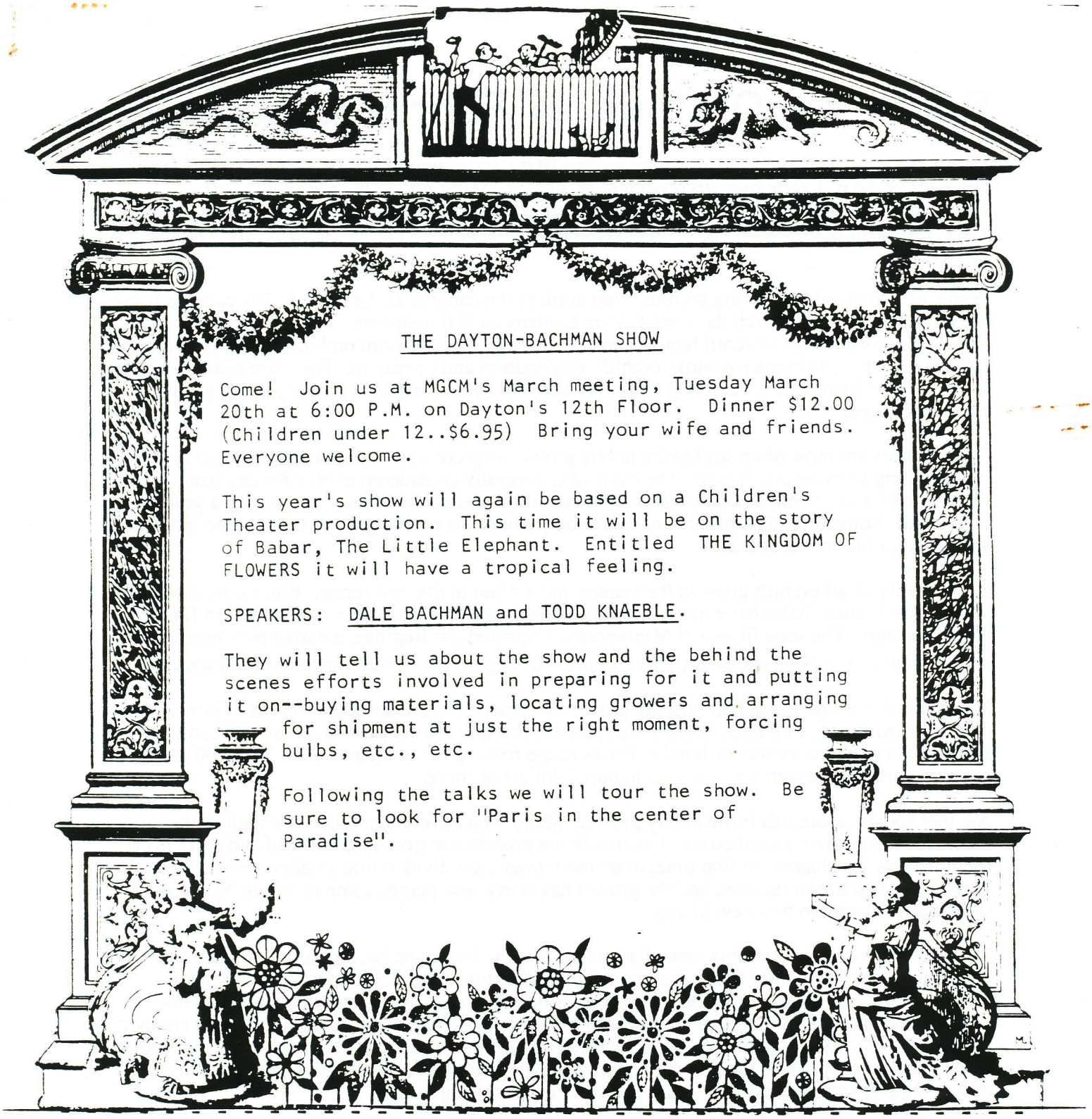


THE DAYTON-BACHMAN SHOW

Come! Join us at MGCM's March meeting, Tuesday March 20th at 6:00 P.M. on Dayton's 12th Floor. Dinner $12.00 (Children under 12..$6.95) Bring your wife and friends. Everyone welcome.

This year's show will again be based on a Children's Theater production. This time it will be on the story of Babar, The Little Elephant. Entitled THE KINGDOM OF FLOWERS it will have a tropical feeling.

