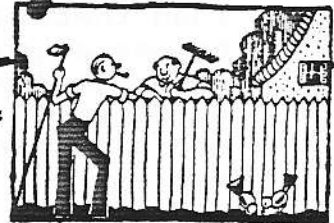




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society

November 1991, Volume 49, Number 11

NEXT MGCM MEETING, Tuesday November 12th, 1991. Before the program our nominating committee will have a slate of officers to propose for 1992.

SAME PLACE, LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 49th Street at Beard Avenue South

SAME TIME, 6:00 P.M.

See You There

SAME PRICE \$6.50

SEND YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK BY RETURN MAIL.

* * * * *

PROGRAM

Our program for November will be a showing of America The Beautiful, a 30 minute musical travelogue prepared for MGCA. Presenter will be member Chet Groger.

Our club has previously seen We Find God In Our Garden, numbers 1 and 2, which MGCM's Sherman Pinkham had a hand in helping Lorenz Peterson of a Missouri club prepare. After Pinkham's death his files disclosed material for another show on birds and flowers.

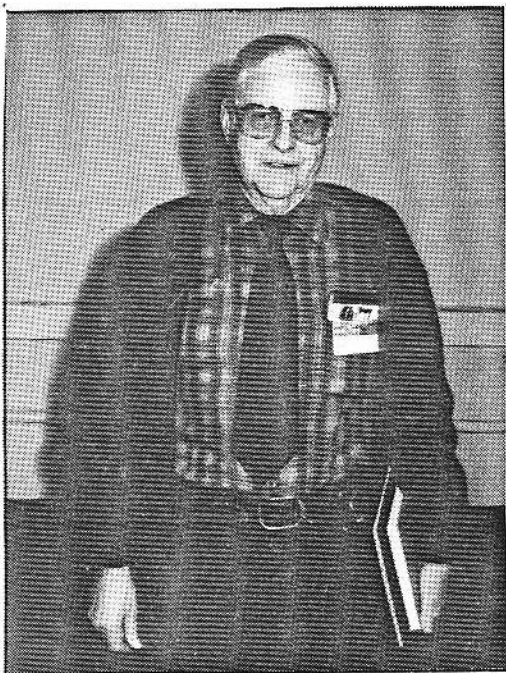
Pinkham purchased copies of We Find God In Our Garden together with equipment for showing it and toured the area boosting MGCA. There were many bookings for Sherm charged no fee. During Sherm's last illness Chet Groger filled in at the scheduled showings. He also filled those left on the calendar after Sherm's death and because of the demand added new showings.

This led him to purchase copies of America The Beautiful-- Part 1, The Southern States; Part 2, The Northern States.

Part I is the more colorful so we will see this on Tuesday evening. It covers the area from the east coast to Alabama, Texas, Missouri and California.

Chet has a wealth of information about this program which he will share with us. He may also tell us why he thinks it is time for another to take on the responsibility of these showings if they are to continue.

Friday evening November 29th our garden club members and wives are invited to Klier's Nursery, 5901 Nicollet, to actually make holiday decorations. Come early. We will have help in making wreaths, centerpieces, wall hangings and various other items. Materials are available at very nominal prices and we pay nothing for all the help from the Kliers. It is also an opportunity to see their large display of craft items for sale. There is a lot of good fellowship as well as a chance to be creative. The Kliers are great hosts. Let's have a big turnout; Howard says he'd like to have the place full. There'll be plenty of tables.



Chet Groger

You Would Have Liked P. W. YOUNG.

Phineas Young, that is. With a name like "Phineas" can you blame him for preferred to be called "P.W."?

A past president of our club, 1959, he was also much more than that. He was a reference source for many of us because he was a good gardener and because he clipped everything about gardening and kept it meticulously arranged in file folders. At times he reminded me of a woman recipe collector who had reams of clipped recipes. But I wish I were half the man.

