

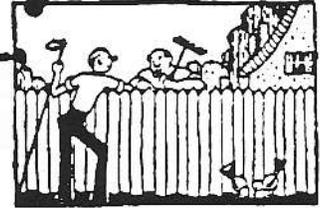


# The Garden Spray

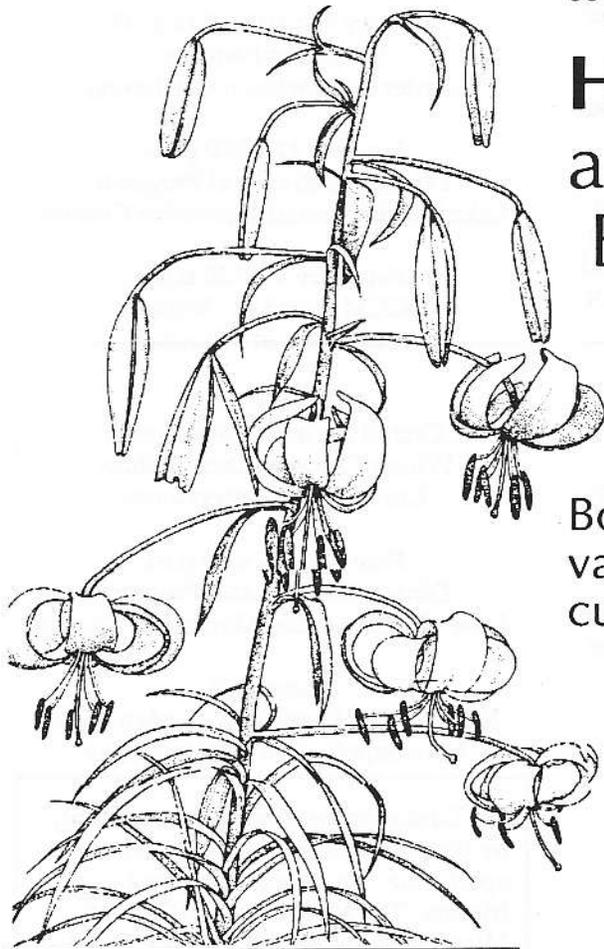
Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

January 1993, Volume 51, Number 1



## January Dinner Meeting and Program



### "Consider the Lily: How It Grows" a presentation by Bob Waldoch of the North Star Lily Society

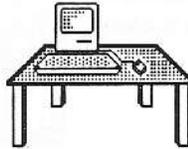
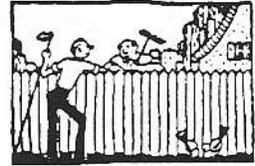
Bob will show slides of various varieties and talk about their cultural requirements.

Date: January 12, 1993

Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner  
7:00 p.m.  
Meeting and Program

Place: Lake Harriet United  
Methodist Church  
4901 Chowen Ave. So.

The 1992 permanent reservation list is still in effect for the January meeting. If you are on the 1992 list, be sure to call Elden Hugelen if you cannot attend. If a reply card is enclosed in this issue of the *Spray*, please send it to Eldon as soon as possible.



### The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

This issue of the *Garden Spray* has a slightly new look. It reflects changes suggested by Bill Morse, a national expert on desktop publishing. I attended his seminar in Minneapolis during November and came away with lots of good ideas. The new type and the rearranged layout are meant to make the *Spray* easier to read. Let me know what you think.

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society is looking for a few good painters who are willing to volunteer their time on the weekend of January 9 and 10 or 16 and 17 to paint the interior of the new home of the MSHS, the Center for Northern Gardening. If you can handle a paint brush or roller and have some free time then, call Carolyn Hayward at the MSHS office at 624-7752.

Watch out for plant-nappers! Henry Halvorson came home from a weekend away to find that over \$500 of new plantings had been stolen. I have twice had plants taken from my flower bed on the boulevard. While we'd all like to have people admire our plant material, this goes a bit too far. Any suggestions for better plant security?

