

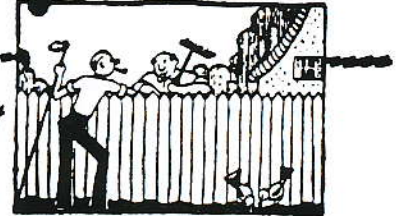


The Garden Spray

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

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

February 1991, Volume 49, Number 2



THE REGULAR MINNEAPOLIS MEN'S GARDEN CLUB MEETING
will be held

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12th at LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
(Chowen Avenue South at 49th Street)

DINNER at 6:00 will cost you \$6.50 (New Price)

RESERVATIONS TO ELDON HUGELN PROMPTLY, PLEASE

PROGRAM

Mini-Series MGCM member and landscape architect Roger Koopmans will tell and show us how to improve our home landscaping.

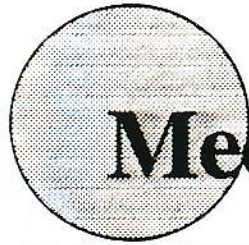
Major Speaker: David Benford, research scientist. You may have heard him on a university radio program. Dr. Benford whose major fields of expertise are apples, strawberries, blackberries and raspberries will with the aid of slides discuss among other things the new Honeycrisp apple being introduced this year by the U. of Minn. Horticultural Research Center at the Arboretum.

NOTE: The following members have signed the permanent reservation list saying they will always come so need send in no cards: Mel Anderson, Benson, Berg, Carlson, Churilla, Culbert, Glasoe, Groger, Hugelen, Hull, Kean, Dave Johnson, Duane Johnson, Maynard, Marlow, Mikkelson, Peterson, Petterson, Proctor, Redmond, Robertson, Greg Smith, Russ Smith, Stenger, Stepan, ter Steeg, Thompson, Vixo.

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HELP SUPPORT MINNESOTA GREEN

Minnesota Green will have a wide range of Burpee flower and vegetable seeds available at the February MGCM meeting. A donation of 50 cents per pack is suggested. These donated seeds were packed for 1990. Because the seeds are one year old, germination rates will vary between 50% to 90%. Take advantage of this great offer and help support public gardening.



MGCM Meeting Report

by Andy Marlow

January 8, 1991

Fred Glasoe

MGCM member Fred Glasoe shared his views of seed catalogs. His general rule is to buy plants from local growers for their suitability to our climate. A larger variety of seeds is available from catalogs, however, at the time when a gardener should be buying his seeds. Fred says you should plan your garden and order seeds in January or February to be successful. Fred, in fact, orders many seeds in late December so he can start the smallest ones, such as geraniums, begonias and petunias, in January.

Fred says to always check the prices and the amount of seed per pack when ordering. There are differences between the various catalogs. Burpee, for instance, has more seeds per pack at a lower price than Park's, but Park's has a better selection of varieties.

The only way to get a good selection and good quality in tubers and bulbs is from specialty catalogs. Local retailers are too limited in what they sell. Fred also pointed out that catalogs have lots of good, free information for gardeners. Just don't be too eager to believe the hardiness claims made by some southern nurseries!

Paul Aarestad

Paul Aarestad has been at Lakewood Cemetery for 9 years now, long enough to give him a deep appreciation for the history and tradition of this Victorian era cemetery. Lakewood, in fact, was carefully planned as a garden, with unique and rare trees, graceful sight lines from roads and walkways, and an atmosphere that reflects Victorian concern for fine living and fine arts.

Lakewood has 24 full-time grounds people, including 18 in the greenhouse under Paul's supervision.

The two greenhouses are in operation year round, growing poinsettias, Easter lilies and cannas. Many annuals are also seeded each year for border plantings and the thousand or so urns that grace the grounds.

The large beds at the entrance and throughout the grounds are famous for their displays of tulips in the spring and cannas in the summer. 5000 tulips are needed to fill the entrance bed alone. The other require only about 3000 bulbs, which are dug up and discarded each spring to make room for the cannas about a week before Memorial Day.

