

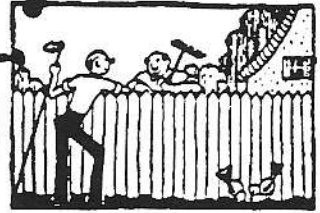


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

July 1996, Volume 54, Number 6



Let's Go Touring!



MGCM Biennial Scholarship Tours

**Saturday & Sunday
July 13 & 14**

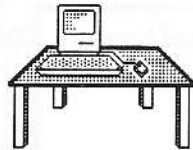
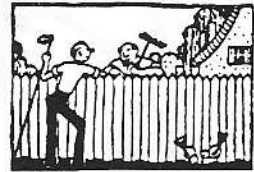
Driving Tours - of seven metro area gardens on July 13 and 14 at a cost of \$8.00 per person. Gardens are open from noon to 5:00 p.m. each day.

and

Bus Tour - begins at Christ Presbyterian Church on the northeast corner of 70th and Normandale Road in Edina at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 13. Box lunches will be served en route. Includes visits to Lloyd Bachman's garden in Farmington and five Metro area gardens. Tickets are \$27.00 per person.



Please mail the proceeds from the tickets you were given and any unsold tickets to MGCM Treasurer Howard Berg, 10107 Lakeview Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305.



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

This is a great time of the year—probably the best time for a gardener. And even better for members of MGCM.

In just a few days we'll be hosting our biennial garden tour to raise funds for MGCM horticultural scholarships. It's a chance to really "show our stuff". Dave Johnson and his crew, not to mention the gardeners whose yards we will tour, have been hard at work to make this event a huge success.

You should also be planning for our August events, including the members garden tour. Watch for next month's *Garden Spray* for all the details.

Don't forget the best opportunity to show your individual stuff—the annual MGCM Food, Flower and Foto Show at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum on August 10 and 11. The Show schedule is enclosed with this issue of the *Garden Spray*.

And on page 7 Mel Anderson provides information and offers tips on showing zinnias, this year's National Award flower. The National Award vegetable is the tomato, and I'm certain no one needs any tips on growing this gardener's favorite.

I'm not a Dave Johnson or Henry Orfield or Bob Voigt—you know, those guys who bring it seems hundreds of entries. But I do enter a few things and occasionally take home a few ribbons. Even if you think you'll never be a sweepstakes winner (as I will never be), take the plunge and see what happens. Entries will be accepted beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday August 10 in the Snyder Building Auditorium.

Coming Attractions

Tuesday, July 2 – 7:30 pm
Board of Directors
Bill Jepson's House

Saturday & Sunday, July 13 & 14
MGCM Public Garden Tour

Saturday & Sunday, July 13 & 14
Saint Paul Healing Gardens Tour
to benefit the
Center for Victims of Torture

Saturday & Sunday, July 20 & 21
Minneapolis Healing Gardens Tour
to benefit the
Center for Victims of Torture

Tuesday, August 6 – 7:30 pm
Board of Directors
Henry Orfield's House

Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 10 & 11
MGCM Flower, Food & Foto Show
MN Landscape Arboretum
Chanhassen

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, Sher Curry, Dale Fisher, Bill Hull, Bob Olson, Derrill Pankow and Merle Pulley



Tips and Snips Plant Sale

by Bob Stepan, President, MGCM

Isn't it fun to be a gardener—the definition of gar-den-ing (gärd'ning), noun, the art of killing weeds and bugs to grow flowers and crops for animals and birds to eat.

The perennial are blooming along with some of the annuals to make the gardens look colorful and provide a compliment for all the hard work one has done.

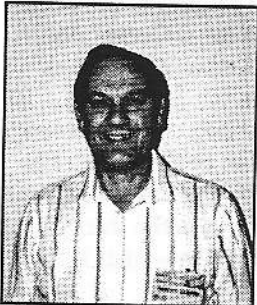


Photo by
Ted Olson

It is also the time of the year when insects arrive. One of our goals is to control those little critters. They really aren't so bad. It's only when they hang around and start families that the trouble begins. Someone has suggested that we could train insects to do something useful, such as termites sharpening pencils. On second thought, it might be a lot easier to use a good insecticide to help us keep at least part of our flowers and vegetables.

We describe weeds as plants that can survive a week without water, don't need fertilizer, pruning, spraying, staking, mulching, dusting or wrapping with burlap, paper or plastic. If we could hybridize them with our regular plants, just think of the enjoyment we'd have.

