



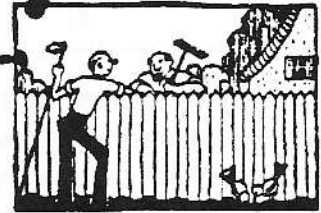
The Garden Spray



Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

February 1992, Volume 50, Number 2



Vegetables! Vegetables!



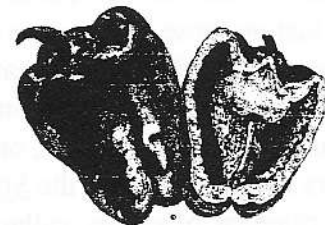
The February dinner meeting of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis will be held February 11, 1992, at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Avenue South in Minneapolis. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by the business meeting and program. The cost is \$6.50.

Program:

"Selection, Culture, Care, Harvesting and Showing Vegetables"

by Kent Petterson and Mel Anderson

Kent and Mel are both accomplished vegetable gardeners. Kent is a two-time winner of the vegetable sweep-

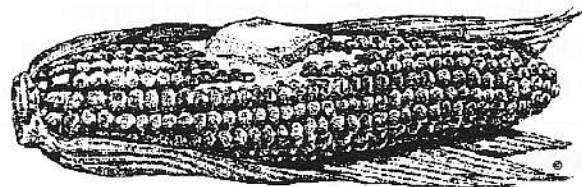


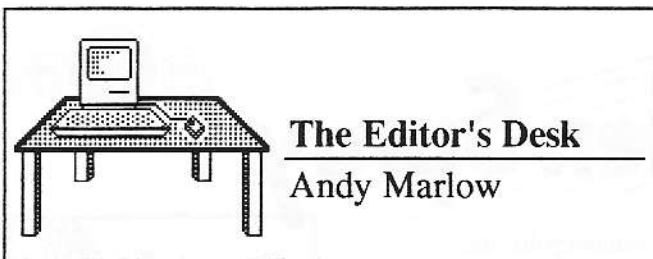
stakes award at MGCM's annual Flower and Vegetable Show. They will be sharing some of their favorite varieties and tips on cultivation. They will also cover the selection of specimens and their preparation for showing.

If you did not sign the permanent reservation list at the January meeting, you need to return the attached reservation card to Eldon Hugelen right away.

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The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

My various requests in the January Spray have yielded amazing results! Mary Maynard volunteered to prepare reports on the program at each meeting. You may remember that Mary has masqueraded as "the slothful gardener" in several issues of the Minnesota Horticulturist. Her "slothfulness" was all in fun (I hope), but I expect she'll bring some of her own unique brand of humor to her monthly reports. The first one can be found on page 4.

Terry Robertson is going to be contacting mentor gardeners (at least those that are not presenting programs at our dinner meetings) for interviews on their specialities. His articles will begin appearing in the March issue. If you know of a fellow member with special knowledge of a particular garden plant or garden subject, let Terry know. He doesn't have to focus just on those souls brave enough to have their names listed as mentor gardeners.

The request for suggestions brought forth several from Chuck Carlson, one of which appears in this edition of the Spray. You will find a calendar of events, called Coming Attractions, on page 7. Next month a garden tips column, with initial tips from Chuck and others, will begin. The garden tips will continue as long as we get tips from members. If you have something you'd like to share, an unusual way of cultivating or whatever, just give me a note at a meeting or drop it into the mail.

Chuck also suggested a "question and answer feature." Members who have questions can get them to me like the garden tips, and we will find a mentor gardener or other member to answer them. Of course, we need your questions to make this work. If you are like me, you have more questions than answers anyway.

Many thanks to Mary, Terry, Chuck, and Merle Pulley, who gave me an excellent article on composting from the Minnesota Volunteer that we hope to publish in the next month or so, for responding to my pleas. This bulletin will be better because of their contributions!