Lakewood's long history has created certain expectations -- one of them that the grounds will be looking exactly right for Memorial Day, the busiest single day of the year and often the occasion for a family's only visit of the year. They expect to see Lakewood looking just as they remember it.

Paul says even changing the color of the blooms will create problems with some people. And he has learned the hard way over the years that some things continue to be done one way simply because they work. Extensive use of Copper King cannas is based on their continued success. And the same color tulips have been used since at least 1955.

The cannas are not thrown out each year, as are the tulips. They are dug, stored on the cold ground beneath benches in the greenhouses, and coaxed back to life in February each year. After 4 weeks of growing in flats, they are planted 2 or 3 to a 5" pot and allowed to grow until transplanted outdoors in May.

Soil preparation is the key to the success of the Lakewood plantings. The soil is deeply tilled so that holes for planting cannas can be dug easily with a gloved hand. The result: consistently spectacular displays of brilliant color for all who pass by or through Lakewood Cemetery.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of MINNEAPOLIS, INC. PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1991
(To be voted upon at the February meeting)

<u>INCOME SOURCES</u>		<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
Dues	\$ 3,000	(MGCM)	\$ 1,250
		(Hort. Soc.)	1,025
Meetings	4,500		4,615
Plant Auction	4,500		2,500
Tours	700		700
Christmas Party	2,200		2,300
Calendar Sales	2,250		1,800
Flower Show	500		500
Slide Show	600		--
Raffle	100		--
50th Anniversary	200		500
Miscellaneous	25		200
Interest	700		--
GARDEN SPRAY	--		1,260
Directory	--		125
Memorials	--		150
Honorariums	--		100
Arbor Day	--		250
Awards	--		100
Convention Delegates	--		600
Arboretum	--		350
MN Hort. Soc.	--		250
MGCA	--		100
Fragrance Garden	--		150
People for Parks	--		50
Publicity Committee	--		100
Life Membership	--		150
Photography	--		100
Nat. Jr. Hort. Assn.	--		50
TOTALS	<u>\$19,275</u>		<u>\$19,275</u>

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

We've heard that Ted LeBoutillier recently was the subject of a feature article in the St. Paul papers.

Chet Groger was pictured twice in a not so recent Minnesota-Dakota Kiwanis bulletin. --The Edina Golden K organized a new Richfield Kiwanis club--The same page pictured a Chisholm MN group with "Dr. John Regan, Program Speaker". It looked like MGCM's John Regan.

When members get in the paper--any paper--will someone please send a clipping to the SPRAY. We are all interested in news about members.

AT THE JANUARY MEETING

- Howard Berg, Lee Gilligan and Russ Smith received Spade Club awards.
- Charles Carlson was named Rookie of the Year.
- Bill Hull gave Green Thumb awards for perfect attendance to:

Mel Anderson.....1 year	Greg Smith.....1 year
Duane Johnson.....1 year	Joe Stenger.....1 year
Kent Petterson.....2 years	
Russ Smith.....6 years	

CHECK YOUR 1991 DIRECTORY

Note that in March we meet on the 19th; in August we tour on the 11th; in December the Christmas party is on the 3rd.

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS IN YOUR 1991 DIRECTORY.

- The auction will be held May 14th NOT 7th as printed.
- Michael Schwartz' address is 30 Dellwood Ave.
- Gregory Smith's home phone number is 591-5996; his office phone is 545-4404.

Is your address correct? Is the telephone number correct? If you find an error notify the SPRAY so that we may publish the correction.

NAMES TO ADD TO YOUR 1991 MGCM DIRECTORY

(Or to cut from the 1990 directory and paste in)

Len T. Brenny 943 - 88th Ave. NW Coon Rapids, MN 55433	786-5714 540-9600	Sid D. Nystrom 996 Glen Paul Court Shoreview, MN 55126	483-9867 931-6122
Hans Dekker 2421 Irving Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55405	374-5188	Norman Ter Steeg 4708 Colfax Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55409	822-0371
Mary Maguire Lerman 2161 Doswell Ave. St. Paul, MN 55108	644-7388 348-4448		

Floyd Ashley has been added to the Emergency Telephone Committee

Bill Hull called the 50th Anniversary committee together on January 31st for "a brain-storming session" to come up with a list of potential events we might sponsor on or near our 50th charter anniversary October 1, 1992. Bill is making a running start just as he did on our 1988 convention. This should result in a bang-up celebration.

ANOTHER GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY (Abridged article from the Yardner)

The year 1991 is the Golden Anniversary of the Men's Garden Club of Houston's affiliation with the Men's Garden Clubs of America. Back in the 30's, before gardening became widespread in popularity, a small group of men got together in Houston for the purpose of learning more about gardening encouraged by the success of men's garden clubs emerging in other cities. At the December 1940 meeting the club voted to affiliate with the national group of men's garden clubs; Men's Garden Clubs of America. The dues for National - 12 cents per member per year, the local club would absorb from it's \$1.00 per year dues. However if a member wanted a copy of the National monthly bulletin, it was going to be a whopping 25 cents per year. Then other men's garden clubs began springing up: in May a mention of the Dallas MGC, a second for the state; then in June a mention of the Port Arthur MGC and Kilgore MGC. In November 1941 (our) bulletin was given the name of "The Yardner". The name Yardner was selected because it expressed the interest in the club not only in growing flowers, but in maintaining a pleasant appearance of the yard, so the name was contracted from Yard Gardener.

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Sunflowers which actually rotate to follow the sun rank high in vitamins and minerals. Here are a few of the top foods the sunflower produces: Folate, Niacin, Panthenol, Thiamin, and among the top 20 in Riboflavin, Vitamin E., Calcium, Copper, Iron, Magnesium, Manganese, Phosphores, Zinc, and Protein.



Grow With Us

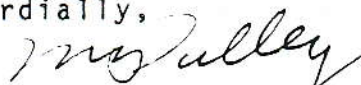
The budget printed in this issue of the Spray gives the MGCM members an overview of the activities and programs outlined for calendar year 1991. During the budget meetings the committee members review expenditures from the past years, look at current operating expenses and project needs for the next year.

During the budget process the committee proposed that the Club reinstate the "raffle" to generate funds for the 50th Anniversary Committee. Also note that the monthly meeting costs (rent for the meeting facilities plus cost of meals) will be \$6.50. Lake Harriet United Methodist Church doubled the rent for the meeting space last year from \$50 to \$100 and the club had been subsidizing the difference. That means that if only fifty members attend a monthly meeting the "cover" charge is about \$2 per person. In comparison, the Ramsey County Garden Club meets in a restaurant and pays \$7.50 per member. An informal poll of members suggests that there is almost no impetus to seek another location. How do you feel about it?

Speaking of money matters, Kent Petterson has drafted a revised dues structure in an attempt to remove the disincentive from joining MCGM other than at the start of the new year or the October - December "Bonus" period. That new dues structure proposal should be forthcoming along with a revised membership application. We want to coordinate efforts to conduct major recruitment drives during the month of May when we can solicit new members from our respective neighborhoods. The challenge for our club is to recruit new members. We need new members interested in the pursuit of horticulture excellence, community service, volunteerism, and fellowship. Wouldn't it be great to stand 150 members strong by our 50th anniversary date in October of 1992?

On a final note, two leadership positions need to be filled with respect to the committees. Before we start to twist arms, it would be nice if two members came forth to volunteer, one to chair the Flower and Vegetable Show and also someone to chair the Awards and Trophies Committee. How about some of you "newer" members? Please give a call if you are interested.

Cordially,


M.T. Pulley, President

THE SEASON'S A BIT DIFFERENT DOWN HERE

When we arrived in southern Louisiana in early December, there were a multitude of flowers to greet us--beds of petunias, snapdragons, marigolds, chrysanthemums, pansies and others--those we think of as being somewhat frost tolerant. I assume they had been planted in early October. They continued to bloom until just before Christmas.

