

This Month at MGCM

### **Tuesday, September 10 Dinner Meeting**

See Page 11 for details and dinner reservations

A presentation by Theodore J Wirth, FASLA and Joan I Berthiaume co-founders of the Minneapolis Parks Legacy Society. The title of the presentation is; **How Can we Make the Citizens of Minneapolis, Better Able to Understand This Gift?** 

In August of 1999, Minneapolitan Joan Berthiaume, a Minneapolis Park Lover and Amateur Park Historian, contacted Theodore J Wirth with this question. "How can we make the citizens of Minneapolis better able to understand this gift?" She had several experiences that led her to believe that most Minneapolis residents did not fully understand their extensive award winning park system. She felt that if the citizens, especially the children, better understood the fascinating lost history behind their park development, they would experience a greater sense of civic pride.

Theodore J Wirth (Ted) is a Landscape Architect and Park Builder as was his grandfather Theodore Wirth. Having designed and developed projects in nearly every state in our country, Ted has also designed 70 city parks in Kwait and the first National Park (over 1 million acres) in Saudi Arabia.

Ted committed to helping Joan with this endeavor and together they established the Minneapolis Parks Legacy Society. They make frequent public presentations on Minneapolis Park History and have begun several historic projects.

They have placed the Theodore Wirth Home and Administration Building on the National Register of Histoic Places, and would like the support of the citizens to open this building for public use as the *"Theodore Wirth Home, Intrepretive Museum and Educational Center"*.

Come and meet with them for dinner and a presentation on Tuesday, September 10, at Lake Harriet Methodist Church.

Also as part of the evening, we will have photos of our 2002 contest on display.

## **Coming Club Opportunities**

October 8 Dinner Meeting Program is Roberta Sladky Director of Como Conservatory

October 12 60th Anniversary Luncheon at the Arboretum November 12 Dinner meeting Susan Davis Price on Minnesota Gardening History

November 29 Wreath & Holiday Decoration Making at Klier's Garden Center December 3 Holiday Party

January 2003 Andy Marlow on Africa

## 60th Anniversary Preview

By Lynda Carlson

### You're Invited!

- **TO WHAT:** Gala 60th Anniversary Celebration.
- WHERE: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.
- WHEN: Saturday, October 12th, 2002
- WHICH EVENT: 1--Berens Cabin garden dedication (11:15, at the cabin).
  2--Luncheon (Noon, the auditorium in the Snyder Building).

#### The Big Event

This is it! The long awaited event to commemorate the 60th year of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. The gardens and grounds of the Arb will be clad in shades of russet and gold and crowned with the azure skies of a quintessential Minnesota autumn day.

#### The Dedication

Members of the **Arboretum Foundation Board** will be in attendance as we dedicate the garden design and plantings at the Berens Cabin.

#### The Master of Ceremony

Duane Reynolds will serve as master of ceremonies at the luncheon. He will set a celebratory mood for the day and is certain to regale us with his personal style.

#### The Speaker

The highlight of the fete will be our speaker, **Susan Allen Toth**, making an infrequent guest appearance. She will treat us to an unusual sneak preview of her new book, *Leaning into the Wind*, focusing on the chapter,



Garden Weather. The book is not due to be released to the general public until the fall of 2003. Ms. Toth is an engaging speaker with a unique gift of drawing listeners into her personal experiences. As an added bonus, Susan will be accompanied by her husband, **James Stageberg**. Those of you familiar with her travel memoirs will immediately recognize James as her intrepid travel partner and life companion. Do not miss out on this rare insider opportunity.

#### The Challenge

Join your gardening friends from the MGCM for this festive day culminating our year-long slate of activities recognizing the club's 60th year.

#### **The Registration**

Registration information is on page 11. There will be no assigned or reserved tables. But when the main floor is filled , those registering thereafter will be seated in balcony tables. Thus register early to assure your spot on the main floor.

#### Need a Ride?

If you need a ride, contact Howard Berg who will arrange transportation for you.



