

January's Dinner Meeting

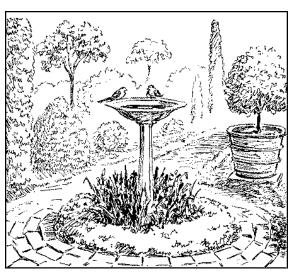
Date: Tuesday, 11, 2001

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.

Call in your reservation if you are not on the permanent reservations list. See page 11 for reservation and cancellation details.

The Program England's: Gardens, Castles and Chelsea

Have you ever wanted to see the Chelsea show and England's unique gardens? If so this is the program for you. Our own members Peter Olin and Lloyd Weber have collaborated and developed a program of their experiences on the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's excursion to London, England. The trip was hosted by Peter who has a wealth of knowledge. Lloyd is a photographer that won our own photo contest so you know the slides will be good. It will be a program that will be interesting, informative and enjoyable. The photographs will include unique plant material, garden design and garden history. For those of you that don't know about Chelsea, it is the largest garden and flower show in the world. Don't miss this one or you will miss a memorable evening.



Future Club Events

January 9: Dinner meeting February 13: Dinner meeting March 20: Dinner meeting April 10: Dinner meeting May 8: Plant Sale & Auction

June 12: Dinner meeting

July 19-22: National Convention

August 12: Club Tour

August 18-19: Flower, Food & Foto Show

September 11:Dinner meeting October 9: Dinner Meeting November 13: Dinner meeting

December 4: Holiday Party



Editorial Enticements

Chuck Carlson Editor

Happy New Year and best wishes in this new year of gardening. We are in the first year of the new millennium and as our slogan for the convention in July says, I hope you all have "Gardening Fun in 2001".

We just had another committee meeting for the coming convention. Initial planning is well on its way and I am sure all of us will be asked to help in many ways and I am sure you will respond.

When you read this newsletter you will see that the Confessions of a Lazy Gardener has again graced our pages after a two month absence. Mary's words have always been fun to read but this article on developing a community garden is a good example for all of us. Not only that, it is in the spirit of our club which is to promote gardening and have fun doing it.

This is also the first month of Carole Ann's year as being our president. We wish her well as being our leader. She did a fine job as the vice president and the programs she arranged this past year were great and something our new vice president, Warren Nordley, can use as a mark to aim at. We also welcome Wayne Engleman in his first year as a new director on the board.

This is also the first month that Ritchie Miller is our past president, Thanks for leading the club and the board this past year. We all owe you our gratitude. We also owe the board our thanks for managing our clubs affairs during this past year. Thanks for your efforts. Give a special thanks to Kay Wolfe who is leaving the board after serving as a director for six years. Thanks Kay. Also this is the first

year in a long time that Eldon Hugelen will not be on the board. He spent four years as the Secretary and three years as vice president, president and past president. He is truly a dedicated MGCM member, thanks Eldon.

An article appeared in the Star Tribune a few days ago which stated the first plant DNA had been mapped. A few days later I received a note from one of our members, Merl Thomas Pulley. He passed on a few quotes from an article in the December 2000 Harper's magazine, as follows. "The cornerstone of almost every story about the science of genetics is the central significance of the DNA molecule-the genome which contains the complete set of instructions for making an organism.

In the case of mammals, there are about 3 billion base pair of nucleotides, each one of which forms a rung on the twisted ladder that makes up the DNA molecule.

Self-assembly is carried out according to each cell's genomic instructions, instructions that are somehow generally available for each cell to read an decipher.

The wonder, then, is that the genome operates everywhere and always in the same way. The genome is the creative machine working always in the identical style, no matter what the organism: yeast, lily, fly, elephant, or human .

Another confidence-shaking fact is this: the number of nucleotides in the genome also varies wildly, and again for no perceptible reasons. The human genome has 3 billion base pairs, the tiger lily has 100 billion, over thirty times as many; the lowly salamander has fewer than the lily but fifteen times more than the human." Merl commented this is something to think about when you plant those lilies.



