

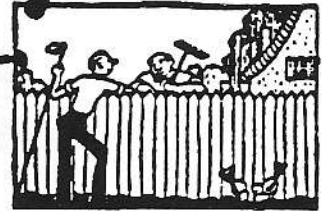


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

February 1994, Volume 52, Number 2



February Dinner Meeting

Minnesota Wildflowers and Preserving Native Landscapes

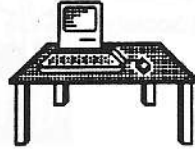
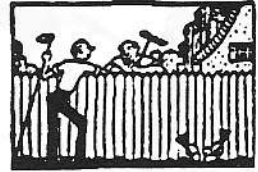
Speaker: Lisa Mueller,
Endangered Species Program Manager,
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Lisa is a former member of the field office of the Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Chapter, and a current volunteer with the Nature Conservancy



Only fragments of our state's native plants exist a century after we started plowing prairies and harvesting forests. The Nature Conservancy is working to preserve these last few remnants.

Tuesday, February 8 6:00 p.m.
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
4901 Chowen Avenue South, Minneapolis
\$7.00 if reserved in advance \$8.00 without reservation



The Editor's Desk
Andy Marlow

Today's mail brought a bonanza. No, not tapes of the old television show. There were half a dozen gardening and computer catalogs amongst the junk mail and bills. These are my two current passions and I enjoy pouring over each catalog, thinking what I would order if only I had the money and the time to put my new purchase to work.

One of the garden catalogs was purely hostas and another perennials with a good selection of my favorite herbaceous perennials. I suspect I got these two by virtue of my memberships in the Minnesota, Midwest and American hosta societies. Joining a specialized plant society is a great way not just to get catalogs that stimulate your dreams and possessive lust, but puts you in touch with others who share your gardening interests. If you have a special horticultural interest, pursue it by joining one of these societies. The Minnesota State Horticultural Society has a list of local societies and the Anderson Horticultural Library at the Arboretum should have publications from the national organizations.

The *Garden Spray* staff has grown many-fold over last year, and the new members are eager to contribute to your newsletter. Look for the debut article by Carolyn Hayward in this issue, and some new bylines in issues to come.

I have always told newcomers to Minnesota that we have an annual attempt to reach -30° in the winter and 100° in the summer here. Now that we've tried for the low temperature, maybe summer will right itself and we'll have a shot at some real warmth come July and August.

Coming Attractions

February 1 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board of Directors
Clyde Thompson's House

February 8 - 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

March 1 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board of Directors
Bob Voigt's House

March 22 - Time to be announced
Dayton-Bachman Flower Show
Downtown Dayton's Store

April 5 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board of Directors
Chuck Carlson's House

April 12 - 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

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.....Ed Biren, Chuck Carlson, Dale Fisher, Carolyn Hayward, Mary Maynard, Derrill Pankow, Merle Pulley



The President's Report

Clyde Thompson, President, MGCMM

Photo by Dr. Bill Jepson

When the wind chill temperature outside is -58° , the only sensible thing to do is stay inside and cook up a mess of Horticultural Society beans. The 13 varieties were acquired at the Fall Home and Garden Show from Lee Shannon, who used a hot bean pot laced with savory herbs to lure customers to the MSHS booth.

Now it's almost time for the Spring Home and Garden Show (March 2 through 6 at the Minneapolis Auditorium and Convention Center). Not only that, but the Dayton-Bachman Flower Show will be coming along in mid March (we'll be meeting at Dayton's on March 22 to share dinner and tour the show). That's what's nice about Groundhog Day—if you can remember back that far, it's only been about 3 months since you put away the lawn mower and it's only about 3 months before you'll be cutting the grass again. Gardening in Minnesota is 6 on and 6 off. Maybe that's why the state tax code was written to excuse people who can prove they live in another state at least six months plus a day during the year.

The indoor and green house gardeners, of course, never get a chance to just sit and watch 13 varieties of beans boil.

One week later:

Comes now the January thaw. Does anyone remember a year there wasn't one?

