

Celebrating Our 55th Year

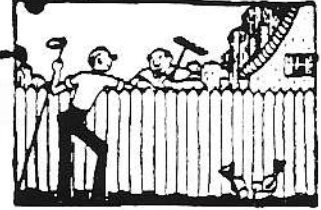


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

January 1997, Volume 55, Number 1



January Dinner Meeting...

Installation of 1997 Officers and Directors

Presentation of Awards, including



- flower, vegetable and photo sweepstakes, and best first time exhibitor from the Flower, Food and Foto Show
- Rookie of the Year
- Greenthumbs
- Spade Club
- and many more



Plus...

Stump the Experts

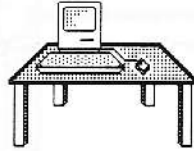
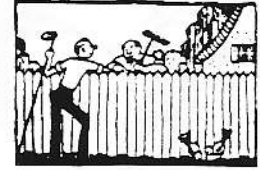
Bring your toughest questions for a panel of MGCM Master Gardeners to answer. This distinguished group knows nearly everything there is to know about annuals, perennials, vegetables, trees and shrubs—even compost. Write down your questions in advance and be prepared to take notes at a furious pace.

Date: Tuesday January 14, 1997
Time: Dinner 6:30 pm
Program 7:30 pm

Place: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
Cost: \$7.00 if reserved in advance
\$8.00 at the door if meals are available

Important Change for Reservations

The 1996 permanent reservation list is still in 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 **Secretary Mary Maynard by Friday, January 10**, to be assured a place at dinner. If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Mary by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the price of your dinner. Mary can be reached at 926-7506. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

As we enter a new year, we also embark on our 55th year as an organization. The Men's Garden Clubs of America (now The Gardeners of America/ Men's Garden Clubs of America) awarded us a charter in 1942. I will print a small banner on the front of each issue of the *Garden Spray* as a reminder of our long and fruitful (I couldn't resist the pun) history.

It hardly seems possible that it was five years ago that we celebrated a half century of existence. We spent the whole year reminiscing about our past achievements and remembering those no longer with us who played roles in making those achievements possible. The 50th anniversary banquet was a glorious occasion, complete with a visit from our then national president.

Perhaps the most lasting reminder and continuing tribute to our 50th anniversary celebration is our scholarship program. The biennial paid garden tours were initiated as a 50th anniversary event. The proceeds have allowed us to award 13 scholarships so far, and there's money in the bank for more to come.

As we start a new year and point toward our 60th anniversary in 2002 and the national convention in 2003, we would do well to remember our past and continue to build on it. Perhaps the proposed perennial demonstration garden (see Bill Jepson's article on page 4) can be our next major achievement. If we maintain our energy, vigor and vision, each notable anniversary will have ever more accomplishments of which we can be justifiably proud.

Coming Attractions

Tuesday, January 7 – 7:30 pm
Board of Directors
Bob Stepan's House

Monday, January 13
Hennepin County Horticultural Society Meeting
Robbinsdale Resource Center

Tuesday, January 14 – 6:00 pm
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

February 1 & 2 – 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Winter Carnival Orchid Show
Como Park Conservatory

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

Tuesday, February 11 – 6:00 pm
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

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

As your President for the coming year one of my duties is to write this column each month. It is with some trepidation that I take up my pen for this task, realizing the many fine writings that my predecessors have contributed.

There are many themes that could be used for a gardening column. I have decided to write on subjects about gardening in the most general sense; including specific ideas about plants and plantings as well as general subjects related to "gardening philosophy" and other observations. This first column will be along the latter lines.

Most of us have been involved in gardening for some time and may have forgotten what originally stimulated our interest. My experience reaches back to my childhood.

My father died when I was quite young and I was raised in an extended family. Besides my mother, brother and I the family consisted of my maternal grandmother and her adult son and daughter. My Uncle Ted worked in the greenhouses of a large florist and, of course, took care of the lawn and gardens at home.



1997 AAA award winner
Thai Basil 'Siam Queen'

I recall following him around the yard at an early age, watching at first and then later helping with planting, digging, clipping and weeding. In addition to learning a lot about gardening, I became accustomed early on to the feel of garden tools in my hands.

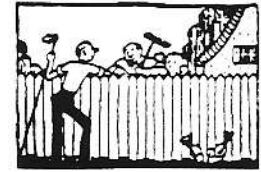
Each season brought its own special excitement: planting in spring and watching sprouting and growth; working with the flowers and vegetables in summer; bulb planting and covering in the fall; and winter to think about the coming year and eagerly anticipate spring.

Later, when my mother, brother and I lived in our own house, I was in charge of the lawn and gardens, but, of course, often consulted with Uncle Ted. World War II, education, medical school, internship, courtship and marriage took me away from gardening for a time. Then, with my own house and garden I returned to its pleasures. For many years I used some of the same tools my Uncle Ted had used and eventually passed some of them on to my oldest son, thus continuing the heritage.

