

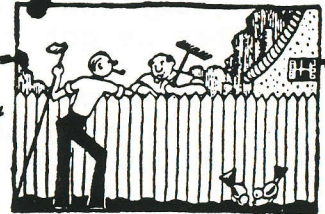


The Garden Spray

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

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

November 1982, Volume 40, Number 11



THERE'LL BE MORE THAN ONE ELECTION IN NOVEMBER
By now you know all about Perpich, Whitney, Dayton, Durenberger, et al. November is MGCM election time also. We choose officers for 1983; but you won't know who the candidates are unless you come to the

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of MINNEAPOLIS DINNER MEETING

6 P.M., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 1982 -- \$5.00 and, as usual, at the
LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 49th STREET & CHOWEN AVENUE SOUTH.
(nominating committee to propose officers for 1983.)

PROGRAM

SPEAKER: ORRIN "CLINT" TURNQUIST, Professor Emeritus - Horticulture,
University of Minnesota

SUBJECT: "OBSERVATIONS ON A HORTICULTURAL TOUR OF SCANDINAVIA AND THE
FLORIADE IN HOLLAND".
The Floriade is a horticultural exposition held every 10 years.
The 1982 exposition held in Amsterdam featured both outdoor and
indoor horticulture and we will see it in beautiful color, along
with horticultural scenes in Scandinavia.

RETURN THE ATTACHED RESERVATION CARD PROMPTLY TO BOB CHURILLA

The Christmas party will be held on Tuesday evening December 7th as you
already know from reading the announcement. Get your reservations in
promptly. Let's not have a repeat of last year when many members had to
be called.

NEW MEMBERS

Joseph F. Alfano 871-9354
2000 Grand Ave. S.
Mpls., MN 55405

Carmine J. Sacco 645-1523
1984 N. Snelling Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113

Michael Corcoran 881-0755
2253 Overlook Dr.
Bloomington, MN 55431

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Lloyd C. Wittstock 170 Malcolm Ave. S. E. Mpls. 55414

by Andy Marlow

A glimpse at some of the techniques and technology of growing food and flowers in the years to come was provided MGCM members at the September meeting by Ted Tonkinson, who works in the areas of farming and greenhouse management for Control Data Corporation. Ted obtained his degree in plant physiology and biochemistry from the University of Minnesota in 1975. It was then he got his first experience in this area.

Ted went to work in a project underway at Northern States Power's Sherburne County (Sherco) power plant. Waste hot water that would have gone to the cooling tower was sent instead to a system of pipes buried under greenhouses. The waste heat warmed both the ground and air in winter to allow growing snapdragons, roses, freesias and geraniums. Data was carefully recorded with an eye toward possible commercial, as opposed to experimental, application of the process. In fact, roses and tomatoes, two crops with the highest sales potential, are now under commercial cultivation using techniques similar to those developed in the original effort.

In 1978 Ted was hired away from the Sherco project by Control Data and given a fair amount of freedom in developing his own ideas. One of the first projects followed closely on the heels of the Sherco experiment. Waste heat was removed from water in the air conditioning system atop a CDC building and used to heat a sophisticated, highly automated rooftop greenhouse. Computers produce a great deal of heat and must be air conditioned even in our Minnesota winters. Heat from the heat exchanger system, humidity and other factors were all controlled by a microprocessor (a small computer), which also collected data on conditions in the greenhouse on a 24-hour basis.

The CDC greenhouse also used a relatively new technique for growing some of the plants. Aeroponics is similar to hydroponics in that the plants' roots are not embedded in soil. However, unlike hydroponics, the roots aren't constantly exposed to a liquid nutrient bath, either. Instead, they hang in the air from a plant frame and are periodically sprayed from beneath with a nutrient solution. Results, according to Ted, seemed quite promising. Less nutrient solution is required, and, the spraying can be controlled and monitored quite accurately using -- you guessed it -- microprocessors.

The rest of Ted's talk took us on a picture-filled journey to many spots on the globe: to the 10,000 square foot greenhouse in the center of the John Deere headquarters building in Moline, Illinois; to community gardens in the inner city area of Chicago's South Side; to an Irish mushroom farm; to a jojoba plantation in Mexico where these plants, once considered weeds, are being grown for the \$60 to \$80 per gallon oil; and to the Sinai desert in Israel where greenhouses are used, not for warmth, but to keep the humidity up in that arid climate. It was a vicarious trip that both sent our heads spinning and evoked a certain degree of envy for a person who so obviously relished both his work and his globe-hopping.

ADVANCE NOTICE

"Dues shall be payable in advance on December 1, and shall become delinquent if not paid by January 1, ... A delinquent member shall not be entitled to receive the publications of this club or of affiliated societies."

