

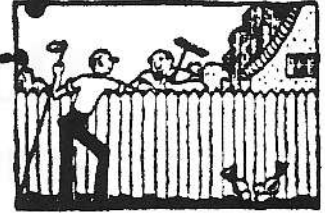


# The Garden Spray

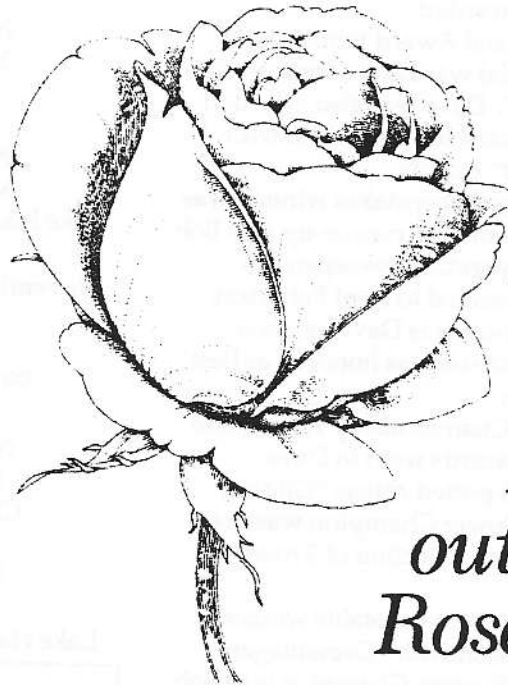
Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

October 1993, Volume 51, Number 10



## *Roses, Roses, Roses*



*with Jerry  
Olson,  
MGCM  
member  
and one of  
Minnesota's  
outstanding  
Rosarians*

**October MGCM Dinner Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 12**

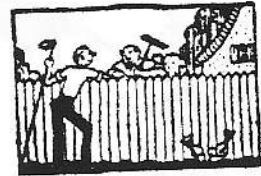
**Dinner: 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting & Program: 7:00 p.m.**

**Cost for Dinner: \$7.00 with reservation**

**\$8.00 if you fail to reserve dinner**

**Send the enclosed reservation card back to Secretary  
Eldon Hugelen TODAY!**



# Flower, Food and Foto Results

by Mel Anderson, Show Chairman

## Flowers & Food:

This year, 22 members exhibited in the show, as compared to 15 in 1992, a 47% increase! These 22 exhibitors submitted 440 entries to be judged, and 294 ribbons were awarded.

The National Award winner in Flowers (Celosia) was Dave Johnson with "Century Red". Dave was also awarded the national award for vegetables with "Short & Sweet" carrots.

The flower sweepstakes winner was Henry Orfield, and the runner-up was Bob Churilla. The vegetable sweepstakes award was presented to Kent Petterson, and the runner-up was Dave Johnson.

Chuck Carlson was honored as Best New Exhibitor.

Both the Championship Flower and Best of Show awards went to Dave Johnson for his potted coleus "Gilda". The Reserve Flower Champion was Bob Churilla with his collection of 3 rosebud geraniums.

The Champion vegetable winner was Dave Johnson with "Copenhagen" cabbage. The Reserve Champion was Bob Voigt with his large pumpkin.

## Foto:

In the first year of the photography competition, 80 prints and 47 transparencies were submitted for judging, and 60 ribbons were awarded.

Henry Orfield won both the Best Print and Slide categories.

Congratulations to all the exhibitors and award winners.

## Coming Attractions

October 5 - 7:30 p.m.  
MGCM Board Meeting  
Greg Smith's House

October 12 - 6:00 p.m.  
MGCM Dinner Meeting  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

November 2 - 7:30 p.m.  
MGCM Board Meeting  
Lee Gilligan's House

November 9 - 6:00 p.m.  
MGCM Dinner Meeting  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

November 26 - Time to be Announced  
Wreath Making  
Klier's Nursery  
5901 Nicollet Avenue South

November 30 - 7:30 p.m.  
MGCM Board Meeting  
Clyde Thompson's House

December 7 - 6:00 p.m.  
MGCM Holiday Party  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

*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.....Chuck Carlson,  
Mary Maynard, Phil Smith



# The President's Report

Lec Gilligan, President, MGCM

Each year our Club contributes financially to the efforts of various horticultural causes. I want to share with you excerpts from some of the thank you notes we have received this year:

People for Parks is happy to acknowledge your generous donation of \$100 for the General Fund. It is through gifts such as yours that the Minneapolis park system continues to thrive and serve the people in this community.

Thank you for the generous gift of \$350 to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Guaranty Fund.

Through the years, the Arboretum has become known internationally for our research on cold-hardy plants, regionally for our cooperative educational programs, and locally for our model display gardens, plant collections, and native environment.

Individual gifts and memberships provide a quarter of the funds needed to sustain our gardens, collections, and research plots.

Together we will show how people can create and maintain environmentally sound landscapes. We will address social and environmental opportunities through programs such as Horticultural Therapy and Integrated Pest Management. We will continue to invigorate visitors and create important educational experiences.

Thank you for helping the Minnesota State Horticultural Society increase

peoples' involvement and care of the environment through gardening by your generous donation of \$250.00. Through the gifts of people like you, recent years have seen many new programs and services grow and flourish.

Your donation will help keep the momentum going. Watch *Minnesota Horticulturist* magazine for program updates and opportunities.

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## Fragrance Garden Notes

by Chuck Carlson

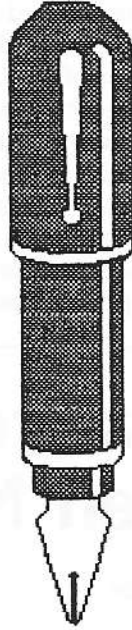
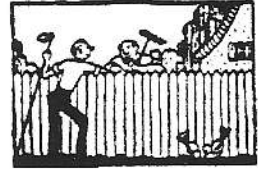
The grass was mowed, the dead flowers heads trimmed and most of the weeds were pulled. The garden looked great for another tour. The group that came this time was from Dassel, Cokato, Litchfield and Hutchinson. The group of about forty really enjoyed their visit.

They had a variety of questions which Chester Groger and I answered. The flowers that received the most inquiries for identification were *Nierembergia* 'Mont Blanc,' a wheat flowered *Celocia* called 'Flamingo Feather' and a blue *Salvia* called 'Victoria.' Another donation to the club for \$25 was received.

All in all, the month of August was a positive experience. We had three tours and a number of appreciative comments from individuals in the community who enjoy the garden.

The next and last task for the year is **fall clean-up**. This will take place on **October 23 starting at 9:00 AM**. We will be done by noon, so come on down and make it easy for everyone. You can also enjoy a visit with the group.

Happy Gardening!



## Board Notes

At their August meeting the MGCM Board of Directors:

- received a certificate of appreciation from the Steven's House Museum Board which said, "The John H. Stevens House Museum Board salutes and thanks the Men's Garden Club as a group of outstanding volunteers." The certificate was dated July 22, 1993, and signed by William Milbrath, President.

- continued discussion of possible MGCM involvement in maintaining plantings on the Nicollet Mall
- approved new members Marty Anderson and Jim Nayes (profiles of them appeared in last month's *Spray*).

At their September meeting, the MGCM Board of Directors:

- received a report on discussions with the Arboretum of possible joint fund-raising activities

- learned that members of MGCM, a charter member of the Arboretum, can join the Arboretum as individual members at a \$5.00 discount

- received a report on the Flower, Food and Foto Show held at the Arboretum (details on page 2)

- approved buying an additional 100 TGOA/MGCA calendars to sell (for a profit) at the Arboretum Fall Festival

## Member News

### New Members:

Mary Dennis  
3228 Noble Avenue North  
Golden Valley, MN 55422  
546-2205

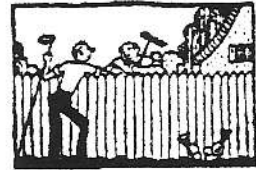
Edward J. Piechowski  
Thompkins Cottage  
1011 West 24th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
377-0729

### Address Changes:

Dave Moehnke  
1129 N Jackson Street, #1219C  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3211

Dwight Stone  
Becketwood, Unit 268  
4300 West River Parkway  
Minneapolis, MN 55406-3678  
722-0297

The Gardeners of Jackson, Mississippi, Inc., assisted by the Rankin County Gardeners, invite every member of the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America to attend the 1994 Convention in Jackson, MS. The dates are March 23-26 when the azaleas are expected to be in full bloom! Mississippi is known as the Hospitality State - we plan to prove to you that we are just that! So, make plans right now to join us in March for a fun-filled convention with good food, good tours and good fellowship. We're looking for you!



## Phil Smith Moving to Montana

Phil and Wanda Smith have sold their home in Tyrol Hills and will be moving to Montana this November. Phil is a past president of MGCM and has been a member of the club since 1961. Their garden in Golden Valley has been toured by the club several times.

Phil is retiring from his law practice, but will continue to consult with some clients. They are building a new home at the Big Sky Ski Resort area near Yellowstone part, and hope to have a garden there in coming years. They recently moved about 100 choice perennials as a start on their Montana garden.

Wanda and Phil plan on doing quite a bit of traveling, but are looking forward to establishing their new mountain home. Phil is a life member of MGCM and the Minnesota Horticultural Society and will continue to receive the club bulletin.

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## Kentucky Coffee Tree

Continued from page 7

camped on the Missouri River, used these seeds as a substitute for coffee and found the drink wholesome and palatable."

Charles Millsbaugh in *American medicinal Plants* comments on another facet of this tree. "The seeds are said to have been used by the early settlers of Central United States as a substitute for coffee, and the leaves as a purgative and insecticide. Concerning the use of *Gymnocladus* as a fly-poison, a Virginia correspondent

of *The American Agriculturist* says: "Back of our house here, and overhanging the piazza, is a very large coffee tree. Though this locality is infested, like Egypt, with a plague of flies, we have never suffered any serious annoyance from them. One year this tree was nearly stripped of its leaves by a cloud of potato-flies (the blistering fly), and we feared that the tree would die from the complete defoliation. In three days the ground beneath was black with a carpet of corpses, and the tree put out new leaves, and still flourishes. For ten years we have used the bruised leaves, sprinkled with molasses water, as a fly-poison. It attracts swarms of the noisome insects, and is sure death to them."

For medicinal use, Millsbaugh noted the following:

**PART USED AND PREPARATION:** The fresh, green pulp of the unripe seed-pods is to be crushed and weighed. Then two parts by weight of alcohol are taken, the pulp mixed thoroughly with one-sixth part of it and the rest of the alcohol added. After stirring the whole well, it is poured into a well-stoppered bottle and allowed to stand eight days in a dark, cool place. The tincture after filtering from the mass, has a clear orange color by transmitted light; is gummy upon the fingers; and of a familiarly characteristic odor, resembling that of the pulp.

**PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTION:** *Gymnocladus* causes vertigo with a sensation of fullness of the head; burning of the eyes; sneezing; salivation; nausea with burning of the stomach; desire to urinate; increased sexual desire; pains in the limbs, numbness of the body, sleepiness, and coldness.



# Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

## The Chestnut

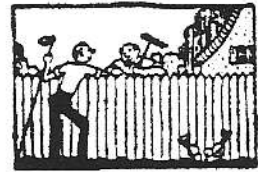
One of our members, Charlie Proctor, was quoted in a publication as saying: "Gardeners are a hell of a lot nicer than most people." After reading this I started to collect sayings, quotes and poems which are of a horticultural nature. Here are three along the same line as Charlie's. 1) I never knew a gardener I didn't like; 2) Show me your garden and I shall tell you what you are; and 3) The tillers of the soil are the pioneers of this world.

I also found a number of sayings which provide guidance on getting the job done: 1) Don't wait for something to turn up—get a spade and dig for it; 2) No farmer ever plowed a field by turning it over in his mind; 3) There are two ways to get to the top of an oak tree—catch that first limb and climb or find a good healthy acorn sit on it and wait; and 4) If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence—fertilize!

Here are three for self-help in time of need: 1) Be like a willow tree able to bend without breaking under the storms that come your way; 2) Roots grow deep when winds blow strong; and 3) Giant oak trees start out as little nuts that hold their ground.

I also found some that are inspirational. This one is attributed to Aristotle: "He who sees things grow from the beginning will have the best view of them."

Another one which I liked very much is: "A garden is a window—a small window leading into a much larger world." I sure hope this is a world of



bounty, beauty and sharing and not a world of deer, wilts, aphids, slugs and human failings.

This next saying should remind us of the fragility of our environment: "Mankind owes its very existence to the six inch layer of top soil, timely rains and the sun."

I thought the following poem has some merit and is simple and straight to the point. I know I could follow its direction more.

Kind hearts are the garden.  
Kind thoughts are the roots.  
Kind words are the flowers.  
Kind deeds are the fruit.

Lastly, here is a short poem by Kipling which says it all:

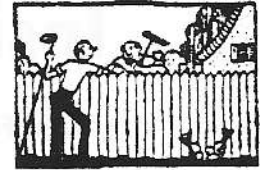
Oh Adam was a gardener  
And God who made him see.  
That half a proper gardener's work  
Is done upon his knees.

## The Word

The word this month is *verdure* or *verdant*. This is the year for this word with all the rain we have had. Another clue for this word is the following sentence. The verdant veronica, verbascum and verbenas are very verdure. I hope that wasn't too much but use it as a memory aid. The word just means a luxuriant, vigorous, flourishing condition or green.

## The Tip

Going along with the theme of this month's column, here are two tips: 1) The best time to do something is between yesterday and tomorrow; and 2) Only a fool tests the depth of the water with both feet.



# Native Uses of Native Plants: Kentucky Coffee Tree

by Mary Maguire Lerman,  
Coordinator of Horticulture Programs  
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

**COMMON NAMES:** Kentucky Coffee Tree, Chicot, or American Coffee Bean  
**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Gymnocladus dioica*

Kentucky Coffee Tree is frequently planted in parks and is thought to be native in certain parts of Minnesota. Carl Rosendahl in *Trees and Shrubs of the Upper Midwest* notes that "it is common in the south, infrequent northward in the Mississippi River Valley to Saint Paul and in the valley of the Minnesota River west to New Ulm. It is distributed from New York to South Dakota, south to Tennessee, Missouri and Arkansas."

However, John Curtis in *Vegetation of Wisconsin* suggests that this tree may not be native, but rather introduced as noted here: "The final influence of the Indian on the vegetation concerns his actions in plant introduction. No conclusive proof exists that any Indian ever introduced any species to Wisconsin, but circumstantial evidence both here and elsewhere strongly supports the contention that such actions did take place. One interesting example is the Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*). The large, hard seeds of this species were used in a sort of dice game by various tribes. As a result, they were carried about when the tribe moved its headquarters, many becoming lost in the vicinity of the villages. At present, the species has a very local distribution in Wisconsin, with each locality at or near the site of an Indian Village. Hedrick (1933) reported the same type of distribu-

tion for New York State."

At maturity, Kentucky Coffee Tree can reach a height of 90 feet and a diameter of 3 feet. The bark is rough, gray and fissured. This tree is late to leaf out in spring and drops its leaves early in the fall. The leaves are doubly compound with a single leaf often measuring three feet long and two feet wide. When ripe, the reddish brown pods of this tree are 5-8 inches long and 1 1/2 inches wide with a sweet pulp surrounding 6-9 seeds.

Kentucky Coffee Tree prefers a rich, moist soil and is often found near streams. Locally, a large specimen is located on the north side of Minnehaha Creek by the sluice gate between Lake Nokomis and Lake Hiawatha.

French Canadians call this tree Chicot which means "stump" and the generic name means "naked branch". This refers to the fact that the buds remain more or less buried under the bark just above the leaf scar.

Kentucky Coffeetree has edible, medical, and other uses. According to Oliver Perry Medsger in *Edible Wild Plants*, "The pioneers apparently made much use of the seeds of this tree, which were roasted and ground, then used as a substitute for coffee. This was in the interior of our country before and during the Revolutionary War. Kentucky was settled early, when it was practically impossible to get commercial coffee to that region. It is claimed that the seeds were roasted and eaten by the Indians. It is also recorded that Long's expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1820, when en-

Continued on page 5

## Inside:

Page 2/ Flowers, Food & Foto Results  
Events Calendar

Page 3/ President's Column  
Fragrance Garden Report

Page 4/ Board Meeting Notes  
Member News  
1994 Convention

Page 6/ Chuck's Chestnuts

Page 7/ Native Uses of Native Plants:  
Kentucky Coffee Tree

## MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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**Past President:** Gregory P. Smith  
1540 Rhode Island Ave. No., Golden Valley, MN  
55416

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# The Garden Spray

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