Uncle Ted has been gone now for some 30 years, but each time I plant a seedling, sow seeds or plant bulbs, I think I do it just like he taught me. Now I have the pleasure of teaching my grandchildren the same ways.

Perhaps you have an Uncle Ted, or maybe it was one of your parents who first kindled your interest in gardening. We are all thankful for those who taught us and for the opportunity we have to be teachers and mentors.

I look forward to being your President and to a successful and exciting year for the club.



The Future of the Fragrance Garden

by Bill Jepson

Many of you are aware that MGCM has been considering alternatives to the current Fragrance Garden. In the past couple years we realized that the garden is no longer getting the kind of use that we had hoped.

After the construction of I-94 around Lowry Hill there was left a small piece of land on 19th Street between Bryant and Aldrich near the Minneapolis Society for the Blind (MSB). In 1970 MGCM worked with the Minnesota Highway Department



and MSB to turn that land into a Fragrance Garden that could be frequented and enjoyed by blind people who congregated just a block away. The arrangement worked well until many of the MSB programs were taken over by the

State. Currently there are few activities at MSB and the staff says that their clients use our garden much less frequently.

Some people in the neighborhood have expressed an appreciation for the garden, but homeless people using our lovely plot as a place to spend the night have scared away many of the local residents.

The basic problem is that there is little traffic in that cul-de-sac; few people visit our garden. Each year members clean it up, plant it, nurture it, weed it, water it and clean it up again. Given the amount of

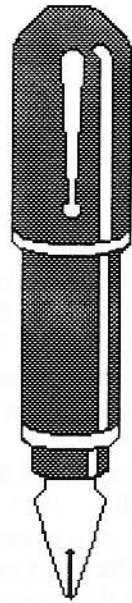
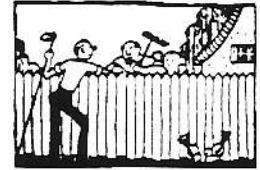
exertion and devotion the club puts into the garden we would like a lot more people to see and enjoy it—even smell it.

A committee was appointed by the Board to consider alternatives. Members of the committee included Dave Johnson (Golden Valley), Bob Voigt, Chuck Carlson, Henry Orfield, Clyde Thompson, Kent Petterson, Bob Stepan and me. We were well aware that this garden has been close to the heart of the members. Our Club has rightly been proud of this unique garden. It contains memorials for some of our departed members and a lot of warm memories. Bill Hull had some pictures showing Dave Johnson and Bob Voigt hefting railroad ties at a time when they were much more able to do so.

It is difficult deciding to leave. So is deciding where we might go. Minnehaha Park seemed a possibility because of the large number of visitors, and our history of maintaining the Stevens' House garden and installing plantings for Arbor Day. However, the available sites all had uncertain futures.

Then we got lucky. Henry Orfield talked with Mary Lehrman of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. She told him that she and John Erwin of the University of Minnesota had been considering a suggestion by the Perennial Plant Association to establish several perennial test gardens around the country—one in Minneapolis. What better place to discover a winter survivor? We were invited to join in this venture with the Department of Horticulture of the University and the Minneapolis Park and

(continued on page 7)



Board Meeting Minutes

Mary Maynard, Secretary
December 3, 1996

All officers and directors were present. The meeting was called to order by Bob Stepan at 7:40 p.m.

Old Business

Secretary's Report:
Minutes of November meeting approved on motion by Howard, second by Henry.

Treasurer's Report:

Monthly report was approved as presented on motion by Mary, second by Bill.

Membership issues:

- (1) Two members who are related but live at different addresses requested dual membership. On motion by Mary, seconded by Henry, the Board approved this request with the understanding that one *Spray* and one MSHS magazine would be sent.
- (2) We had difficulty getting membership renewals in. The Board decided to try sending a separate, color-coded renewal notice along with the *Spray*, with return address and mailing instructions on the sheet. The Board will evaluate the effectiveness of this approach next membership cycle.
- (3) A member of long standing is moving out of town and will not be able to participate in MGCM activities, but would still like to receive the *Spray*. The Board agreed that he could subscribe to the *Spray* for \$10 per year

Vice President's Report: Holiday Party in December; Master Gardener Panel, presentation of awards, induction of new board in January.

Fragrance Garden: The committee working on the future of our community gardening efforts has been working with the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis Park Board on a plan to implement a test garden for the Perennial Plant Association near the Lake Harriet Rock Garden in Minneapolis. Bill Jepson will draft an article about this for the *Spray*, and the committee will present the situation to the full club at the January meeting. Also will invite Mary Lehrman to the club meeting to discuss the situation.

It is unlikely that the Park Board would allow us to move our memorials to Park Board property. Henry volunteered to be in charge of memorials.

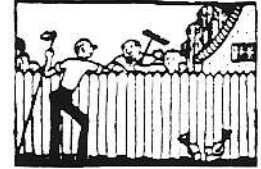
If the Club agrees to move its primary community gardening effort to this new site, Bill will notify the Minnesota Society of the Blind of our intentions.

Meal Reservations: Kay Wolfe offered to handle meal reservations for club meetings in 1997. She will talk to Andy about the possibility of eliminating postcards and handling all reservations by phone.

National Convention: TGOA/MGCA has approved our request to host the national convention in 2003. Mary will send them a letter identifying Duane Reynolds as our convention chairman.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. on motion by Kay, second by Mary

Next meeting on January 7 at Bob Stepan's.



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

I collect a number of things—one of which is sayings, poems, etc., that relate to gardening. A while ago I compiled some of these for a column and I thought it about time for a second compilation.

I am going to start with some that are a play on words: a mystery book is entitled *The Thyme of Death*; a seed catalog is a *Kernel Journal*; the magazine *Green Prints* is also called *The Weeders Digest*; a slogan for a horticultural service organization could be "We always have thyme for you"; and a retired person devoting his time to gardening could be a "Plant Manager".

Next are movies which can be redone for the gardener. Most of them were found in "Green Prints" and written by Mark Trela. I, of course, had to come up with a few of my own. These movies will be presented by 20th Century Phlox: "Dances with Voles"; "BT"; "Edward Prunnerhands"; "American Zucchini"; "Back to the Fuchsia"; "Robo Crop"; "Flash Garden"; and "Field of Beans".

Here are some I thought would sell to a gardening audience: "Four Weedings and a Fuchsia"; "Citronella"; "101 Delphiniums"; and "Spathe Jam".

Come up with some of your own and pass them on. I will print them in a future column.

Let's get serious with some sayings that apply to gardening and nature:

"There is little risk of becoming overly proud of one's garden because gardening by its very nature is humbling. It has a way of keeping you on your knees."

"Gardening requires a lot of water. A

lot of it, but most of it in the form of perspiration."

"Some gardeners, I believe, use gardening as an outdoor theater with themselves as directors." *Jim Wilson*

"He who wants to keep his garden tidy doesn't reserve a plot for weeds." *Dag Hammarskjold*

"Nature is real and the love of nature is part of its reality." *Paul Shepard*

"People from a planet without flowers would think we must be mad with joy to have such things about us." *Iris Murdoch*

"Even the general took off his armor to gaze at our peonies" *Kikaker (1661-1707)*

"All is well when our hands are in Mother Earth." *Allen M. Armitage*

"I am sure that the finest privilege of the privileged is to live among the trees."

I hope this gave you a few chuckles but also some inspiration for life and gardening.

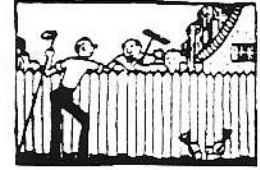
The Tip

What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity.

Lastly here is a little poem which could help us all when we are feeling a little down:

God lives in every garden.
He loves each growing thing.
Forget yourself and all your ills.
Go out and dig and sing.

Have a Happy and a Great Gardening New Year! I hope all your vegetables are virile, your flowers good looking and your weeds well behaved.



To Holiday Party Volunteers: **Big Thanks!**

Wow!

It's wonderful working with so many people who find out what to do, know how to do it, **team** up and get the job done in record time!

No matter what your task was, large or small, we appreciate your part in this effort. We had fun and hope you did, too. Thank you for your participation and good spirits.

Gratefully,
Marilyn Brummer
Nancy Jepson



A New Year Challenge

Pictured above is Howard Berg with his prize-winning giant sunflower grown in 1996. Howard's sunflower was big, but it had few competitors. Only two other members successfully grew and entered giant sunflowers. Make your resolution now to grow the biggest sunflower in all of Minnesota for the 1997 MGCM giant sunflower contest!

Award Winners

Awards given at the Holiday Party:

Lee Gilligan

Lehman Trophy for Best Garden on the Summer Tour

Eldon Hugelen

Bronze Medal for Outstanding Service to MGCM

Andy Marlow

President's Cup for Outstanding Service to the President in 1996

The Lehman Trophy and the President's Cup are traveling trophies. The Bronze Medal is a permanent award authorized by The Gardeners of America / Men's Garden Clubs of America and awarded by the local club.

Fragrance Garden

(continued from page 4)

Recreation Board. We are excited at this opportunity to work with them. Although the details are not yet defined we anticipate an exciting and creative working relationship.

Just think, a 500 foot garden of national reputation! It will show people, including some of our own locals, that it is possible to grow perennials at -30°f in six feet of snow. It will be at Lake Harriet near the Rose Garden and Rock Garden, along the fence by Lakewood Cemetery. Being by the lake and situated near those other marvelous gardens, it will receive plenty of attention. In the next millennium when we host the national convention of The Gardeners of America / Men's Garden Clubs Of America (2003) , it will be our exhilarating and inspiring centerpiece.

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