

A decorative border of stylized flowers and leaves surrounds the text. The border consists of a central horizontal line with two parallel lines above and below it, and a vertical line on each side, all adorned with various flower and leaf motifs.

Announcing

The 1991
Plant Sale and Auction
by the
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Tuesday, May 14

5:00 p.m. Country Store
5:40 p.m. Dinner (\$6.50)
6:30 p.m. Auction

Lynhurst Community Center
1345 West Minnehaha Parkway
(50th Street and Humboldt South)

Members, spouses and guests are invited.
Send in your reservations.
Plan to attend.

1991 Plant Sale and Auction Details

Chairman Dave Johnson and his committee have planned another outstanding plant sale and auction. There will be many quality varieties--annuals and perennials--to enhance your garden for years to come. Dave promises to have the new Honey Crisp apple tree and some All American flowers for sale.

The Country Store opens at 5 p.m. Quality plant materials from the same suppliers as last year will be for sale. Club members are welcome to donate plants and related garden items.

Dinner is at 5:40 p.m. at the regular price of \$6.50. If you are bringing guests to the dinner, please make reservations for them.

The auction starts at 6:30 p.m. and will be a lot of fun and a chance to get quality plants for your garden. Both sun-loving and shade-type plants will be available.

Guests are invited and welcome. Please bring your friends and prospective members. This is an opportunity for them to learn more about the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and to buy some plants.

Our objective is to raise funds to help subsidize other club events that are not revenue-producing and to continue support of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. It's also an opportunity for members and friends to add to the beauty of their gardens.

The event will be at the Lynnhurst Community Center, 1345 West Minnehaha Parkway (50th street and Humboldt--same place as last year).

To volunteer to help, phone Dave Johnson, 544-0111.

If you are on the regular mailing, be sure to complete your reservation card and mail it back to Eldon Hugelen prior to the deadline.

If you are on the permanent reservation list, please call Eldon Hugelen at 431-3114 to let him know how many guests you are bringing.

Be there!

AT IT'S MARCH MEETING, THE MGCA BOARD LEARNED:

- o That the August Flower and Vegetable show will be held at Riverplace.
- o That Bob Redmond has reserved the pavilion at Boom Island as a starting point for the August tour meeting. The tour will stop at the Flower and Vegetable Show and will end at the pavilion for a pot-luck meal.
- o That Lake Harriet United Methodist Church has reduced the rental fee to \$50.00 (from \$100.00) per meeting. This will bring our break-even meal count to 40 members at \$6.50/meal. Our meal count has been between 50-55. The slight gain will cover inevitable increases in meal expenses in the future.

MGCM Meeting Report

by Andy Marlow

April 9, 1991

Vice-President and program chairman Greg Smith had a double-barreled program for MGCM members at the April meeting. Excellent sessions on spring lawn care and hostas were presented, and are reported below.

Spring Lawn Care

MGCM member Jack Kolb was head greenskeeper at the Minikadah Club for many years, before opening his own turf supply business. He has a long standing professional knowledge and interest in turf care for both the golf course and the home.

Jack says if you start spring clean up in your yard too early, you might as well use a shovel as a rake. You'll tear out the crowns of the grass plants and destroy your lawn. Soil heaves as much as 3 inches during the winter, leaving grass plants sitting loosely in the soil. Until they've had a chance to settle, you risk pulling them loose. Dead looking grass may, in fact, just be dormant grass. Rake lightly to avoid pulling the crown loose. Test the lawn first by raking lightly. If the crowns stay put, go ahead and rake up the leaves and winter debris.

The cool season grasses we grow in our climate start growing well before crabgrass and the other hot weather grasses. We want to give the bluegrass and fescues a good head start over the crabgrass and we'll have a lot fewer problems later in the season.

Grass stores food for early growth in the crown over winter and takes up the remains of the fall fertilizer. That gives it an early jump. Then, about mid May to early June when soil tempera-

tures have warmed to 40-50 degrees, the grass starts to need outside nutrients to continue its growth. That's the time for spring fertilizer application.

When the soil temperature reaches 55 degrees, the hot season grasses start to sprout. Since pre-emergent crabgrass control lasts 3 to 3-1/2 months, it can be applied at the same time as the spring fertilization.