-- By-Laws, Art. VIII, Sec. 2

(The 1983 dues will be the same as they were for 1982)



Thoughts From the Gazebo

It is October 12, as I write this article for the November issue of the "Garden Spray". The temperature this morning is 42°, too cold and dark to be penning these thoughts from the garden gazebo. The garden thus far has escaped any frost whatsoever, but most of the flowering annuals have become quite seedy and unattractive. There is still color in parts of the garden, flowers spurred on to provide their last flush of bloom by the cool moist weather interspersed by sunny days. The hybrid roses are magnificent with some of the trees reaching seven feet tall. This is the time of the year for the garden chrysanthemums to be in all their glory, and their display brightens up the garden. Isolated clumps of red salvia, foxglove, heliotrope and penstemon are also in bloom. Having escaped the frost to date, the dahlias, with their gigantic size, add to the fall garden color.

Garden clean up has begun and by the time you read this article in early November, most everything will be ready for winter and my gardening outdoors will have come to a close for another season.

The November 9 meeting will be our annual meeting of at which the nominating committee will present the names of our new officers and directors. Orrin Turnquist will be presenting the program, so plan on attending and let's have a huge turnout.

Circle December 7 on your calendars, for on that date the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis will have their superlative Christmas Party. All adults in your life are welcome.

- Jerry Shannon

OTHER MGCA CLUBS CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS

Stan Crist reporting for the Minnetonka group says: "For quite a number of years, a group of our members living in the Excelsior area, have planted and maintained flower beds in various parts of downtown Excelsior. As the years have gone by, the plantings have been improved and expanded, and now cover four areas--the Post Office, Police Station, Library and Twin City Federal area. The "Minnetonka Mens Garden Club" sign which stands in the midst of the plantings certainly is one of the best public relations devices one could imagine. Numerous expressions of gratitude for the plantings have been received, including gifts of money from some of the businesses.

"Plantings have been made at three other areas this year. (1982)

In Deephaven, beds were planted at the City Hall and in Thorpe Park.

In downtown Wayzata, assistance with plantings was given by 5 members.

Plantings were also made at Opportunity Workshop by 2 members."

In the same mail, Earl Selle reporting on the MGC of Spokane, Washington writes: "Seven members spent the weekend of August 6th repotting the plants on the University City Mall as they celebrated Gerry Luken's birthday. Gerry returned Monday morning to put on some finishing touches and discovered that 8 more stakes and some more soil was needed. The Club provided the mix for the planting as well as the bark and stakes. This was done without cost to the management, a gesture of good will by the Club."

NEW VARIETIES IN '82

"In planning each year's garden, one of the joys is to look through the seed catalogs and decide what new things to try out. Quite often it seems that the new things don't live up to their expectations, but then again, one runs across a winner.

One new plant I tried this year was the 1982 All-America Winner, Small World Deep Cherry Zinnia, and it was really a winner in my garden. The plant is classified as a dwarf, the maximum height it reached was about 18 inches. It started blooming the middle of July, and it is still blooming as this is being written (Sept. 9th). It appears it will continue to bloom until frost. What is so outstanding about it is that its appearance today is just as nice as the day it started to bloom. While other flowers which started blooming in midsummer now look pretty seedy, this little zinnia continues on as nicely as ever. The plants have no mildew (I have sprayed with Benlate) which often makes zinnias unattractive in the fall. I find only one drawback to the plant: the seed is very expensive, but I do believe it is worth it.

Another new plant I tried this year was annual dwarf hollyhock. This plant has probably been on the market for some time but it was new to me. The plant started to bloom when it was about 12 inches high. It reached a height of about 24 inches. The blossoms were very attractive, in a variety of colors, and very double. It has also kept an attractive appearance late in the season. I think it is a fine plant and a nice addition to the annual flower garden." (Stan Crist reported the above to the Minnetonka club.)

I tried two cucumbers new to me, Burpee's Streamliner Hybrid and Old's Patio Pik, because they were said to have compact vines. Both lived up to the advertising, required little space and produced well. I have never grown a cucumber with so few seeds as Spacemaster. It was almost solid meat.

--Ed. Culbert

PLANNING FOR THE WINTER LANDSCAPE -- THE OCTOBER MGCM MEETING
Reported by Andy Marlow

It's a rare day indeed when Minnesota gardeners begin looking forward to winter, but that's exactly what MGCM members were doing at the October 12 meeting. Ray Marshall, immediate past president of MGCM, spoke on landscaping for winter color--adding those accents that relieve the boredom of the season's whites and grays.