#### NEW MEMBERS:

Carolyn Hayward  
13805 West Preserve Boulevard  
Burnsville, MN 55337  
h) 890-8463 o) 624-7752

Mark R. Winsor  
5204 16th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55417-1814  
h) 724-0939 o) 856-2323

## Coming Attractions

January 5 - 7:30 p.m.  
MGCM Board of Directors  
Greg Smith's House

January 9 & 10 and 16 & 17  
Volunteer Painting  
Center for Northern Gardening

January 12 - 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner Meeting and Program  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

February 2 - 7:30 p.m.  
MGCM Board of Directors  
Lee Gilligan's House

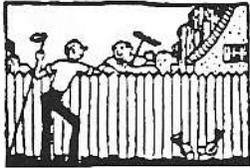
February 6 & 7  
Orchid Society of Minnesota  
Winter Carnival Orchid Show  
Como Park Conservatory

February 9 - 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner Meeting and Program  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

March 3-7  
Minneapolis Home and Garden Show  
Minneapolis Convention Center

*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,  
Mary Maynard, Robert C. Olson



# President's Column

## Lee Gilligan, President, MGCM

WOW! Things to do, places to go, people to meet and so many things to accomplish. That's the feeling I have as the 1993 President of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. At the same time, I need to remember what Kent Petterson keeps telling me, "Our members joined the Club to enjoy themselves."

Looking back to last year and by the willingness to volunteer this year, I can see we have a real group of "worker bees." Our members do enjoy their community service work.

On of the things I would like to see accomplished this year is a more specific description of what each of our committees is expected to do. There is also a need to coordinate tasks between committees. Kent has agreed to coordinate efforts with

many of the key committees and their members. The efforts of those committed people have been very important to this organization over the years.

Ed Culbert, one of our oldest and most respected members, passed away early in December. I, along with a number of MGCM members, attended a memorial service for Ed on December 19. Ed became an active member of MGCM in 1945 and took over as editor of the *Garden Spray* in 1970. He served in that capacity for 22 years. Just a few weeks before he passed on, Past President Merle Pulley and then President Greg Smith visited Ed at home and presented him the Green Bronze medal for outstanding service to MGCM, the Club's highest award. He will be sorely missed.

---

## Profiles

(continued from page 5)

### Robert Stepan, Director

Bob is beginning his second year as a MGCM Director. His yard was on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour last summer. Roses are Bob's special favorite, but he also grows vegetables, a whole host of annuals and perennials. Bob joined MGCM in 1986, and has been active on the Plant Auction and Fragrance Garden Committees. He and two partners operate a tooling, metal work and engineering business.

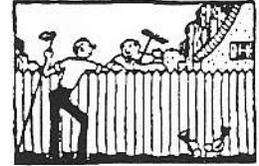
### Bob Voigt, Director

Bob is a newcomer to the Board. He's been an MGCM member since 1990 this time. He was a member through the 1960s following the merger of the Men's Garden Club of Richfield into MGCM. He has

served on the Plant Auction, Flower and Vegetable Show and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committees. Bob has a small, shady garden at home in South Minneapolis and a 40 acre "private arboretum" on the St. Croix River south of Afton. He's a management consultant for non-profit groups.

### Lloyd Wittstock, Director

Lloyd is entering his third year as a Club Director. He is chair of the Photography Committee and active on the Fragrance Garden Committee. Lloyd likes growing vegetables, especially trying new and unusual varieties. He uses a version of square foot gardening for both flowers and vegetables, utilizing inter-cropping and double-cropping techniques. Lloyd is an instructor and curriculum director for the American Indian Vocational School.



# Compost Happens

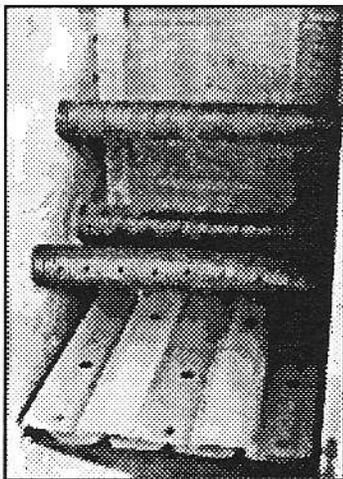
by Merle Thomas Pulley

Most of the manufactured compost bins on the market today have three major problems: they are too small, they do not provide for adequate air infiltration; and it is too difficult to "turn" the materials that are simply stacked up in a tube or box.