P.W. and wife Lola lived at 4544 Beard Avenue S., where he had a good collection of perennials and a very interesting composting idea. His was an above-ground compost bin made of one-inch boards which could be added to increase height or removed at the bottom to obtain the finished product. Well planned and developed.

Lola was PW's second wife. On November 11, 1941, during the terrible "Armistice day blizzard, "...in south Minneapolis, divorced Percy W. Young had an evening date with a lady, Lola Bender, whom he had been dating for some time. Lola and 'P.W.', as he was known to all his friends, returned to Lola's apartment on Girard avenue after having dinner nearby and spent the evening listening to radio music and the ten o'clock radio news - at which time he and Lola realized the storm outside had escalated dramatically. P.W. said his goodbyes and went out to get into his car, parked in front of Lola's on the street. He said later "I couldn't find the damned thing. There were all these lumps of snow and I could see that even if I found it, it would be impossible to drive through all that snow to reach my place. So I said to heck with it and went back to Lola's". At that point one of his friends, also in the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, said "Well, P.W., I suppose you stayed all night there too." 'Of course,' said the ninety year old man (who had been sixty-one in 1940 (at that time)). There was nothing else I could do.' Then to his friends' snickers, he added... 'but we got married soon after that and have had a darned good life together.' *

*From "All Hell Broke Loose", by William H. Hull, copyright 1985.

Bill Hull. Historian

This picture of P. W. Young was taken December 5th, 1975. At age 96 he had travelled from California to Minneapolis to attend our 1975 Christmas Party.

WHAT A MAN!





MGCM ANNOUNCES
THE
1991 HOLIDAY PARTY



Tuesday December 3, 1991 at Lake Harriet Methodist Church
Chowen Avenue South at 49th Street, Minneapolis

SOCIAL GET TOGETHER 6:00 P.M.

DINNER featuring the PARADE OF TURKEYS* 6:30 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT: Musical Selections including a singalong.

PRICE: \$12.50 per person

POINSETTIA for each lady in attendance.

FREE DRAWING: Selected poinsettias and wreaths

RESERVATIONS to be in by December 1st; complete the reservations form below.

GIFTS: For this party the committee has substituted an exchange of gifts for donations to food shelves and/or toys or clothing. Each member, on his/her behalf, and for each of their guests, is requested to bring to the party an unwrapped gift of a non-perishable food item for the food shelf program or a toy or article of clothing. This is a great opportunity to help others.

BE A CARVER:* Call Dwight Stone and volunteer. His number is 588-5692.

1991 MGCM HOLIDAY PARTY
RESERVATIONS

* * * * * Tear off and return * * * * *

Names of those attending: Member Guest

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Number attending _____ x \$12.50 = \$ _____ (Check to be made payable to MGCM)

Mail to: Walter C. Gustafson Telephone: 926-3124
3812 W. 57th St.





MGCM Meeting Report

by Andy Marlow

October 8, 1991

Every gardener is a split personality - looking for tried and true plant materials that will perform reliably in the landscape and the garden, but also craving something new, different, unusual... something our fellow gardeners don't have just yet. October speaker Laverne Dunsmore is purchasing agent for Otten Brothers Nursery in Long Lake and was described by MGCM Vice-President and Program Chair Greg Smith as "on the cutting edge of new horticultural developments." Laverne is on the board of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, and serves as a member of the committee that chooses the "Plant in Spotlight" for each issue of the Minnesota Horticulturist. The emphasis for that feature (and for Dunsmore's talk) is new and underused plants for Minnesota gardens; plants that meet the needs of both sides of a typical gardener's split personality.

Laverne supplied each member in attendance with a handout listing the names of the varieties he illustrated via color slides. A complete list of these plant materials can be found at the end of this column. In between, this reporter will share some of Laverne's comments.

Sugar maples are among the most beautiful trees that grow in Minnesota, particularly in the fall. But they have problems: thin leaves that in the urban environment can fall before full color emerges, and the tendency to develop anthracnose. Both 'Legacy' and 'Majesty' have thicker leaves that resist these problems. 'Legacy' is available both potted and balled in burlap (BB). 'Majesty' is not yet available in BB, but with its good, uniform shape, Laverne predicts it will be "Minnesota's number one sugar maple" in a very short time.

Rubrum maples are not to be confused with the typical Norway Red Maple. Rubrum is a native plant with good fall color. 'Firedance,' a

brilliant red in fall, is available this year. 'Autumn Blaze' and 'Autumn Spire' were both developed from a natural hybrid between red and silver maples. They represent the best of both parents. 'Blaze' is a typical maple shape, while 'Spire' is a columnar variation.

Serviceberries can be grown as trees reaching up to 35', or as bushes in the 8-10' range. They have nice blossoms and blue berries which provide food for birds and other animals. 'Prince William' is a shorter variety, reaching 8-10', while 'Princess Diana' is a bit larger.

Japanese Tree Lilacs are among the last trees to flower in Minnesota. They make a spectacular display in mid-summer. 'Ivory Silk' is good for small yards, neither too tall nor too wide. 'Summer Snow' needs a bit more room, but is covered in snow white blossoms.

The drought of 1988-89 took a heavy toll on paper birch. 'Whitespire' has a columnar shape and two important qualities; it is the most drought tolerant paper birch yet developed, and it does not exfoliate its bark.

The 'Princess Kay' plum, developed at the University of Minnesota, needs to "catch on with the public," according to Dunsmore, or it may no longer be offered by nurseries. It has a lot going for it, too. It is fast growing, has beautiful double white flowers, and no fruit to litter the lawn.

Microbiota, or Russian Cypress, is one of the few evergreens that does well in the shade. It's a shrub that stays green year around, except during fall when it turns an attractive bronzish color.

Aphids have devastated Minnesota's honeysuckles, especially the widely planted 'Zable's.' 'Freedom' and 'Arnold's Red' are both aphid resistant. They may herald the return of the honeysuckle hedge in our state.

Korean Mountain Ash is a new tree in the state. It's a dwarf, reaching about 25', with pretty white flower clusters in spring and a high bush

Meeting Report (cont.)

cranberry type fruit that hangs on the tree into winter. It is also fire blight resistant.

'Meadowlark' and 'Vermont Sun' are both improvements over the equally winter hardy 'Northern Sun.' 'Meadowlark' is taller than 'Northern Sun', but with tighter growth. 'Vermont Sun' averages 5-6'.

'Stella de Oro' was and is a revolutionary daylily. It was the first to provide continuous bloom from June until frost. It requires high fertility, rich soil and lots of water. It should be divided every 3-4 years. Laverne talked about several new hemerocallis similar to 'Stella de Oro.' 'Mini Stella' has a daintier blossom and a more lemon yellow color. 'Mini Pearl' is a peach color with, according to Laverne, "the best foliage of any daylily I've ever seen."

Hardy shrub roses are the fastest growing part of the nursery business. The Parkland and Explorer series of shrub roses developed in Canada are extremely hardy, fast growing and bloom all the time. It's no wonder they are so popular. 'Charles Albanel' is a ground cover type rose, 'David Thompson' a shorter shrub and 'Nearly Wild' is very showy in mass plantings.

Dunsmore says this year pointed up the need for alternatives to 'Radiant,' 'Red Splendor' and other common crab apples. They were attacked by scab during the wet spring and early summer and most lost nearly all their leaves. 'Sugarthyme' is resistant to scab, holds its fruit well into winter and has a lovely white blossom. 'Thunderchild' has bronze foliage. 'Prairiefire' blooms red, but has similar qualities to 'Sugarthyme.' Laverne predicts it will be a top variety in Minnesota.

Complete list of Laverne Dunsmore's new and underused plants for Minnesota:

1. 'Legacy' Sugar Maple
2. 'Majesty' Sugar Maple
3. 'Firedance' Rubrum Maple

4. 'Autumn Spire' Rubrum Maple
5. 'Prince William' Serviceberry
6. 'Ivory Silk' Japanese Tree Lilac
7. 'Summer Snow' Japanese Tree Lilac
8. 'Whitespire' Paper Birch
9. 'Arboretum Strain' Redbud
10. 'Princess Kay' Plum
11. Mugho Pine
12. Microbiota - Russian Cypress
13. 'Freedom' Honeysuckle
14. Korean Mountain Ash
15. 'Aunt Dee' Wisteria
16. 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' Elm
17. Hydrangea paniculata 'Tardiva'
18. 'Meadowlark' Forsythia
19. 'Vermont Sun' Forsythia
20. 'Stella de Oro' Daylily
21. 'Mini Pearl' Daylily
22. 'Mini Stella' Daylily
23. 'Yellow Lollipop' Daylily
24. Rubus odoratus - Flowering Raspberry
25. 'Champlain' Rose
26. 'Charles Albanel' Rose
27. 'David Thompson' Rose
28. 'John Cabot' Rose
29. 'Henry Kelsey' Rose
30. 'The Hunter' Rose
31. 'Nearly Wild' Rose
32. 'Halwards Silver' Spirea
33. 'Mohican' Viburnum
34. 'Holmstrup' Arborvitae
35. Mancana Ash
36. 'Sugarthyme' Crab
37. 'Prairiefire' Crab
38. 'Donald Wyman' Crab
39. 'Thunderchild' Crab
40. 'Winter Red' Winterberry
41. 'Pocanontas' Lilac
42. 'Minuet' Lilac
43. Mucronata Spruce
44. 'PJM' Rhododendron
45. 'Rosy Lights' Azalea



Grow With Us

On a warm spring evening last May, eight MGCM Board members and three MGCM members huddled at Mel Anderson's home to conduct the monthly Board of Director's meeting.

The first agenda item under New Business was called and Fred Glasoe took the floor. The following is quoted from the Secretary's MGCM Board Minutes.

Fred Glasoe pointed out that the club name is not an accurate description of our membership. He pointed out that many potential members are turned-off by being tied to Minneapolis. He mentioned that the national organization may become, Gardener's of America Inc. He suggested a possibility could be, Metropolitan Garden Club of Minnesota. This name would retain the initials MGCM. No action was taken.

Next month at the regular meeting, Duane Reynolds gave a slide presentation on judging. As he showed a slide reading, "Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis" he quipped " Maybe that should be changed to something like Metropolitan Garden Club of Minnesota."

We know that Fred and Duane certainly have their green thumbs on the pulse of the local gardening scene. We should be listening to what they are saying.

On the national organization front, the name Men's Garden Clubs of America seems to be giving way to, Gardener's of America, " ... when the letterhead (MGCA) is used up."

The issue of a club name that is not "tied to Minneapolis" and is "gender neutral" has merit with respect to the long-term viability of the organization. We are not specifically about "men" or "Minneapolis" per se, but we are about gardening, community service and friendship.

There seems to be a feeling to stay put on this issue until after the clubs 50th Anniversary Celebration. After all, the name has held up for almost fifty years. On the other hand, it makes good business sense to change your product when it becomes obsolete.

The 1992 Board of Director's may want to build a mechanism to bring this to a vote sometime after the clubs 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Cordially,



DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

By Ed. Culbert

In the corner of the private alleyway adjacent to my home stands a great white-pine tree. In late fall it sheds needles over my yard. I rake them up to use on a path in my garden. When a neighbor on the corner saw this she began to deliver her pine needles to me. Alas, she moved and I no longer get the needles but she continues to deliver leaves from her residence.

Needle-leaved evergreens such as pines naturally shed their interior needles in the fall. The needles have a pleasing brown color and don't mat down so are used as a protective anti-weed ground cover mulch by park people in some parts of the country. Needles are good insulation--full of air spaces. They insulate the soil and make an ideal winter mulch for perennial flowers, small fruit plants and acid-loving shrubs and trees. Needles prevent alternate freezing and thawing which may heave shallow-rooted plants out of the ground, a problem especially serious on heavy soils.

Remove weak or crowded branches of evergreens in the late fall, as a strong framework deters snow damage. The boughs you glean from pruning can first be used for holiday decorations then recycled as winter mulch on perennials beds. One inch of pine needles or shredded leaves spread over strawberry plants makes an ideal overwintering mulch. Small branches laid over the mulch will keep it in place over winter.

If you haven't already done so save leaves in a pile to use as next year's mulch. During winter, a leaf pile becomes compressed and layers form. In spring, just lift off mats of leaves approximately 3 inches thick to mulch around transplants.

TIP I'm told you can chop leaves and lightweight plant wastes by shredding with a string trimmer. To shred with a string trimmer, confine lightweight materials in a large garbage pail. Make sure to wear protective equipment. Coarse plant residues, such as corn cobs and branches, need to be chopped in a chipper/shredder.

GLEANINGS (Primary from The Greenhorn) and REACTIONS

Hold on to produce sacks for the best storage containers for your crops as they ripen. Tomatoes and pears ripen with more vigor if placed in a paper bag for several days (but don't put them in the same sack). Plastic bags are best for short-term storage or succulent fruits such as peaches. Use mesh bags for grapes, open baskets hold berries best. We used to be told to wrap tomatoes in peach wrappers. I followed that practice until I discovered they did just as well piled in a covered 1/2 bushel basket. For me they keep from October to Thanksgiving or later when picked green and stored in a fruit carton in the basement.

Pack carrots and beets in 5-gallon buckets filled with sand or sawdust. Keep in a cool, dark place. Insulation grade vermiculite works better. I use 5 gallon "stone" crocks. Parsnips packed this way keep until June.

A wooden clothes dryer is ideal for herb drying. Tie small sprays of herbs together with old rubber bands and hang with saved paper clips or Christmas tree hooks. Don't use string to secure herbs; the string will become loose as the plants dry, allowing them to fall out. Alternatively, put herbs in plastic mesh bags saved from produce purchases. Another option is drying herbs on discarded oven or refrigerator racks. Suspend the racks from the ceiling and hang herbs as mentioned above. Store dried herbs in used, dark-colored, glass jars such as vitamin bottles.

For long-term storage of onions, make sure they stay cool, dark, and dry. Place onions in ripped pantyhose, or the string bags from potatoes and citrus fruits. If you use pantyhose for onion bags, drop an onion down one leg, tie a knot, add another onion, then another knot. Repeat with the other leg. Suspend the onion "bags" from a hook in the ceiling to ensure good air circulation.

WHEN DID IT START? MGCM FIRSTS

June 22, 1942 The meeting was held out of doors in the evening at the Armory Gardens... It was cold and windy with the result that only 22 members showed up. Henry Bachman talked on growth and culture of delphiniums. Then the group toured the (Armory) gardens. At the conclusion of the tour the first official business meeting was held...By motion the annual dues were fixed at \$2 per member. The directors were authorized to affiliate the club with the State Horticultural Society and also with the Men's Garden Clubs of America. Also a program committee was elected.

August 3, 1942 First conducted garden tour (See July SPRAY)

August 22, 1942...We closed our charter with 57 active and 3 commercial members enrolled.

December 7, 1942 This was our first annual social dinner meeting....40 members and 36 guests (mostly wives) gathered in the main dining room at the Athletic Club....At the conclusion of the program Upsher Smith and Herb Kahlert put on our first raffle and (then) many prizes were distributed.

March 3, 1944 Board meeting. At this time the small name badges were first made up. The material was furnished by Charley Mann and the printing of the names by Jack Cohen.

March 15, 1944 Secretary Menzel presented our first annual budget. The meeting proper was given over almost entirely to the subject of vegetables. Some 20 men had previously been assigned a vegetable which each was to study and present...in a five minute discussion of the best varieties and the proper methods to follow in growing....Following the speeches a short sound movie was put on which showed the much discussed English method of garden digging.

June 13, 1944 The First Flower Show put on by the club was held at the Park Board Greenhouses. The 39 members present enjoyed a fine buffet dinner put on by the Program Committee and also demonstrated a lot of enthusiasm for the display of home grown flowers and vegetables gathered by the show committee. Walter Quist ran away with the booby prize for his showing of quack grass. For the program Henry Bachman gave a talk and demonstration on raising glads. It was still light enough when the meeting ended to visit the rose garden.

February 7, 1945...First Directory with the notice for this meeting secretary Kaufmann had mailed each member a fancy colored card with the latest roster on one side and the committee and programs for each month of 1945...Another (first) at this meeting was a Glenn Cerney conducted very interesting questions and answers session.

January 8, 1946 Another first occurred when Al Erickson suggested that a gift should be made each year to the retiring president and proposed a President'S Rose which he generously offered free. (Currently Past President's Pin)

May 7, 1946 Another first In the notice of this meeting we were urged to bring any and all of our surplus plants to be sold at the conclusion of the dinner to help the club treasury. As a result when Frank Janes and Howard Bishop finished auctioneering it was found that over \$50 had been realized from the sale.

December 17, 1946 After the dinner....a demonstration of "Corsages and Their Construction and Use" was most ably handled by the first lady speaker ever to appear before the club, Mrs. George Lang of the firm of Lund and Lang of St. Paul.

SOURCE: History of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

* * * * *

"Continued pollution of the earth, if unchecked, will eventually destroy the fitness of this planet as a place for human life."

- Dr. Barry Commoner,
Washington University

CHANGE IN DATE

The 50th Anniversary Party is now planned for Tuesday, October 6th, 1992 at Mr. Olivet Church, 50th Street at Knox Avenue South.

THIS AND THAT

Fourteen years ago this month (Fred Glasoe, President) we in MGCM were to vote on dis-affiliation from MGCA because of a raise in dues to \$10.00. The big problem this year is what happens when Gardeners of America, formerly Men's Garden Clubs of America, becomes a direct not through club membership organization.

Other issues we are surprised haven't arisen are National By-Laws and the new life membership structure. According to The Yardner, of Houston, Texas MGC at the Southwestern Region meeting, there was much discussion on the National By-Laws which our directors will present at the National Board Meeting in November. And a lot of discussion about the increase in Life Membership dues and the manner in which it was done by National. It was the opinion of our meeting that under the new Life dues, life membership would practically be eliminated, and this will be presented to the National Board."

Did you react to the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE in the October MGCA Newsletter in which he reports the MGCA reorganization team "came to several conclusions...and set up projects that had to be put into place if we wanted MGCA to survive into the next century, to grow and to offer even more services to our membership.

"It should come as no surprise to most of you that our No. 1 objective was to secure the services of a professional Executive Director...a person who could exert continuity in management and purpose, program and mission."

Your editor agrees a professional director is needed--If we can afford one. But the "more services" strikes a sour note. Most of the more services in most organizations turns out to be more paper work one can better do without or are duplicated elsewhere e.g. training for show judges.

Return to

THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, Inc.

Edwin C. Culbert, Editor

5315 Portland Avenue

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Merle T. Pulley

3852 Pleasant Av. S., Minneapolis 55409

Vice-President: Gregory Smith

1540 Rhode Island Av. N., Golden Valley 55416

Secretary: Eldon Hugelen

7473 W. 142nd St. Ct., Apple Valley 55124

Treasurer: Melvin C. Anderson

5701 35th Av. S., Minneapolis 55417

Past-President: Kent R. Petterson

908 E. River Ter., Minneapolis 55414

DIRECTORS:

Charles S. Benson

5808 W. 78th St., Edina 55435

Lee Gilligan

6506 W. Broadway, Brooklyn Park 55428

Phil M. Peterson

6529 Knox Av. S., Richfield 55423

Lloyd C. Wittstock

913 19th Av. S.E., Minneapolis 55414

FIRST CLASS