SPEAKERS: DALE BACHMAN and TODD KNAEBLE.

They will tell us about the show and the behind the scenes efforts involved in preparing for it and putting it on--buying materials, locating growers and arranging for shipment at just the right moment, forcing bulbs, etc., etc.

Following the talks we will tour the show. Be sure to look for "Paris in the center of Paradise".

RESERVATION(S) FOR MGCM MEETING 6:00 PM TUESDAY EVENING MARCH 20th.
Return this form by March 15th with your check payable to MGCM to Joseph Stenger, 5421 Girard Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419

I plan to attend. Reserve_____ place(s) for me ($12.00 each)_____($6.95 each)

My check for $_____ is enclosed.

Signature _____

My guest(s) will be _____

Smith on Orchids at February Meeting

(Reporter's note: This report is an edited version of the script written by MGCM member Russ Smith for an MGCA slide/tape presentation on orchids. Smith premiered the show at the February MGCM meeting and answered questions following the showing. Obviously you are missing something by not seeing the slides, but this is the best we can do in the Spray. - Andy Marlow)

People not involved in growing orchids often think of the cattleya as the orchid. The cattleya is but one of many families of orchids, some having as many as 200 members. Some of the most common and well known orchid families are the phalaenopsis (or moth orchid), paphiopedilum (or moccasin orchid), miltonia (or pansy orchid), epidendrum and oncidium. There are estimated to be some 25,000+ identified species and well over 100,000 hybrid orchids currently being grown and/or marketed.

Orchid plants are most often sold to the hobby grower as seedlings. It usually takes several years for a seedling to come into bloom. The cattleya is generally considered to take 8 years from seeding to bloom. Some others, such as paphiopedilum and phalaenopsis, will bloom a year or two earlier. Some orchid plants are sold bare root. These the orchid grower takes home, pots up and waits for blooms to appear.

The majority of all orchids grow in the tropics, most often in the rain forest. But, most, if not all, states in the United States have native orchids. They grow on mountain sides, valleys in forests and in swamps. The state flower of Minnesota is Cypridedium Reginae, a native pink moccasin orchid. It grows in bogs and easily survives the -40° degree winters of northern Minnesota.

Most orchids for sale to the hobbyist are grown by nurseries specializing in orchids. They usually carry a broad supply of plants, ranging from the common to the very exotic. However, some specialize in only one variety or family. Prices range from quite inexpensive -- $5-15.00 -- to some that are very expensive -- several hundred dollars or more.

Another source of orchids is the hobby grower. Many who have fallen under the spell of the orchid have their own greenhouses. Eventually the greenhouse gets overcrowded and there is no room for new purchases. At that time, overgrown plants are divided into smaller pieces. These smaller plants are then repotted and the grower has many new plants, some of which he can or should sell in order to buy new plants.

The primary method of creating new plants is from seed. In nature, orchids are pollinated by butterflies, moths and other flying insects. Many pollinators are specific to a particular plant variety. In the greenhouse or home, pollination is done by hand by taking the pollen from one blossom and pollinating the same or another blossom on the same plant, or even a plant in another family. The orchid seed pod often contains a million or more seeds. It is different than most other seed in nature, as it has no built-in food supply. In the wild, its food supply is found in the rain, dust in the cracks of tree bark, or other places where orchids grow.

Another form of propagation is tissue culture. This method takes growing cells from a parent plant and allows clones of the same plant to be propagated. With both seed and tissue culture propagation, the young plants are grown in a sterile flask until large enough to exist on their own. They feed on a mixture of nutrients in gel form called agar.

Orchids can be grown in a greenhouse, under fluorescent lights, on a windowsill or on the floor under a window. Different varieties demand different growing conditions, but some of the most common varieties are no more difficult to grow than African violets.

VIEWS FROM THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

MGCM PRESIDENT KENT PETTERSON

VEGETABLES FOREVER

Dates To Remember

March 6- Board Meeting 7:30 PM at M. Pulley
March 10- Specialty Garden Lecture Series
MSHS, 624-7752 in Eden Prarie
March 13- Fragrance Committee 7:30 Petterson
March 20- MGCM Meeting at Dayton-Bachman
March 24- Specialty Gardens (see above)
April 7- 5th District MSHS Seminar
June 1,2,3- Doug Smith Wildflower Tour,
see info elsewhere in Spray
June 16-19- MGCA Convention in Des Moines

Xeriscaping - What's that you say? It's an obscure term describing the practice of landscaping with plants that require little or at least less water. Gardeners in the West and Southwest use these practices all the time. This year may be a year to consider drought tolerance as we select the varieties we plant. The present drought, if it continues, will lead to watering bans. Will you be prepared and informed? Xeric plants and techniques (most books don't mention this at all) will be one of the topics presented at the March 24th Specialty Garden Lecture Series in St. Paul - Xeriscaping: A New Idea For Minnesota. Check it out, you may be water ahead, so to speak.

Our friendly greeters at the Feb. meeting were Bob Livingston and Don Powell. Bob and Don are members of the revitalized Hospitality Committee. For several years our Hospitality Committee has been a virtual one man show. Those attractive nametags you wear at each meeting are prepared and maintained by our MGCM Volunteer of the Month for March, Burton Deane. Thanks Burton for your contribution to MGCM.

Interest has been expressed in reviving the raffle or some form of a monthly sale at each regular meeting. Many of us find ourselves with extra seeds, plants, garden tools etc. A sales table or a raffle could be set up at each meeting to share these items and provide an additional interesting focus during the meeting. If the items were donated to the club, we could raise additional funds for club activities. Let me know what you think.

MGCA has sponsored a horticultural therapy program called "Gardening from the Heart" (GFTH). Lloyd Kraft, current chairman of this program visited with us two years ago to discuss the program. Our Community Fragrance Garden has had the potential to be a GFTH program, but we have not had the Minneapolis Society for the Blind fully on board with this activity. If you are interested in horticulture as therapy and in the GFTH Program concept, please get together with Norm ter Steeg. Norm has some ideas and a simular interest.

What are your feelings about the accomodations at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church? You may recall that our rent was raised from $50.00 to $100.00 as of January 1990. Your Board decided to hold the line on meal costs in hopes that attendance would be high enough to cover the added costs. The deficit for January was $73.85 and for February a simular amount. It appears that one or more of three things need to happen. 1) Attendance needs to improve, 2) A new and less expensive meeting location could be sought, or 3) the meal charge could be raised. Let me or one of your Board Members know what you think.

REMEMBER 25 NEW MEMBERS FOR 1990 - INVITE A FRIEND

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER
by Ed Culbert

Around this time of year we are prone to be checking on our supplies of left-over seeds and left-over chemicals. Hence, the tables on seed longevity and pesticide shelf life on the next page which we stole from The Greenhorn the Mansfield, Ohio MGC bulletin. In this connection you may also wish to refer to Larry Corbett's article on Seed Longevity in the July 1986 SPRAY.

The article on Pesticide Toxicity and the accompanying table we also took from The Greenhorn which attributed it to "Garden Center Bulletin, November 1989." If you attended our January meeting you will remember Ann Hanchek spoke of more careful use of chemicals, and of available alternatives. She also cited LD50 figures.

As I remember it, she told us coffee drinkers caffeine was away off the bad end of the list. It isn't on Weaver's list and I wonder why because away back in 1986 I read that the caffeine produced by tea and coffee plants to repel insects which feed upon them, may prove to be an effective, safe broad-use insecticide. The spray-on caffeine solution is completely biodegradable and washes easily from food. Low doses of caffeine make insects hyperactive and uncoordinated and large amounts will kill them.

Hey! That gives me an idea. I save my coffee grounds to add humus to my garden; why not also save left-over coffee to spray garden plants. After all Jerry Baker makes a living by suggesting things like that in his lectures and books.

Have you noticed that hydrogen peroxide is the antiseptic of choice in doctor's offices in recent years? It's used by farmers on livestock, too. Now an exchange tells me plants grow better with an ounce of 3% H202 per quart of water they're given. Seeds germinate faster, with bigger sprouts, when they are first soaked in a ounce of 3% H202 to a pint of water. In case you don't know 3% H202 labelled hydrogen peroxide sells for 79¢ a pint.

JIM FISHBAUGHER HAS MOVED since or 1990 directory was printed. His new address is 6005 Eden Prairie Road, Edina, MN 55436. His new telephone number is 930-0853.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John B. Reeves 722-4887
3403 15th Ave. S. 925-3901
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Stanley A. Skinner 374-5578
217 Natchez Ave. S.
Golden Valley, MN 55416

Every Member Sponsors A New Member

FRAGRANCE GARDEN MEETING NOTICE

Planning will begin for the 1990 edition of our Community Fragrance Garden on March 13th. All committee members and interested members are invited to Kent Pettersons for a 7:30 PM meeting at 908 E. River Terrace. Please call 332-1821 to confirm your attendance. You may wish to check out the March Issue of the Horticulturist. Our garden is pictured and featured as one of the public gardens recommended for a visit. The March Issue is a expanded edition with increased circulation. Good publicity for MGCM.

VEGETABLE SEED LONGEVITY

Vegetables	Years	Vegetables	Years
Beans	3	Leek	2–3
Beets	4–5	Muskmelons	4–5
Broccoli	3–5	Okra	2–4
Brussels Sprouts	4–5	Onion	1–2
Cabbage	4–5	Parsley	1–2
Carrot	3	Parsnip	1–2
Cauliflower	4–5	Peas	3
Celery	3–5	Pepper	2–4
Celeriac	3–5	Pumpkin	4
Chard	4–5	Radish	4–5
Chicory	4–5	Squash (all types)	4–5
Corn	2–3	Salsify	1–3
Cucumber	5	Spinach	3–5
Eggplant	4–5	Tomato	4–7
Kohlrabi	3–5	Turnip	4
Lettuce (most types)	4–6	Watermelon	4–5

FLOWER SEED LONGEVITY

Flowers	Years	Flowers	Years
Ageratum	4	Hollyhock	2–3
Alyssum	4	Impatiens	2
Aquilegia	2	Larkspur	1–2
Aster	1–2	Lobelia	3–4
Balsam	5–6	Marigold	2–3
Calendula	5–6	Morning Glory	2–3
California Poppy	2	Nasturtium	6–7
Coleus	2	Nicotiana	3–4
Coreopsis	2–3	Pansy	1–2
Candytuft	2–3	Petunia	2–3
Carnation	4–5	Poppy	3–5
Celosia	4	Portulaca	3
Cosmos	3–4	Salvia	1
Dahlia	2–3	Scabiosa	2
Delphinium	1	Sweet Peas	4–5
Dianthus	4–5	Verbena	1
Gallardia	4	Viola	1
Geranium	1	Zinnia	4–6
Gypsophila	2		

PESTICIDE TOXICITY– Jack Kerrigan

For years we have based toxicity on LD_{50} ratings with little understanding of what the LD (lethal dose) is and how it relates to our health in general. The LD_{50} is the measure of the chemical in milligrams per kilogram of a test animal's (usually mice, rats or similar animals) body weight that it takes to kill 50 percent of the test population.

This measure according to Dr. Michael J. Weaver, director of Virginia's pesticide applicator training program and coordinator of the chemical, drug and pesticide unit at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, does not take into account the chronic hazards of the chemical or the possible allergic reaction a person may have to a chemical. Dr. Weaver's conclusion is that extreme caution should be exercised in the use of any horticultural chemical.

This cautionary action should include careful reading of the instructions on the label of the chemical followed by strict adherence to the instructions. Extreme care is necessary during the dilution of the chemical because at the point of mixing you are handling the chemical at its full strength. You should wear the necessary protective clothing and equipment (gloves, boots, eye guards, etc.) during the mixing as well as application. Mixing should be done in an area that is near a shower so you can quickly disrobe and wash with hot water and soap if an accident should occur.

Application should be done when there is no breeze. Early morning is usually ideal. Care must be taken to spray only the areas or plants that require treatment.

Mix only the amount of chemical you will need to do the job so that you will not have an unused chemical disposal problem. If excess mix remains do not pour it out onto the ground or into the sewer system. This can contaminate ground water. It is better to dilute the mix as much as possible and apply it where it will it will do least harm.

When done using a pesticide, the sprayer must be thoroughly washed and rinsed a minimum of three times. Again, care should be taken in disposing of the rinses. Spray equipment should be labeled for either pesticide or herbicide use and not interchanged. All chemicals should be kept in their original containers and locked in a cabinet. Chemicals should not be kept in an area that freezes or warms to above 100 degrees F. Under ideal conditions, pesticides may be kept for varying lengths of time. See the chart for specific chemicals and remember that these are generalizations and may vary due to storage conditions.

PESTICIDE SHELF LIFE

Insecticides
Methoxychlor, indefinite
Diazinon, 5-7 years
Malathion, indefinite
Sevin, 3-5 years
Di-Syston, 2 years
Dipel (liquid), 2 years
Dipel (wettable powder), 3 years
Kelthane, indefinite

Fungicides
Benlate, 2 years
Captan, 3-4 years
Maneb, 2 years

Herbicides
Dacthal, 2 years
Round-Up, 4-5 years
Treflan, 3 years

(Information courtesy of the Texas Cooperative Extension Service.)

TOXICITY HAZARD OF COMMON HORTICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Chemical	Oral LD_{50} of concentrate
Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t.)	non-toxic
Benomyl (Benlate)	10,000 +
Captan	9,000
Methoxychlor	6,000
Diflubenzuron (Dimilin)	4,640
Table salt	3,750
Aspirin	1,750
Malathion	1,375
Triforine (Funginex)	1,000
Metaldehyde	1,000
Gasoline	50-500
Carbaryl (Sevin)	500
2,4-D (Weed-B-Gon)	375
Diazinon	300
Chlordane	250
Pyrethrin	200
Rotenone	132
DDVP	56

Least toxic chemicals are at the top of the list, proceeding to most toxic at the bottom of the list.

(Data compiled by Dr. Michael J. Weaver)

CARE OF HOLIDAY PLANTS DURING THE SUMMER

condensed from an OSU bulletin

THE FLORIST AZALEA: does very well under the warm, dry conditions of the home. After blooming, continue to water the plant as needed. Keep in a well lighted window. Fertilize monthly with a complete, liquid fertilizer. In May, if the plant was growing in a 5-inch pot, it should be repotted into a 6 or 7-inch pot and be placed outside in the soil in a somewhat shady spot. It could also be set on top of the ground but it is more difficult to keep watered and to prevent damage from being knocked or blown over.

During the summer, water the plant when the soil starts to become dry but water thoroughly. Monthly applications of a complete, liquid fertilizer are desirable. In the fall, protect the plant from early frost by covering it. In late September, take the plant inside and place it in a cool, sunny place. Continue to water when necessary. Fertilize monthly. Flowering will occur in late winter or early spring.

THE EASTER LILY: As the flowers wither and die, remove them. Water the plant when necessary. Be sure it is set in a sunny window. In late May, the plant can be knocked out of the pot and planted in the garden. Dig the hole so that the nose of the bulb is three to four inches below the surface. Do not remove the foliage, but let it remain. Water regularly. Fertilize monthly until the foliage dies. Leave the lily in the garden as a landscape plant. The only problem with the Easter lily in the garden is that it may carry a virus disease that could infect other lilies there.

THE POINSETTIA: To keep this plant for next year, continue to water it. Keep in a sunny window. About April 1st gradually reduce watering and allow the plant to dry off. (Do not let the stems shrivel or the plant will die.) Then place the plant in a cool spot around 60° F. Water only frequently enough to prevent drying of the stems.

About mid-May cut the stems back to about 4 to 6 inches. (Some prefer to repot at this time into a larger pot.) Use a good garden loam soil mixed at the proportion of two parts soil, one part coarse sphagnum peat moss, and one part coarse sand or perlite. Commercial potting soil may also be used. Water thoroughly after potting.

The plant is then placed in a sunny window and watered when the soil starts to become dry. As new, green shoots develop, more frequent watering will be necessary. Fertilize monthly with a complete liquid fertilizer. After danger of frost is over and night temperatures are above 60° F., take the plant outside and place in a partially shaded area. The pot is generally plunged in the soil, but it can be left on top.

As new shoots develop, the tip should be removed by pinching or snapping it off. This is usually done in early July. Side shoots will develop after this pinch. These should be pinched the latter part of August leaving three or four leaves on the shoot. The plant should be brought into the house and placed in a sunny window in September when the night temperatures start to drop below 60° F. This is a short day plant. It normally would flower under the short days of fall. However, when brought indoors, the artificial light used in our homes extends the day length and the poinsettia will not flower unless placed under a box or in a dark closet where no light will be turned on from 5:00 PM until 8:00 AM each day. During the day return the plant to a sunny window.

Follow this procedure from about October 1 until Thanksgiving. Once you see color developing on the top tiny bracts the plant will go ahead and flower and there is no longer any need to place it in a dark place. Continue to water and fertilize. You should have a nice plant for Christmas.

MGCM TOUR TO DOUG SMITH'S TRILLIUM LAKE FARM

Many of you may recall Doug and Delores Smith from personal aquaintance or Bob Smith's article about them in the July '89 Spray. We have been invited to visit their farm near Hackensack. With Doug's help, a tour has taken shape that should prove to be an outstanding weekend outing for the club. Here are the details:

1) Spring woodland wildflowers are in bloom in early June. We've chosen the weekend of June 1,2,3.

2) A Coach will be chartered from Minneapolis with departure late on Friday afternoon and return late on Sunday afternoon.

3) A Conference Center at Deep Portage which is nearby, has been reserved for our group. Deep Portage is an environmental learning center with new sleeping facilities and a dining room plus a library, resource center, gift shop, bookstore and walking trails. Members Burton Deane and Jerry Shannon have seen it and had favorable impressions.

4) The following activities are anticipated.
   A) Visit with Doug and Delores Smith at Trillium Lake Farm
   B) "Gardening with Wildflowers", a presentation by Ione Strandberg local Master Gardener and Chair of the Governor's Operation Wildflower will be on Saturday
   C) Ione Strandberg's home garden and possibly another local garden will be visited
   D) Enjoy ten square miles of Deep Portage, some of it with paved paths in the "Land of the Loon and the Lady Slipper".

5) We are taking reservations for limited bus space. The tour will be available to members first, but also to non MGCM members. We must have a minimum number of participants to proceed with this tour. Call Kent Petterson at 332-1821 for further details. Total cost per person will be $90.00. This includes transportation, two nights lodging, a box lunch meal on Friday night, three meals on Saturday and two on Sunday. Except for personal expenses, and linen at Deep Portage, this is a complete package. A list of recommended personal items to bring will be provided.

6) A $25.00 deposit per person will be required to hold your reservation. Final payment in full will be due by May 15th. After May 15th, your deposit will be non refundable should you choose to cancel. If a waiting list develops and your reservation is taken by another, then the deposit will be refunded. Please fill out the following form and return it with your payment to hold your reservation.

MGCM TOUR TO DOUG SMITH'S TRILLIUM LAKE FARM

Please make _____reservations for the wildflower tour to Doug Smith's and Deep Portage on June 1,2 and 3. Total cost for transportation, food and lodging is $90.00 per person. I have enclosed full payment or a deposit of $25.00 per person to hold my reservation. Final payment is due May 15th. After May 15th the first $25.00 per person will be non refundable unless my reservation is taken by someone off a waiting list.

Return to: Joe Stenger
5421 Girard Ave. South
Minneapolis, Mn. 55419

_____persons at $90.00 each = _____

Deposit or full payment enclosed_____

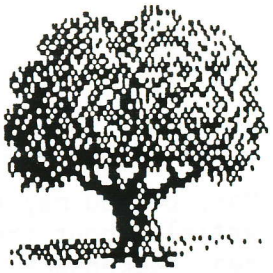
Checks to MGCM

_____ _____
Signature Date

Food Preferences of Feeder Birds			
Species	**Staple Food**	**Other Food**	**Where**
Pheasants	Cracked corn Millet	—	Ground
Doves and Pigeons	Millet Small seeds Cracked corn	—	Ground
Woodpeckers	Suet	—	Hanging feeders
Blue Jays	Sunflower seed Cracked corn	Suet	Anywhere
Chickadees, Titmice, and Nuthatches	Sunflower seed	Suet	Anywhere, but prefer feeders off the ground
Mockingbirds	Hulled sunflower seed	Suet Raisins Doughnuts	Ground
Blackbirds	Cracked corn Seeds	—	Ground
Orioles and Tanagers	Chopped fruit Suet Peanut butter	Sugar water in red containers	Hanging feeders
Grosbeaks and Cardinals	Sunflower seed	—	Ground and off the ground
Small Finches	Sunflower seed Thistle seed	—	Anywhere
Sparrows	Seeds Cracked corn	—	Ground

National Arbor Day
April 27, 1990

By Al Cordier



National Arbor Day has been a promoted "special day" set aside to encourage the private sector of the country to plant trees for many years. It has become known as a sure sign of spring when ground can be broken for planting.

Arbor Day is in the same camp as Global ReLeaf in promoting the replanting of our dwindling forests across the country and world wide. Every time you plant a tree you are helping to solve what may be the greatest environmental problem of your lifetime, "global warming". Growing of trees converts carbon dioxide into life-giving oxygen, letting the Earthy "breathe" again. In the USA alone there is room for 100 million more trees planted around homes, offices, schools, shopping malls, factories, etc. Los Angeles in the last two years has planted 1 million trees each year!

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, Inc.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

* * * * *

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