



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

*Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society*

FEBRUARY 1986, Volume 44, Number 2

MGCM PROGRAM FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1986

DR. PETER ASCHER  
PROFESSOR OF HORTICULTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

TOPIC: "TISSUE CULTURE"

Dr. Ascher is a renowned scientist and teacher from the University of Minnesota who is engaged in tissue culture research at the "cutting edge" of technology. This promising new technique is creating a revolution in horticultural breeding and plant propagation. Dr. Ascher is well known in gardening circles as a past president of the Minnesota Horticultural Society and an active member of the Lily Society. He and his family operate a nursery in Wisconsin specializing in potted perennials, irises and rock garden cultivars. He will discuss the current state-of-the-art in tissue culture; the application of tissue culture in the University's "Endangered Species Program"; and new horizons in tissue culture research.

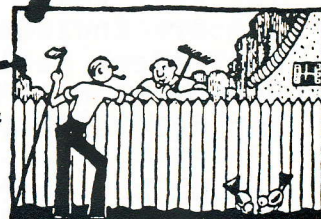
GET YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK TO DUANE REYNOLDS PROMPTLY  
PROMPTLY means right away. In January tables were set up for 53. Although there was plenty of food, late reservations made it necessary to set up another table that night after we sat down.

On the 1986 PERMANENT RESERVATION LIST are Benson, Vern Carlson, Churilla, Culbert, Deane, Druke, Glasoe, Groger, Gustafson, Jach, Jacobson, Dave Johnson, Kelley, Knablauch, LeBoutillier, Lee, Marlow, McCollough, Neby, Jerry Olson, Robert C. Olson, Peterson, Proctor, Regan, Reynolds, Russ Smith, Stenger, Stone and Vixo. PERMANENT means you send in no reservation card but if you fail to show up and haven't cancelled you are out \$5.00.

#### THE 1988 MGCA CONVENTION IN MINNEAPOLIS

WE KNOW we have enough knowledgeable members who can speak to a group for us to plan to hold more gardening seminars than there are at other MGCM conventions. WE KNOW from our summer tours that we can show plenty of home-gardens both large and small.--more than at any previous convention. But WE HAVE TO PROVE IT to MGCM members who didn't come here in 1967 or who don't believe we can do it again.

We need a slide-tape to advertise MGCM at the 1987 convention in Rockford, Illinois. Our publicity committee--Jerry Shannon, chair; Larry Catron and Andy Marlow--needs your pictures of our activities and of your garden. (To borrow not to keep.) Dig up a best picture or two. Send it to Jerry Shannon today. Keep on doing it as the year goes on and as you take more pictures.





ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1985  
by Duane Reynolds, Secretary MGCM

1985 marked the 43rd year in the history of the Men's Garden Club of Mpls. The secretary's minutes indicate the following events occurred:

1. The year began with 126 members and closed with 137 members. New members include: Robert Kelly, Albert Miller, Denis Grande, Rick Bonlender, Merle Pulley, Oyvind Lee, Robert Druke, Dave Kelley, Doug Jacobson, Hal McIntyre, Charles Benson, Tom Olson, John Regan MD, Raphael Weisberg MD, Robert Roberg and Walter Johnson.

During the year the following members passed away: Otto Erickson, Ken Albers, Si Rutherford--honorary member, Ev Haedeke--honorary member and William Cowcill--honorary member.

2. Ten men had perfect attendance in 1985: Verner Carlson, Chet Groger, Andy Marlow, Herbert Neby, Jerry Olson, Robert Olson, Phil Peterson, Charles Proctor, Duane Reynolds and Russ Smith.

3. Awards given out in 1985 include:

Honorary membership in Men's Garden Club of Mpls. to: Ed Culbert and Ev Haedecke.

Lehman Trophy - best garden on summer tour - Stan Crist.

President's Cup - Assistance to the President in 1985 - Russ Smith.

Bronze Medal - contributions to MGCM - George McCollough.

Civic Beautification Award - Rauenhost Corp. - Opus Corporation.

Spade Award - H. Berg, C. Proctor, G. McCollough, C. Groger and V. Carlson.

Rookie of the Year - Harold Gulde.