Ready-made composting bins are too small to do the job of digesting yard waste even for the average city lot of 150' x 40'. A few weeks of grass clippings or a couple of bushels of leaves, and the compost bin is full. Then what about the clippings from the rest of the lawn-mowing season? And, what do you do with the bags and bags of leaves you rack up in the fall?

## Build Your Own

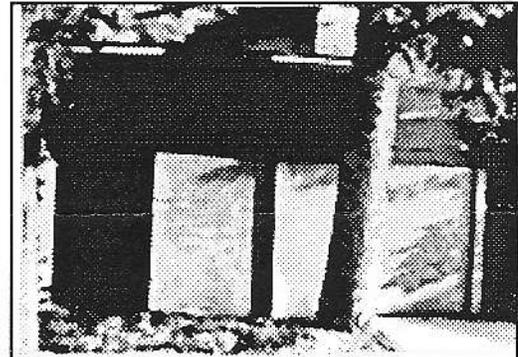
There are several advantages to building your own composting enclosure. You can build one large enough to handle all your grass clippings and leaves, provide for needed air infiltration and facilitate ease of turning the materials.



This composter is built with five sheets of 4' x 8' treated plywood and treated 2" x 4" and 4" x 4" posts. It has three separate compartments so it is easier to "rotate the stock." Each compartment is provided with air supply channels to promote decomposition of the plant materials. The "air tubes" are plastic field drainage pipes that can be purchased at building or farm supply stores for just a few dollars. They are hung

on 1/2" pipe that extends horizontally through the structure.

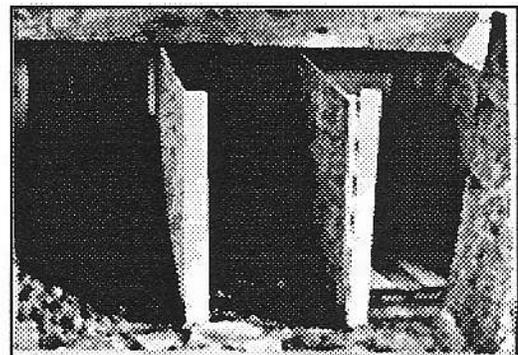
The front 4' x 8' panel of this unit slides completely away to allow access for turning and removal of the compost. Normally the front panel could simply



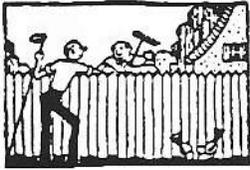
drop away or fold down on hinges, but in this particular situation, a tree trunk is in the way.

## Tips

Compost the organic matter in



(Continued on page 7)



# 1993 Officer and Director Profiles

## **Lee Gilligan, President**

Lee served a two year term as an MGCM Director before becoming Vice-President in 1992. He has served on the Christmas Party and Fragrance Garden Committees, and chaired the Tour Committee last year. Lee is a Master Gardener and a member of the Greenhouse Gardening Society. He has an apple orchard behind his home in Brooklyn Park, and accents the grounds with mass plantings of coleus and impatiens he grows from cuttings. He also grows roses and many other annuals and perennials. Lee is the owner of Crystal Shamrock Aviation.

## **Clyde Thompson, Vice-President**

Clyde is beginning his first year as an MGCM officer. He'll be responsible for planning all meeting programs for the year. Clyde has served on the Plant Sale, Holiday Party and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tours Committees since becoming a member in 1990. He designs gardens for himself and others, and concentrates on growing perennials and lilies. He's a member of the North Star and North American Lily Societies. He retired a year ago as Benefits Planning Manager for 3M.