Jack recommends 1/3rd of the annual nitrogen amount be applied in the spring and 2/3rds in the fall. Look carefully, he says, at the bag of fertilizer. Try to pick a brand with a large percentage of "water insoluble nitrogen" or WIN. This will release the nitrogen slowly over a few weeks instead of all at once. Urea and IBDU are two good WIN products.

A soil test is the best way to find out how much phosphorus and potash your lawn needs. Jack says many Twin Cities lawns have more potash than they need, but lawns in Anoka county are frequently short because of sandy soils. It's always best to check.

Jack said two lawn chores are best left for fall - seeding and dethatching/core aerification. The last week in August through early September is the best time for seeding, with dormant seeding in late fall the second choice. Spring is a distant third. Dethatching in the spring really rips up the grass and frost heaves in winter do a good job of aerifying naturally, so it's not necessary in the spring.

Finally, Jack says fungicides and broadleaf weed control need to be applied as liquids. All other

MEETING REPORT (continued)

treatments can be granular. But, he cautions, apply any chemical only if it's needed.

Hostas

The entire hosta-growing Savory family was present to educate MGCM members about hostas. Bob (a long time MGCM member), wife Arlene and son Dennis, a former forester, all played their parts in the presentation, even if Bob's part was to sit sagely in the back of the audience and nod his head from time to time.

According to Arlene, Bob's interest in hostas as a profession began as a boy. His mother asked him to divide a hosta plant. Bob reasoned that anything that could be divided into so many growable pieces should make a successful business. Arlene was drawn into the idea and she and Bob started into business just after World War II. They are celebrating 45 years as growers in 1991. Dennis recently returned to the greenhouse after several years as a forester.

Hostas are about as hardy as garden plants get. They prefer good humus soil, good drainage, plenty of water in the heat of summer, and an annual application of medium fertility fertilizer.

Spring is the best time to divide hostas, but it can be done with relative safety at any time of the year. Just remember to have two or three good eyes per division and to plant them at the same depth as the plant you dug up.

Arlene shared with the audience the top ten varieties from the latest popularity poll by the American Hosta Society, which we'll share with you here:

1. 'Sum and Substance'
2. montana 'Aureo-marginata'
3. fortunei 'Gold Standard'
4. 'Golden Tiara'

5. fluctuans
6. 'Great Expectations'
7. ventricosa 'aureo-marginata'
8. 'Krossa Regal'
9. tokudama 'Flavo-circinalis'
10. sieboldiana 'Frances Williams'

After Arlene's verbal presentation, Dennis Savory took over for the visual part of the session. The wide variety of colors, textures and shapes is amazing. And, new hostas are being hybridized each year by people like the Savorys. We have room here for just a few highlights.

Two outstanding yellow hostas are 'Piedmont Gold', a large-leafed, very yellow hosta that's the immediate focus of attention wherever it's planted, and fortunei 'Gold Standard', a yellow, almost white hosta with green edges on the leaf.

'Black Hills' is a Savory introduction with large dark green leaves. They are very puckered and seem to glitter. Dennis reported that 'Black Hills' gets darker each year it grows undisturbed.

Hostas are grown primarily for their leaves and shape, but some also have outstanding flowers. Plantaginea 'Aphrodite' is a double flowered sport of the old standby plantaginea. The flowers are large and resemble double flowering narcissi. Their fragrance is also outstanding.

Dennis showed us 'Egret,' with a large display of feathery white flowers at the top of the stalk. It, too, is a Savory introduction, but a sufficient number have not yet been grown in order to start selling them.

New hostas, of course, are hybridized from seed. Many are now reproduced on a mass basis by tissue culture. But one of the best things about hostas is waiting for yours to grow large enough to divide and share with a friend.

Bob Smith brought parsnips freshly dug from his garden to the April meeting. They were 22 inches long and big enough around for baseball bats. Trenching and a heavy leaf mulch keeps the soil from freezing deeply. Otherwise there'd be no way to pull them this time of year.



Grow With Us

May Is Recruitment Month

At the conclusion of the April Meeting, Mrs. Savory, who had just given a presentation on hostas along with her son Dennis, commented, "My, what an enthusiastic group you have!" That comment was great to hear. A special thanks to Mrs. Savory for the talk on hostas and for the nice compliment. Thanks also to Dennis Savory and Jack Kolb for the talks and also to Jack Kolb and Robert Smith for the items they donated.

