

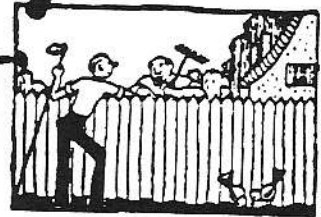


# The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

March 1994, Volume 52, Number 3



**March Meeting...  
Dinner and Tour of**

## **The Dayton's- Bachman's Spring Flower Show**



Date: Tuesday, March 22, 1994

Place: Dayton's Downtown Minneapolis  
Store between 7th and 8th on Nicollet Mall

Time: 6:00 p.m. Dinner in the Sky Room  
Caesar Salad, Herb Bread, Grilled Chicken Breast, Oven Roasted Potatoes,  
Green Beans, choice of beverage

Cost: \$12.00 per person

Dale Bachman, MGCM member and President of Bachman's, will talk about his role in securing source materials, designing, coordinating and installing the exhibit.

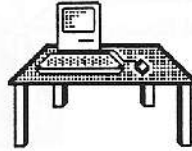
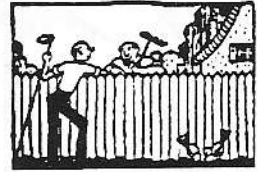
Tour the show at your leisure following dinner and the presentation. It promises to be another great program and tour. This is an excellent time to bring friends and prospective new members. The permanent reservation list is **not** in effect for this meeting. If you want to attend, please clip off and mail the form below to Treasurer Mel Anderson with your check as soon as possible.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at dinner for my guest(s) and me. Enclosed you will find a check for \$12.00 per person, or \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Mel Anderson, 5701 35th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55417 by Tuesday, March 15, 1994.



### The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

You can tell spring is on its way just by checking out the gardening events on the calendar. By the time you read this, the Home and Garden Show will have come and gone. There's no surer sign of spring!

Next comes the annual MGCM outing at the Dayton's-Bachman's Flower Show on March 22. Details are on the front page of this issue of the *Spray*, so I won't waste space on details. Get your reservation form and check in to Mel Anderson right away. It will be a super time.

Just a few weeks later (April 9) is the Spring Gardening Seminar put on by the Fifth District of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. MGCM's Duane Johnson is handling registrations and Fred Glasoe is a featured speaker. There will be workshops, Master Gardeners available to answer questions, and books and plants for sale. Call Duane at 824-0295 if you haven't received a registration form.

On April 30, MGCM members will be celebrating Arbor Day by planting 15 Heritage River Birch clumps and 10 Buttonbush shrubs at Birch Pond in Theodore Wirth Park. Make sure you wear your boots, as it's likely to be muddy yet. Plus, Park Board horticulturist Mary Maguire Lerman has promised to give us a tour of the renovations going on at the Quaking Bog area adjacent to Birch Pond.

Finally, our annual Plant Sale and Auction comes on May 10. Auction Chair Bob Stepan promises some new items, but says "only those present will know what they are." If there's something special you want to bid on, call Bob with suggestions at 566-9176.

## Coming Attractions

March 22 - 6:00 p.m.

Dayton's-Bachman's Flower Show  
Dinner in the Sky Room  
Tour Show, 8th Floor Auditorium  
Downtown Dayton's Store  
8th Street at Nicollet Mall

April 5 - 7:30 p.m.

MGCM Board Meeting  
Eldon Hugelen's House

April 9 - 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Spring Gardening Seminar  
MSHS Fifth District  
Robbinsdale Community Ed. Center  
4139 Regent Avenue North

April 12 - 6:00 p.m.

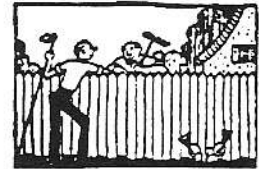
MGCM Dinner Meeting  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church  
49th and Chowen Avenue South

April 30 - 9:00 a.m.

MGCM Arbor Day Planting  
Birch Pond, Theodore Wirth Park

*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, Dale Fisher, Carolyn Hayward, Mary Maynard, Derrill Pankow, Merle Pulley



# The President's Report

*Clyde Thompson, President, MGCM*

Winter Wonderland is in full bloom along with florist shops as I write this just before Valentine's Day. Until I took up cross country skiing, I never appreciated the beauty or stillness of a pine forest in the middle of winter. Every variety of tree and bush has its own kind of winter coat, often sharing it with some furry friends. But the real harbinger of spring is the colorful swelling buds of trees, especially the red maple tree buds. That's nature's guarantee there is more to come.

An interesting study is what your perennials, shrubs and trees are doing all winter, even though you aren't out watering and feeding them. They are getting ready for the spring show!

Speaking of the spring show - be sure you go, March 22nd you know, to the annual gathering for the Dayton's-Bachman's Flower Show. I will be down south, wandering through the magnolia and azalea gardens of South Carolina, so take some pictures for me.

**Mark Your Calendars Now...  
for the  
MGCM Plant Sale  
and Auction**

**Tuesday May 10, 1994**

**There will be something  
new —**

**Only those present will know.  
BE THERE!**

# Summer Tour Help Needed

*by Dave Johnson, Chair, Tour Committee*

Can history repeat itself? We are going to try to make it happen.

In 1992, a public tour of MGCM gardens was conducted in conjunction with the celebration of our 50th anniversary. It was very successful. Attendance was close to 1000 people. We raised enough money for six \$1000 scholarships. Our tour promoted gardening and brought several new members into our club.

Our 1994 tour on July 9 and 10 will require a commitment from every member of MGCM. We are off to a good start. Andy Marlow has ticket and poster formats on his computer. I have a commitment from Wendy Lubovich for promotion of our tour on channel 5. Since our 1992 tour many people wanted to know if we planned to do one annually, so the interest is there.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to serve on the Tour Committee. Our first meeting will be March 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church, 7520 Golden Valley Road in Golden Valley.

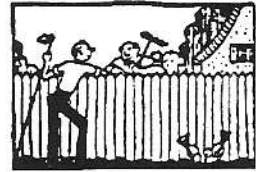
## Member Information

### Renewing Member

Jim Tuff  
8541 Thomas Avenue South  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
Home phone: 881-0830

### Phone Number Correction

Larry Bagge  
Home phone: 445-2438  
Business phone: 723-1140



# Monthly Program Report

by Ed Biren

"The sun, the moon and the stars would have disappeared long ago, had they happened to be within reach of predatory human hands." This remark of British psychologist Havelock Ellis might have served as a fitting introduction for our February speaker. Lisa Mueller, Endangered Species Program Manager for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and a former employee of the Nature Conservancy, delivered a wake up call for everyone concerned with preserving our native landscape.

The Nature Conservancy is a conservation organization with a very focused mission; to identify, protect and manage the best remaining examples of plant and animal communities in our natural world. It has a strong interest in protecting natural diversity on a global basis, not just in Minnesota. Lisa has had a long time fascination with whooping cranes and endorses the commentary of Smithsonian biologist Thomas Lovejoy, who says, "Conservation is sometimes perceived as holding whooping cranes in higher esteem than people, but the choice is not between wild places or people, it's between a rich or impoverished existence for man."

What Lovejoy and other are talking about has been termed an "extinction crisis." More than 600 million years have been invested in streamlining organisms to fit their environment. We stand to lose this tremendous investment in genetic diversity and variability in less than a century. In fact, Lovejoy has said that all

of the great environmental battles will be won or lost in the decade we just entered! Although many argue that extinction is a natural phenomenon, the critical factor is the rate of extinction of plants and animals we are seeing on a world wide basis.

Biologists estimate that human beings usurp, directly or indirectly, 40% of each year's total biological production. There is hardly a place on earth where people do not log, pave, spray, drain, flood graze, fish, plow, burn, drill, fill or dump. There are no life zones, with the possible exception of the deep ocean, that we are not degrading. In Lisa's words, "The act of destroying whole associations of plants and animals before we have understanding of the unique biological and functional roles they play and what benefits they have to offer, has been compared to burning a book before it's read."

Some of the benefits we derive from wild plants and animals include 1) food, 2) breeding disease resistant crops, 3) derivation of medicines, 4) alternative crop varieties (e.g., researchers are studying purple cone flowers because their seeds have a higher oil content than commercially grown sunflowers), 5) wetland systems as filters of human and animal waste, 6) beauty and 7) biological control organisms.

Lisa gave us an overview of the major types of vegetation in Minnesota as shown on maps prepared from original land surveys in the mid to late 1800s. Three types occur in roughly diagonal bands from southwest to northeast and were shaped by differences in soil, climate and glacial land forms.

The Arrowhead area was comprised of red and white pines, and continues to be called the boreal or northern coniferous forest. It was almost completely logged by

*Continued on page 5*





## Meeting Report

*Continued from page 4*

the turn of the century and is now made up of younger aspen and birch trees.

The Tall Grass Prairie covered the southwestern corner and western 1/3rd of the state. The original 18 million acres has been reduced to about 100,000 acres, or less than 1% of the original acreage.

The Maple-Basswood Forest formed a transition zone between the prairie and the boreal forest. It was a rich forest of primarily maple, basswood, oak and elm. This is the most threatened plant community in the state, with less than 1/10th of 1% of the original forest remaining.

Minnesota's chapter of the Nature Conservancy has identified three landscape areas as being top priorities: the Northern Tall Grass Prairie in the northwestern corner of the state; the North Shore Highlands along the north shore of Lake Superior; and the Big Woods in the southeast quadrant. The organization uses multiple approaches to landscape protection that involve strategies of identification, protection and stewardship.

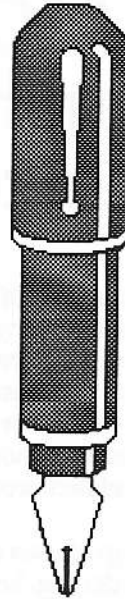
Lisa also recounted the four plants in Minnesota that are federally-listed as endangered or threatened:

- Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily, found only in southeastern Minnesota and flowers in late April and early May

- Leedy's Roseroot, a relative of the Jade Plant, is found on limestone cliffs in Olmstead and Fillmore counties, and flowers in mid-June

- Prairie Bush Clover bears pale pink flowers in August and is found on hill prairies in the southern part of the state

- Western Prairie Fringed Orchid is found in wet depressions in the prairie of the western and southeastern portions of the state and flowers in early July.



## Board Meeting Notes

At their February meeting, the MGCM Board of Directors:

- approved Spade Club and Rookie of the Year honorees for 1993

- approved a fund-raising public garden tour for July 9 and 10 to be organized by a committee chaired by Dave Johnson, with the proceeds to be used for MGCM

### Scholarships

- voted to move the starting time for MGCM dinner meetings to 6:30 p.m. effective at the September meeting.

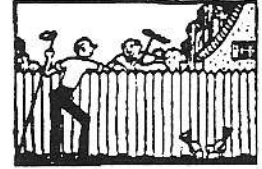
- discussed the idea of buying a slide projector to use at meetings and for showing TGOA/MGCA slide shows, which have brought over \$8000 into the club treasury. Referred this item to the Photography Committee for input.

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## Meeting Report

*Continued*

Lisa maintains she is an ecologist by training but a gardener by heredity. She departed from the more technical part of her presentation to tease us with a short selection of slides illustrating spring ephemerals, beautiful wildflowers and perennials. A snowy February evening turned out to be the perfect time to see Small White Ladyslippers, Purple Coneflowers, Butterfly Milkweed and even Old Man's Whiskers. Obviously Lisa learned a lot while planting her mom's flowers.



# 1994 MGCM Scholarship Announcement

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis (MGCM) will be awarding a scholarship to a student of horticulture in 1994. MGCM will award at least one \$1,000 scholarship to a student or students interested in a career in horticulture, landscaping or related professional area.

MGCM is a group of men and women interested in gardening, home landscaping and improving the communities in which we live. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who has career goals consistent with the interests of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

## 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 home gardening, greenhouse management or landscaping.
- 4 - Applications must be postmarked no later than May 1, 1994. A committee of MGCM will choose the winner and award the scholarship by August 1, 1994.

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 - A fully completed application form.

B - A letter of recommendation from an individual (non-family) knowledgeable about the applicant's horticultural experience and goals.

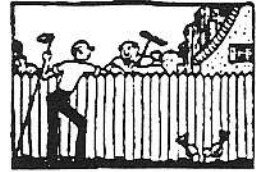
C - A letter of recommendation from an individual (non-family) knowledgeable about the applicant's personal character.

D - Other information the applicant deems appropriate.

E - A statement indicating to which institution address the scholarship funds should be sent.

**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 1994 Scholarship Application

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADUATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL OF ENROLLMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

HORTICULTURAL AREA OF STUDY: \_\_\_\_\_

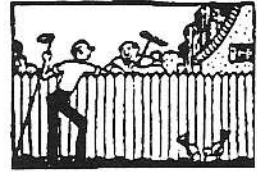
PRESENT ACADEMIC STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPECTED GRAD. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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 letter) 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.



# Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

## The Chestnut

After receiving the first seed catalogs for the year I said to myself I wouldn't start any seeds in the basement this year. But by the time I looked through the catalogs, I have a list of items to try. Not only that but Henry Orfield and I spent some time selecting plants for this year's Community (Fragrance) Garden and this added to my list. I guess it's all part of the game to which we gardeners get addicted.

After you get those new flowers and vegetables growing, I want to urge all of you to take some pictures of these wonders. We need more entries in our second annual photo contest. And, Henry needs some more competition. Last year was my first try in any contest and I found it an enjoyable experience. Not only that but by participating I became better acquainted with some of our members. It could also be a stepping stone to the photo contest of our umbrella club, The Gardeners of America. You could get some national exposure or maybe even one of your pictures on the calendar.

Participation is the name of the game. We have a number of committees in our club which can use your expertise. Though I thoroughly enjoy the monthly meetings, one can really get more out of the club by working with the other members. One can also pick up a few jewels of gardening wisdom from these exposures.

This year was also my first try in exhibiting in the flower and vegetable show. This, too, proved well worth the effort. If I can win a few ribbons, you can,

too. Try it. You may like it!

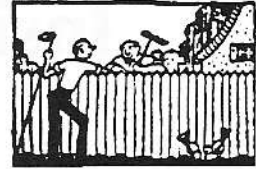
A press release from the Perennial Plant Association provided the association's pick for the Perennial of the Year for 1994. It is the Astilbe 'Sprite'. It's hardy in zones 3 through 8, and in our area its light requirement is full sun to partial shade. It has tiny pink flowers all arranged on arching plumes. Some of the previous selections are; Phlox, stolonifera, 1990; Heuchera 'Palace Purple', 1991; Coreopsis, verticillata 'Moonbeam', 1992; and Veronica 'Sunny Border Blue', 1993. One can see they have picked some good perennials over the years.

## The Tip

I have been reading a few articles on photographing flowers and plants. All of them suggest an SLR camera. A few other tips that were listed are: use the slowest film for the prevailing light conditions (100 or 200 ASA is a good compromise); misting helps make a fresh look; small numbered f-stops will make the background out of focus and accentuate the main subject; and before snapping, look at each corner of the viewer for unwanted elements.







# Growing for Showing: At The Show

by Duane Reynolds

## Tagging

Now that you have decided what you will enter in the show, fill out the entry tag and you are nearly done. Any veteran of garden shows can tell you that about 90% of all entries are submitted in the fifteen minutes prior to the show deadline by exhibitors who have become frustrated while searching catalogs and lists trying to classify their plants correctly. **Do this in advance**, as you select your plant material. If you have questions concerning an entry, most shows have a classification chairman who can help with the correct placing of the specimen. In "friendly" shows, such as the MGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show, fellow exhibitors can also be relied upon for assistance.

## Placement

Whether you are entering a vegetable, which is usually shown on a paper plate, or entering a cut specimen in a bottle, it is important to present the entry to the judge in a way that enhances the appearance of the specimen. Carrots should be placed in a semicircle form with all the points of the carrots facing in the same direction. Tomatoes are placed with the stem portion facing down and the blossom end to public view. It's important not to have a helter-skelter appearance, or look of disarray. This indicates poor showmanship.

Flowers that are placed for entry should have a stem length proportionate to the inflorescence of the flower head. Sometimes in gladiolas shows there is a maximum length of stem which is allowed

per stock. The stem length is measured from the bottom floret. You should review the show schedule to see if there are certain minimums or maximums.

The show schedule will also specify how many flower stems should be shown. Large flowers generally call for one specimen. Smaller flowers may call for three or more. You should pay careful attention to placing the stem in the bottle so that the flower is shown in its most favorable aspect. Frequently flowers are wedged in with styrofoam or Saran Wrap so they don't move about or appear floppy. Remember that judges will walk by the front of the table to view the exhibits. They won't take a great deal of time to examine an exhibit that is hidden from view. Present the flower so that it stands tall and proud, and is easily viewed by the judges.

## Grooming

It is useful to have a knife or cutters, small scissors, Saran Wrap, paper towels and a few extra pens or pencils. Watch what those around you are doing. If you look closely, you will see them grooming their specimens, which is an important part of showmanship. During grooming, spray residue, dirt, broken leaves and other imperfections are removed, or at least an attempt is made to hide them from view.

## Next Month

Next month I'll clue you in on what judges look for when they evaluate a specimen.

## Inside:

Page 2/	Editor's Column Events Calendar
Page 3/	President's Column Summer Tour Member Info Plant Auction Notice
Page 4/	Program Report
Page 5/	Board Meeting Notes
Page 6/	Scholarship Announcement
Page 7/	Scholarship Application
Page 8/	Chuck's Chestnuts
Page 9/	Growing for Showing: At The Show

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# The Garden Spray

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