Jackson Perkins is still in business, with

a catalog full of pictures of roses superior to any I can grow. Maybe I should just blow up the pictures and hang them on a bush.

Additions and Corrections to the 1994 Directory:

- change the Sunshine Committee Chair to Phil Peterson
- change the Dayton-Bachman Flower Show meeting to March 22
- add Plant Auction Committee Chair Bob Stepan and Tours Committee Chair Dave Johnson

Needed: More members...

for the Tours Committee, and members and a Chair to work on the Stevens' House garden. Please call Dave Johnson to join the Tours Committee and Clyde Thompson to volunteer for the Stevens' House subcommittee of the Community Garden Committee.

Notice:

MGCMM members' dues for the Minnesota State Horticulture Society were not credited in time for the January-February *Minnesota Horticulturist* to be mailed to members. Copies will be available for pick up at the February MGCMM dinner meeting.



Monthly Program Report

by Mary Maynard

January 11, 1994

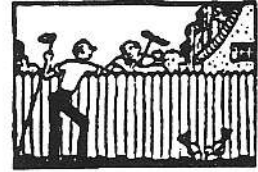
We had a big crowd on hand to hear Mary Maguire Lehrman's talk about her trip to Japan last August. As many of you know, Mary is a native of St. Paul and is affiliated with the Minneapolis Park Board. She has a very impressive list of horticultural credentials. And she was the first woman to join MGCM in 1989—a sign of great bravery and fortitude!

Mary traveled to Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a representative of the City of Minneapolis to the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Intercity Solidarity. She has at least two connections to Japan through her work: While working with the Como Conservatory in St. Paul, she met Mr. Watanabe from Nagasaki who was designing the Japanese Garden at Como Park. In addition, Peace Stones from the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have been installed at the Lake Harriet Rock Gardens.

The main part of Mary's presentation consisted of slides from her visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The weather during Mary's visit was oppressively hot and humid. She never saw the sun the entire time she was there. She did get to experience a hurricane, though, so she got a little variety in the weather. Fortunately, damage was minimal where Mary was.

Mary's visit to Hiroshima was quite structured, and she spent much of her time attending sessions at the conference.



She was able to work in a little sightseeing, and we saw some splendid slides from the Peace Garden near "Ground Zero" at Hiroshima. While there aren't a lot of flowers in most Japanese gardens, there were quite a few in the Peace Garden itself. Water is another significant theme, reminding us that water was one of the things that the Hiroshima victims needed most. So far, over 120,000 people have died from the effects of Hiroshima.

In Nagasaki, Mr. Watanabe made Mary and her fellow travelers very welcome. They spent some time in family homes, and were able to see some outstanding Japanese gardens, many of which are not often open to the general public. Some of the gardens have been in existence for hundreds of years.

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, I won't try to describe Mary's slides. But here are a few other interesting notes:

- Cicadas were everywhere, and the noise was overpowering.
- Everywhere Mary went, the people of Japan went out of their way to make her welcome.
- The taxi drivers in Japan wear uniforms, and the seats of the cabs have damask covers.
- Things are extremely costly. Watermelons cost about \$15 apiece, and most produce prices are about three times what we pay here. Mary saw a t-shirt for \$89, and a typical women's blazer costs about \$500.

This spring, Minneapolis-St. Paul is sponsoring a Japan-America celebration, and organizers are looking for volunteers to invite Japanese visitors to dinner at their homes. (The Japanese exchange a lot of gifts, and Native American items seem to be very much appreciated.) More information about how you can participate is on page 6.