## **Eldon Hugelen, Secretary**

Eldon is beginning his third term as Secretary. He joined MGCM in 1989, and is active on the Community Garden Committee. He grows primarily perennials. Eldon is a self employed landscape architect.

## **Melvin Anderson, Treasurer**

Since joining MGCM in 1988, Mel has served on the Plant Auction, Christmas Party and Flower and Vegetable Show Committees. He is beginning his third term as treasurer after having served as a Club director. He grows vegetables and perennials, plus a few annuals. He is particularly interested in scented geraniums. Mel was is retired as a cost accountant at the Ford Assembly Plant in St. Paul.

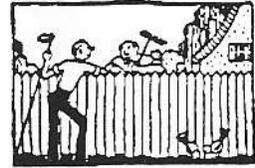
## **Gregory Smith, Past President**

Greg occupied MGCM's top office in 1992. He has been an MGCM member since 1982. He has served on the Arbor Day, Christmas Party, Fragrance Garden, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Tour Committee, and as chair of the latter. Greg grows vegetables, annuals and roses at his home in Golden Valley. Greg is a real estate appraiser with Russell Smith and Associates, and has several other business interests.

## **Don Powell, Director**

Don is beginning his second year as a Director. He became an MGCM member in 1986. Though space is limited at his Hopkins residence, he stills puts in a tomato plant or two for that fresh tomato flavor in late summer. Don has served on the Sunshine and Christmas Party Committees, and put in time at the Fragrance Garden, too. Don is retired after 37 years with Sears in the accounting area.

*(continued on page 3)*



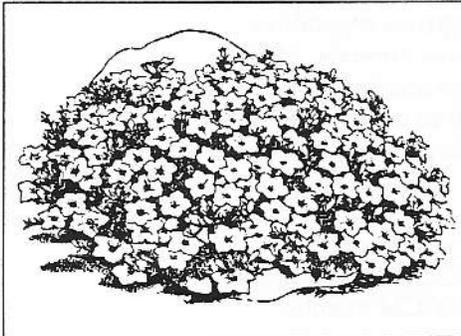
# Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson



## The Chestnut

You probably have already read in *The Minnesota Horticulturist* that the 1993 All America Selections (AAS) are: Verbena "Imagination," Nurembergia "Mount



*Nierembergia  
Mount Blanc*

Blanc," Tomato "Husky Gold" and Pumpkin "Baby Bear." I have always wondered how they were selected. I read a paragraph in the *Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening*, and it prodded me

to write for additional information from the AAS organization in Downers Grove, Illinois.

They told me it all starts by plant breeders sending seeds to the AAS. These are coded and sent to the trial judges, together with standard cultivators and past winners. There are 34 flower, 26 vegetable and 21 bedding plant trial locations and judges. Each volunteer judge is responsible for evaluating performance throughout the growing season. The sum of all these trials is tabulated by a CPA firm and the highest are considered by the board of directors. Only 5% of those submitted win awards.

There is also a network of 235 display gardens where gardeners have the opportunity to view the winners. Three of these gardens are in the Minneapolis area: the Arboretum, the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus display garden, and

Lyndale Park Gardens. I have a listing of all the gardens and the judges if anyone is interested.

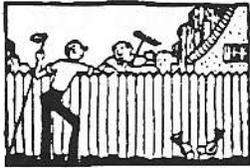
In 1984 garden writers and home gardeners selected their choice of past winners from the first 15 years of the existence of AAS. These were Sugar Snap pea (1979), Green Comet broccoli (1969), First Lady marigold (1968), Queen Sophia marigold (1979), and Scarlet Ruffles zinnia (1974). All are still sold today, so you can see the system does work. I have a list of winners from 1988 through 1992 if anyone would like to check it.

## The Word

The word for this issue is "pericarp." It consists of layers of endocarp, mesocarp and exocarp and people eat it everyday. If you haven't guessed it by now, here is the definition. Pericarp is the external part of the fruit which surrounds the seeds.

## The Tip

In order to grow sweet cucumbers you must maintain even moisture. One way to do this is to punch a few small holes in a coffee can and bury it up to its rim in the middle of each cucumber hill. Keep the can filled with water throughout the growing season. It could be used for other plants also, and it could be used to get liquid fertilizer to the roots. If using it to supply fertilizer keep the fertilizer weak, less than 1/3 strength and not more than every week or two.



# Native Uses of Native Plants: Eastern Red Cedar

by Mary Maguire Lerman,  
Coordinator of Horticulture Programs  
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

COMMON NAME: Eastern Red Cedar

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Juniperus virginiana*

NATIVE NAME: Miskwa'wak

In our area of the country, Eastern Red Cedar rarely grows over 10 meters high. This evergreen can be found growing in dry soils and on ledges and bluffs. The sharp awl shaped leaves are green in summer and typically change to a brown or reddish hue for the winter. Robins and other birds love this cedar for nesting sites. The blue fruits which ripen in the fall are a favorite food of cedar waxwings.

Eastern Red Cedar has had both medicinal and utility uses. The very durable wood is odorous with a red color. Shingles, lead pencils, pails, tubs, and cedar chests are made from the wood. The wood also tends to repel insects and so it is frequently used to line closets for clothing storage.

According to Frances Densmore in her book, *How Indians Use Wild Plants for Food, Medicine and Crafts*, a mahogany colored dye can be produced from Eastern Red Cedar. "The bark of this tree was used by Chippewa women in Ontario for coloring the strips of cedar used in their mats. A decoction was made of the dark red inner bark and the strips were boiled in it."

In the past, medicinal treatments involving the use of the young twigs, fruits, and/or oil of Eastern Red Cedar

have been employed mainly as diuretics, epispastics, diaphoretics, emmenagogues and as aids for arthritic or rheumatic conditions.

---

## Award Winners

The following awards were presented at the MGCM Holiday Party on December 2, 1992:

Lehman Trophy (best garden on summer tour): **Henry Orfield**

President's Cup (outstanding service to the President): **Dave Johnson**

Bronze Medal (outstanding service to the club): **Phil Peterson**

National Slide Show Competition (second place): **Henry Orfield**

---

## Compost

(continued from page 5)

alternating layers of green (grass clippings) and brown (leaves saved from the fall) along with some soil to aid decomposition. After a couple of months, turn the material into the second, or middle compartment. When it has further digested there, turn the nearly finished compost into the third compartment.

The completed compost comes out of the third compartment. It is a good practice to "screen" the composted material. For best results, build a frame from 2" x 4"s that will fit over the top of a wheelbarrow. Cover the frame with 1/4" wire mesh. Screen the compost directly into the wheelbarrow and you're in business.

## Inside:

Page 2/  
Editor's Column  
Events Calendar  
Page 3/  
President's Column  
Page 4/  
Compost Happens  
Page 5/  
Officer & Director Profiles  
Page 6/  
Chuck's Chestnuts  
Page 7/  
Uses of Native Plants:  
Eastern Red Cedar

## MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

### CLUB OFFICERS:

**President:** Lee Gilligan  
6506 W. Broadway, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428  
**Vice-President:** Clyde Thompson  
4429 Dunham Drive, Edina, MN 55435  
**Secretary:** Eldon Hugelen  
7473 W. 142<sup>nd</sup> St., Apple Valley, MN 55124  
**Treasurer:** Melvin C. Anderson  
5701 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55417  
**Past President:** Gregory P. Smith  
1540 Rhode Island Ave. No., Golden Valley, MN  
55416

### DIRECTORS:

Donald A. Powell  
346 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. No., Hopkins, MN 55343  
Robert Stepan  
7717 Riverdale Dr., Brooklyn Center, MN 55444  
Robert S. Voigt  
4934 Aldrich Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55409  
Lloyd C. Wittstock  
913 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. E., Minneapolis, MN 55414

Return to:

# The Garden Spray

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.  
Andrew J. Marlow, Editor  
10700 Minnetonka Boulevard  
Hopkins, MN 55305-6744

FIRST CLASS MAIL

FORWARDING AND RETURN  
POSTAGE GUARANTEED,  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED