

Celebrating Our 55th Year

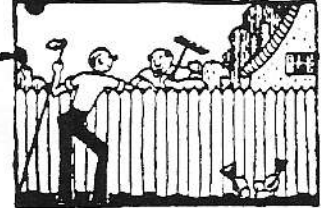


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

February 1997, Volume 55, Number 2



February Dinner Meeting...

Hosta Hunting in Japan

Presented by
MGCM member **Dr. Robert Olson**, President of the
American Hosta Society

Bob writes:

"We went by chartered bus with representatives of the Japanese Hosta Society and professional plant hunters 'in search of Giboshi' (the Japanese name for hosta)."

"I'll be showing my slides and relating (with appropriate hyperbole) the story of searching for Hosta species in the wilds of the mountains of Central Honshu and on remote Islands in the Japanese Inland Sea. It will last about an hour but is more interesting than just showing a bunch of little green plants that we saw in the rain. I have shown these a couple of times before just to practice up in case I was invited to present at the Men's Garden Club."



Date: Tuesday February 11, 1997

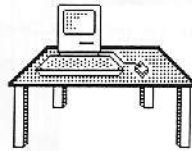
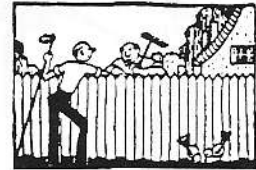
Place: Lake Harriet United
Methodist Church

Time: Dinner 6:30 pm
Business 7:00 pm
Program 7:30 pm

Cost: \$7.00 if reserved in advance
\$8.00 at the door if meals
are available

Important Note about Reservations

The 1997 permanent reservation list goes into effect for this meeting. Check your mailing label. If it says "nc" in the corner, you are on the permanent list. If there is no "nc" on your label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must call **Director Kay Wolfe by Friday, February 7**, to be assured a place at dinner. If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Kay by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the price of your dinner. **Kay can be reached at 922-0762. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person.** There will be a second opportunity to sign up for a permanent reservation at the February meeting.



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

This seems like the longest winter in recent memory—and it is only the end of January as I write this. We have already exceeded the average annual snow fall for the entire winter. Though we have not approached last year's record cold, we've had enough below zero weather to remind us of the harshness of the climate we have chosen to inhabit.

What a pleasant relief, given these conditions, to have garden catalogs begin arriving around Christmas time. By now I have a huge stack in the magazine basket in the living room that I can pour through at my leisure. I dream of new varieties of annuals, of that \$50 hosta I just have to have, and of the delightful colors and fragrances that await if we can just make it through the next few months.

Every once in a while I'll spend a dollar or two on a Power Ball lottery ticket. I never expect to win, but what fun it is (until the numbers are actually called) dreaming about what I would do if I did win. I call it my "cheap fantasy". In a way all those garden catalogs are a cheap fantasy, too, although I have a much better chance of seeing my dream come true. I know I'll never spend the money on a zone 5 perennial that, with lots of care, could be nursed through the Minnesota wind chill—but it sure is fun to imagine it!

While I indulge my fantasies I also get busy in the basement with seedlings and cuttings. While I dream, I also spend at least part of my time tending the little things that will make part of that dream come true when the growing season finally arrives.

Coming Attractions

Tuesday, February 4–7:30 pm
Board of Directors Meeting
Maury Lindblom's House

Tuesday, February 11–6:30 pm
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

February 13–15
Spring Home and Garden Show
Minneapolis Convention Center

Tuesday, March 11–7:30 pm
Board of Directors Meeting
Mary Maynard's House

Tuesday, March 18
Dayton's–Bachman's Flower Show
Skyroom Restaurant
Dayton's
8th & Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis

Tuesday, April 1–7:30 pm
Board of Directors Meeting
Walt Muehlegger's House

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.....Chuck Carlson,
Richard Coldren, Sher Curry and
Robert Olson



Maury's Musings

by Maury Lindblom, President, MGCM

There was a lot of variety in our January meeting, what with induction officers and directors, awards, new members and an expert round table. The questions given the experts also revealed the wide variety of interests the members of MGCM have. Queries about subjects ranging from bonsai to wisteria were deftly fielded by the panel.



Photo by
Lloyd Wittstock

It has been said, with a great deal of truth, that "variety is the spice of life", but does your garden need more "spice"? Do you try several new plants in your garden every year? There are a lot of interesting things to grow other than the "standard" items.

Sometimes we gain inspiration when we see something that attracts our attention in another's garden. My wife and I were quite taken by the English Daisies (bellis perennis) that we saw last year at the Dayton's Bachman's Flower Show. I put some in the rock garden and they did quite well. This year I hope to start some Leopard's Bane (doronium cordatum). We saw this blooming in many gardens when we were in Norway in June.

I am sure most of you have had similar inspirations, and I hope you have acted on them. Most flowers and vegetables are not difficult to grow and branching out to new plants can be gratifying. Of course, sometimes you fail and have to try again. Remember, though, that you have an enormously valuable resource in your fellow MGCM members. Someone in the club will know the reason

your plant failed and can help you.

The club as a whole will be trying out a lot of new varieties in the perennial trial garden. This will add lots of "spice" to the club.

So either as individuals or as a club, we should approach each new growing season with eagerness to strike out in new directions toward horticultural adventures.

Member News

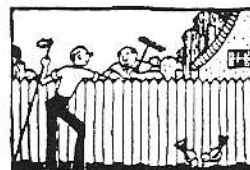
New Members

Al and Joan Wellnitz
4801 West 114th Street
Bloomington, MN 55407-3412
Phone: 881-4840

Address changes

C. L. "Chuck" Cutter
9113 12th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55425-2203

Charlie "Pete" Proctor
8140 Township Line Road
Indianapolis, IN 46260-5824



Monthly Program Report

by Sher Curry

We tried to stump our Master Gardeners at the January MGCM Dinner Meeting with many difficult questions, but they seemed to have all the answers! Our panel consisted Mel Anderson, Marilyn Brummer, Kathleen LoSapio, Duane Reynolds, and Clyde Thompson.

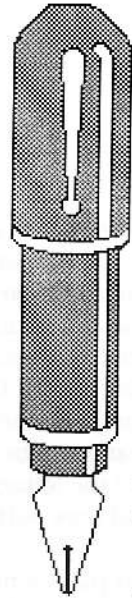
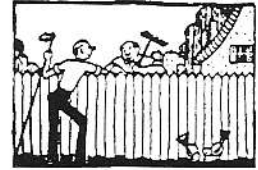
One of the main reasons I joined the Men's Garden Club was to take advantage of the vast amount of knowledge that lies within the members. I have acquired a large amount of knowledge and insight within the last year from both of the clubs I participate in. Following are some of the questions and answers discussed at our meeting in January:

- A good Delphinium for Zone 4 is 'Pacific Giant'.
- 'Champagne' and 'Henry Kelsey' are two of the hardy climbing roses.
- 'Aunt Bee' is the name of the hardy Wisteria.
- **Bonus**—Jerry Shannon has seeds from this hardy beauty.
- To avoid leaf nematodes on your hosta, keep the area around them as clean and free of debris as you can.
- Use a mild mixture of soapy water to get rid of black fungus on your houseplants.
- A recommended mix for propagation of carpet roses is equal parts of sterilized soil, vermiculite and peat moss.
- To control powdery mildew on shrub roses use Othenex or a combination of products every five to six days and keep at it. The more

air movement around your roses, the less mildew you will have. During those extra wet seasons Duane suggested giving up the fight.

- For getting rid of those pesky slugs try either a commercial slug bait "Slug Getta" or place beer in low saucers or bowls, then collect the soused slugs the next morning. The commercial slug bait is very toxic to pets and wild life. I heard recently that non-alcoholic beer works better. If you have shrews in your area, they like to dine on slugs.
- To rid your yard of Creeping Charlie use 10 to 15 ounces of 20 Mule Team Borax per 1000 square feet or use 2-4-D in the fall to weaken it. I would read up on it first, or talk to someone in detail, as I have heard you can ruin your soil with a bleach mixture if overdone. If you only have a small amount, try the old fashioned method of hand pulling it. The root system is very superficial and it pulls out easily.
- If you are trying to get rid of Juniper bushes you must get all of the roots out and recharge your soil as they create a very acid soil situation.
- When having trouble with your Pee Gee Hydrangeas, keep in mind they are very fussy about soil and don't like to be around trees or bushes.
- How can you contain your Monarda? Work on it and find fellow gardeners to take some. Pot it up and bring it to the Plant Sale.

(continued on page 9)



Board Meeting Minutes

Walt Muehlegger, Secretary

January 7, 1997

Members present: Chuck Benson, Howard Berg, Chuck Carlson, Maury Lindblom, Mary Maynard, Walt Muehlegger, Bob Stepan and Kay Wolfe. Members absent: Bill Jepson

The meeting was called to order by President Maury Lindblom at 7:45 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the December meeting were approved on a motion by Kay Seconded by Chuck Carlson.