At the January meeting a number of us circulated a petition asking the Board of Directors to name Chet Groger an honorary member. We have not chosen a new one in a few years, and we continue to lose the old ones. We may name up to two honorary members each year. Chet, a member since 1972, was instrumental in starting the MGCA Calendar program and MGCM participation in it, assisted in starting the MGCA slide show program and has earned thousands of dollars for MGCA and MGCM by showing these programs, and has just generally been an all around good member for two decades. There are others like Chet whom we should be honoring. If you have a candidate in mind, talk it over with your fellow members and write up a simple petition (I could even help with the form and wording). We can never replace past honorees like Nate Siegel, Dale Durst, Orrin Turnquist or Leon Snyder, but we shouldn't let that stop us from replenishing the list of honorary members!

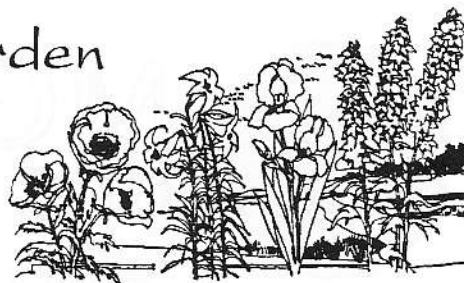
The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members and friends. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

Editor.....Andrew J. Marlow
Staff.....Mary Maynard,
Robert C. Olson, Terry Robertson



The Freedom Garden

Gregory P. Smith
President, MGCM



By the time this issue of the Spray reaches your house, the "Super Bowl Game" will be over. The winning team will be done celebrating and the runner up will be home planning for next year. The 60,000+ fans, reporters and player will all be gone after enjoying our mild 30° weather and visiting our "hot spots" like the skyways and the Winter Carnival Ice Palace. The Cities will have put on their best front; politicians rolled out the red carpet and thousands of volunteers worked long hours for a stocking cap.

Now I know many of us wanted 15 inches of snow on game day, or a week of 10° below zero, but like good Minnesota people we want to be "nice" to our out of town friends, even when faced with those cynics who said, "Minneapolis in the middle of winter is a nice place to visit, but it's COLD."

Yet when I look back at how we treated our guests, I know I will be proud to be a Minnesotan; to be part of a very special group of people, smart people, who have all their guests visit in the winter so its secret beauty remains untouched. A winter garden to an outsider might just look like snow, but to a Minnesota gardener it reminds them of the quiet summer beauty we work so hard to create and love so much - the clean air, the rose gardens, the parks, the rivers and the lakes. Minnesota, what a great place to live! Let's keep it that way by sharing our garden stories and garden knowledge, and caring about our state.

I look forward to seeing you all again at our February meeting.

p.s. Who ever invented Minnesota football anyway? It must have been a Minnesota winter gardener.

Letter from a Friend

Dear Members of MGCM,

Regrettably I will not renew my membership due to personal circumstances. I have enjoyed my all too brief association with the club. I have learned much and personally gained from the fellowship and new friends acquired.

Best of luck to you all. I know the club's future will continue to build on its rich and contributive past achievements and service.

Sincerely,
Thomas F. Hansen

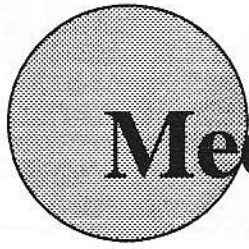
Add To MGCM Directory

Renewing Member:

Norman ter Steeg
4708 Colfax Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

New Member (to be voted on at the February Board of Directors meeting):

Alice Chapin
6615 Lake Shore Drive, Unit #215
Richfield, MN 55423



MGCM Meeting Report

by Mary Maynard

January 14, 1991

Program: Asexual Propagation of Coleus and Impatiens

January's featured speaker was our Vice President, Lee Gilligan, who provided advice and hands-on experience in propagating plants from cuttings.

Lee is a "specialist" in coleus and impatiens (having studied under a master, Lois Carlson). He grows about 10,000 coleus and impatiens plants each winter, for use in extensive plantings at his house, sale at our spring plant auction, etc. This year, he is also growing a selection of coleus for the Arboretum, which lost its collection last year.

Lee's propagation method has a 98-99% yield for coleus and impatiens. This year, he has also done some experimenting with geraniums, where he has had about 60% success, using the same methods. Lee brought in a couple of examples of geraniums which had flowered out fully in his light garden — and looked very cheery on our bleak January day!