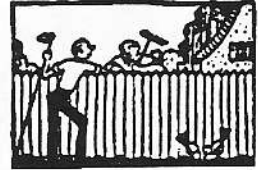
1993 MGCM Awards

Photos by Dr. Bill Jepson



- Clyde Thompson—President's Cup (outstanding service to the President)
- Andy Marlow—Bronze Medal (for outstanding service to the Club)
- Carolyn Hayward (center left)—Lehman Trophy (outstanding member garden on the summer tours)
- Henry Orfield (top left)—Albert R. Blackburn Trophy (flower sweepstakes at the Flower, Food and Foto Show)
- Kent Petterson (lower left)—Tom Foley Memorial Trophy (vegetable sweepstakes at the Flower, Food and Foto Show)
- Henry Orfield—Foto Sweepstakes winner for the Flower, Food and Foto Show
- Chuck Carlson (lower right)—Robert L. Smith Memorial Trophy (best showing by a first time exhibitor at the Flower, Food and Foto Show)
- Carolyn Hayward—1993 Rookie of the Year
- Lee Gilligan—Life Membership in TGOA/MGCA
- Dave Johnson—Honorary Membership in MGCM





Share some "Minnesota Hospitality" – host a Bar-B-Q for Japanese Guests

From May 28 through June 4, 1994, America Japan Week will come to the Twin Cities. During this special week, 1500 artists and performers (some of them certainly gardeners, too) from Japan will present daily exhibits and demonstrations, and nightly performances. All events will be free and open to the public. In addition to this main event, some groups will visit the homes of local families as part of the **Minnesota Hospitality Home Program**.

For the Minnesota Hospitality Home Program, local families will open their homes to four Japanese guests and one bilingual volunteer for a Bar-B-Q party. Interested families are asked to fill out and return the reply form below, and will be

contacted by Japan Week staff at the end of April for final schedule information.

Participating families will come to a downtown hotel (to be announced) where a Hospitality Coordinator will introduce each family to their Japanese guests. Families will then drive the Japanese guests to their home, and enjoy an American meal together. After the meal, families will bring the Japanese guests back to their hotel.

There are no requirements for menu selection. Families can prepare a meal of their choice, as the goal of this program is to introduce our Japanese guests to American culture.

**America Japan Week
Minnesota Hospitality Home Program
Reply Form**

Name: _____

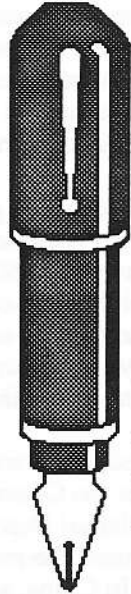
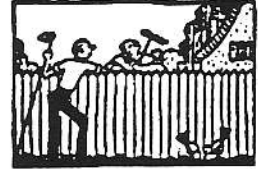
Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Desired dates for hosting dinner: (Circle as many as you wish, but you will be asked to host only once)

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5/28	5/29	5/30	5/31	6/1	6/2	6/3	6/4

Mail this form to: **America Japan Week**
33 South 6th Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, MN 55402



Meeting Notes

At their December meeting, the MGCM Board of Directors:

- reappointed Merle Pulley as MGCM's representative to the MSHS Board of Directors.
- heard an update on membership renewals for 1994.
- approved Ed Biren, Janice Johnson, Walt Muehlegger, Patti Reynolds, Virginia Thompson and Richard Ziminskie as new members
- set a meeting schedule for 1994 (appears in the 1994 MGCM directory).

At their January meeting, the MGCM Board of Directors:

- heard a report on membership renewal rates for 1994.
- approved applications for new members Derrill Pankow, Rodger Sefelt and Tim McCualey.
- made arrangements to transfer responsibility for Club leadership to the new officers and directors at the January membership meeting.

At the January business meeting, MGCM members:

- witnessed Bill Hull induct officers and directors for 1994 (listed on the back cover of the *Spray*).
- voted unanimously to approve the 1994 budget as published in the December *Spray*.
- heard a report from Holiday Party Committee Chair Mary Maynard that the party netted \$14.70.