Treasurer's Report: The monthly Treasurer's report was approved as presented on a motion by Walt seconded by Chuck Benson. Holiday Party report was also approved on a motion by Walt and seconded by Chuck Benson. The 1996 final budget report was approved as presented on a motion by Mary with a second by Chuck Carlson.

The subscription rate for receiving just the *Garden Spray* should be \$12.00, not \$10.00 as printed in the last issue of the *Spray*.

Vice President's Report: Bob Olson will talk about his trip to Japan in February and the Dayton's Bachman's Flower Show is in March.

Old Business

1997 MGCM membership is 132. Howard Berg said he would start a petition to award honorary membership to Henry Halvorson.

New Business

Membership applications for Al and Joan Wellnitz were approved on a motion by Chuck Carlson with a second from Howard Berg.

The 1996 Industrial Beautification Award will be given to Ridge Pointe at the January meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Evenson will be invited to the meeting to receive the award.

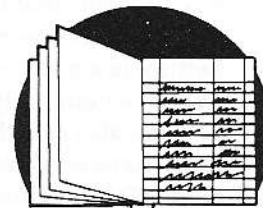
The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. on a motion by Kay seconded by Mary. Next meeting is Tuesday, February 4 at Maury Lindblom's.

Tidbits

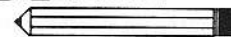
I want to thank the MGCM members for the beautiful blooming cyclamen plant you sent me during my recent hospital stay. It really brightened up my room. Sincerely,
John Moon

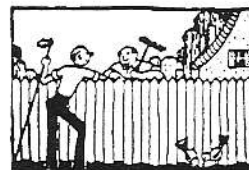


The 1997 MGCM Membership Directories were distributed at the January Dinner Meeting. If you did not pick up a directory then, one should be enclosed with this issue of the *Garden Spray*. If you did not receive a directory by either method, please call Andy Marlow at 933-5759 and he will see that you get one.



ADDRESSES:





Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The message for this month is "Think Spring" This is not really too hard after all the snow we have received and the fact that the seed catalogs have been arriving for a month. Maybe you have already picked some new plants to try this year but I will pass on some listed as new for 1997. These were provided by the National Garden Bureau.

- Begonia, tuberous Non-Stop 'Apple Blossom'
- Impatiens Dazzler 'Lilac Splash'
- Impatiens 'Mosaic Lilac'
- Petunia 'Pink Wave'
- Miniature Rose 'Angle Wings'
- *Gypsophila, muralis* 'Gypsy' (AAS award)
- *Zinnia, angustifolia* 'Crystal White' (AAS award)
- Zinnia 'Dreamland'
- Radish 'Salad Queen'
- Thai Basil 'Siam Queen' (AAS award)
- Cabbage 'Dynamo' (AAS award)
- Okra 'Cajun Delight' (AAS award)

Spring is also the time for green—not only the color but edibles like lettuce, too. It seems that lettuce and mesclun have become a very trendy as of late. Lettuce is a good health food but it can also give your early garden a nice look. Lettuce, also called *Lactuca, sativa*, most likely have originated in central Asia about 500 BC. Thus lettuce is one of the oldest vegetables.

You can seed them directly in the garden very early or even get an earlier jump on things by starting them inside.

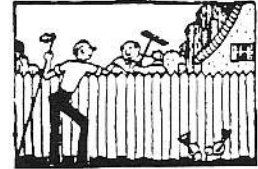
Don't start them earlier than 2 or 3 weeks before planning to put them outside. I plant them in my front yard where I have more sun and can get them in earlier. I plant them far enough apart so I can later add flowers in between. By the time the flowers are getting big, the lettuce is passed its peak and can be pulled out. I have left some of the lettuce plants just for their foliage until they bolted from the hot weather.

You should plant a number of varieties. It makes a much nicer salad when you pick a few leaves of each variety. You can snip some of the leaves when they are very small for early salads. The plants will grow additional leaves and you can have a continuous supply. Here are are a few varieties that looked good to me—some of these I have tried, others I have not.

- Prizeleaf (It has a reddish tinged top)
- Red Sails (AAS award red-bronze leaf)
- Merlot (a deep burgundy leaf)
- Rosa d'Amerique (green and rose tipped)
- Salad Bowl (AAS award)
- Diamond Gem (an improved 'Little Gem')
- Mighty Red Oak (new for '97)

Mesclun has been around for quite a while but has become more popular in the last 10 years. It is nothing more than a mixture of greens. The Provencal French are purists and define mesclun as a precise mixture of only chervil, arugula, lettuce and endive. In America, mesclun is a mixture of any greens, such as lettuce,

(continued on page 9)



1997 MGCM Scholarship Announcement

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis (MGCM) will be awarding three \$1000.00 scholarships to students of horticulture in 1997. Students interested in a career in horticulture, landscaping or a related professional area are encouraged to apply.

