



'Snowman' 2012

Photo, Mande Frisk



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Photo, Minnesota Historical Society

Lake Owasso Garden Club

Happy New Year, 2013

Holiday Christmas Dinner Party, WOW!!!

*We met at the Flame in Rosedale and had a wonderful time.
There was socializing, good food and drink and presents for all.*

Donations for "Bridging" ---- Our club collected \$275.00

*Next Meeting is January 14, 2013 -- 6:30 Social, 7:00 Program
We will be at the Keller-Williams Realty Building, 2680 Snelling Ave. N. # 100
Program*

The Gardeners Guide to Peonies -- Harvey Buchite. This complete visual peony guide (94 slides) will introduce you to the growing needs of the different types of peonies from garden peonies to tree peonies and the wild botanical species and a generous, colorful selection of each type. The program includes information on planting, successful growing, seed

propagation, disease identification, control and moving a peony out of season. You'll discover which peonies are more suited to partial shade conditions also.

Harvey Buchite and his wife Brigitte are the owners of Hidden Springs Flower Farm in Spring Grove, Minnesota. They introduced the now famous hardy Wisteria Blue Moon to the gardening world which was a chance seedling given to them as a wedding gift. Harvey is a popular speaker and garden writer and has spoken to groups from Portland Maine to Portland Oregon and both Canada and Europe. His plant interests include peonies of which he grows over 600 varieties, alpine plants, daylilies, martagon lilies, hostas, and a wide range of other perennials and flowering woody plants including magnolias, azaleas and rhododendrons. He has a horticulture degree from the University of Minnesota and was an extension educator before working as a partner at Rice Creek Gardens in Blaine, MN a nursery well known for its 2,300 different alpine plants and unusual perennials. He has been an active member of many local and national plant societies and is a past president and current board member of the American Peony Society. He has grown alpine plants for many years and visited their native habitats in the Austrian Alps and the Canadian Rockies. His publications both on the web and in print are well researched allowing him to have a great depth of knowledge about the subjects he speaks on, but more than that he loves sharing garden information from actually growing the plants and in many cases breeding them for better adaptability to the northern landscape and gardens.

Presidents Message

Dear Gardening Friends,

With greenery now limited to the indoors, I am looking forward to the January program on peonies and seeing slides of peonies with double blooms, single blooms, Japanese forms and tree forms! If you have a shady yard, Harvey Buchite will guide you to varieties that will work. It will start us dreaming of our spring gardens.

During these short daylight times, I crave light and beautiful plants. An outing to Como Conservatory to soak in warmth, greenery, flowers and humidity is wonderful. Another plant fix is a trip to Bachman's in Minneapolis. Lunch in the green house sunshine surrounded by phalaenopsis orchids and blooming house plants warms my body and calms my mind. I'd love to hear of your favorite local getaways to a feed for greenery.

I'm looking forward to being with you for a wonderful LOGC year!

Wendy Lucas

Treasurer's report

by Kirsten Engelbrecht

TCF balance was \$9,683.52 as of December 20, 2012.

Minnesota State Horticultural Society Presents

The **Spring at the Inn 2013** on **Thursday, March 28** at the **Lake Elmo Inn Event Center**.

Contact: **Char Ethan** if you are interested for more details. **651-484-6473**. char.ethen@comcast.net

Do You Have A Shovel?

by Woody Chips

It was a fine fall day and feeling like I needed to be outside I decided to visit the St. Paul recycling center to drop off some pruned branches and get a trailer load of woodchips. After spending about 25 minutes loading the trailer with a heaping load of chips I had built up a mild sweat and was feeling really good while enjoying the beautiful fall day. As I turned with pitchfork in hand prideful that I accomplished this task a voice called to me --- "Do you have a shovel?" I turned to face a lovely elderly lady who was old enough to be the mother of this already very old me.

No, I don't, I replied, observing that she had 3 small pails in hand. I said that I had a pitchfork and that I would be happy to fill her pails for her. She replied that would be nice but don't fill them full because she would not be able to lift them. Well, I will be happy to carry them to your car for you I said. After all, it was pretty obvious she was frail and slight of build and it would be difficult for her and would only take seconds and very little effort on my part.

After completing this new task on such a lovely day we began a short visit about gardening and life. She has been gardening her whole life, all 97 years and today she decided she needed some woodchips. She had planned well and had a small rug laid in her trunk in case some chips were to fall from her buckets.

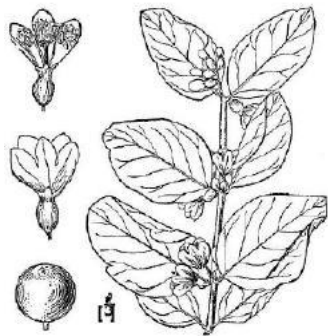
And then the rest of the story.

We bid our goodbyes, and we were on our way -- not knowing we would meet again!

It was another fine fall day (a few weeks later) and it felt like another load of woodchips would help fill in the low spots on the trail to the campground and keep my shoes from getting muddy during the spring thaw. So there I was at the huge pile of chips just finishing my load and marveling at what a great day it was with my pitchfork in hand when, *"Do You Have A Shovel?"*

and there she was with her small pails in hand and well we know the rest. Or do we? Will she be there next time? I certainly hope so! At 97 she is too young to quit gardening.

Plant "Imagination"



Symphoricarpos albus,

The Snowberry bush provides nice dark green foliage spring through fall and white flowers tinged with pink in the spring. It has waxy-white berries that give this bush its name. It provides food for pheasant, grouse, quail and other birds, as well as providing winter shelter. The native snowberry, also known as ice apple, is a member of the Honeysuckle family, Caprifoliaceae. This genus of plants is known collectively as snowberry. *S. albus* (alba), common snowberry. In the spring smaller birds will use it to nest.

Other species are Mountain Snowberry, Creeping Snowberry, and Coralberry -- some even have variegated foliage. Heights from 2 to 6 feet and zones from 4-7 but there are some zone 2-3.

Taste That!

Holiday Sweet Potatoes Serves 10

8 medium sweet potatoes
1-1/4 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup apple juice
1/2 cup water
1 Tablespoon margarine
sprinkle of nutmeg and cinnamon
Option: 1/2 cup raisins and no spices.

Cook and peel potatoes - heat salted water to boiling. Add potatoes, cover and heat to boiling. Cook 30-35 minutes. Drain, slip off skins.

Slice and place in a 2-1/2 quart baking dish coated with nonstick cooking spray. In a small saucepan, combine remaining ingredients; bring to a boil, stirring frequently. Pour over the potatoes. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 45 minutes, basting occasionally.

The **Minnesota Water Garden Society** has agreed to be a 'sister' club with us and we will begin sharing news of each other's events. They look forward to doing this with the **Lake Owasso Garden Club**. **MWGS**, meets the second Sunday of the month at 2 Pm at various locations. That is the day before ours if that helps make it easier to remember. The MWGS website is www.mwgs.org --- check it out for meeting locations and other information about speakers etc.

Address and directions for our meetings--

Our monthly meetings are held in the Keller-Williams Training Room, courtesy of Keller-Williams Realty, 2680 Snelling Ave N, #100, Roseville, MN, 55113. From Snelling turn east onto County Rd C, then turn north at the light on E. Snelling Service Road (just east of Snelling). The building is a light brick two-story structure on the corner of County Rd C and E. Snelling Service Road. The meeting room is straight back and to the left on the main floor.

Newsletter submissions

We welcome pictures (please title, include latin names of plants), news items, and commentary, preferably via email to raflipp@comcast.net **Deadline** is by the **25th of each month**. I will try to get the newsletter out on the first of the month.

Also, remember our club's **Facebook** page. It is a great place to post pictures and share what's in bloom.

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GOOGLE DOC for Lake Owasso Garden Club -- Check it out.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AvDTcsB_CgstdE81dUVQNEFrblNUSDBWd250QlpGYWc