Here's a summary of Lee's propagation methodology, from taking things out in the fall through putting them back out in garden the following summer:

1. Take cuttings before evening temperatures get too cool — 45° or warmer — but also avoid excessive sun and heat. Take cuttings from side shoots, avoiding tips that are going to seed. Cuttings should be about 1-1/2 to 2 inches. Pinch off all but the top set of leaves from the cutting.
2. To avoid bringing problem insects into the house, dip cuttings in Orthene before planting.
3. Plant the cuttings in moistened mixture of two parts peat, one part perlite, and cover with a clear plastic bag or other form of clear cover. Set in a shady area outside or place under fluorescent lights until rooted — approximately 10 days.
4. Water cuttings from the bottom by floating the trays of cuttings in a tray (without holes!) containing water one flat at a time. (Pay attention to flats closest to the fans in your light garden. They'll need watering soonest.)
5. Uncover cuttings as soon as safe to avoid fungus formation.
6. Keep your cuttings warm. They're tropicals, and do not like it cool. The growth rate will depend on how warm the cuttings are (70 to 80 degrees).
7. After about 30 days from cutting, the plants are big enough to cut again (except for the cuttings brought in from the garden, which often take two to three times longer). Before recutting, there should be enough growth so that a 1-1/2 inch cutting can be taken and still leave one or two full sets of leaves on the parent plant.
8. A second cutting on the original plants will net four to six cuttings per plant. Each plant needs to be cut approximately every thirty days (after the first cutting). At some point, the "parent" plants will no longer thrive, and

continued, page 5

January Meeting Report

continued from page 4

at that point, they should be stripped of all possible cuttings and discarded.

9. Remove plants from the light garden the last week of May for planting the first of June.
10. When preparing to set plants outside again, keep the plants in the shade for seven days before planting. Beware of two things: cold and sun. The plants will also dry out faster when outside, so check them every day.
11. Plant coleus and impatiens as deep as you like, just like tomatoes. They will form roots along the stem. Crowding the plants will force them to grow taller.
12. Fertilize lightly every two weeks with foliar spray.

A few other notes:

- Lee doesn't use any rooting hormones with his coleus and impatiens. With a 98-99% yield, it's apparent that rooting hormones aren't necessary.
- Lee does not use any soil heating mechanism. The fluorescent lights in his extensive light garden provide enough heat in his environment.
- With dipping cuttings in Orthene (outside, please!), he has never had a problem with spider mites or other insects indoors.
- No fertilizer is required over the winter.
- A lot of coleus's look alike under lights, where they don't have as much color as they would outside. We should label carefully — and not be too confident about the variety we have.

After Lee's presentation, we all got a chance to try his techniques — and do a little of his propagation work for him! He assured us that the fruits of our labor would be available for sale at our spring plant auction.



Business Notes

At its January meeting the MGCM Board of Directors:

- heard the final treasurer's report for 1991, showing a net gain in Club funds of \$333.00, \$17.00 more than last year.
 - received registration materials for the 1992 annual convention of Gardeners of America (formerly Men's Garden Club of America) to be held June 12 through 15 in Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 - decided the August Garden Tour would be coordinated with the Flower and Vegetable Show on August 9. The Show runs August 8 and 9.
 - decided to match MGCM member contributions to the fund drive for a new home for the Minnesota State Horticultural Society up to a total of \$5,000.00 (see article on page 6)
 - received a request from the MSHS to help staff the MSHS exhibit at the Home and Garden Show, February 13-16, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.
 - Treasurer Mel Anderson reported that as of January 1, MGCM had 91 paid members, 6 who have dropped their membership and 14 who have not paid their 1992 dues.
- At the regular January MGCM Membership meeting:
- Past President Merle Pulley was awarded a life membership in Gardeners of America.
 - the 1992 MGCM budget was approved.
 - a well used square nosed spade and three well used cultivators formerly used by Roger Koopmans' crew were auctioned off. Auctioneer Fred Glasoe quipped, "these things know how to garden all by themselves."