We need to keep up the enthusiasm and commitment to the club as we move into May and a busy summer of gardening and club activities. As you know, May has been designated as Recruitment Month by the Board of Directors. Sixty-five members picked up their recruitment packets at the April meeting. If you have not received your recruitment packet, pick it up at the May 14 plant sale and auction.

Remember, our membership recruitment drive has to be mostly a word of mouth effort. Take the "Grow With Us" hand-outs (MGCM biographies) and the new Membership Applications out into your neighborhoods and talk it up. If we make 800 "contacts" (80 members each giving out information to 10 prospective members) and if we even get a 5% return, that would mean about 40 new members. New members can join from May 1 through September 30 for only \$11.00. Don't forget to put your name and phone number on the back page of the hand-out (space provided on the bottom). Thanks for your help. The San Antonio, TX MGC now has 342 members. They added 83 new members in 1990! Let's strive to add at least half that many new members.

Dave Johnson needs support and help now for the plant auction. Do as much as you can for Dave (take a day off from your regular job, rent a pick-up truck, etc.) for this important club event and money maker. Call Dave now and offer your help.

Many thanks to Russ Smith for volunteering to chair the Awards Committee. We still need a person to chair the Flower and Vegetable Show--please, someone call me ASAP to volunteer for this leadership position.

Cordially,



M. T. Pulley, President

WAY BACK WHEN - MGCM in 1943

The first annual business meeting of the club was held on January 11, 1943 in the Oak Room of the Athletic Club with 17 members and 12 guests in attendance. Secretary W. C. Addy reported that of the 60 men on the roster in 1942 seven had failed to attend a single meeting, 4 had attended only one and 11 had attended only two. "It was thus apparent at this early date in the club history we faced the problem of restricting membership to those who demonstrated enough interest to attend a majority of the club functions."

C. H. Stewart in making his auditor's report for 1942 surprized all present by announcing the club had ended the year \$4.19½ in the black. A month later another surprise was the wording of an adopted "provision that any member in arrears for dues on April 1 could be dropped by the secretary after notice in writing."

The 26 members present at the March 1943 meeting passed a resolution "in the interests of the Victory Gardens" protesting the proposed repeal of daylight saving time in the state. Copies were sent to the mayors and offices of civil defense in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth--also to the Hennepin County delegation.

The May meeting at which a club constitution was finally adopted was followed by garden tours in June, July, August and September. The July tour which started with a 35c picnic lunch at Lake Harriet ended with prize awards "to the men who were able to name the largest number of plants observed in the several gardens visited."

In October a decision to meet at places other than the Athletic Club led us to the T. & L. Cafe, 317 2nd Avenue S. to partake of a 65c dinner. Fall garden work and electric heaters for hotbeds were the topic for discussion.

The "second big annual Ladies Night dinner...was held at the Fountain Terrace in the Medical Arts building with table decorations and the program all aimed at pleasing the ladies. Dr. William O'Brian of the School of Medicine at the Univesity talked on 'Your Garden and You' and a tremendous hit with the 28 members and 31 guests was the result. The doctor was a well-known radio personality and very witty. He could have entertained the ladies for another hour if time had permitted."

Source: History of Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

NEWS and NOTES

Minnetonka MGC member Lincoln Aldritt's idea for a public garden in Excelsior will become reality when construction begins in mid-summer on the "Gateway Garden" at County Rd. 19 and Water Street, Excelsior. The park, a joint project of the Lake Minnetonka Men's Garden Club, the Excelsior Area Chamber and the City of Excelsior will be installed adjacent to Excelsior Elementary School and TCF Bank. The public garden will offer walkways and benches, numerous plantings, a flag pole, rose arbor and evergreen tree for decoration during the holiday season. It has been the site of a permanent flower garden since 1975 cared for by volunteers from the Lake Minnetonka Men's Garden Club.

Mary Lerman and Lee Gilligan at our MGCM April meeting called attention to an opportunity for a garden type project at the Stevens house in Minnehaha Park. This could well become something as effective as the Minnetonka club's Excelsior project but no action was taken.