President's Column

MGCM President Carole Ann Brekke

Happy New Year! Were your holidays as bright as the song says? Did you miss the Party at Klier's? We missed you! The tables were ready, beverages, cookies and meatballs were waiting and the fragrance of pine bows filled the air. In years past as many as 100 came, this year only about 35 members and guests attended. Howard invited us all as he has done for years, just as his father did. We were busy with our pruners, our hands covered with sap, chatting as we worked. Chuck, Eldon, Mary, Tim, Robert, Bob and I were there along with wives, children, grandchildren and friends. It was a great time, a tradition for many of us. A nice way to enter the holiday season, not to mention the award winning wreaths that we brought home. Klier's Garden Center has set aside the space, time, and staff to help us each year so our club can make wreaths, swags and any centerpiece you can create. Why not mark your calender for this year, November 23, 2001, and join us for the party.

The year 2000 has ended, and so has my year as your Vice President. Did you enjoy the programs as much as I did? Water Gardening with Soni Forsman, Daylilies with Norm Baker and a trip to his growing fields, Anything But Green: Variegated Plants with Chuck Levine, and Orchids by Steve Gonzales were programs presented with knowledge, humor and a passion for the subject.

Our own members gave us direction and inspiration in the art of Garden Photography and ordering plant material via the mail. These programs were filled with just the information and encouragement I needed to try new avenues in gardening. Thank you, Lloyd and Eldon for sharing your expertise with us! It was a very fun year for me, as Vice President. Planning the programs, the Dayton-Bachman trip, helping with the Plant Auction, being a host at the Weber Garden during the Public tour, helping with the August Tour and Tea with the St. Louis Park group, and winning a few ribbons at the Foto Show. Yes, it has been a very good year for me! How about you?

I am honored to be your President and look forward to the coming new year. With the National Convention in mind, let's be available and ready to do our part to make July 19-22, 2001, a joy for all who come visit us in Minnesota. Remember, it's "Gardening Fun in 2001!!"





Future Board meeting

Tuesday,Jan 2, 7:30 PM

Board of Directors meeting Carole Ann Brekke's house



Last Months **Program**

By Chuck Carlson

The Holiday Party

Y2K for MGCM ended with a delightful party. Again, we owe the committee headed by Jan Johnson an appreciative thank you. We first socialized a bit with some hot apple cider served by Ruth Berg. Next we all moved to the dining area where we were greeted by delightful piano music supplied by our own Henry Halvorson. The hall was decked out in many boughs of green, eight poinsettias red, six wreaths of pine, and one gorgeous tree. The tables were set in red centered with a candle surrounded by small poinsettias. Each year it is a site to behold and a striking contrast to our meetings all year in the undecorated stark hall.

After an invocation by the pastor of our host church, the turkey parade started the proceedings. One lone baked turkey was paraded through the audience carried by this year's head turkey our president Ritchie Miller. On his trek he attracted other turkeys to his flock, this years board of officers and directors, who followed him to next years president and future head turkey, Carole Ann Brekke. After presentation of the bird to Carole Ann, the dinner officially started and of course it was a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

After dinner, we were entertained by the Grace Notes. A delightful singing trio who sang both traditional holiday music and a few of the old songs of the forties and fifties. The audience also was able to participate with a few sing-alongs. Ritchie also was featured as Santa Baby. The evening was concluded with the giving of awards; the table poinsettias for the ladies attending and a drawing for larger poinsettias and wreaths. I hope all of you enjoyed the evening, I did and we all owe our thanks to the committee for arranging the evening.

Year 2000 Awards

Some of these were given at the Holiday party and some will be given at the January dinner meeting.

Flower, Food & Foto (FFF) Awards

- Albert R. Blackbourne Trophy Presented to Henry Orfield. It is
 given to the Flower Sweepstakes
 winner of the flower part of the FFF.
 It is given to the person who
 garnered the most total points for all
 the winning entries in the flower
 division.
- Tom Foley Memorial Trophy Presented to Phil Peterson. It is given
 to the Vegetable Sweepstakes winner
 of the food part of the FFF. It is
 given to the person who garnered
 the most total points for all the
 winning entries in the vegetable
 division.
- Photography Trophy -Presented to Henry Orfield. It is given to the Photo Sweepstakes winner of the Foto part of the FFF. It is given to the person who garnered the most total points for the winning entries in the Photographic division.

