

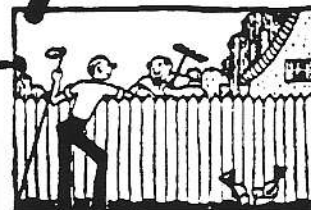


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

November 1996, Volume 54, Number 10



November Dinner Meeting...



Gardening on Computers

MGCM member Andy Marlow, both a gardener and self-described "power user" on the computer will talk about and demonstrate uses of the Internet for hobby gardeners, including how to find gardening information and ordering from on-line catalogs.

Date: Tuesday November 12
 Time: Dinner 6:30 pm
 Program 7:30 pm
 Place: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
 Cost: \$7.00 if reserved in advance
 \$8.00 at the door if there are meals available

The 1996 permanent reservation list is in effect for this meeting. If you received a reservation card with this issue of the *Garden Spray*, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must mail your card back to Secretary Mary Maynard by Friday, November 8, to be assured a place at dinner. If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Mary by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the price of your dinner.

Invitation to Klier's

by Eldon Hugelen

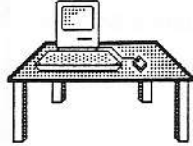
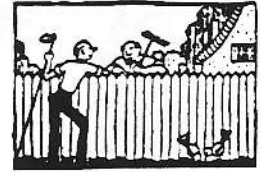
Watch Chuck Benson carefully make a wreath on a frame he hung on his shed in summer and where a bird left its nest. Or wait in line while Mary Maynard and Clyde Thompson crimp their wreaths on Howard Klier's "Make Wreaths Easy" machines. Or have Ardis (Howard's wife) make a bow to finish/or cover what you make. Or try to keep your grandson out of the good food Kliers made for the occasion.

Make your own list of things to remember this November 29th—the Friday after Thanksgiving. If you haven't been to Klier's Garden Center to make a wreath, do try it. Bring your pruners and a wire cutter. Klier's make it easy; they have everything you don't bring for a nominal price. You will bring something home you'll be proud of. Spouses and friends are welcome, too.



Klier's Garden Center
5901 Nicollet Avenue South
beginning at 5:30 pm, November 29





The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

The garden season is truly over. The leaves from even the hardiest trees and shrubs blanket the lawn. Thankfully they are not yet covered with snow! Just a few more chores – like dealing with those leaves – and I can turn my thoughts to next spring.

As usual I'm planning another garden space. This time a replacement for one that has slowly eroded away over the years, aided by the baby sitter driving her car through it last winter. Selecting the right materials for the retaining wall and deciding what to plant in it can occupy several winter evenings for me.

Another winter activity will be compiling a list of the hostas I just have to have. It will probably be short, maybe 15 or 20 varieties. I know I won't get them all next growing season, but I'll keep the list handy just in case.

One of our most fun events is just ahead—the MGCM Holiday Party. Marilyn Brummer, Nancy Jepson and their committee have a great time planned. Make sure to get your reservation in early. The reservation form is printed on page 7.

Holiday Party Committee

The Holiday Party Committee will meet at 5:30 pm in an upstairs room at Lake Harriet Church on November 12, just before the regular MGCM dinner meeting. If you have questions or cannot attend, call Marilyn Brummer (473-4732) or Nancy Jepson (445-6147).

Coming Attractions

Tuesday, November 5 – 7:30 pm
Board of Directors
Bob Stepan's House

Tuesday, November 12 – 6:30 pm
Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Ave. So.

Friday, November 29
Wreath Making
Klier's Nursery
5901 Nicollet Avenue South

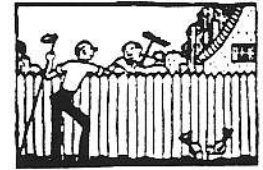
Tuesday, December 3 – 7:30 pm
Board of Directors
Maurice Lindblom's House

Tuesday, December 10 – 6:00 pm
Holiday Party
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Ave. So.

Tuesday, January 7 – 7:30 pm
Board of Directors

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members and friends. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

Editor.....Andrew J. Marlow
Staff.....Ed Biren, Chuck Carlson, Sher Curry, Dale Fisher, Bill Hull, Bob Olson, Derrill Pankow and Merle Pulley



Tips and Snips

by Bob Stepan, President, MGCM

Thanks to everyone for the well attended monthly MGCM dinner meetings. The speakers have been great thanks to the extra effort of Vice President Maury Lindblom. One of the best was our last meeting when we auctioned off the donated pumpkins supplied by Howard Berg and Bob Voigt. Not only did we raise some extra dollars for the club, but we presented a challenge for members in future years. We can surely expect bigger pumpkins next year with more members trying to grow the biggest and best.



Photo by
Ted Olson

There's also the challenge to see who can grow the largest sunflower head. I did my best this year, but the two head I brought were small compared to Howard Berg's. His was a dandy, measuring over 18" across. Roger Koopmans brought in one that looked like he had used it to feed the blue jays and squirrels. A word of advice: Roger, if you only raise one sunflower, you have to put wire mesh over it for protection against our furry and feathered friends. Dave Johnson was even more generous. He gave his first fruit to the deer. Good going, Dave! You should get honorable mention for sharing.

As I write this, I am in the midst of putting my roses away for the winter. They are all tied, but the weather is not cooperating. I happened to pick the coldest day of the fall so far, with high winds and rapidly falling temperature, plus rain, mist and sleet. The annuals are all finished, cuttings taken and placed in vermiculite to root for next growing season.

The fruits and vegetables have been delicious and fully enjoyed this year,

especially the late flavorful raspberries. The tomatoes that I forced in my hastily constructed greenhouse (made of electrical conduit and plastic sheeting) was a big improvement for "hardening" them off. It speeded up fruit ripening time by two to three weeks. Don Shelby of WCCO-TV gave me the idea and even sent out free plans. I'd be glad to share them if anyone is interested.

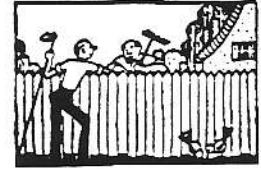
Hope to see you all at our November meeting. Our own Andy Marlow will be showing us how to garden by computer; sound exciting and interesting, doesn't it?

New Member

Margaret L. Hibberd
1850 Roselawn Avenue
Falcon Heights, MN 55113
Home phone: 644-8149
Business phone: 736-9622

Reminder

1997 dues MGCM dues, which includes membership in the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, are due by November 15. A member renewal form was printed in the October issue of the *Garden Spray*. Bring the completed form and a check for the appropriate amount of dues to the November Dinner Meeting or mail it to Treasurer Howard Berg as soon as possible. If you are late, you may not get the first few issues of the *Minnesota Horticulturist* on time.



Monthly Program Report

by Andy Marlow

Noerenberg Gardens is one of Minnesota's greatest hidden horticultural treasures. Operated for the last 24 years by Hennepin Parks, the Gardens cover 74 acres overlooking Lake Minnetonka's Crystal Bay. At the October MGCM dinner meeting Arla Carmichael, head gardener, shared both a bit of the history and some of the future of the Gardens.

The Gardens and a capital endowment to maintain the property were left to Hennepin Parks by Lora Noerenberg Hoppe, last remaining daughter of the Noerenberg family. The family fortune, made in the brewing business, was used to purchase the property in the 1890s. In addition to a grand house in the Queen Anne style, the Noerenberg's built and planted extensive gardens. The house had a special *garden viewing* room.

Part of the arrangement for passing the property on to Hennepin Parks was that the house be torn down, but the grounds were to be operated for "public park purposes as an arboretum for flowers, shrubs and trees" and for "general garden display purposes." In fact the Noerenberg's head gardener, Ray Ford, continued in his position until he retired in 1985.

Mr. Ford maintained the style of the Noerenberg family's garden—fairly flat gardens with lots of annuals planted in rows and staked to provide flowers for cutting. Some 10,000 annuals were planted every spring.

In the last three years there have been major changes. The Garden is now

more of a display garden with more perennials, and rare and unusual plants. Only about 5,000 annuals were planted this year, with no petunias or marigolds.

Ms. Carmichael wants to emphasize texture and foliage colors in the garden. Grasses, she said, also give a sense of movement to the Garden, especially with gentle lake breezes blowing in off the bay. Some of her favorites are blue oat grass and a blue fescue called 'Elijah Blue'.

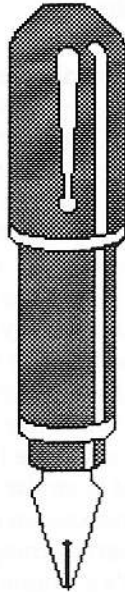
Being on the water, in fact, provides a milder microclimate. Very little of the garden needs to be covered for the winter.

About three-quarters of the greenhouse space at Noerenberg is used to grow native prairie plants for use in all the Hennepin Parks. Some plants, of course, find their way into Noerenberg as well. 'Prairie Smoke' and 'Purple Fountain Grass' contribute to a blooming season that runs from late May to a hard frost.

The endowment from the Noerenberg family provides sufficient funds for operations. Ms. Carmichael has five seasonal gardeners to help with planting, maintaining, mowing and weeding the Garden. The plant material budget is about \$5,000 a year.

The Noerenberg bequest prohibits picnicking, camping and boat launching on the property, but also requires it to be free and open to the public. The Garden is now closed for the winter, but is open during daylight hours during the growing season. The Gardens are located at 2840 North Shore Drive in Wayzata, just west of downtown Wayzata on Hennepin County Road 15.

Arla concluded her talk by showing slides of the recent improvements. I had not visited since MGCM hosted the national convention of TGOA/MGCA in 1988. The changes were evident and impressive to this member of the audience. I'm already planning a visit or two next spring and summer.



Board Meeting Minutes

Mary Maynard, Secretary

October 1, 1996

The meeting was called to order by Bob Stepan at 7:39 p.m. All officers and directors were present.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of September meeting approved on motion by Bob V., second by Chuck.

Treasurer's Report:

Monthly report was approved as presented on motion by Mary, second by Kay.

Vice President's Report:

November's speaker will be Andy Marlow, who will discuss gardening with computers.

Committee Reports

Calendar Sales: Collected \$871 in calendar sales at September Club meeting.

Fragrance Garden: Weekly maintenance is complete. Fall cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 26.

A subcommittee continues to evaluate location alternatives. There is a general consensus that we should only move if we have a good place to move TO. Plan to ask membership their opinions, ideas at the October meeting. Bill Jepson will talk to Mary Lehrman (Minneapolis Park Board) about possibilities. We'd like visibility, high traffic area where we can be of service to a larger community. Also exploring alternative uses for the current space. Have made a few inquiries, such as the Sustainable Resources Center Urban Lands Program.

Holiday Party: The committee has requested Board approval for shortening the business meeting by limiting the number of awards given at the December party. On motion by Bill, second by Maury, the Board agreed to limit the number of awards granted to three: The Bronze Medal, the President's Award, and the award for Best Garden on Tour.

Nominating Committee: A slate of candidates for next year to be presented at the November meeting.

New Business

TGOA/MGCA Region Status: Russ Smith has sent a letter to the National about our status as a Region within TGOA/MGCA. We have not technically qualified as a region for some time, since a Region requires at least two clubs or 500 members. Russ has proposed that we join the MidAmerica region (which includes Iowa) if the status of the North Star Region is challenged.

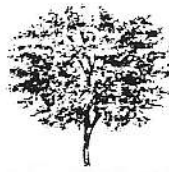
Donations: Our budget calls for \$400 donations to both Minnesota State Horticultural Society and the Arboretum. The Board agreed to proceed with these donations.

New Member: Application for membership from Margaret L. Hibberd was approved on motion by Bob Voigt, seconded by Bill J.

1997 Schedule: The date for next year's plant auction was set for Tuesday, May 6. This is the last Tuesday before Mothers Day.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 on motion by Kay, second by Bob V.

Next meeting on November 5 at Bob Stepan's.



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

Reflections

The small bay was mirrorlike without a ripple on the surface—something one sees only on an early quiet morning. It was a warm sunny late summer day and I was having my after breakfast cup of coffee sitting next to a quiet little beach. In back of me was the A-frame cabin we rented at the Little Norway Resort. In front of me a peaceful scene was reflected in the water—the verdant green growth of a some deciduous trees, a few pines, green undergrowth and, in front, cattails predominated. The sunlight poked through, creating long white shafts of the paper birch. A few blotches of purple also were visible in the mirrored water. Looking toward the shore one could see they were from patches of purple loosestrife. A bit further down the shore was a gray pile of dried tree limbs and branches. It appeared that someone had cleared a small area, maybe with thoughts of building a cabin or a place to pitch a tent for a few days of tranquility in the north country.

On my side of the bay very close to the shore were lily pads galore. A little further down some of them were in bloom. White and yellow ball shaped blossoms poked their tops above the water.

When the cup was empty of black Scandinavian gasoline, a little breeze came and dissipated those wondrous reflections of nature's beauty. One must wait for another quiet morning or reach back into the recesses of one's memory to reflect on it again.

After Thoughts

The Birch

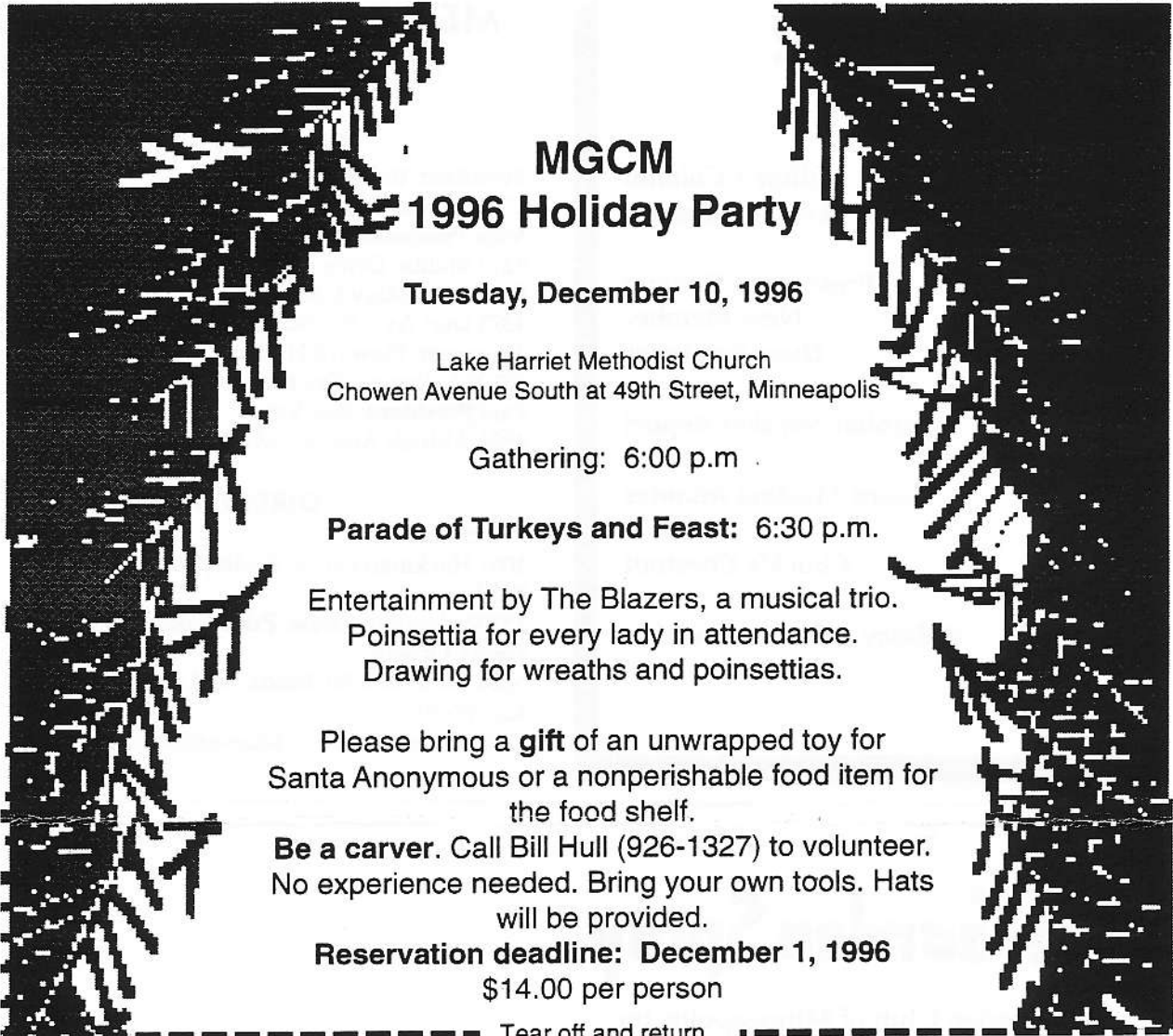
Betula, papyrifera is its name, but most of us call it the Paper Birch. Some even call it the Canoe Birch. It is a beautiful tree standing alone or in clumps, but has a relatively short life. It is not a good choice to plant in yards since it is susceptible to birch borer, leaf miner, aphids and cankerworms. It also has the tendency for the top to break in heavy winds, especially when loaded with ice or snow. If you are determined to have a birch, a River Birch (*Betula, nigra*) is a better choice.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum*)

This plant is on the no-no list. It is invasive with no known enemies. Because of this it has been running rampant in the boggy areas. It's a shame since it does have a purple streak of beauty. One can see its effect throughout Minnesota when it flowers. The purple hue has taken over and crowded out other species of wetland plants. Those vast areas along the roadsides are pretty, but it is now illegal to grow this plant even in your own garden.

Water Lilies

Minnesota has both yellow and white native water lilies in abundance. These are hardy as long as the soil they grow in does not freeze. The white variety (*Nymphaea, tuberosa*) has a beautiful round flower made up of many petals and is set off with a yellow center—a real beauty when viewed close up. The yellow variety (*Nuphar, variegatum*) is also called the Pond Lily. It is not as striking as the white lily but is still an interesting flower. The roots can be eaten like potatoes or made into flour. Water lilies can be grown in garden pools but must be taken inside for the winter. For more information there is an article on page 207 of the August/September 1983 *Minnesota Horticulturist*.



MGCM 1996 Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 10, 1996

Lake Harriet Methodist Church
Chowen Avenue South at 49th Street, Minneapolis

Gathering: 6:00 p.m.

Parade of Turkeys and Feast: 6:30 p.m.

Entertainment by The Blazers, a musical trio.
Poinsettia for every lady in attendance.
Drawing for wreaths and poinsettias.

Please bring a **gift** of an unwrapped toy for Santa Anonymous or a nonperishable food item for the food shelf.

Be a carver. Call Bill Hull (926-1327) to volunteer. No experience needed. Bring your own tools. Hats will be provided.

Reservation deadline: December 1, 1996

\$14.00 per person

Tear off and return

Reservation Form

Member

Guest

Name(s):

Total in party _____ x \$14.00 = \$ _____. (Make check payable to MGCM.)

Mail to: Walt and Melba Gustafson, 3812 West 57th Street, Edina, MN 55410
926-3124

Note: All parties are assigned to particular tables. If you would like to sit at the same table with another group, please specify here:



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Treasurer: Howard H. Berg
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4934 Aldrich Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55409

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