It will be exciting to see once again the gardens that will be on our biennial tour. Let's all participate and support our scholarship fund. Remember to sell (or buy) your tickets, and send the money and unsold tickets into Treasurer Howard Berg. And I'll look forward to seeing each of you in my garden on July 13 and 14.

p. s. How are your sunflowers doing? How about the pumpkins? Who will get the prize for the largest of each come October? My sunflowers are growing 1 1/2 inches a day!

by Eldon Hugelen,

Food, Flower and Foto Show Committee

Again this year at the Food, Flower and Foto Show, MGCM is having a plant sale. This helps to offset the expenses of the Show. Last year we made enough to cover the rent for the Snyder Building Auditorium

Bring any potted plant you are growing; common or unusual plants, seedlings or full grown, whatever you have.

Bring them to the sales table outside on the veranda entrance to the Snyder Building on either August 10 or 11.

(Ed. note: It's easiest to bring them when you bring your Show entries—you are entering something, aren't you?)

New Members

Bill and Lee Strang

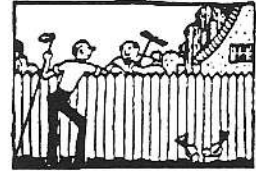
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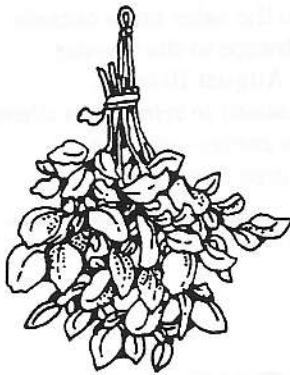
A list of all MGCM property and it's location. Give a description to Chuck Carlson. He will print a list so everybody knows what is available for members' use.



Monthly Program Report

by Ed Biren

Has success spoiled Theresa Mieseler? MGCM members had an opportunity to decide for themselves during Theresa's June presentation on Growing and Using Herbs. She and her husband, Jim, have turned Carver County's hard clay soil into a growing enterprise known as Shady Acres Herb Farm.



basil

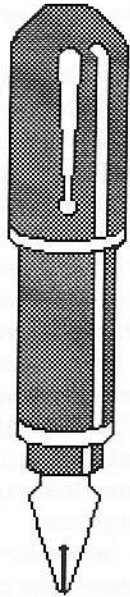
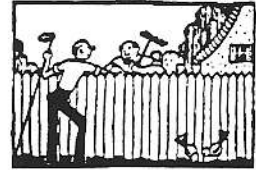
Just a short jaunt from the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the farm has grown over 19 years to encompass 25 acres. Five display gardens, a new medicinal garden and five greenhouses dot the landscape along side a stylish building housing the gift shop and classrooms. Theresa, now Vice President of the International Herb Society, readily admits, "Herbs are my life." She has been featured in many are publications, including the *StarTribune* and the *Minnesota Horticulturist*, but I never tire of seeing or hearing each unfolding chapter of this woman's love affair with herbs.

The Mieselers take pride in growing all of their own herbs. They use "beneficial insects" rather than artificial sprays on the plants so there haven't been white flies or spider mites at Shady Acres for years. I guess when one hears that six predators from California are coming, there are safer places to hang out. The Mieselers grow an amazing variety of herbs to satisfy culinary, medicinal and ornamental needs.

Using slides to show us the beauty and benefits of herbs, Theresa treated us to a veritable glossary of herbal pleasures. Some of the highlights for me included:

- Using **garlic chives** to take advantage of their late summer bloom.
- **Creeping Germander** makes a great ground cover in sunny areas.
- **Variegated Germander** has showy white spots on its leaves.
- **Fennel 'Zefa Fino'** has a mild licorice taste and is ready to harvest in July.
- **Coneflowers** are known to provide medicinal benefit for inflammatory problems, as well as their obvious ornamental value.
- **Lemon Grass** has been popularized by Southeast Asian cooking, but the leaves are very stringy and need to be finely chopped. It is the thick, yellow part of the base which is used in stir fry.
- **Purple Bush Basil** is similar to **Spicy Globe Basil** and the two look good planted together. Purple basil is not as strong as the green basil.
- A monarda with pink-purple flowers, **Lemon Bergamont** blooms from July to freezing. It can be grown from seed and has a lemon-scented foliage.
- Theresa promotes **Greek** (or **Italian**) **Oregano** as the best oregano for cooking. This variety will grow more vigorously in a pot. It has white flowers and is best propagated from cuttings, not seed.
- **Pineapple Mint** is not as invasive as other mints in the garden. It has variegated green and white leaves.
- **Cinnamon Basil** has a very strong cinnamon flavor. This plant stays short and branches out. It is easily grown from seed.

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Board Meeting Minutes

Mary Maynard, Secretary

June 2, 1996

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

Old Business

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the May meeting were approved on motion by

Kay, second by Maury.

Treasurer's Report: Monthly report was approved as presented on motion by Mary, second by Chuck. The net profit from the Plant Sale and Auction was \$2,886.66, which exceeded the budgeted amount of \$2,100.

Vice President's Report: Future programs:

September: Esther Filson on ornamental grasses

October/November: Possibly "Gardening on the Internet" or C. Colston Burrell on wildflowers.

December: Holiday party

We will continue to do "interest tables" at club meetings. Maury is always looking for ideas and volunteers to host interest tables.

Committee Reports

Community Garden: Good planting day on May 24th; great weather and a nice turnout. The new big herb garden looks like it's going to be terrific. Grass cutting might be a problem.

Biennial Tour: Tickets have been distributed to members to sell. There will

be a sign up sheet for volunteers to work at gardens at June club meeting. There was some publicity in the Home and Garden section of the *StarTribune* on May 30.

Club tour: Still exploring possibility of touring landscaping, plantings at Valleyfair. Preliminary date is August 6.

Old Business.

Linder's Garden Fest: We plan to have a table at the Linder's greenhouse on Saturday, June 15. Bob Voigt and Chuck Carlson will be there to set up displays, etc.

Location of Community Garden:

Bill Jepson is heading up an ad hoc committee to consider future location of community garden. Committee includes Bill, Dave Johnson, Clyde Thompson, Kent Petterson, Henry Orfield, Chuck Carlson and any other interested members. Committee to meet one hour before club meeting in June. Questions to consider include:

- whether we're fulfilling our mission at the current location
- whether the mission should change,
- alternative sites
- legal obligation to MSB and DOT regarding property lease

The committee hopes to have a formal recommendation on the Community Garden by September.

New Business

Storage space: Howard has brought to our attention the fact that we have a lot of MGCM property stored at members' homes or business locations. Items include bottles for FFF show, easels, pipe and flower hangers for auction, historian information, supplies for holiday party, and probably much more! After reviewing costs of mini storage units, the Board decided to start with taking inventory of everything that is stored by club members.

(continued on page 9)



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

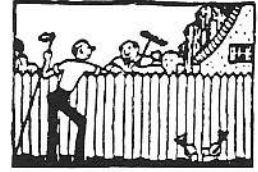
Musings From My Readings

Everybody knows that raised beds are in vogue and have many advantages. I was surprised when I picked up an old book at the library and a page was titled *Horticulture: Mound Cultivation*. It sure sounds like a raised bed with a twist. What it described was a mound about 6 feet wide and 2-3 feet high. The length is optional.

But what intrigued me was its construction and the possibility of cleaning up all the garden debris. You start the mound with a layer of tree or shrub trimmings or pine boughs. Next add things like sunflower stalks, potato and tomato roots, corn stalks or similar items. Then lay in items like sod, followed with well soaked leaves. On top of this you can add wet, half cured compost. Then top off with about 8 inches of soil and completely cured compost.

You now have a clean garden and yard without hauling anything away. Every year you can add to its length or build a new one. By doing you have also created a hot house, since it provides heat, carbon dioxide and a source of water. All this for zero dollars and some sweat.

Did you know that potatoes are going to supply a human subject with his oxygen needs for three months? NASA plans to seal a human subject in a container in the company of potatoes. They feel that 20 feet of hydroponically grown potatoes will produce 5 times the oxygen needed and half the food for one person, plus convert the waste water into purified drinking water for four people. Maybe



the can even take a shower with the extra water.

An article in *The Avant Gardener* gives new meaning to the phrase "Go hug a tree!" Psychiatrists are using trees to relieve stress. They advocate talking to trees, watching them grow or stroking their leaves. I could provide some weeds to pull which will do the same thing and I wouldn't charge a dime for the privilege.

Tree worship was practiced by the Canaanites and Druids, and other religions revere trees. The Garden of Eden had the Tree of Life. Buddha had the Tree of Enlightenment. The Church of the Living Tree honors trees and preaches against exploiting them.

There may be something to companion planting. Researchers have found that cucumbers are not resistant to nematodes but when planted near tomatoes with nematode resistance (the N in VFN) had increased growth. Another note on cucumbers: spraying them with a 5% solution of garlic extract will be protect against powdery mildew.

Did you know that in Minnesota there are only three things you can grow? Colder, older and fatter. This of course is not true if you are a member of MGCM, because we know our members can grow anything. I suppose you know that Minnesota is the free world supplier of mosquitoes and also the cold home of blond hair and blue ears plus the land of 10,000 Johnsons and Petersons.

My Last thought for this month is an ode to the mint family and their propensity to be evasive:

Don't even think of telling him.
You need his room.
For other guests.
Because he will say.
He's come to stay.



1996 National Award Flower

The Zinnia: Class A-25

by Mel Anderson,
Cochair, Food, Flower and Foto Show
Committee



Say it "zin-eee-ah".

The zinnia has been around a long time. It was named after Johann Gottfried Zinn (1727–1759), a German botanist. There are many more and improved varieties than when Zinn was around, but zinnias are still divided into four types:

Zinnia elegans (Common Zinnia)

90% of the zinnias we see are of this type. It grows from 6 to 40 inches tall with blooms from 1 to 7 inches across. It blooms in every color except blue, and in many shapes such as dahlia, cactus and crested.

Zinnia Haageana (Mexican Zinnia)

These grow from 12 to 18 inches tall with blossoms 1 to 2 inches across. The bicolored blooms are in varying shades of gold and yellow on a mahogany red base.

Zinnia augustifolia (Linearis)

This grows about 12 inches high with Fire Bush-like foliage. It has single flowers 2 inches across, available in gold (orange) and white.

Zinnia Creeping (Sanvitalia Procumbens)

This was named for Frederico Sanvital (1704–1761), an Italian botany professor. It is listed both as Creeping Zinnia and as Sanvitalia. It grows 4 to 6 inches tall with 1/2 to 1 inches blooms. The blooms are like little sunflowers—orange and yellow with a dark button. It is a nice border and basket plant. It is seldom entered in cut flower competition,

but if you do enter it, the judge will give it due consideration.

Preparation

Cut your zinnias the evening before the show with a sharp knife—scissors can crimp the stem. Evening is when the food supply within the plant is at its peak. Put the blossoms in a pail half full of tepid water.

If the flower and foliage are dirty, clean them by rinsing in tepid water or under running water. If you remove the zinnia from the pail for washing, make a fresh stem cut before returning it to the tepid water.

Store your pail of zinnias in a cool dark place (basement) overnight. The zinnia will absorb water to fill the stem, leaves and bloom so it will be in prime condition for the show.

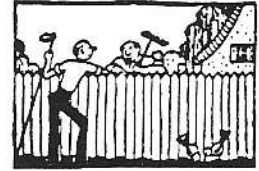
In the morning, measure the blooms, sort the varieties and check the show schedule for the quantity to determine which zinnia to enter in which class. Remember, you can enter as many times as you wish, but each entry should consist of the correct quantity of one variety only.

Judging

The judge will be looking at the condition and uniformity of your zinnias. They will concentrate on:

Foliage – the foliage; should be firm, straight, uniformly cut in proportion to the flower size. Leave at least one pair of leaves, two if you can. Cut off all other leaves and side buds. If the second set of leaves is in bad shape (mildew, insect damage), it may be better to remove them.

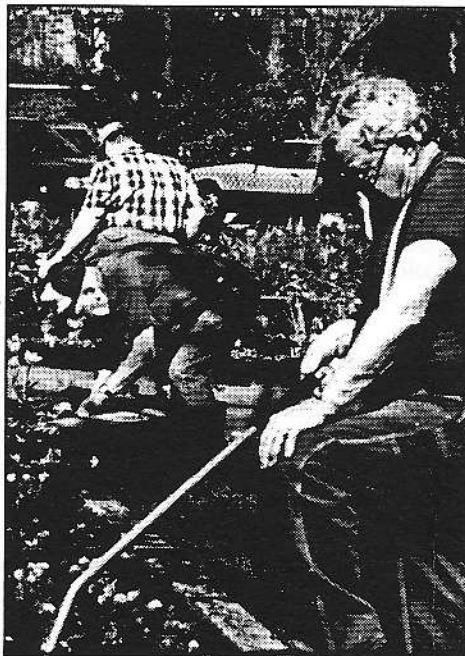
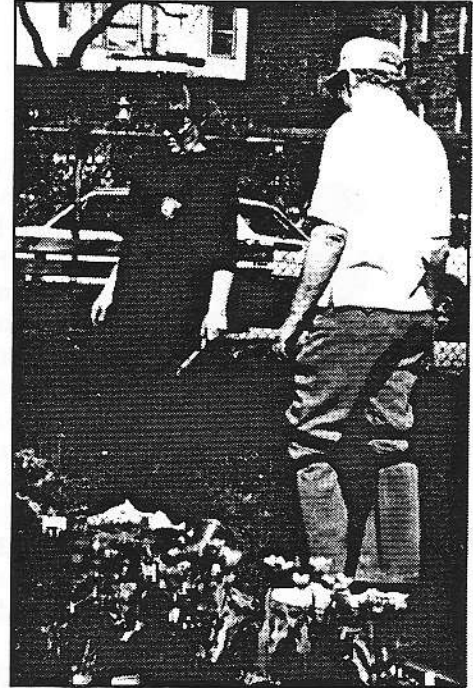
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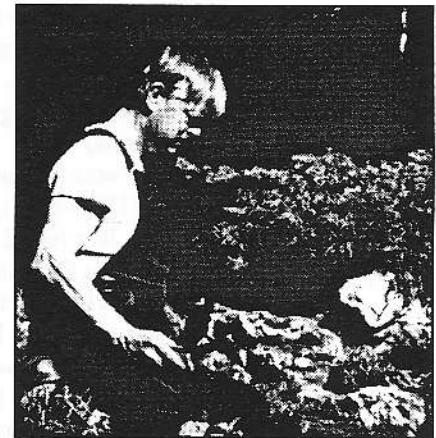
(Left: Hard, hands-on work in the hostas. Below: Mary Maynard and Duane Johnson (?) stand back to admire their work)

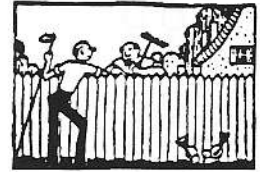
Fragrance Garden Planting

May 24, 1996



(Left: Chuck Carlson applies some water while others continue planting. Below: Eldon Hugelen gardens the old fashioned way—on his hands and knees)





Board Minutes

(continued from page 5)

Chuck has offered to compile a list.

Convention Delegates: The Board confirmed past practice of subsidizing our official delegates to the National Convention, Russ Smith and Bill Hull, within the confines of the budget. The Board recognizes that MGCM cannot cover the full expenses for the delegates and it is grateful for the delegates' dedication and service.

Calendar Prices: On motion by Howard, second by Maury, the Board decided to raise calendar prices to \$4.00 for 1997 calendars. Equivalent calendars sold by the MN Horticultural Society were \$9.00 last year.

Tour Insurance: Liability insurance for the public tour has been quoted at \$750 for six-month period, much higher than 1994. The Board decided to do a little more research on this, then make a final decision at the June club meeting.

New Members: Application for membership from Bill and Lee Strang was approved on motion by Bill, second by Bob S.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 on motion by Mary, second by Kay.

Next meeting on July 2 at Bill Jepson's.

Zinnias

(continued from page 7)

Flowers – Show well developed blooms. The center should show new petals coming, otherwise the bloom is too old. The color of the petals should be uniform, free from scotching of dullness, mildew, etc. The blooms should be

uniform shape for the type of zinnia displayed (dahlia, cactus, etc.) and of uniform size

Do not let the above do's and don't's discourage you. Each of you is different. Your zinnia may not look perfect to you, but they may be the best that can be expected for that season. Judges should consider the season, too, and you may be surprised in the end.

Good luck!

Meeting Report

(continued from page 4)

- **Bronze (Copper) Fennel** has a nice copper colored foliage. It can self-seed and return in the same growing season.
- **Creeping Oregano** always grows in a circle and serves as a good ground cover.
- **Mrs. Burns Basil** has larger leaves and is a more robust plant than other basil. It has a pleasant lemon scent.
- **Tricolor Sage** is notable for its variegated red, purple and white leaves which make it desirable to grow in pots and use in flower arrangements.

By the end of the evening we were ready to throw out our Schilling bottles and head to the nearest farmer's market to buy the fresh stuff. The answer to my opening question now seems obvious. Theresa just keeps getting better and better. This night we saw even more evidence of all the romance, hard work and dedication that has gone into making Shady Acres a success.

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