Club Garden Tours Award

Lehman Trophy Presented to Kay Wolfe. It is
 selected by the tour committee and
 given to the garden of merit on the
 club tour. (Continued on page 10)





Board Meeting Summary

Margaret Hibberd, Secretary

November 28

All members were present plus the two new board members for 2001, Wayne Engleman and Warren Nordley also attended.

President's report:

Ritchie declines to be a life member in national in the interest of saving the club money. The 2001 budget was sent to Spray for publication and it will be voted on at the annual meeting in January. We need someone do to the installation of officers at the January meeting. Carole Ann is working on the 2001 schedule and it will be ready for printing in the Membership Directory which will be ready for the January meeting. Carole Ann as president elect needs to get the nominating and auditing committees selected, so they can be announced at the January meeting. MSHS is looking for donations and they are enforcing the rule of 100% affiliation for a club our size in order to have a seat on the MSHS Board. Ritchie talked to Kent Petterson about the idea of an intern vs. the scholarships with the money we collect. From the discussion on this, it became apparent at the board meeting that committees and their functions should be well defined, i.e. the Perennial Garden Committee should be well defined before it can get a big project like an intern started. Bill Hull is back in his home and has a nice plant propagation set-up available and maybe it could be sold or auctioned to benefit the club.

Vice Presidents report:

Only one committee chair yet to be finalized. Board thought it was OK to make a donation to the American Orchid Society as Steve Gonzales had requested in lieu of payment for his great presentation in November.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

These reports were given and approved

Membership Secretary's report:

There are 120 paid members for 2001, of which 72 joined the MSHS through MGCM and 48 chose not to join through MGCM. One new member will be voted on under new business.

Committee Reports:

Calendars:

Dave reported that Don Trocke will co-chair the committee for 2001. So far 290 have been sold with orders for 38 more, for 328 total thus far.

2001 Convention meeting:

Another committee meeting was held on November 30.

Old Business: none New Business

New Member:

Becky Barnes was approved for membership.

Garden Tours:

A motion was passed to clarify which gardens on tour are to be considered for the Lehman Trophy. Be it Therefore Resolved that Tour Committee is hereby instructed to award the Lehman trophy annually to the best members garden on the member tours. This would then eliminate any gardens on the public tour which are all worthy of an award. Handbook:

It was passed that the handbook be known as the Members Handbook and it be funded out of the Membership Committees budget. (Continued on page 11)



Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

A Community Park Project

I'd like to tell you about the great fun I've had in our neighborhood park over the past three years. It's a small thing, but we have actually been able to do some fun gardening and we

haven't had to do the hardest part of the work or pay very many of the bills!

It all started when our St. Louis Park Neighborhood Association invited the City Forester (also known as the Manager of Grounds and Natural Resources) to a meeting to talk about all the tree damage done in the 1998 storms. (As I recall, he said it was "bad".) During the question and answer session after his presentation, he casually mentioned that the city welcomed

volunteers who wanted to plant and maintain gardens in the parks. And, there was generally money available through Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) grants to pay for plants, etc. He's probably sorry he said that, because we took him up on his word and proposed a small perennial garden.

In our proposal, we agreed to plant and maintain the garden if the City would till and amend the bed, water it throughout the season, and pay for the plants through the NRP grants. This meant that, while City employees were getting dusty and dirty tilling the area and applying compost, I was SHOPPING at Bachmans, Ambergate, Kelley & Kelley, etc.

It took about ten of us an hour or so to plant everything, and we mulched it with a thick layer of shredded leaves to keep the weeds down. After that, all we did was a little weeding now and then, and we had an instant garden, thanks to the annuals we planted in the spaces around our perennials.