MGCM To Help MSHS Get New Home



Kent Petterson
Fund 125 Coordinator for MGCM

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Our own Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS) needs a new home. For the past few years the MSHS has promoted their Mission 125 plan to obtain a new home by their 125th Anniversary. A building has been located and the goal is within sight. MSHS has asked the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis to help raise money for the purchase.

On November 26th, your board of Directors voted to authorize a Fund Raising Campaign among our members with goals and guidelines to be developed later. Kent Petterson volunteered to head up the campaign and developed a proposal that was approved by the Board at their January meeting. This approval was subject to general membership approval via the annual budget as amended and approved at the Club meeting on January 14th. The following are the main components of the campaign:

1. The campaign has a goal of \$10,000.00
2. Fifty percent of the money will be raised through contributions from individual members. For every dollar contributed by mem-

bers, the club will match their contributions dollar for dollar up to a maximum total of \$5,000.00.

3. Pledges will be solicited for payment during 1992.
4. Payments will be made by check written to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society - Mission 125, and sent to Kent Petterson at 908 E. River Terrace, Mpls., MN 55414 before Dec. 31, 1992.
5. Members will be given the option of remaining anonymous. Recognition will be made by both MSHS and MGCM if members do not request anonymity.
6. All contributions are tax deductible for checks written to MSHS.

We have a wonderful start to what we're sure will be a successful campaign. If you are able to consider a gift to MSHS, please be as generous as possible. We would also appreciate receiving your gift or pledge amount as soon as possible. The clip off form below is for your use in sending a check or making a pledge. If you have any questions, please call Kent at 332-1821.

Help Buy MSHS A New Home

- Yes, I would like to help. I have enclosed my check in the amount of \$ _____
- I would like to pledge an amount due for payment before December 31, 1992
Amount \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and send to:
Kent Petterson, 908 East River Terrace, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414
If you wish to remain anonymous, please circle (YES)

Signature

Coming Attractions

February 4 7:30 p.m.

MGCM Board Meeting

Greg Smith's House

February 11 6:00 p.m.

MGCM Dinner Meeting

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

February 13-16

Home and Garden Show

Minneapolis Convention Center

February 20 7:00 p.m.

Community Garden Committee

Pershing Neighborhood Center

3523 West 48th Street

(just north of Lake Harriet Church)

March 3 7:30 p.m.

MGCM Board Meeting

Lee Gilligan's House

March 7 6:30 p.m.

Garden Club of Ramsey County Silent Auction
(a benefit for the new MSHS building)

Como Park Conservatory

March 17 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at the Dayton-Bachman Flower Show

Dayton's Downtown Store

April 7 7:30 p.m.

MGCM Board Meeting

Eldon Hugelen's House

April 14 6:00 p.m.

MGCM Dinner Meeting

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church



50th Anniversary Feature

Minneapolis 1942

(Editor's Note: Each month this year - MGCM's 50th - we will sample headlines from that month in 1942. This month's headlines come from the Minneapolis Morning Tribune. My apologies to any who may be offended by the use of the word "Jap" instead of Japanese, but I am printing these headlines exactly as they appeared in 1942. Our attitudes toward non-Europeans, especially those with whom we were at war, were considerably less enlightened then.)

Feb. 2 - **Navy Raids 6 Jap Bases**

Feb. 3 - **Man Drowns as Car Breaks Through Ice**

Feb. 4 - **Marines Aid MacArthur**

Feb. 5 - **"Bad" News From War Outweighs "Good"**

Feb. 7 - **US Issues Sugar Books**
Weekly ration of 12 ounces per person expected

Feb. 9 - **Japs Land on Singapore**

Feb. 10 - **Normandie Burns in N.Y.; 200 Hurt**

Feb. 12 - **Singapore: No Surrender**

Feb. 16 - **Singapore Surrenders**

Feb. 17 - **Army Lowers Draft Limits on Eyes, Teeth**

Feb. 19 - **Schools May Begin Later as Defense Aid**

Feb. 20 - **300 Drivers Walk Out at Yellow Cab**

Feb. 24 - **Sub Shells West Coast**

Feb. 25 - **Spring Quota Allows State 2,503 Cars**

Feb. 26 - **Service Men Jam New Center in Loop for Dedication**

Feb. 28 - **Java Sea Battle Rages**

50th ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP RULES



The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis (MGCM) will be celebrating its 50th anniversary as a club in 1992. In honor of this celebration, MGCM will be awarding at least one \$1,000.00 scholarship to a student or students interested in a career in horticulture, landscaping or a related professional area. MGCM is a group of men and women interested in gardening, home landscaping and improving the communities in which we live. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who has career goals consistent with the interests of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