Did you note that our Community Fragrance Garden was one of fourteen listed in the Sunday Star & Tribune magazine section for April 7 under the heading Some of Minnesota's Public Gardens?

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OWN-ROOT STOCK

An article by an old time rose grower reproduced in an exchange bulletin brought to the editor's memory a talk the late A. M. Brand gave at an MGCM meeting years ago -- In the 40's I believe. Mr. Brand told about his experiments with lilacs -- How certain lilacs (French?) were budded on other root-stocks because they, unlike the common lilac (*syringa vulgaris*), couldn't be propagated from cuttings. As memory goes, Brand had found he could root cuttings by planting them upside down.

Then I wondered if any MGCM rose grower had rooted cuttings of a favorite rose. It would make for a good SPRAY article. So, I called Jerry Olson. "Not to my knowledge", he said; but the reprinted article "might be of interest to MGCM members". Here it is:

"I have raised roses for over forty years and I have tried them on their own-roots as well as on various under-stocks. Many methods of taking cuttings have been tried - heel and toe; putting a grain of wheat or corn in the split end; putting the cutting in a raw potato; cutting with a long slant or straight across; etc. I have always gone back to the original method described in the U.S. Government Bulletin I received nearly forty years ago; insert cuttings five inches in the ground, leaving 3 inches out; or insert three in the ground and two eyes out. Tamp earth well around the bottom of the cutting, put a jar over it, and keep it very moist. When the cutting grows too large for the jar, replant it, preferably in cloudy or wet weather or in the evening. In selecting a cutting, take a stem where there was a good bloom and where a healthy eye is starting. Cut one-half inch above the eye and again down eight inches. The last few years I have done this, dipping the end in a root-promoting medium according to the directions given. I am sure that I get more roots by this method.

I have had a great deal of trouble with budded nursery roses. Usually there is too much space between the bud and root formation. If the bud is above ground, it is almost sure to winterkill down to the bud. With own-root roses, the crown is where nature intended it to be, and as long as any part of the root is alive, it will live and grow. It is possible to have a full rose bed in a few years from one cutting. I have done it many times and still have some of the original plants started over forty years ago. They are better than ever and have been transplanted several times. When I get a new rose, I grow it on its own-roots as soon as I can get a good cutting. It takes about three years to catch up to its parent - if the parent doesn't die before then. From then on, it is nearly always a better plant.

--Lancaster, Pennsylvania, MGC bulletin

Why not give it a try folks? You could have a whole bed or a hedge of your favorite rose for the price of one. Besides, there'd be that article for the SPRAY.

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NEWS and NOTES, continued

One week later, April 14, in the Minnesota Guide section--Lawn, Home and Patio--the Horticultural Calendar listed our auction under May, under June listed our regular meetings for June, September, October, November and December, under July listed our garden tour and under August listed our Flower and Vegetable Show.

Stan Crist says "Minnesotans aren't the only ones to have problems with plant hardiness--Californians do too. Santa Rosa (in the San Francisco area) experienced its coldest winter in 100 years. While they usually have but 4 to 5 days below freezing, this past winter they had 3 weeks in the upper teens. A former neighbor who now lives in Santa Rosa, says he will have to replace 27 shrubs in his yard that died from the cold weather."

OFFICERS PHOTO BOOKS GO TO PULLEY

At the April meeting of the club Bill Hull, historian, turned over to President Merle Pulley, the set of four club officers photo books, going back to 1942, continuing to date and with pages provided through the year 2000, turning them to Merle for safe keeping and urging him to provide care and known whereabouts for the books "for the next fifty years." Bill, who has been working for years to update the books, mentioned that probably "all of the past officers shown in the first book, covering 1942 for about twenty years are now deceased.

A page is provided for each year, upon which has been placed photos of the four officers for that year. At the end of each book, space is provided for bronze medal recipients for the same period of years. Of course some men's photo appears in multiples when they held a position repeatedly, or as they worked up to the presidency.

The first book was lost for many years and was eventually found when a past officer cleaned out his attic. Bill laments the danger of this happening again, as has occurred with the metal plates, flatware and cooking utensils the club once owned - now long gone.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Charles L. Cutter (Chuck)
4904 - 1st Avenue S.
Mpls., MN 55409

825-2243

Return to

THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, Inc.
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