We had so much fun doing the garden that we decided to expand it the second year. Another round of the City doing the dirty work and the volunteers

doing more shopping. This year,

we applied Preen before mulching, so the weeding was extremely minimal. (Needless to say, the NRP grant paid for the Preen. It is such a deal!) The City has continued to pay for plants, although many of us also donate annuals and new perennials from our own gardens. We have tried to avoid plants that are subject to disease (like monarda and phlox that get mildew), and focus on slightly unusual plants. So we have willow amsonia and iris pallida and

plume poppies and ironweed and knautia macedonica and four of the big sedums and at least ten different grasses.

By the middle of the summer this year, it was clear that we will soon be able to divide some of our bigger clumps and offer them at the Neighborhood Plant Exchange. It also clear that we need someone with an artist's eye to suggest rearrangement. But we have plenty of time to do that.

This garden has been popular (Continued On page 7)



Community Garden

(Continued from Page 6) enough that the neighborhood has suggested adding a butterfly garden — maybe as soon as next year. I am putting together my shopping list already — just in case!

The other thing we've done was a little more complicated and took a few more people to get done, but has been very successful. Many members have probably heard me brag about our pond project (and those of you who are sick of the subject can skip this part of the article). We have a storm water holding pond in our neighborhood park. It has woods on two sides, and is open on the other two sides. It was dredged a few years back, and since then the open sides had grown up into a thicket of nettles, thistles and giant ragweed. By the middle of June, it was impossible to see the pond at all because of the eight foot high wall of vegetation. Armed with "Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality" by Carroll Henderson, Carolyn Dindorf, and Fred Rozumalski, I proposed reworking the longest side (an area about 150 x 35 feet, on a pretty steep slope). The "City" just happened to have some money put aside to pay for native landscaping in the area, and the Neighborhood Association was enthusiastic about getting it done. So I wrote up a blurb in the neighborhood newsletter, and got a phone call from a landscape architect who lives in the neighborhood whose firm just happened to have been involved in the wetlands planting by Lake Calhoun. Our architect got in touch with Ron Bowen, the owner of Prairie Restoration, and Ron told us what we needed to do to prepare the area, and gave us a good deal on plants and seeds. Our City Forester also got on board with the idea, and, once again, did most of the hard work. In the spring, his crew sprayed the area with Rodeo (a nonselective herbicide certified for safe use in aquatic areas) twice. Then he arranged for the Fire Department to do a prescription burn of the area. (I missed it, but I understand the air quality was not ideal the day they did that burn.) Then the City crew rototilled the area. Since the area is steeply sloped and the soil is very soft (a lot of silt from the dredging), the crew got stuck a couple of times, and dispositions were frayed — but it got done.

Then, one Saturday morning, 24 volunteers armed with trowels and fortified with donuts and lemonade went to work. Prairie Restoration brought 2,600 plants and a whole lot of seed, and the area got planted in two hours. It was a wonderful morning.

The City helped us keep the area watered throughout the summer, and the plantings got very well established. Weeds got very well established, too, and it was a challenge to keep the area weeded, especially since we weren't all that sure what was a weed and what wasn't. So we pulled out the obvious ones — thistles, giant ragweed, lambsquarters, motherwort, pigweed (some excellent specimens), nettles, etc. and left the rest. Even in the first year, we had wildflowers blooming (helenium, asters, sunflowers, rudbeckia, liatris). The grasses got well-established and flowed gently with the breeze. And we could see the pond, with the ducks, geese and turtles, all summer.

It's been very rewarding, and I've learned a lot with these two projects. Here are some highlights.

- It doesn't hurt to ask. Not every municipality is as flexible as St. Louis Park, but many cities welcome volunteers, and are looking for people to spearhead projects.
- 2. There are often more resources in the community than you think. For

Continued on page 11)



Club News

TGOA Photo Contest

The rules for the 2001 TGOA/MGCA Photo contest have been delivered. If you didn't receive a copy and want to enter the contest I can supply you a copy. It is a slide only contest and entries are due March 12,2001. This is your chance to see your entries at the convention in July since all blue ribbon winners are shown at one of the dinners. It is also your chance to get a picture in the calendar or the magazine. So enter that favorite slide and maybe you will become a winner.

New Member

Becky Barnes is the latest member accepted by the club. Welcome to the group. Her reason for joining is to increase her knowledge of gardening. It is hoped that she does increase her knowledge and it is hoped that she also increases ours and others with her knowledge.