CRITERIA OF APPLICATION AND AWARD

- 1 - Student must be a resident of the State of Minnesota.
- 2 - Student must be accepted or currently enrolled at a school within the State of Minnesota. The curriculum must be accredited or formalized.
- 3 - Student must have a demonstrated career interest in horticulture, landscape, etc.
- 4 - Applications must be postmarked no later than May 1, 1992. A committee of MGCM will choose the winner and award the scholarship by August 1, 1992.
- 5 - Finalists may be interviewed at a date and location to be determined.
- 6 - Financial data, age, gender, race or religion

will not be considered in awarding this scholarship.

INFORMATION REQUIRED WITH THE APPLICATION

A - A letter of recommendation from an individual (non-family) knowledgeable about the applicants horticultural experience and goals.

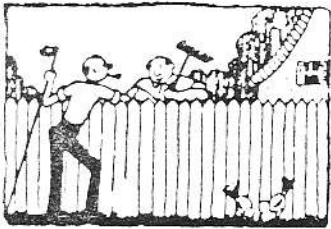
B - A letter of recommendation from an individual (non-family) knowledgeable about the applicants personal character.

C - Other information the applicant deems appropriate.

D - A statement indicating to which institution the scholarship money should be sent.

Applications and requests for information should be addressed to:
MGCM Scholarship
c/o Kent Petterson
908 East River Terrace
Minneapolis, MN 55414





MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

MEMBERSHIPS IN
MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
NORTH STAR REGION, MGCA
MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP _____

HIGH SCHOOL: _____ GRADUATION DATE: _____

COLLEGE OF ENROLLMENT: _____

HORTICULTURAL AREA OF STUDY: _____

PRESENT ACADEMIC STATUS: _____ EXPECTED GRAD. DATE: _____

CUMULATIVE GPA: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

1) Describe your education/career goals.

2) Describe the specific horticultural program in which you are/will be enrolled.

3) Describe your personal horticultural experiences and any group involvements.

4) Why do you wish to pursue a career in horticulture or related areas?

Signature

This completed application, along with the required information (see announcement letter) must be provided by all applicants. Only those that meet all the criteria and provide all information will be considered. Please use additional paper as necessary.

You Would Have Liked...

OTTO NELSON

Bill Hull

MGCM Historian

Otto was the one with the steeply terraced backyard garden, the mountain goat garden he once called it. At 5409 Girard Avenue South Otto and Minnie faced the problem of what to do with a steep hill rising just behind their house. They solved it by building a series of terraces featuring retaining walls and grass strips which needed mowing. I was always impressed with the beautiful flowers he had growing up to the sky; I was equally impressed with the problem of moving a hand mower upwards layer by layer to trim the grass on each level. I still think that was a major reason they finally backed away from that house.

Otto was a newer member than some of the deceased about whom I've written but he made his mark in many ways. His unusual handling

of his yard was a mark of originality. He had been admitted to the club on January 1960 after being sponsored by friend Bill Ost. He was a beloved and friendly man.

Professionally, he was a mailing list compiler, owner of Nelson Name Service, and provider of mailing lists to meet many special requests. He sold the firm in his later years. Those "later years" saw him pass away at about 90.

I don't know in what sequence this piece about Otto will be used, but as I have been preparing them I'm overwhelmed at the life span of our early members. So very many of them lived to be about 90. Why? Genes? Attitude toward life? Exercise through gardening? There's a pattern there.



50th Anniversary Feature

Return to:

The Garden Spray of MGCM, Inc.
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Hopkins, MN 55343-6744

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First Class Mail

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