manageable size.

My first year I joined the St. Louis Park garden club tour committee. It was fun even though I got lost trying to find Mary Maynard's house during the preliminary checkout. The hatter's tea party was enjoyable and I didn't break any of Kay Wolfe's china. During the preparation process I learned about Marilyn Brummer's and Lynette Uzzell's garden grooming techniques, both of whom have tour quality gardens.

The 2000 State Fair arrived and I was in a booth selling Horticulture Society memberships with Jerry Shannon. He told me about his garden, which I have since seen and I know that it is more than I could have imagined at the time. To identify plants I learned that Jerry uses a paint pencil to write on the labels. The next day I bought a pencil from the local paint store. It works as the name does remain on the label long after the plant has turned to compost.

It was a rewarding year and I continue to believe that the members and their achievements will never cease to amaze me. There are so many diverse activities and the members' energy sparkles, radiating out like electricity. When I join an activity I capture that enthusiasm and the camaraderie within our club.



The World is very old; But every Spring It groweth young again, And fairies sing.

Be sure to attend the Bachman-Marshall Fields' Flower Show With the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis See page 11 for reservations.



## February's Program Review

By Mary Maynard

#### **Gardening with Alpines**

Harvey Buchite is the co-owner of Rice Creek Gardens in Blaine, and he gave us a

very insightful overview of alpine plants. Those of us who spend a disproportionate amount of time and money at Rice Creek Gardens know that there are a lot of alpine plants that will grow in Minnesota.

Alpine plants are those that traditionally thrive above the tree line, and where the tree line is depends a lot on latitude. The air is thinner and the sunlight is bright. The frost-free growing period is often only 50 days, and there can be snow in the mountains any month of the year. There is generally dependable winter snow cover and high, long-duration winds.

Almost all are insect-pollinated perennials, and in the early spring they produce flowers and put down long roots at the same time. So, odd as it may seem, the best time to divide and transplant alpines is when they are in full bloom. May is also about the best time to plant and fertilize and doing it after May is not recommended.

In the mountains, there is generally a very rapid snow melt, and therefore a very short spring. There are very few freeze-thaw cycles like the ones we "enjoy" here. So, it is best to mulch alpine plants that are on the southern side of our gardens to keep them frozen until it is "really" spring. (Whenever



Harvey Buschite Photo by Chuck Carlson

that is. Last year, I think it was June.)

Some alpines have developed thick waxy coatings as protection from the drying winds, and many of them have furry leaves that protects them from cool night air. These furry coatings are less than helpful in our humid summers, and there is a risk of fungal infections. To minimize the risk, we should put a good layer of rock around the base of plants to keep soil away from the plant.

Alpines come from a number of slightly different mountain habitats, and those slight

variations in soil pH, drainage, organic matter accumulation, which side of the mountain slope, and even the type of rock in the mountains make a big difference when we select and place plants in our own gardens.

While Harvey knows that few of us will race to botanical journals to understand precisely where each plant came from, he recommends the Bulletin of the North American Rock Garden Society <u>www.nargs.org</u> and the Alpine Garden Society Bulletin <u>www.alpinegardensociety.org</u>.

After an informative introduction, Harvey treated us with a visual tour of alpines in

their native habitats and rock gardens around the world, followed by an overview of very cool plants from Alyssum to Viola.

By the way, Harvey mentioned that Rice Creek Gardens no longer produces a printed catalog. But they have extensive listings at their website,

<u>http://www.ricecreekgardens.com/</u>. And, of course, their retail store in Blaine is a fabulous place to visit.





## Board Meeting Summary



Summarized from Mary Oelke's Secretarys Report

### February 4, 2003

Board Members Present: Rudy Allebach, Nancy Bjerke, Ellyn Hosch, Dave McKeen, Warren Nordley, and Mary Oelke

### **President's Report**

President Nancy Bjerke distributed criteria for the Green Thumb Award. This award is given to members who have attended all club meetings during the year including dinner meetings, plant auction, members club tour, FFF show and holiday party.

### **Vice-President's Report**

The speaker for the February meeting has been set up. Arrangements are in process for the March meeting trip to the Marshall Field's Flower Show. The vice-president is also working on speakers for the April, September, October, and November meetings.

### Secretary's Report

The January board minutes were approved with the correction of the spelling of Warren Nordley's name.

### **Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the January treasurer's report was distributed to those present.

#### **Membership Secretary's Report**

The club now has 113 members. The board voted to approve Sudie Hofmann as a new club member.

### **Committee Reports**

#### • Publicity:

Warren Nordley reported that the publicity committee is presently a committee of one. He is in the process of looking for more members for this committee.

### **Old Business**

• 501 c3 Status:

The committee, Dave Johnson, Ellyn Hosch, and Doug Whitney will meet to complete the application form which needs to be submitted by the end of March.