Becky lives in Brooklyn Park with her spouse Robert. They are adding a water feature to their landscape and sometime we hope to see the results.

Gone South

Weather you call them snowbirds, beach bums or just can't take the cold weather people. These are the ones that have left our 30 below wind chills for warmer climes. Lee Gilligan, (Dec-Apr), Wawa Thorson (Jan-March), Dave and Delores Johnson (3 weeks in January) and Merl T Pulley (I

2001 Budget

Committee Controlled

	Income	Expense	Net
Arbor Day		250	(250)
Awards		200	(200)
Calender	1600	800	800
Club Tour	750	750	0
FFF		800	(800)
Newsletter		1400	(1400)
Holiday Party	2610	2610	0
Hospitality	6075	6165	(90)
Membership		700	(700)
Trial Garden		150	(150)
Photography		130	(130)
Slide Show	100	50	50
Plant Auction	6600	3900	2700
Program		400	(400)
Sunshine		300	(300)
Valley Fair	2250		2250

Board Controlled

	Income	Expense	Net
MGCM Dues	1200		1200
MSHS Dues	2200	2200	0
TGOA Dues	2400	2400	0
Region Dues	240	240	0
Arb.Membership		60	(60)
Arb Donation		300	(300)
LPDC Donation		300	(300)
MSHS Donation		200	(200)
Bank Account	350	100	250
Hon. Mem. Dues		550	(550)
Insurance		300	(300)
Pres. Contingency	7	500	(500)
Director Support		400	(400)
Office Supplies		200	(200)
Legal Expense		100	(100)
Raffles	100		100
Totals	26475	26455	20

All figures in dollars

() denotes a net loss

This budget will be voted on during the January business meeting.



More Club News

Kathryn McKeen

Did you notice that Kathryn Mc-Keen had her poem, A Devoted Gardner's Wife, printed in The Gardeners of America newsletter. Kathryn is the spouse of David and both were hosts on last fall's garden tour last year. The poem was copied from our newsletter. Congratulations!

Patti Weber

Also we have another member making the news. Patti Weber's dog was featured with a picture in the Minneapolis Tribune's Pets of the week feature. Her dog and three others were all sitting around a decorated holiday table waiting to be served. What I couldn't figure out, is how they were able to get four dogs sitting on chairs long enough to take the picture.

Spray via email

The Spray has gone digital. All those with email will receive the newsletter via email. In January you will receive both a hard copy and an email copy but In February and beyond only an email copy will be sent. Thus you have a month to configure your computer to receive it in all its glory. The newsletter received by email will be in the same form as a hard copy so nothing will be lost when you receive it via email. You will be able to read it on the screen or print it on your printer. You will need a software program called Acrobat Reader. Most computers are configured to have this piece of software but in case you don't have it, a

free download is available on the internet.

If you don't have it go to www.adobe.com to get a free download. After getting the Adobe home page, look for a button titled Get Acrobat Reader, click on it. Find the correct version for your computer click on it and follow the directions for a free download. This will realize a savings for the club of approximately \$15 per year per member receiving it via email. We hope that receiving it by email will be acceptable to you. If for some reason, this is a hardship and you just can't make it work let me know at Chuck@Carlson.org and I will send you a copy by regular mail. If you are only semi computer literate maybe someone can help you get started. Your mailing label will also note if you are on the email list by an "e" behind your name

Roger Koopmans

Rodger was hospitalized in a Rochester hospital for 17 days. Given many tests that found nothing. After his temperature returned to normal he was sent home. We pray that his problems will disappear and he will be back to normal shortly.

Russ Smith

Russ has been in and out of the hospital. He had a tumor removed and was given the news that it was cancerous but of the kind that didn't spread. He says he feels good now and we hope that will continue.





Start Onion Seeds Indoors

Deborah Brown, Extension Horticulturist

Many gardeners who plant onions from small bulbs or "sets" each spring are disappointed later in summer when their plants go to seed and stubbornly refuse to stop blooming. Once that happens, they don't increase much in size.

Onions are biennials. They normally bloom and set seed in their second growing season. Since sets have already experienced one growing season (granted, a short one) they're primed to reproduce after you plant them in the garden. Harvest them as green onions or use them in cooking. Don't count on them for long term storage.

If you want to grow large, firm onions for use next fall and winter, sow seeds late February or early March, indoors. Once they sprout, keep onion seedlings in a sunny, south-facing window, or better yet, a few inches below fluorescent lights.

Transplant the little, grass-like seedlings outdoors as soon as garden soil is dry enough to work thoroughly. If your soil is fertile and well-drained, there's plenty of sunlight, and you water regularly throughout the summer, you should harvest beautiful, large "keeping" onions next fall.

This article was reprinted with permission from the Yard & Garden Line News, a program of the University of Minnesota Extension Service. Get answers to your gardening questions at: www.extension.umn.edu

Awards

(continued From page 4)

The President's Award

 Dr. Joseph T. Cohen Presidents Cup-Presented to Chuck Carlson This award is selected by the president and given to someone not on the board who has provided service to the president.

Service Award

 Bronze Medal - To be presented at the January meeting. It is an award that can be won only once and awarded to a person who has served the club above the norm over many years. It is selected by the last five winners.

Special Awards

 A Special Award- presented to Dave Johnson. This special award was for Dave's work on the biennial public garden tours. Which since 1991 has earned about \$30,000 dollars for scholarships. To date we have presented 28 one thousand dollar scholarships.

Scholarships Awarded

 This year three \$1000 scholarships were awarded to; David Harris, Jean Marie Modo and Susan Wilkins

Industrial Beautification Award

Presented to Doctor Dave's
 Dentistry on 4221 Minnetonka
 Boulevard in St. Louis Park. . This award is given to a non-residential garden of distinction and selected by the Awards and Trophy Committee.

Green Thumb & Rookie Awards

These will be presented at the January dinner meeting.



Community Garden

(Continued from page 7)

instance, I wouldn't have know where to start with planning the plantings at the pond, but our landscape architect knew exactly what to do and made it look easy.

- 3. There might be more money than you think there is, either from donations or from city sources.
- 4. A lot of people want to make a contribution to their neighborhoods, but don't know how to start. Give them something to work on that will obviously make a difference to the neighborhood, and they'll show up.
- 5. It takes less work than you think it will.
- 6. If you till up nettles that aren't completely dead, each little piece of nettle root will produce a new nettle plant.
- 7. It is not a good idea to pull out nettles without gloves and long sleeves.

Editors note: This doesn't sound like something a "Lazy Gardener" would do and then even confess about it. Thanks Mary, for your example.

Board meeting

(Continued fron page 5)

Laptop computer for the Auction:

The Auction Committee needs to find someone with a laptop to be used to record business at the auction.
Thompson Donation:

Clyde Thompson donated to MGCM the \$50 the Roseville Garden club gave him for touring his garden. Thanks, Clyde!

Purchase of MGCM Signs::

It was moved and approved that we buy 100 signs to give to new members and sell to current members for \$5. This will be a task for the membership committee.

Departing Board Members:

It was approved we commend Eldon Hugelen and Kay Wolfe for their many years of service on the MGCM Board.

Rookie of the Year:

The rookie of the year was nominated and approved by the board.

Reservation Details

Call Mary Maynard to make your reservation or to adjust the permanent list. Check your mailing label. If it has a "p" or "pp" (one or two reservations) you are on the permanent list. If there is no "p" on your mailing label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must notify Mary Maynard by the Friday before the dinner meeting to be assured a place at dinner.

For you people getting the spray via e-mail you too will have a p or pp behind your name in the "to" column of the e-mail heading

If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Mary by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the cost of your dinner. Mary can be reached at 952-926-7506. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person or send her an e-mail at mary.j.maynard@healthpartners.com. If you have reserved a dinner and on Monday or Tuesday you have an emergency where you find you can't attend, call Howard Berg. If the reservation can be sold to latecomers or drop-ins, you will not be billed.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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THE SPRAY

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members.

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