The temperature then dropped to 20 degrees which brought an end to all the flowers except the pansies--they were a bit tougher than the rest.

We also saw very nice vegetable gardens on our arrival--with such things as cabbage, brocolli, carrots and mustard greens, of course, those things that like cooler weather and are somewhat frost tolerant. I assume these had also been planted in early October. Some withstood the cold temperature.

We'll find out in January whether the camellias withstood the cold. They are evergreen shrubs, blossoming in January. The blossoms come in gorgeous shades of pink, white and red. The plants respond amazingly to the application of giberellic acid, and at the camellia shows, separate classes are set up for the treated and untreated plants.

We think March is the most beautiful month here. The trees which have been bare all winter then come into bud. But what are most beautiful are the dogwoods and azaleas. Both seem somewhat nondescript most of the year, but when spring arrives, they burst forth in unbelievable beauty. Both are understory plants--growing under trees which tower above them. The dogwood blossoms are either white or light pink.

In Minnesota breeders at the University have worked for many years to grow azaleas which will withstand the Minnesota climate--and certainly considerable progress has been made. But when compared to the azaleas growing in this area, the efforts made in Minnesota seem rather feeble. Even the tiniest, unassuming little shrub becomes a magnificent display. The blossoming continues two to four weeks--depending on weather conditions. Everyone I feel ought to make a trip at least once to the south and east to see this magnificent spectacle.

Somehow it hardly seems fair--we struggle so to grow our few azaleas, the plants are expensive, the soil must be acidified--and here they seem to grow everywhere with no effort at all. Plants can be purchased for as little as \$2.00, blossoming the next spring.

We in the north do have some advantages however. Lilacs can't be grown here at all. Nor can rhubarb. Tulips must be precooled (refrigerated) for several weeks before planting. Then they cannot be left in the ground to blossom the next year--they have to be dug up, refrigerated, and then replanted.

So we each have our advantages, but a trip to the southland is certainly a delightful experience during our winter months.

...Stanley Crist

CHRISTMAS PARTY





MORE
PARTY
PICTURES



HAPPY
FACES
ALL



MERLE PULLEY, PRESIDENT: As a member since 1986, Merle has been very active in the Club. He has served as Director and Vice President and has served regularly on the Fragrance Garden and Flower and Vegetable Show Committees. Last year he won Section Championship for his raspberries at the show as well as Sweepstakes Runner-up for vegetables. He grows vegetables mostly and is an avid indoor gardener. Merle is an instructor and placement specialist for Career Development Institute in the field of Marketing and Technical Writing. He formerly was a recruiter for the Peace Corps and takes a special interest in Mexico. He speaks Spanish and has motored throughout Mexico during extended visits to that country.

GREGORY SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT: Greg is in the middle of a three generation Smith family in the Club along with father Russ and son Matthew. He first joined the Club in 1982 and has served on the Arbor Day, Fragrance Garden and Tour Committees and as Chairman of the latter. His garden was on our July tour last year, exhibiting newly designed areas for vegetables, annuals and roses. Greg is a real estate appraiser with Russell Smith Associates and also a home equity loan officer with Heartland Mortgage Company.

ELDON HUGELN, SECRETARY: Eldon joined us in 1989 and has served on the Fragrance Garden Committee. He ventured into the show ring last year and was Sweepstakes Runner-up for flowers and Rookie Exhibitor of the year. He grows mostly perennials. Eldon is a self-employed landscape architect.

MELVIN ANDERSON, TREASURER: A member since 1988, Mel was a Director last year and has served on the Plant Auction, Flower and Vegetable Show and Christmas Party Committees. He grows vegetables and perennials and won the National Vegetable Award at last year's show plus the Sweepstakes Award for vegetables. He grows some annuals but especially enjoys growing special varieties and scented geraniums. Mel has a son in the greenhouse business in New Ulm and he enjoys helping out there when he is needed. Mel was a cost accountant at the Ford Assembly Plant.