• Agenda for the February Meeting:

The approving of the MGCM annual budget and the auctioning of passes to the Arboretum will be on the agenda.

• Memorial Fund Committee:

Mary Maynard and Bob Voigt will bring to the board ideas for ways to spend the Memorial Fund money.

### **New Business**

• Club Dues 2004: After much discussion, it was moved and seconded that the club dues be increased to \$20 effective for the year 2004. The motion passed with one dissention. The motion will be brought to the membership at the April meeting. An article giving the rationale for the club dues increase will be written for the March Garden Spray.

Name Change:

Changing the name of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis to a gender-less name was brought up and discussed at great length. A motion was passed to poll the board on a secret ballot on the question: Should the board address the name change issue in 2003?. The polling will be completed at the March board meeting.

### **Next Board Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held March 4, 2003 at the home of Dave Johnson, 5291 Matterhorn Drive, Fridley.



The Berry Fairy

Be sure to attend the Bachman-Marshall Fields' Flower Show With the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis See page 11 for reservations.

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## Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

### Less is More-Bulbs

When I talk about simplifying my garden, many of my friends point out that all the tender bulbs/corms/ tubers that I have to dig up and store year after year undoubtedly complicate my gardening life. Each fall, as I'm shivering in the encroaching twilight, shovel in hand, I can't help but see my friends' point. But I can't bring myself to give up on some of my favorite plants in the garden just to avoid a brief muddy experience in the fall.

However, I could cut back in some ways and still have a very satisfactory garden. Here is my take on tender bulbs:

#### Cannas.

These are probably the easiest to store over the winter, since they don't seem to require more than a dark spot in a cool closet. This year I had six different kinds, but if I had to, I could survive with fewer. I'll always have my old red one, with smallish red tubular flowers that the hummingbirds really like. And if I had to pick just one other one, I'd probably chose Colocasia antiquorum 'Intrigue'. It was new to me this year and has very elongated, upright

purple leaves. Cannas like good sun, adequate moisture and warm soil. There's no point in planting canna's until the soil is warm. They'll just sit there and wait for the sun to shine if you plant them out too early.

### **Elephant Ears.**

I don't think I'll ever go without elephant ears anymore. They are so much fun and pretty versatile — doing well either in containers or out in the flower beds, not terribly fussy about light requirements. I've tried a bunch of different ones, but I think I could be satisfied with only three: Colocasia escuelenta (the "regular green" elephant ear), Colocasia antiquorum 'Illustris', and

Xanthosoma 'Gold Leaf'. If I could only have one, I'd choose Illustris. Elephant ears like good moisture and fertilizer, and will grow pretty well in either full sun or light shade.

### Callas.

I have only one kind of calla lily. I got if from a neighbor several years ago, and the flower is yellow, and the foliage is green with white spots. I am a little embarrassed to admit that I have never had this calla lily bloom in my garden, although it increases

well from year to year. But I almost don't even care, because the foliage is so cool! In the shade, it will put out arrow-shaped leaves on petioles that are almost 3 feet tall and provides

a really nice contrast to neighboring hostas and lamium ground covers. I would like to see them bloom someday, so if anyone has any insight into getting these to bloom, I'm all ears. (It's probably something exotic like fertilizer or water...)

### Dahlias.

People who want to simplify their gardening lives probably wouldn't grow dahlias — or at least wouldn't try to keep them over the winter. Dahlias require good water,

decent light and good fertilizer. Most of them are so tall that they need staking. And a lot of them don't really get going until halfway through August. And grasshoppers, earwigs and Japanese beetles love them for breakfast.

(Continued on Page 9)



Canna Intrigue

'Illustris'



## Getting To Know You

Data collected by our Historian Howard Berg edited by Chuck Carlson

### Ada Hegion

Ada Hegion is our pick of the month to get to know. She was born in Pincher Creek, Alberta, Canada. In her early years her interest was with bugs. She thought she would like to become an entomologist and then work with farmers having problems with insects and diseases. After years of study and working in the field of psychology she is back in the horticultural field and has been spending time with us and her early interest in growing those wonderful plants. Her main interest is growing perennials, annuals, herbs & vegetables. Of course like most of us, she keeps her thumb green in the winter also. The winter interest is getting those Saintpaulia ionantha (African Violets) blooming their hearts out.

It is assumed that Ada received her formal education in Canada but we know she received a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Minnesota. After this she worked as the Senior Clinical psychologist~: at Hennepin County Medical Center for 31 years. Presently she is now retired.

She has served various psychological associations and is a member of the St. Thomas Episcopal Church. In our club she has been a member of the photography, holiday party committees and presently the chair of the Youth Gardening Committee.

Ada joined the club in 1996 on a suggestion by Dr. William Jepson, a past member of our club who succumbed to a heart condition. He encouraged me to join as he knew of my interest in gardening and in photography.

Her photography talents has earned her the Best of Show in 2001 but she says her most gratifying experiences in the club is the company of so many wonderful gardeners at meetings and the club activities, even the weeding at the perennial garden.

Added to all this, Ada is still expanding her horticultural experiences by recently completing training as a Master Gardener and will be an intern in Hennepin County this year.

Another part of getting to know you is to include pictures of those who were not in the 60th Anniversary Photo Directory. Here are those taken at the February meeting





William Leonard

John Sims



Marilyn Moon



Shari Ost



New Member Initiation of Marilyn Moon & Shari Ost by Eldon Hugelen Photo By Chuck Carlson





## Uninvited Guests In Your Garden

By Jerry Olson

An alias for this heading is: **Univited Pests in Your Garden** 

Who are they? They are the Japanese Beetles, (Popillia japonica). They are about 1/2 inch in length with a body colored metallic green and bronze with an identifying five white tufts of hair along the abdomen. See the picture below.



Japanese Beetles, (Popillia japonica)

Most of their adult life is spent feeding and breeding. They feed on many plants. They particularly like white/yellow roses, large yellow marigolds, grapes, red raspberries, corn silks, plum, Norway Maple as well as many other trees.

The Japanese beetle was first observed in 1916 in a New Jersey nursery. It is assumed that they arrived there as grubs in the soil of potted plants imported from Japan. Since that time they have spread from the east coast all the way to Minnesota. This past summer, they were found in gardens located in St. Louis Park, Minnetonka, Inver Grove Heights as well as in many golf courses.

Adult beetles begin to lay eggs in July in

nearby turf grass areas growing in full sun. The eggs hatch into small grubs that begin eating grass roots in early August. The white grubs are from 3/4 to 1 inch long at maturity. Many grubs eating grass roots can cause a large bare spot to occur in the lawn.

When cold weather sets in, the grubs descend to at least six inches or more below the surface where they hibernate. In early spring, they move to the surface and resume feeding. They emerge from the soil in July as adult beetles. The first beetles are able to send out signals attracting other beetles to your garden.

Methods of controlling these nasty beetles are described below.

**Traps** were recommended years ago, but studies have proven that traps, while catching some critters, often collect more than the traps can handle. Then, they become more of a problem than they were before the traps were set up.

One of the most effective **chemicals** is Sevin, which will kill adult beetles if it is ingested by them.

A **non-chemical** control gaining popularity is to hand pick the critters in the early morning when they are very sluggish. Then dip them in soapy water or kerosene.

An **organic** material called Neem Oil is very effective in controlling the Japanese beetle population. What is Neem Oil? It is the oil extracted from the seeds of the Neem tree that grows primarily in India. Neem oil contains a chemical known as Azadirachtin. Any adult beetle eating on a plant sprayed with Neem oil introduces azadirachtin into its digestive system and thus to the rest of the body. When the insect lays its eggs, they will contain azadirachtin, as will the larvae that hatch. Soon the larvae will be unable to eat and therefore die. Neem oil only affects insects that have a life cycle of egg, larva and adult. Neem oil will not kill adult beetles, but the smell will deter them.

Both Neem oil and Sevin are topical.

(Continued on page 9)



### **Confessions Continued**

### (Continued from page 6)

And to have a reasonable hope of saving them over the winter, you really need to store them at 40 degrees or so. But they are such glorious flowers — coming into their prime as the rest of the garden is fading, and holding up really well as cut flowers, that it's hard to resist them. If I were going to simplify my garden, I'd probably cut back to just a few of the lower-growing varieties. If I could only have one, I'd choose 'Fascination', because it has red-purple foliage that provides interest all season long. If I could have three, I'd choose 'Park Princess' and a new favorite, 'China Doll'.



#### Dahlia 'Fascination'

That's what I know about tender bulbs. I don't grow glads, even though they are beautiful, because they always seem to topple over on me. (I've heard that planting them really deep helps, but I haven't tried it.). And I like the voodoo lily I got from Gary Geister a couple of years ago, but I'm not sure I'd recommend the really exotic things like voodoo lilies for those who are thinking about simplifying their gardens. Happy Gardening!

Editors note: Why you don't get any blooms on the Calla Lilies might be from the lack of sun during the previous year since I note that you plant them with your hostas. You did say you were all ears, are these Elephant ears?

### Unwanted Guests Continued

#### (*Continued from page 8*)

They will wash off in a rain and must be sprayed again to be effective. Neem oil is not toxic to beneficial insects, birds, mammals (including humankind) or our friends the earthworms. It may be toxic to fish in ponds.

### The Spray Schedule

Since adult beetles usually don't appear until around the first of July, it is advisable to start spraying with Neem oil about the 15th of June. Since beetles are usually found only on the top of leaves and blooms, however they love to hide at the base of petals - so aim the spray into the blooms. Then spray every 3 or 4 days at intervals for the first 7-10 days after their appearance. From then on, spray Neem oil every 7 days. Since both Neem oil and Sevin are topical, the spray must be repeated after any rainy spell. Never mix Neem oil and Sevin together! Of course your regular fungicide spray will be done separately. Check your local garden supply centers for Neem oil or Green Light's Rose Defense, which has 90% Neem oil in it.

Always Read and follow the directions for dosage on the container for any spray you want to apply.

This article was not written to scare or alarm you. It was written to inform you of methods by which you can control this voracious pest. Lets eliminate it prior to it becoming even more of a problem. Happy huntng

**Missing** Howard Berg, Historian, needs missing directories. If anyone has directories from 1949,1950,1976,1977 and 1978, please contact Howard. **The Garden Spray** Page 9



## Flowers in the Winter

By Larry Larson

This is the time of year when flower lovers need a little boost to get them through the long winter. If you are yearning for a fresh, new flower experience, I would recommend you visit Orchids Limited, a greenhouse in Plymouth that contains thousands of wonderful, exotic orchid plants.

Owner Jerry Fisher started Orchids Unlimited in 1978 with a small greenhouse and big ambitions. Now five greenhouses strong (only one can be seen by the public), Fisher has amassed a spectacular collection of rare and wonderful orchids.

The large greenhouse is filled to the brim with orchid plants growing in pots on tables, in pots hanging from the ceiling, and growing from tree bark all along the walls. Most of the plants are for sale; Orchids Unlimited is one of the leading sellers and shippers of Orchids in the world.

Fisher and his staff have propagated and registered hundreds of orchids, including the Fernbrook (named after the Plymouth street where they are located), and the Jason Fisher (named after his son). You can also get a look at the Sanderianum, one of the most expensive orchids in the world that will set you back \$5,000.00.

Fisher prints a thick catalog that contains prices and photographs of his orchids. You can pick one up at his Greenhouse, which is located at 4630 Fernbrook Lane, Plymouth. The phone number is 763-559-6425.

There is also an outstanding web site, <u>www.orchidweb.com</u>. The web site contains culture sheets for hybrid orchids that give information on watering, light, fertilizing, temperature, blooms and repotting of plants. There is also an outstanding Plant of the Week section that gives the history of the plant along with a nice color photograph. A Plant of the Week library contains historical information, along with growing instructions, for hundreds of orchids. Very impressive!

Hours are Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. My wife Randi, and I loved looking at all the flowers and plants; the staff was friendly and informative. If you need a flower fix here in the middle of winter, we would recommend Orchids Unlimited. Have fun!

#### Editors Comment

Thanks Larry for your interesting and unsolicited report. I am sure there are other places, others of you have visited and enjoyed, why not jot down a few lines and tell us about it. Maybe it is the Como Conservatory, the University Trial Gardens or maybe some place unknown to any of us. I will be waiting to hear from <u>you</u>. Chuck



The Strawberry Fairy A gift of fruit for the feast tonight

Be sure to attend the Bachman-Marshall Fields' Flower Show with the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. See page 11 for reservations.

If you want to learn more about flower fairies and the basis for the flower show go to the web site <u>www.flowerfairies.com</u>. All the Fairy Pictures in this issue were found at the web site. Flower Fairies books, calendars, handbags and plates, as well as Paula Pryke books and Whittard Teas will be available at the Flower show.



### The 2003 Schedule of Events

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, FFF Show at Arboratum				
August 17, FFF Show at Arboratum				

August 24,Members Tour<br/>Grasses & Fall GardensSeptember 9,Dinner MeetingOctober 14,Dinner MeetingNovember 11,Dinner MeetingNovember 28,Wreath Making<br/>at Kliers Garden CenterDecember 2,Holiday Party

### **Details for March 18 Meeting**

Dinner Location: Lake Harriet United Methodist; 49th and Chowen Avenue South Flower Show Location: Marshall Fields Downtown

### Permanent Reservations not in effect See registration form below Cost \$13 (includes Dinner & Bus)

Gathering & Greetings 5:00 PM Dinner and Conversation 5:30 PM The Program - Inside the Bachman-Marshall Fields Flower Show 6:00 PM Bus Leaves Church at 6:30 PM

### Field's-Bachman's Flower Show

Please reserve a place for my guests and me for the Bus and Dinner on March 18, 2003

Members Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s):

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_\_dinners and Bus @ \$13.00 each for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Reservation and payment must be received no later than March 14.** Send to Carole Ann Brekke, 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville MN 55306-5161

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### MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



### **CLUB OFFICERS:**

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### THE SPRAY

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