Member Info

New Members

Edward J. Biren
13401 Morgan Avenue So, #315
Burnsville, MN 44337
Home phone: 890-0540
Work phone: 348-4177

Janice A. Johnson
1226 West 53rd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55419
Home phone: 824-0295
Spouse: Duane

Walter J. Muehlegger
715 Lone Oak Road
Eagan, MN 55121
Home phone: 454-4582
Spouse: Joyce

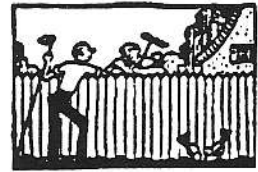
Patricia Reynolds
7116 39th Avenue North
New Hope, MN 55427-1303
Home phone: 537-6512
Spouse: Duane

Virginia Thompson
4429 Dunham Drive
Edina, MN 55435
Home phone: 922-1696
Spouse: Clyde

Richard J. Ziminskie
6931 Ednevale Boulevard
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
Home phone: 937-8966

Renewing member

(not in directory):
Keith Monjak
6140 Pleasant Avenue
Shorewood, MN 55331
Home phone: 470-6050
Work phone: 347-3228



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

The National Garden Bureau has made this the Year of the Snapdragon and the Watermelon.

Snapdragons are easy to grow and look great in mass plantings. They are native to the Mediterranean and southern Europe. The Romans probably brought them to England, where they later became very popular in Victorian gardens. Snaps came to North America in the 18th century.

Snapdragons belong to the Figwort family. The scientific name is *Antirrhinum majus* which means "like a snout". The English gave it the common name snapdragon. In China and Japan it is known as the goldfish flower. In Sweden it is called Lejongap, which translates to "lion mouth".

In 1958, 'Rocket' was introduced and all six colors received the 1960 AAS Silver Award. 'Bright Butterflies' was the 1966 AAS winner. Other AAS winners have been 'Floral Carpet', the 'Princess' series, 'Madam Butterfly' mixture and the 'Little Darling' mixture. These are all still available plus other noteworthy varieties such as the dwarf 'Pixie' and 'Tahiti' and the medium tall 'Sonnet' and 'Sprite'.

Snaps should be grown in a rich well drained soil. They do best in full sun but will flower in light shade. Amend soil with well aged compost or peat, and provide a neutral pH. They are readily available as bedding plants but can easily be grown from seed. Just remember to seed them 10 to 12 weeks prior to setting out and they need light to germinate. Do not cover the seeds with the seed starting

mixture. Keep the seeds moist by putting the planted container in a sealed plastic bag until the seeds are germinated. Remove the bag as soon as they are germinated and place them in a bright light.

It takes a bit of a luck to grow watermelons in our area. They need light soil, warm temperature (70 to 80 in the day and 60 to 70 at night), lots of sun and a long growing season. The earliest varieties need 70 to 80 days to mature. Our last two cool, wet summers made that almost impossible.

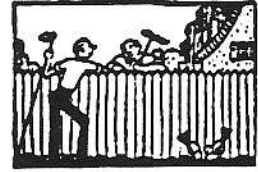
In all likelihood, watermelons originated in Africa or the Orient. They were known in the Kalahari Desert of Africa where travelers used the melons as a source of water. In China, seeds were found in prehistoric caves which have been dated to 3000 BC.

The botanical name is *Citrullus lanatus*. The only other cultivated species in the *Citrullus* genus is the Citron melon. But there are many close tropical relatives such as cucumbers, gourds, cantaloupes, pumpkins and squash.

Watermelons today have 6 major classes ranging in weight from 5 to 100 pounds. The record is 255 pounds. That would be a lot of water and sugar, but what a nice taste on a hot summer day. Watermelons are 93% water with a 10 to 14% sugar content.

The Tip

Each year MGCM designates a flower and a vegetable for a special award at the Flower, Food and Foto show. The 1994 selections are the Petunia (*Solanaceae*) and the Beet. My tip of the month is to include these plants as you make your garden plans and buy seeds or bedding plants. Maybe you will win the coveted ribbon for the National Award at the show in August.



The Art of Vegetable Gardening

by Carolyn Hayward

When I was a child, living in Dover, NH, my father decided to start a vegetable garden. He dug a bed about 10 by 20 in the corner of our lot and planted the seeds. He must have had some previous experience because things grew well, at least to this child's eyes. As things happen in life, my father left us and I took over the garden. I eventually expanded the garden area in our yard, putting an annual bed by our doorstep and planting dahlias and roses along the fence.