KENT PETERSON, PAST PRESIDENT: Kent has been a member since 1986 and has served as Director, Vice President and last year's President. He serves on the Flower and Vegetable Show Committee and is Chairman again this year of the Fragrance Garden Committee. Kent shows regularly at the show and won the National Award for flowers last year. He has a special interest in herbs and drying them along with plants and flowers for arrangements. His garden is often on tour. This year he is enrolled in the Master Gardener program. Kent is an Estimator for Laughlin Electric Company.

CHARLES BENSON, DIRECTOR: A member since 1986, Charles serves on the Christmas Party and Sunshine Committees. This is his second year as a Director and he is involved in developing a special logo for our 50th Anniversary in 1992. Charles is an Elementary Art teacher at Concord School in Edina and last year experimented with his students in growing "Space Tomatos", using seeds furnished by NASA after being in outer space. He collects Depression Glass.

LEE GILLIGAN, DIRECTOR: Lee joined our Club in 1989 and now serves his second year as Director. Those on the July 1989 tour saw his apple orchard, rose garden, hundreds or thousands of coleus and impatiens and his many annuals and perennials. In September 1990, Lee invited us all to Lee Gilligan's Hidden Orchard for an afternoon of cider pressing. He is a volunteer at the Arboretum and is a member of the Greenhouse Gardening Society. He is also a Master Gardener. Lee retired as owner of Crystal Shamrock Aviation, which his son now runs.

PHIL PETERSON, DIRECTOR: A member since 1978, Phil has been active in many areas. He has chaired the Fragrance Garden Committee and has served on the Arbor Day, Flower and Vegetable Show, Plant Auction and Sunshine Committees. He chairs the latter again this year. He has shown flowers and vegetables many times and was Sweepstakes Runner-up for vegetables last year. His complete garden, including roses, has been on tour. He enjoys golf and fishing and misses his cabin at Moose Lake. Phil still has some association with equipment sales to dairies.

LLOYD WITTSTOCK, DIRECTOR: A member since 1982, Lloyd serves on the Fragrance Garden and Photography Committees. He specializes in vegetables and enters our show. Although he grows flowers, he enjoys a version of square foot gardening for both flowers and vegetables, where practices intercropping or double-cropping. He continually tries new and unusual vegetables. His garden was on the 1990 tour. Lloyd is an instructor and curriculum director for American Indian Vocational School.

STILL TIMELY ADVICE THOUGH WRITTEN YEARS AGO

by C. B. Gilman

(This) writer is strongly in favor of using flats for starting seeds, and with the exception of Cornflowers, Everlasting Pea, Hollyhock, Poppy, and Sweet Peas, all of the above will respond favorably to this treatment. In using flats there are probably more DO NOT'S than DO'S. DO NOT make the flats too large - 12 x 16 inches with a depth of 3 inches is a convenient size. DO NOT build the flat to hold water - leave cracks or drill small holes for drainage and/or watering. DO NOT water from the top - after the seed is planted and the soil firmed down, set the flat in a pan of water and permit the capillary action to bring the moisture to the surface of the soil. DO NOT then set the flat in the sun - cover with paper and glass only until the seeds germinate, then remove both and place the flat in partial shade for a few days. DO NOT transplant too soon - better to wait too long, and in any case not before the true leaves appear. DO NOT keep the soil too wet after the plants are up - it is very likely to cause damping off.

It is also a good plan to transplant to and hold in small pots or plant bands for two or three weeks before setting in the permanent beds as this permits the seedlings to recover from the shock of transplanting, and they will be well on their way when placed in the open ground. It is always well to use sterilized soil which may be obtained by soaking with boiling water, or baking in the oven - the latter method requiring comprise with the good wife or sending her out of town for a day or two. Numerous chemicals are available for soil sterilization, but may not be used immediately prior to the use of the soil for planting.

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WE WELCOME NEW MEMBER Peter A. Rejto. His address and phone number is already in our directory.