After graduating from the University of Illinois, Ray was a landscape designer for the Minneapolis Park Board, taught landscape design and construction at the Anoka AVTI, and now produces landscape designs for Bachman's. He's a transplanted Hoosier from Indiana, moving here he said "following a fishing line." Even though he's an immigrant Ray says that since he moved to Minnesota in 1969 he's experienced both the coldest and the snowiest winters on record and "old-timers" really can't tell him how tough it used to be.

Because witch hazel is the only plant to bloom during the Minnesota winter Ray relies on other parts of the plant to provide winter color in his designs. The parts of the plants he considers are the bark, fruit that stays with the plant all winter, and leaves that stay with the plant through the season. Ironwood and red oak are two of the trees that hold their leaves. Evergreens are also an important part of making the winter landscape more exciting. A bit less obvious is the fact that the winter sun shines at only about a 17 degree angle, creating a light filled with yellows, oranges and reds, particularly at dawn and at sunset.

After explaining these general principals Ray moved on to a well-photographed and well-organized series of slides illustrating his points. The red bark of the amur chokecherry was among the most beautiful shown. The birches, including the paper, yellow, cherry and river birch, have dangling catkins in addition to their colorful bark. The often overlooked aspen also has catkins and a bark that's perfect for catching the colors from the winter sun. Finally, the Kentucky coffee tree has a knurled bark to go with its hanging bean pods.

Colorful twigs provide the interest in the yellow and red twig dogwoods--and the willow. The latter also has an interesting bark.

Plants that hold their fruit include the Japanese lilac, the barberries, euonymous, St. John's wort and the old stand-by, sumac. Sumac pods, Ray pointed out, have a rhubarb flavor and make an excellent tea with one pod to 4 cups of boiling water. Some varieties of crabapple also hang on to their fruit and have the added benefit of attracting colorful winter birds to dine on them. Red splendor is one of the better varieties, along with Radiant, Flame and David.

A number of low growing plants furnish good color until snowed under later in winter. Among the ones Ray showed were broadleaf evergreen boxwood, sedum, pachysandra, and the various spreading evergreens.

The best of the upright evergreens is the Scotch pine, which has green foliage, reddish bark and a pleasing shape. The red and ponderosa pines have graceful long needles and the white pine very soft ones for added interest. The Norway spruce, with its weeping habit and towering height, is not much planted anymore. Ray says many people miss its spectacular 4" cones. The Douglas fir, too, has interesting cones. Ray said that with so many different forms of evergreens available, a gardener's choice is limited only by his imagination and his pocketbook.

(continued over)

There is no doubt that winter is the dominant season in our climate. If we would all take the suggestions offered by Ray Marshall to heart, rather than merely enduring winter, we could spend more time enjoying its effect on our yards.

Please don't waste your leaves! They are too valuable to give to the garbage collector. Stacking leaves with small layers of soil can start a composting process that will provide organic matter for garden beds or leaves can mulch under evergreens. Mulching new plantings of perennials, shrubs or trees keeps the soil from drying out and keeps early frosts from striking down so quickly. Deep mulches can moderate winter soil temperatures to give many plants a better chance of survival. Mulches help to prevent premature warming of planting spaces exposed to winter sun where plants may begin to grow too soon. Mixing hay with leaves can provide a fluffier mulch for plants where over-wintering crowns need air circulation.

WE ARE INVITED TO Klier's

MGCM member Howard Klier extends his annual invitation to all MGCM members to gather for an informal evening at his place of business, Klier's Nursery, 5901 Nicollet Avenue, on Friday November 26th (The day after Thanksgiving). Come any time after 6 P.M. Wives and friends are included in the invitation.

We will spend the evening making Christmas wreaths, centerpieces, etc. for our own use. Help will be available for neophytes so inexperience need not keep you away. Bring your own materials or purchase there as needed. Howard even promises refreshments.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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FIRST CLASS

To

MR. W. H. HULL
6833 CRESTON ROAD
EDINA, MN 55435

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1982 -- LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
(49th Street and Chowen Avenue South)

Social Half-Hour	6:15
Dinner	6:45

By reservation only at \$9.00 each. Wives, guests invited.

Our first Christmas Party at our new location will continue some of the fine MGCM traditions, such as:

- The Parade of Turkey Carvers
(Want to be one? See reservation form.)
- A social half-hour.
- A poinsettia for each lady.
- Entertainment galore. Two surprise items being considered. They sound great!
- A few major awards.
- Hand-made favors maintaining our reputation.
- Door prizes if you bring them. Anyone wanting to contribute them, bring them that night.

The reservation deadline is Wednesday, December 1 -- so get your reservation, together with your check, in the mail soon to Vic Lowrie. Use the coupon below.