4. Delegates to the National Convention in Chicago were: Ed Culbert, Bill Hull and Russ Smith.

At the convention, Chet Groger received an award from MGCA for distinguished service on the calendar committee.

5. The Arbor Day planting contribution to the Lake Harriet Rose Garden consisted of 24 evergreens. Eighteen members were present to plant the trees.

6. The auction, May 14, netted MGCM \$1,525.00 for our operating funds.

7. Two tours were held in 1985: July 9 - a men's only tour - was highlighted by an impromptu car caravan trip through member's gardens in Mpls. and Suburbs. August 11 - a tour of members and area gardens - open to women as well as men was attended by over 60.

8. Our Annual Flower and Garden Show was again held at the Arboretum. 27 members entered displays and specimens.

9. The Christmas Party ended our year. 190 members and guests attended and the event brought 1985 to a close, showing the fellowship and fun our common interest in gardening can offer each member.

***Every Member Sponsors A New Member***





BACK: Moehnke, Churilla,  
Marlow, Proctor  
FRONT: Stenger, Reynolds,  
McCollough, Olson

His profession is that of a production engineer.

BOB OLSON, VICE PRESIDENT: Dr. Olson is one of the newer members of our Club but has been active on the Tour Committee and served as a director last year. He is also active with the Hosta Society and was chairman of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society tour during their convention here last summer. Bob is Chief of Gastroenterology at Ramsey County Medical Center and an Assistant Professor in the U of M Department of Medicine. He teaches at both institutions. He specializes in hostas but grows many annuals in his garden.

DUANE REYNOLDS, SECRETARY: Another newer member, Duane has been active with the Club from the start. He has served on the Tour Committee, the Community Fragrance Garden Committee and has assisted with the raffles at our meetings. He became Secretary and handled meeting reservations last year. Duane is Director of Chemical Dependency at Metropolitan Medical Center. He is a member of the North Star Lily Society and of the Minnesota Gladiolus Society. This past year, he completed training and is now a certified judge of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Although he grows vegetables, he specializes in fruits including apples, cherries, plums, grapes and blueberries.

GEORGE McCOLLOUGH, TREASURER: George is beginning another term as our Treasurer, a key job in MGCM. He has proved his accuracy and meticulous care of our Club finances and deserves our appreciation for the work he does so well. He retired 5 years ago as Internal Auditor for North Central Bible College in Minneapolis. George is a rose grower and is a member of the North Star Rose Society and the American Rose Society. He also belongs to the Arbor Day Foundation and has planted several trees in his yard furnished by the foundation. His yard also contains both vegetables and flowers, including a fine collection of lilies and peonies.

ANDY MARLOW, PAST-PRESIDENT: After a good year as President, Andy now becomes our "elder statesman" and advisor to our Club. Having also served as Secretary and Vice-President, he is well equipped to help guide our progress in 1986. He is also an excellent writer and has contributed many articles to The Garden Spray. Writing is also an important part of his work as News and Public Affairs Coordinator for the U of M Radio Station KUOM, where he may be heard on the air doing news and interviews. Andy grows perennials, including peonies, day lilies,  
(over)

## 1986 OFFICER AND DIRECTOR PROFILES by Chet Groger

BOB CHURILLA, PRESIDENT: Bob has been a member since 1977 and has been on the MGCM Board as a Director and Vice President for 4 years. He handled dinner reservations for several years. He is also very active with the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, especially at the State Fair and during the Home & Garden Show. Bob is a rose grower and is active with the Minnesota Rose Society and the American Rose Society. His yard holds a fine collection of 250 or more roses as well as lilies, peonies and a large variety of annuals and perennials.



delphiniums and hostas. He also has a plot of native wildflowers in a wooded section of his yard.

HOWARD BERG, DIRECTOR: Howard assumed the position on the Board held by Robert L. Smith upon his death in December 1984. He has been a member since 1980 and has served on the Calendar Committee. He is a self-employed contractor doing remodeling and additions. His large yard in Minnetonka includes many annuals, day lilies, roses and vegetables.

CHARLIE PROCTOR, DIRECTOR: Charlie is an example of a dedicated Past President who has, at one time or another, served the Club in just about every capacity. He has been chairman of many committees, especially the Flower and Vegetable Show and the Plant Auction. He played an active part in the MGCA Convention in Minneapolis in 1967 and is part of the initial planning committee for our MGCA Convention in 1988. Charlie retired from the Mortgage Loan Department of Prudential Insurance Company. Although he no longer has the big vegetable garden we used to see on tours, he still has one just as big in his old neighborhood.

DAVE MOEHNKE, DIRECTOR: When Dave joined MGCM in 1984, he set about developing a bigger and better flower garden. He now has a large perennial garden, along with annuals and a few vegetables. He has served on the Community Garden Committee and the Arbor Day Committee. Dave is District Sales Manager for the American Tobacco Company. He is looking forward to the 1988 MGCA Convention in Minneapolis.

JOE STENGER, DIRECTOR: When you live next door to Otto Nelson, you automatically become interested in gardening. That is what happened to Joe and he now grows a lot of annuals. He also has the opportunity of planting on a terraced hillside. Joe retired as Officer In Charge of the Minneapolis Office of the U. S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission. He also has served in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration. Joe has served on the Raffle Committee, the Photography Committee and, this past year, headed the Community Garden Committee.

#### IN FEBRUARY WE SHOULD REMEMBER

That coarse sand, wood ashes and saw dust are some materials that can be used on icy sidewalks to improve footing.

That salt used to melt ice on sidewalks can cause serious plant damage when washed off the walk into adjacent soil.

That geranium cuttings should be made by February 15th. The best temperature for rooting, according to Michigan State University, is 77 degrees F. Rooting should occur in 14 to 21 days, depending on the variety. Once plants are rooted the best night temperature is 62 degrees and the day temperature 70. Plants grown at 75 will be taller and blossom earlier. Geraniums will take all the light you can provide.

That the visitor we welcome may be the new member we want and the new officer of the future.

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Turnips and rutabegas are products of Western Asia and were eaten before recorded history.



## BIG BOB'S CORNER

Ed Culbert, our Garden Spray Editor, has probably bitten his nails right off by now wondering if this column is going to arrive in time for publication but I wanted to wait to write it until after my first meeting and until I was able to assign all the members to a committee. After working on the committee project for 3 nights I finally got it typed and sent a copy to the Directory Chairman. Now, Bill will be able to complete the directory and leave for Florida.

The question of reservations for dinner at our meetings is becoming a problem. It seems that a lot of the members take it for granted that they don't need reservations. This is not true; you do need them. Those without reservation will have to wait until all those with reservations have their dinner. Also let me remind you that you will be billed by the Club if you make reservations for dinner and don't show up because the club still has to pay.

What happens every winter in homes across the United States? We find brochures and catalogs filled with pictures of flowers and vegetables to fill our vision with the joy and happiness of the coming growing season. Like many of you I have 3 garden catalogs on the book case, 2 on the desk, and I believe there is one in the bathroom, all waiting for me to look thru and make a purchase. (We all know that the Seedsman plan it this way.)

By January we have forgotten the disasters--the seed that didn't come up; but the weeds that did--and the carrot top or sweet potato plant that was placed in the clock that runs by the power produced from it. Yes, our dream books are here and many of them contain more than 1000 pictures. So, when you are selecting your purchases, plan to raise a few plants for the Plant Auction Sale and for the fund drive for the 1988 convention. Both chairmen would appreciate receiving the plants.

Now that you have gone thru all the dream books, it is time to start on the cleaning, shaping and sharpening of all your garden tools. Break out one a night and clean it, sharpen it, paint it if necessary. Just think, with all your tools in tip top shape, how much easier your gardening will be in the spring.

Sometime during the next month or so the chairmen of the different committees should think about having meetings of their committees. Why not have it before the dinner meeting? Arrange to meet at the church at 5:15, have your meeting and stay for the dinner meeting.

### HELPFUL HINT FOR THE GARDENER:

An effective but peculiar way to determine a plant's health is to hit the foliage. If a specimen is in good shape leaves are resilient enough to take the blow. If the slap test yields a shower of dead leaves or a cloud of fleeing insects the plant is diseased or infested. Don't worry about injuring a plant when you smack it. Keep this in mind: The jolt doesn't hurt healthy foliage; it only causes useless leaves to fall off a sick plant. I do believe that this test is an act of mercy designed to warn you of plant distress long before the specimen must be discarded.

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Beets and swiss chard were well known by the Romans.



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MPLS.  
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1985

	1985 BUDGET	1985 ACTUAL	1986 BUDGET	(Adopted, (2/14/86)
<u>INCOME</u>				
Dues	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,469.00	\$ 2,775.00	
Monthly Meetings	3,400.00	3,372.00	3,400.00	
Monthly Auctions*	300.00	282.00	*	
Spring Plant Auction	3,400.00	3,537.60	3,400.00	
Tours	1,500.00	628.00	700.00	
Christmas Party	2,000.00	1,814.50	1,850.00	
MGCA Calendar Receipts	1,700.00	1,600.00	1,700.00	
Interest Income	600.00	593.99	550.00	
Gardeners	25.00	-0-	25.00	
Gardening Lessons Books	350.00	60.50	75.00	
MGCM - 88 Convention Subsidy	new	185.00	275.00	
Miscellaneous Income	50.00	80.01	50.00	
TOTALS	\$16,125.00	\$14,622.60	\$14,800.00	
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Dues to MGCA	1,170.00	1,000.00	1,100.00	
Dues in Mn. Hort. Soc.	900.00	848.00	900.00	
Garden Spray Expenses	1,000.00	902.93	1,000.00	
Monthly Meetings	3,125.00	3,225.00	3,250.00	
Monthly Auctions*	100.00	131.12	*	
Spring Plant Auction	2,025.00	2,012.21	2,025.00	
Tours Expenses	1,300.00	508.16	575.00	
Flower & Vegetable Show	300.00	339.21	300.00	
Christmas Party	2,000.00	2,244.77	2,100.00	
Directory Expenses	148.00	95.00	125.00	
Memorials	25.00	-0-	25.00	
Remembrances	120.00	107.68	125.00	
Honorariums	50.00	25.00	50.00	
Arbor Day	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Awards & Trophies	100.00	121.96	150.00	
MGCA Life Membership	100.00	100.00	100.00	
National Convention Delegates	600.00	600.00	600.00	
Arboretum Project**	350.00	350.00	350.00	
Mn. Hort. Bldg. Project**	150.00	150.00	150.00	
MGCA Calendar Costs	1,375.00	1,292.00	1,375.00	
Bank Charges	50.00	54.25	75.00	
Gardeners	25.00	-0-	0.00	
Gardening Lessons Books	762.00	25.40	25.00	
MGCM - 88 Convention Sub. Exp.	new	-0-	50.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	100.00	106.37	100.00	
TOTALS	\$16,125.00	\$14,489.06	\$14,800.00	

Net gain for 1985                      \$133.54

\*Becomes 1988 convention subsidy.

\*\*These contributions are contingent upon our yearly gain. Each account will get the same ratio as listed above (70% and 30%) if our gain prevents us from giving the total of \$500.00 for both accounts.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: We, also, still have \$507.75 of Fragrance Garden Funds in savings at 6%.



MORE AWARDS PRESENTED AT JANUARY MGCM MEETING

DAVE JOHNSON WINS BOTH BLACKBOURNE TROPHY and FOLEY CUP--AN ALL TIME RECORD



Two Trophies  
(Pictured to  
your right)

So, Why Not  
TWO PICTURES?

\* \* \*

At A Time Like  
This Even The  
President Fades  
Away Into The  
Background.  
(On the far left)



ADDITIONAL AWARDS presented were the:

- .PAST PRESIDENT'S PIN presented to Andy Marlow by Russ Smith
- .INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE AWARD presented to George Wilkinson, property manager for the Opus Corporation, by Fred Glasoe.
- .GREEN THUMB CERTIFICATES for perfect attendance at meetings presented to 10 MGCM members by Bill Hull who then had them raise their right hands and repeat after him the

PLEDGE TO THE SPADE

I pledge my life to the spade  
As long as I can spade in the shade.  
With a mind that is clean  
And a thumb that is green  
Yes, that is the life that I crave.

The GREEN THUMB RECIPIENTS FOR 1985 were:

ONE YEAR:

Jerry Olson, Charlie Proctor, Duane Reynolds, Russell Smith

TWO YEARS:

Andy Marlow, Herb Neby, Bob Olson, Phil Peterson

THREE YEARS

PERFECT  
ATTENDANCE

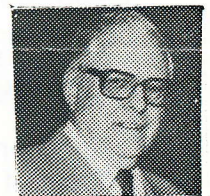
VERN CARLSON



SIX YEARS

PERFECT  
ATTENDANCE

CHET GROGER



I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING to grow that would add a minimum of work and yet produce something that we would enjoy eating. So when I read about one luscious, easily-picked crop where insects and disease rarely were troublesome, I thought, this is it! But lo, as I read on I learned that the crop would have to be well-protected with bird-proof netting since our feathered friends enjoy this treat as much as we. You guessed it: blueberries. Now I'm wondering whether this planting would decrease our birdseed bill, or increase it by attracting more birds to the area.

-GREEN SPROUTS--Wachtung Hills, N.J. MGC

NEW MEMBERS

Walter O. Johnson 588-2003  
3725 Regent Ave. N.  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Raphael J. Weisberg, MD 377-2780  
2516 W. Lake-of-the-Isles Blvd.  
Minneapolis, MN 55405



## Birds and Gardens at January MGCM Meeting

reported by Andy Marlow

New program chairman and Vice-President Dr. Bob Olson could not have found a more qualified speaker to speak on the subject of "Birds and Gardens" at the January meeting. Dr. Walter Breckenridge is Professor Emeritus of Ornithology and Director Emeritus of the Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. He has written many professional and popular works on birds, and is well known for his wild life paintings, many of which have birds for subjects. He is an expert on avian photography with both still and motion picture cameras.

The January program included two examples of the latter skill; films written and narrated by Dr. Breckenridge, the second of which he also filmed in the yard of his home. This film was about the wood duck, one of the most colorful waterfowl in the world and native to Minnesota. As Dr. Breckenridge's experience attests, they are not afraid to next near people, as long as water is nearby. They prefer natural tree cavities as nesting sites, but few dead trees are left standing these days. Therefore wood ducks readily take to man-made nest boxes, which come in a variety of shapes and materials.

Nest boxes can be mounted in trees or on poles set in the ground for just this purpose. In any case, it should be 12 to 20 feet above the ground. 2-3 inches of pulverized rotten wood or coarse sawdust can be put in the box for nesting material -- and the box must have some coarse screen or other material to act as a ladder for the young wood ducks, for they leave the nest when just a day or two old. Their parents cannot carry food to them, so they must leap from the nest to the ground merely to survive. From there the parents teach them to forage for food, to swim and, eventually, to fly. All ten to twelve ducklings jump from the nest at the same time, imitating, for a moment, a hot air popcorn popper. Dr. Breckenridge reports, incidentally, that despite jumps of up to 60 feet, it is rare for a wood duck to be injured in its dramatic entry into the world.

The first film on Dr. Breckenridge's program was called "Cultivate Your Garden Birds." It demonstrated the year-around appeal of a garden to birds of many types. The winter appeal of the garden is enhanced, of course, if you put out seed for the birds. Overwintering species such as the vivid red cardinal and the ever-perky black-capped chickadee will brighten your winter landscape in return. In the spring and summer, a special feeder shaped like a flower and filled with nectar will bring the spectacular hummingbirds to your garden. Trees and shrubs, particularly of the evergreen variety, will provide security for your garden birds in all seasons of the year.

Another way to attract birds to your yards is to plant food for them in the form of fruit-bearing bushes and shrubs. The red-berried elder was shown providing luncheon for a rose-breasted grosbeak. Travelling bands of cedar wax wings also like to feast on such fruit. Birds need to bathe, too, so a bird bath -- electrically heated for winter -- is another way to make birds welcome. And, birdhouses come in all shapes and sizes, depending on the particular birds you wish to have as neighbors.

After the films, members posed a number of questions to our speaker about the habits of the wood duck. In addition, Dr. Breckenridge responded to other queries about owls, which Fred Glasoe feared would eat the young wood ducks raised in his yard, and which your reporter has observed lurking about his bird feeders. Dr. Breckenridge said neither had much to fear, as the owls Fred described were too small to do any harm and my owl was merely looking for a tasty mouse cleaning up seed from the ground.