MGCM is a group of men and women interested in gardening, home landscaping and improving the communities in which we live. Over the last five years we have awarded a total of \$13,000.00 for student scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to students whose career goals are consistent with the interests of the gardener members of MGCM.

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 areas such as gardening and landscaping consistent with the interests of home gardeners.
- 4 - Applications must be postmarked no later than May 1, 1997. A committee of MGCM members will choose the winner(s) and announce the recipients by June 1, 1997.

5 - Finalists may be interviewed at a date and location to be determined.

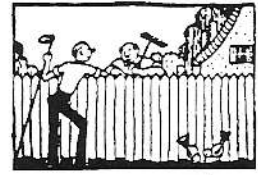
6 - Financial data, age, gender, race or religion will not be considered in awarding this scholarship.

Information Required with the Application

- A - Fully completed application form.
 - B - A letter of recommendation from an individual (non-family) knowledgeable about the applicant's horticultural experience and goals.
 - C - A letter of recommendation from an individual (non-family) knowledgeable about the applicant's personal characteristics.
 - D - Other information the applicant deems appropriate (optional).
 - E - An address with person's name and institution to which the money should be sent.
- Note: All required information, letter items A, B, C and E, must be provided. If information is missing, your application will not be considered.

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 1997 Scholarship Application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HIGH SCHOOL: _____ GRADUATION DATE: _____

SCHOOL 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 on previous page) 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.



Proctors Move to Indiana

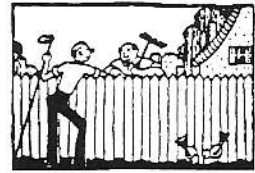
"We have lost one of the hardest working members we've ever had in the club," said MGCM Historian Bill Hull recently. Charlie Proctor, affectionately known as "Pete" to many, and his wife Ruth have moved to Indianapolis, Indiana.

Charlie is the fourth oldest member of MGCM in terms of seniority. Only Larry Corbett (1946), Lloyd Bachman (1950) and Bill Hull (1952) have been in the club longer than Charlie, who joined in 1956.

Charlie was MGCM President in 1965, was awarded the Bronze Medal in 1970 and the President's Cup in both 1968/69 and 1984, and was elected to honorary membership in 1987. Bill remembers Charlie carrying flats of plants at the annual plant auction, his tremendous leadership and physical contributions to our annual flower and vegetable shows, his willingness to appear at any activity where help was needed, and the many times he counseled other about growing vegetables, at which he was a master.

Charlie and Ruth were fortunate to acquire lovely property with extended care, if needed, in an area where they had made many friends. They will also attend the the church where their daughter Ann, an Episcopal priest, served for several years before being transferred to Australia.

We will all miss them and wish them good health and good gardening. Their new address is listed on page 3 if you would like to drop them a note.



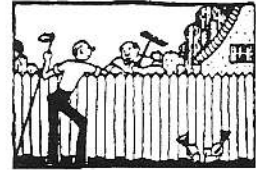
Program Report

(continued from page 4)

- When splitting up Hydrangeas, you will find them hard to cut, but they are quite hardy and should bounce back.
- Trees that do not do well as bare root are the real hardwood trees with long tap roots such as oaks.
- The most recommended mail order seed companies are: Stokes for dependability, Park for variety and Harris.
- A recommended place to look for ornamental grasses is Landscape Alternatives in St. Paul.

So there you have it, some friendly advice from your fellow gardeners. Keep in mind the amount of knowledge and experience so many in the club have to offer. Thank you to the panel members for answering all of our questions.





Award Winners!