## **News Flash**

Keep the Dates of September 21 & 28 open on your calendar. Eldon has found some plants for us to plant at the Arboraetum's Bernes Cabin garden. We need to have something to dedicate in October so please think about helping out



## President's Column

MGCM President Warren Nordley

We're back to our monthly meetings already, after a busy and fun-filled summer. The August membership tour was great, the three gardens were delightful and our thanks to Kay Wolfe and Howard Berg and their committee for orchestrating everything so beautifully. Additional thanks go to the Koopman's as well as Eldon for arranging the two private gardens. There's a possibility that one or both hosts of the private gardens will become members and they would be a terrific addition to our club. And, speaking of membership, although we garnered five or six new members during the biennial tour, that nevertheless, did not meet our expectations and we intend to remain diligent in developing membership strategies that will keep our club healthy. Please keep on the look-out for good quality prospects.

The Beren's Cabin landscaping plan has been approved and we are in the process of procuring the plants. We intend to begin some of the planting in September and will be asking for a few volunteers at our next meeting. This is, most definitely, an exciting endeavor.

We're fast-approaching the 60th anniversary celebration at the Arboretum on October 12th. At \$13 per person, it is the best value of the decade and you may be suspicious that we've juggled the books ala Enron and WorldCom. Fear not, we were indeed creative, but we did want to price the event so as to maximize our attendance. However, the down side of that is we do have limited capacity and I'd strongly encourage everyone to respond quickly with your reservation. Additionally, if anyone is looking for a ride or is volunteering to offer a ride, call Howard Berg as he will be coordinating that activity. See you soon.

## Thanks

I wish to thank all of the members who sent get well cards to Bob. When he began to focus his eyes I took the cards to him & we read the messages to him. He looked at them & although he could not express his feelings in words I know he appreciated them. I also wish to thank you for the sympathy cards and flowers. Bob truly loved gardening.

Lorraine Churilla

## **Email Change**

Audrey Grote and Mary Oelke new email Audreygrote@aol.com

Anne Buchanan ABRL@mn.rr.com

## **New Members**

Welcome to the following new members

Janice Lane 3141 James Ave S Minneapolis MN 55408 Ph 612-822-0229 email janicelane@earthlink.net

Bernadette Lindholm #411 1425 W 28th St Minneapolis MN 55408 Ph 612-813-1874

Elaine Spiegel 4814 West 41st Street St Louis Park MN 55416 Ph 952-927-9539 email spiegel.elaine.les@usgo.net

Judy Taylor 6220 2nd Ave S Richfield MN 55423 Ph 612-861-7372 email rosey4256@aol.com



## In memorium to Robert G. Churilla

By Howard Berg & Chuck Carlson



Bob a friend and a grower of roses



Robert (Bob) Churilla died July 21, 2002 at the age of 70 after being in hospitals and other care facilities for almost a year after his accident last fall.

Prior to his retirement he worked for many years as a government quality inspector at Honeywell, Aquacontrol and other businesses.

He was a native of NE Minneapolis and became a serious gardener in 1962. When He and Lorraine bought their first home, Lorraine wanted a few roses and that started the rose infatuation. Over the years their gardens also expanded with peonies, annuals, and perennials, but he will always be known as a rose grower extraordinary.

Bob joined our club in 1977 thus was a member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis for 25 years. He served as a director on the board for 3 years and President, Vice President and Past President for another 3 years. He also served on many committees and handled the dinner reservations for many years. With all this, you can see he served above the norm, and because of it he received the Bronze Metal in 1989.

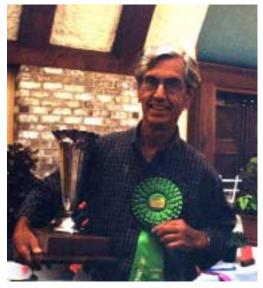
Bob was also a member and a past president of the Minnesota Rose Society and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. He was also a national director of the American Rose Society.

Bob and wife Lorraine graciously opened their garden and home for our club's functions and will be remembered as great gardeners.

We extend our sympathy to his family and particularly Lorraine. To many of us in the club he was affectionately known as Big Bob. God's blessing on you Big Bob and we pray you are surrounded in heaven by your beloved roses. ------



Morry Lindblom the show chairman and winner of a blue for a pot of impatients. Photo by Lloyd Wittstock



Bob Voigt winner of the Vegetable Sweepstakes Photo by Chuck



### Board Meeting Summary



Summarized from Ellyn Hosch's Secretarys Report

Meeting Date: 6 August 2002 Board members present: Nancy Bjerke, Carole Ann Brekke, Lynda Carlson, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Dave McKeen, Don Morgenweck, Warren Nordley and Jackie Overom.

#### Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

The July meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted by Dave Johnson. The preliminary results from the Biennial Tour indicate a profit greater than budgeted. A full report will be reported at the next Board meeting.

#### Membership Secretary's Report

As of 6 August 2002, we have 116 members. Four new candidates were approved for membership: Elaine Spiegel, Bernadette Lindholm, Janice Lane, and Judy Taylor. These applications resulted from the Biennial Tour and brings the total to 120 members.

#### **Committee Reports**

The Member Tour in August is sold-out.

The Board discussed the significant time investment required by club membership for the Biennial Tour. It was suggested that the Tour Committee review the overall structure of the tour, lessons learned from this past tour, and whether changes needed to be made to assure successful future tours.

#### **Old Business**

Landscaping of the Beren's cabin at the MN Landscape Arboretum is set to proceed. The intent is to start planting so that a dedication could be done concurrent with the 60th Anniversary luncheon on October 12. Volunteers will be solicited for the planting.

An overview of the 501 (c) 3 application process was provided. It will take a minimum of 6 months to obtain a non-profit status from the IRS. The Board approved creation of a committee to lead the application process. Ellyn Hosch and Dave Johnson will co-chair the committee.

The amount of the annual dues collected for the national club was refunded by check to club members. Checks were written and signed at the August board meeting.

#### **New Business**

Warren Nordley proposed a new committee focused on Publicity. This purpose of the new committee would be to assure that our club's activities are effectively made known to the public. It was noted that this committee would need to be added to the Directory, Handbook and the next printing of the brochure.

The Board agreed to change the date of the August 2003 Board meeting so that it did not coincide with National Night Out.

Nancy Bjerke will chair the October Board Meeting because Warren Nordley will be absent.

#### **Next Board Meeting**

The next board meeting will be held on 3 September at 7:00 PM at the home of Dave Johnson.



Mel Anderson in back of his 5 pots of Caladiums which were judged Best of Show Photo by Chuck





## Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

#### I Mulch, Therefore I Can

As I write this, I have just completed my annual leaf mulch ritual. It borders on the ridiculous: I gather leaves from the neighborhood in the fall; I store a large number of bags of leaves on the patio over the winter; I bag up even more leaves in the spring, and carry them all into the garage. When I get through most of the planting, I drag out the bags, six at a time, and spread the leaves over the driveway, then chop said leaves with the lawn mower. I then either distribute the chopped leaves directly to gardens as mulch, or bag them up again until I have time to put the mulch down.

It is backbreaking, dirty, smelly, sweaty and dusty work. It took me at least 12 hours to grind up 107 bags of leaves and bag them up again. They now sit in splendor on the driveway. As I nursed my aching feet and shoulders last night, I swore, "Never again." Again.

But I know I'll be back in the leaf shredding business next year. Because mulch allows me to garden lazily. It discourages the germination of annual weeds, which keeps the weeding down. It helps conserve soil moisture, which means fewer things will die when I fail to water. And it protects some sensitive plants (like tomatoes) from soil-borne fungal diseases. I really need a good layer of organic mulch in order to maintain my gardens with any semblance of order through the year.

And I prefer leaf mulch over anything else that I've been able to find easily: It's not too heavy, so I can carry it around the yard with relative ease (unless I fill the bags too full). It's finely shredded, so that it doesn't overpower the more delicate plantings. It's soft, so I can walk on it barefoot without worrying about getting slivers. It doesn't mold. It doesn't grow mushrooms. It's a nice natural color. The earthworms incorporate it into the soil. And, of course, it is cheap, unless you count the mess, the heavy labor and the potential marital stress.

Unfortunately, 107 bags of leaves don't generate enough mulch to cover all of my gardens for the whole summer. Here are some other things that I've tried over the years.

#### Grass clippings.

We collect our grass clippings and they go onto the gardens for mulch. Grass clippings are nice and fine, and they dry to a nice light color. And they are free. But they have definite drawbacks, too. They need to be spread very quickly, because a pile of grass clippings starts heating up quite fast, and you end up with a slimy, smelly mess. The neighbors downwind of you do not care for this. And clippings need to be spread in thin layers, for the same sliminess reason. Also, they break down quite quickly, so new applications need to be made periodically throughout the season.

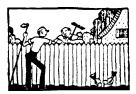
#### Cocoa Bean Mulch.

This is very cool stuff. It has a nice fine texture that sets off delicate specimens. And it smells like chocolate. But it's not perfect. For one thing, it's not free! At \$6-\$8 per bag, a large garden can require a significant investment. And the dark color can absorb a lot of sunshine and heat the garden up more than you might want. Also, it needs to be spread more thinly than other mulches, or else it can get moldy. Which may reduce its ability to retain moisture and smother weeds. Also, chipmunks may chew through a bag left on the patio, spreading cocoa bean hulls all over the patio. Or so I've heard.

#### Wood, Chips and Shreded.

I can't exactly explain why, but I just

<sup>(</sup>Continued on Page 9)



## 60th Anniversary Musings

Clips from past newsletters selected by Howard Berg, Historian

#### 60 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 10,1942

The club held no meetings in September as the Program chairman, Herb Kahlert, had been called to Washington to assist in the war effort. A statment found in the newsletter, *It* makes no difference whether you are rich man or poor man, professional or business man, boss or employee, We all have a common interest and hobby in gardening.

#### **50 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1952**

The fall indoor meetings were held at France Hasty Tasty. The program was "A practical demonstration of a flower show.

The fall flower show was on September 20, 1952 at Park board Greenhouse.

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society held its 86th Annual Convention at the Curtis Hotel on September 26 and 27.

MGCA charter presented to Men's Garden Club of Richfield, in the meeting room of Bud's Cafe. This club eventually became part of MGCM.

#### 25 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1977

Saturday and Sunday September 10 and 11 is the MGCM Annual Flower and Vegetable Show in the Great Hall of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Also on Saturday we had our regular Garden Club meeting with Dr. Francis deVos as the speaker. For 16 years, he served as horticulturist and assistant director of the National Arboretum in Washington D. C. and was Director of the Chicago Botanical Garden before coming to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum after Dr. Leon Snyder retired.

#### **15 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1987**

The September 8, 1987 meeting, was held at Pershing Park Center, at 6 P.M. price \$6.00.

Program by Julius Wadekamper talked on Lilies from Borboleta Gardens in Faribault. Nate Siegel was awarded a honorary membership to MGCM. Two members, O. C. Turnquist and Leon Snyder died this year. A color picture and write-up of the Carleton Nelson and

their garden appeared on the front page of the Star and Tribune's July 30 Community section. August 6 a color picture of Phyllis Gulde in their garden appeared.

At Leon Snyder's Memorial Service his grandson wrote and read a poem, Part of it went, ".... He was a smart man. He loved to garden and he loved to make puzzles. He was fun to be around. ...." Over 400 people attended his Memorial Service at the Arboretum.

#### **10 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1992**

The dinner meeting, was held on Tuesday September 8, 1992, 6 P.M. Program was How did your garden grow and answers to all your gardening questions? A panel of selected MGCM members who are also Master Gardeners, discussed the summer's problems and responded to questions. A report of the flower and Vegetable Show was included in the newsletter. The following individuals were the winners.

- National Vegetable Award (Green Bean) Eldon Hugelen
- National Flower Award (Marigold) Lloyd Mikkelson
- Albert R. Blackbourn Trophy (Flower Sweepstakes) Dave Johnson
- Tom Foley Memorial Trophy (vegetable Sweepstakes) Kent Petterson
- Robert L. Smith Memorial Trophy (best showing by a first time exhibitor) Lloyd Mikkelson

#### 5 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1997

The September dinner meeting was held







# Food Flower & Foto Show 2002

### **Food & Flower**

By Chuck Carlson (Info supplied by Mary Maynard)

#### FLOWER AND VEGETABLE WRAPUP

The tables had a good variety of flowers, vegetables, potted plants and arrangements. It is always amazing how our members come up with so many different entries. The place looked great. Congratulations to all who entered and to the committee headed by Morry Lindblom. A great show. The only disappointment is that there aren't more of our members who enter and have some fun with a little competition for those blue ribbons.

A summary of the major awards is listed below.

#### **Best of Show:**

Collection of 5 caladiums — Mel Anderson Vegetable Sweepstakes:

Bob and Mavis Voigt

**Flower Sweepstakes:** 

Mary Maynard

Champion Vegetable:

Eggplant 'Purple Rain' — Bob and Mavis Voigt

#### **Reserve Champion Vegetable:**

Roma tomato 'Juliet' — Kent Petterson

National Vegetable:

Pepper 'Sweet Banana Red' — Bob and Mavis Voigt

**Champion Flower:** Collection of 5 caladiums — Mel Anderson

**Reserve Champion Flower:** 

Platycodon 'Komachi' — Eldon Hugelen **National Flower:** 

Petunia 'Silver Wave' — Marilyn Brummer



Foto

By Lloyd Wittstock

#### TENTH ANNUAL PHOTO WRAPUP

This year, the tenth since our little competition began, we looked for 20 people to enter. In fact, there were 23 entrants, including 6 non-members and a couple of members who tried it for their first time. Most had prints to offer, but six also entered slides. The numbers were impressive—more than 400 entries overall-and it took our four judges all morning to talk it over, refuel with coffee and... judge.

Contributions in the 14 categories were representative of local members gardens, and exciting tours from the gardens of the Twin Cities to those of the Netherlands, as well as to the planes of Kenya, the swamps of South Carolina, the deserts of Arizona. The first states were represented by images of Pennsylvania and South Carolina. Alaska and Hawaii were well represented, too, and all the points between.

Although much of the subject matter was familiar garden material, the winning photo was Frank Fitzgerald's closeup of a succulent, its points looking for all the world like ranks of steep mountains.

Look for the slides and prints at the September meeting—they by themselves are worth coming to the meeting to see. Look in particular at the board displaying the nonwinners, and you will see the depth of talent that's out there. I don't know how the judges can decide in some of the categories (but I know they give careful consideration to each entry.)

For those thinking of next year, the most represented categories included perennials, bulbous plants, trees (trees, shrubs and woody vines), groups of cultivated plants, and natural landscapes. Categories not as crowded were

*(Continued on page 10)* 





### CONFESSIONS CONTINUED

#### (Continued from page 6)

don't like wood-based mulch. It's too big, I guess. And it feels harsh underfoot. But I could live with those features (at least in more remote parts of the borders), but it doesn't seem like the plants do as well with wood chip mulch as with other types. Probably just my imagination.

#### **Compost From Rice Hulls.**

I learned about this from Don Engebretson's Renegade Gardener web site (http://www.renegadegardener.com/). He touts composted rice hulls as a good amendment for clay soils since the rice hulls have kind of sharp edges and hold soil particles apart. Rather than try to incorporate these into my little section of clay, I have just put them on top of the soil as mulch. Will report later how this works. It feels kind of like coffee grounds, and is dark brown when wet, more tan when dry.

#### Peat Moss.

I tried this as a mulch one year, with mixed results. I applied it about 2 inches deep in one part of the garden, and it worked pretty well as a mulch — keeping weeds at bay and retarding moisture evaporation from the soil. But bales of peat moss are heavy and expensive, and it's a pain to have to separate and fluff up all that peat moss, just to pour it on the ground. But my bigger concern was its tendency to repel moisture when it got really dry — water drops from the sprinkler would just bead up and roll away.

#### Shredded Paper.

Phil got a paper shredder for his birthday one year, and I have used shredded paper in some inconspicuous parts of the garden. It looks like shredded paper, which is a drawback. And, of course, the location in the garden where I tried it was so inconspicuous that I have no idea how well it worked as mulch. I might try it again, in thin layers, covered by leaves or grass clippings for camouflage.

#### Rock.

Never, never, never, never, never, I have watched too many of my neighbors haul in tons of rock, schlep it all over their property, enjoy it for a year or two, then start pulling weeds out of it, then pull it all up and wash it and put it back down, then, finally, haul it all out and get rid of it. I remember reading somewhere that recent studies have shown that rock is not as bad for plants as some people have said — it doesn't heat up the ground as much as we thought — but it just seems so very unnatural to me.

OK, time to get back to work. Those 107 bags of leaves, now 46 bags of mulch are calling, spread me, spread me. Editors Note: Why dont you store the mulch rather than bags of leaves? Being a so called lazy gardener, you would only have to schlep around and store less than half as many bags.



### Checks

Dave Johnson

Refund checks for dues, as the result of disaffiliation, were sent out in August to those members that our records show had already paid such dues for 2002. The checks were from \$17 to \$22 per person, depending on whether yours was an individual membership or a discounted spousal membership. New members and life members not paying these dues, do not receive a check. If you have any questions contact our treasurer, Dave Johnson.



### **Musings Continued**

#### (Continued from page 7)

at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, on Tuesday September 9,1997, 6:30 P.M. The program was by Dorothy Johnson former Executive Director of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society on gardens she has visited in Minnesota. It was reported that the July tour attendance was 120 and the August tour realized 75 on the Sunday tour. The specimens of the FFF show taxed the capacity of the auditorium with 979 entries, 552 flower entries, 69 food entries and 358 photo entries. The major winners were:

- Flower Sweepstakes Award Mary Maynard
- Best of Show Chuck Carlson -Lisianthus "Blue Rim
- Vegetable Sweepstakes-Bob Voigt

It was reported the need to find a new editor for The Garden Spray for 1998 as Andy Marlow has well earned his retirement to work on other club projects.

### **Foto Continued**

(Continued from page 8)

vegetables, wildflowers in the wild, roses, club activities, and series.

Once again we thank Bob Livingston, Andy Marlow, and Joe Stenger, as well as new judge Larry Larson, for their efforts.

## Encephalitis in Minnesota

It has been reported that there are cases of encephalitis in Minnesota. It is a warning to all of us gardeners. It has been said that the mosquito who carries this is born in water that is in containers. Take care of any you have in your area. Examples are cans you have in the garden, holes in trees, backyard garden pools bird baths etc. Empty them, fill them or make sure you have fish in the pools. Bird baths should be emptied and refilled daily.



Mavis and Bob Voigt, winners of the Vegetable Sweepstakes and Best Vegetable. Photo by Lloyd Wittstock Mary Maynard and Margaret Hibberd Showing Two of their blue ribbon winners Photo by Lloyd Wittstock Marilyn Brummer winner of the National Flower. Photo by Chuck

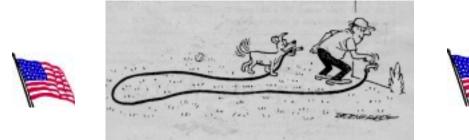
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### **The September Dinner Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2002 Permanent Reservations are in effect. 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. Reservations are necessary by Friday, September 6. Call or email Carole Ann Brekke (phone 952-435-6029) (E-mail numsix24@usfamily.net) for your reservation if you are not on the permanent reservations list or you need to cancel your permanent reservation.

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.



### **Reservation for 60th Anniversary Luncheon**

my Guest



DATE: Saturday, October 12th, 2002 PLACE: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum TIME:11:15 AM Cabin garden dedication TIME:Noon Luncheon COST: \$13.00 each RESERVE:\_\_\_\_\_ places for:

\_\_\_\_\_

and

Send reservation and the fee to: Walter Gustafson 3812 West 57th Street Edina, MN 55410-2333

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



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#### THE SPRAY

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