After I left home, I didn't do any vegetable gardening until my husband and I moved to Savage, Minnesota. We bought a house on a lot with the basic suburban, clay pan soil with 2 inches of top soil. I put in a 25 by 30 vegetable garden on the southeast corner. I planted the garden and then watched topsoil wash away. The next year we built raised beds and bought top soil to fill them. The plants started out real nice, then strange things began to happen to them (at least to an Easterner). Gone were the slugs and Japanese Beetles. In their place marched vine borers, cabbage loppers and verticillium and fusarium wilts. It was frustrating, but rather than quit I strived to learn more in order to beat the adversarial pests who were wrecking havoc on my fun. I began to really learn about gardening.

The quest for knowledge on gardening has never left me. Each year I look for new varieties to try and more information on organic ways to fight insects and diseases. Maybe there's a vegetable variety out there that's more insect free, more disease free, more beautiful, and better tasting, than the one I'm growing. Last year I tried

golden tomatillos. I never harvested enough tomatillos to make salsa, but they were a great trap for cucumber beetles. My cucumbers were hardly bothered.

I've tried the most popular broccolis, Packman and Green Comet, but I prefer the lesser known Green Goliath, because it sets lots of side shoots after the main shoot is harvested. To keep off the cabbage looper caterpillars I use Bt and a row cover.

Summer squash can be a real trick for gardeners in Minnesota. Just when you start to harvest the ripe zucchini, the big leaves wilt in the slightest sun and the plants stop producing squash. Eventually, the plant dies. Many winter squash are susceptible, too. It took a few years of practice, but now I'm almost 100 percent successful at saving my squash from the attack of vine borers. Vine borers are the larva of a moth which lays its eggs on the stem. When the eggs hatch the larva bores into the stem. It eats its way up the stem, blocking water from getting to the leaf. To make things more difficult for the vine borer, I cover the whole bed with row cover after planting. I leave it on until the female blossoms begin blooming. This gets the plants as large as possible before they are attacked. When I know a vine has a borer in it, I carefully slice open the vine vertically and dig the fat, white larva out. It's disgusting and it takes a little practice, but it works. Then I cover the vine base with a mound of dirt so more roots can grow from the stem. Keep the plant well watered, especially while its in this weakened condition.

Continued on page 10



Vegetable Gardening

Continued from page 9

How can you tell when a vine has a borer? Is the plant wilting when the sun shines, even though it was recently watered? Look at the base of the vines for little holes with orange granules under them. This is where the borer entered the vine. Some winter squashes, especially butternut types, are resistant to borers. The vines seem to be too hard for the borers to enter. I prefer the butternut variety Butter Boy from Burpee.

On last summer's MGCM garden tour, people asked about my tomatoes growing in plastic-wrapped cages. I got the idea from Charlie King (a past president of MSHS). I also grew my bell peppers this way, though I used old peony cages for them. The peppers did fine growing in the plastic wrapped cages all season. I grow Big Bertha Pepper available from J.W. Jung Seed Company. It grows large peppers, at least six inches long. This is a great asset for a pepper lover like me. I did pull the plastic down part of the way, so bees could get in to pollinate. There's a book out by Dave DeWitt and Paul Bisland called *The Pepper Garden*. It's an all encompassing work, but very readable. They describe types of peppers, suggest varieties to try, culture, research on growing, even the pitfalls of commercial pepper farming.

When I planted my tomatoes out on May 24th, the cages were completely wrapped to keep the plants warm. As the days became warm, I opened up the top in the morning and closed it at night. My plants grew beautifully. I grew Ultra Boy, a cherry tomato, Sweet Million, from Stokes, and OG 50, a gift from *Organic Gardening Magazine*. When it finally warmed up, I pulled the plastic down so it covered only the bottom 18 inches of the

cage. This was supposed to prevent disease spores from splashing from the soil onto the leaves. It didn't work. The OG 50 became infected, then the Ultra Boy, and finally the highly resistant Sweet Million. I have grown the Ultra series tomatoes and Sweet Million before and I have never had leaf spot or early blight disease on them. Maybe the plastic kept the plants too moist and facilitated the growth of disease. I'm going to grow these tomatoes again, but I'm going to take the plastic off once it gets warm.

I'm reading a book by the publisher Harrowsmith called *Salad Garden*. The co-authors of this book live in a Zone 4 area of Ontario. The authors give their opinions on vegetables varieties, historical accounts, how to grow them from seed, and even recipes. So take a chance and try some of the varieties Chuck Carlson suggested or one that I've suggested. It's fun to try new things.

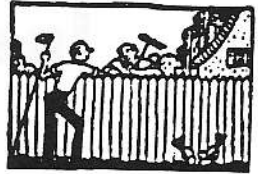
Needed:

Volunteers to help the Minnesota State Horticultural Society at the Home and Garden Show, March 2-6, 1994, at the Minneapolis Auditorium and Convention Center.

If you wish to help with a 3 hour shift in one of the MSHS booths at the Show, call Jerry Shannon at 690-1214 or Kathy Cleary at 781-3871.

Volunteers receive free admission to the Show and there will be shuttle service between the Center for Northern Gardening and the Convention Center for hassle-free parking.

Call today for the best choice of shift times.



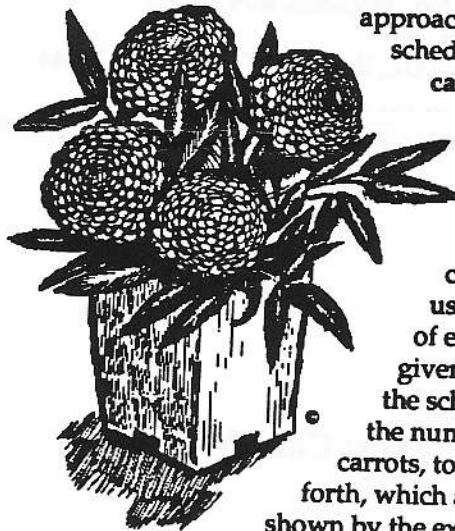
Growing for Showing: Preparing for Exhibit

by Duane Reynolds

(Second in a series.)

Last month we looked at the fun of exhibiting, choosing what to grow and some cultural considerations. This month we move on to the actual preparation for the show.

Preparation for Showing



As the date of the show approaches, obtain a show schedule and read it very carefully. The schedule is considered the "law of the show". The schedule will state the time of entry, the classifications to be used, and the number of entries required in a given class. For instance, the schedule will specify the number of beets, carrots, tomatoes and so forth, which are required to be shown by the exhibitor. There is nothing worse than an exhibitor assuming that they must exhibit three carrots and getting to the show to discover five are required for an entry. The schedule will also state if bottles are to be furnished by the exhibitor or if the show committee will have them available. It will also list other restrictions which, if not followed, can lead to disqualification. **Don't assume—read the schedule!**

The schedule for MGCM's Flower, Food and Foto Show is either published in

The Garden Spray or mailed separately to members a month or so before the show. It's usually in a handy size that can be folded and carried around in a pocket while selecting specimens or preparing them for exhibit.

Specimen Selection

Early in the morning, select those specimens you are going to exhibit in the show. Be sure to carry along some tags or other way to mark the specimens so you know the name of each variety. This is important because listing the variety name not only adds to the educational value of the show, but frequently top awards are not given to unnamed varieties. Check for disease or insect damage, spray residue or discoloration. Examine each specimen carefully for any problems with the color, substance or condition of the specimen. Always include a few extra items, if possible. Accidents do happen. If the specimen needs to be placed in water, do so and then place the container in a cool place.

Transporting

Stabilize the specimens as best you can to keep them from rolling around and bruising each other, or swaying back and forth and breaking. Sometimes five gallon pails with chicken wire over the top can be used to stabilize specimens and prevent them from being damaged. Then drive very carefully to the show location.

Next month, how to groom and place your specimens for exhibition and judging.

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