The following awards were presented at the January MGCM Dinner Meeting:

Tom Foley Memorial Trophy

Bob Voigt

for the most points earned in the vegetable division at the Flower, Food and Foto Show

Blackbourn Trophy

Henry Orfield

for the most points earned in the flower division at the Flower, Food and Foto Show

Robert L. Smith Memorial Trophy

Kathleen Brunk LoSapio

for the most points earned by a first time exhibitor at the Flower, Food and Foto Show

Sweepstakes Award

Henry Orfield

for the most points earned in the photography division of at the Flower, Food and Foto Show

Industrial Beautification Award

Ridge Pointe in Minnetonka

for outstanding landscape and gardens at a commercial/industrial site

Dick Lehman Trophy

Lee Gilligan

for the best garden on the summer tours

Giant Pumpkin Award

Bob Voigt

for the largest pumpkin grown by an MGCM member in 1996

Giant Sunflower Award

Howard Berg

for the largest sunflower grown by an MGCM member in 1996

Rookie of the Year

Sher Curry, Jack LoSapio and Kathleen Brunk LoSapio

for outstanding contributions to MGCM by a first year member

Green Thumb

Walt Muehlegger, Russ Smith, Bob

Stepan and Kay Wolfe (1 year) and

Henry Orfield (2 years)

for perfect attendance



Bob Stepan, Walt Muehlegger, Kay Wolfe and Russ Smith give the green thumb up sign after receiving their awards.

Thompson Quoted in National Magazine



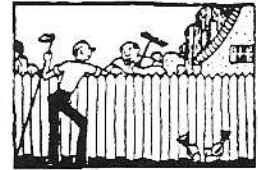
MGCM Past President Clyde Thompson was quoted in the Spring 1997 issue of *Garden Ideas and Outdoor Living*. In an article entitled "Still Growing After All These Years" which chronicled the history of garden clubs, it was noted that today clubs are shedding the "elitist image of being composed of well-

heeled women who joined for a club's social benefits and garden shows."

Later on, authors Ellise Pierce and Samantha S. Thorpe noted:

"Clubs that limited membership to men or women now allow both. 'Garden clubs should consist of couples, because they garden together,' explains Clyde Thompson, past president of the Men's Garden Club in Minneapolis, who enjoys gardening with his wife, Virginia. 'People come because they want to learn more about gardening. When I was president, I wanted to make it more educational for our members.'"

The authors encouraged readers to join garden clubs for the camaraderie and educational potential. They list The Gardeners of American/Men's Garden Clubs of America as a national resource for locating local clubs to join.



Chestnuts

(continued from page 6)

cress, rocket, chicory, mizuna, arugula, dandelion, frisee, endive, spinach, chard, etc. Americans sometimes even add herbs and edible flower blossoms.

A lot of the leaves have a tangy, tart or peppery flavor and must be mixed with milder looseleaf lettuce. I like the more flavorful greens in small pieces with a high proportion of lettuce. This way they don't overpower your taste buds. You can stir up your own seed mixes or purchase them pre-packaged.

Lettuce and other greens vary in nutritional value but in general loose leafed varieties are the highest in vitamins A and C plus calcium and some iron. Crisp heads are the lower, probably due to the blanching that occurs naturally.

The Tip

- Try some of new flowers varieties and plant some greens for an early garden.
- When you wash lettuce make sure you spin or otherwise dry the leaves. This will allow the dressing to stick to the leaves and not fall to the bottom of the bowl.

Spring

The crab apple has budded and Blossomed.

Its petals are pink in the lane.

The grasses are green on the hillsides.

And the lilacs are sweet in the rain.

The earth has been furrowed and plowed.

And the seed thrusts up spear after spear.

This is the season of promise.

This is the spring of the year.

Inside:

Page 2/	Editor's Column Events Calendar
Page 3/	President's Column
Page 4/	January Program Report
Page 5/	Board Meeting Minutes Tidbits
Page 6/	Chuck's Chestnuts
Page 7/	Scholarship Announcement
Page 8/	Scholarship Application
Page 9/	Proctors Move to Indiana
Page 10/	Award Winners
Page 11/	Thompson in National Magazine

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Maurice Lindblom
5219 Malibu Drive, Edina, MN 55436
Vice-President: Mary J. Maynard
4375 Dart Ave. So., St. Louis Park, MN 55424
Secretary: Walter Muehlegger
715 Lone Oak Road, Eagan, MN 55121
Treasurer: Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305
Past President: Bob Stepan
7717 Riverdale Dr., Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

DIRECTORS:

Chuck Benson
5808 West 78th Street, Edina, MN 55410
Chuck Carlson
1001 Hackman Circle, Fridley, MN 55432
Bill Jepson
13207 Henning Circle, Prior Lake, MN 55372
Kay Wolfe
2740 Florida Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55426

Return to:

The Garden Spray

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.
Andrew J. Marlow, Editor
10700 Minnetonka Boulevard
Hopkins, MN 55305-4404

First Class Mail

FORWARDING AND RETURN
POSTAGE GUARANTEED,
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED