

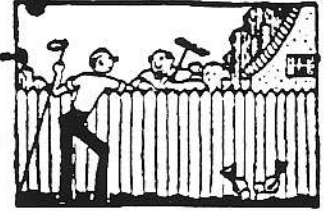


The Garden Spray

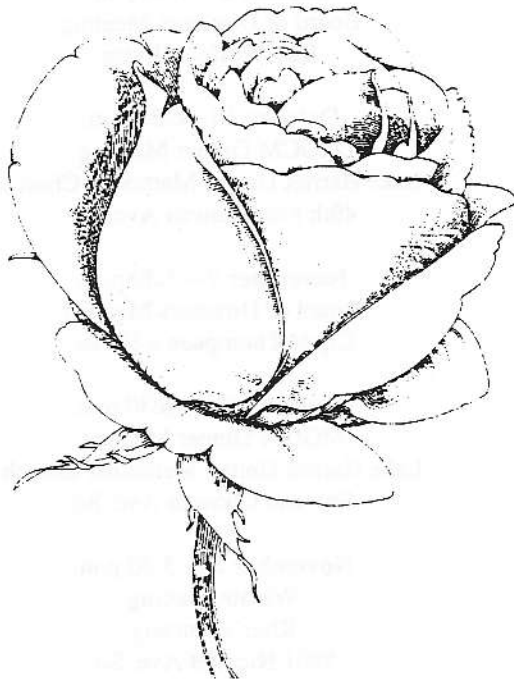
Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

October 1995, Volume 53, Number 10



October Dinner Meeting...

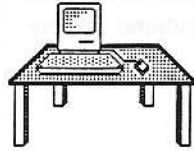


*A Rose by any other
name would still
smell as sweet—and
probably be grown
by Jerry Olson*

MGCM member and accomplished rose grower and judge Jerry Olson is our October dinner meeting speaker. He'll be talking about winter hardy roses for Minnesota.

- Date: Tuesday October 10
- Place: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
4901 Chowen Avenue South, Minneapolis
- Times: 6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Business Meeting
7:30 p.m. Speaker
- Cost: \$7.00 with advance reservation
\$8.00 at the door (if places are available)

The permanent reservation list is in effect for this meeting. If you received a reservation card in this issue of the *Garden Spray*, you are not on the list and must mail your card back to Secretary Mary Maynard by Friday, October 6, 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.



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

Archie Caple is our newest media celebrity. When WCCO-TV reporter Kevyn Berger decided to investigate a tomato variety advertised in the Sunday supplement as able to produce 400 pounds of fruit on one plant, she enlisted Archie to aid her investigation.

Ms. Berger invested \$10.00 plus shipping for four seeds of this wonder plant. Archie germinated the seeds and planted them in his garden last spring.

In mid-September, when frost was expected, the channel 4 cameras visited Archie's garden to see how the plants had done. As shown on a "Dimension" report in late September, Archie had plenty of ripe tomatoes—on his other plants. The wonder plants were growing vigorously, but had just begun to set fruit. My 15 year old son observed that maybe they would grow 400 pounds of tomatoes if we had a 300 day growing season.

At any rate, Archie was marvelous. His comments were knowledgeable, succinct and to the point. He never once was tempted to inform Ms. Berger (as I would have been tempted to do) that a gardener with any experience has learned that "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is".

To date (late September) my garden has escaped the frosts and even "hard freezes" predicted by the TV weathercasters. Could it be that these "scientists" over predict bad things like storms and frosts so that if it should by some freak of nature snow or freeze, they can safely say they predicted it? Usually their most dire predictions do not prove true, but "partly sunny" can mean an inch or so of precipitation.

Coming Attractions

October 3 – 7:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
Kay Wolfe's House

October 10 – 6:30 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Ave. So.

November 7 – 7:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
Clyde Thompson's House

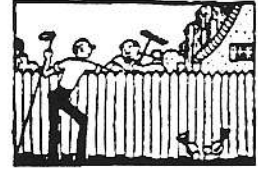
November 14 – 6:30 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Ave. So.

November 24 - 5:30 p.m.
Wreath Making
Klier's Nursery
5901 Nicollet Ave. So.

November 28 – 7:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
Mary Maynard's House

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, Mary Maynard, Derrill Pankow, Merle Pulley



Cuttings

by Bob Voigt, President, MGCM



Just as I was getting ready to write this column and to lament the passing season, I received a copy of the *Southwest Journal* (September 13-26) and read the column

by MGCM member Sharon Parker.

Sharon's commentary, "Fall Marks the End of Some of the Garden's Glories (and Respite from its Muggy Chores)," is a delight. Perhaps you have seen some of Sharon's work in *The Minnesota Horticulturist*, as well as in the *Southwest Journal*.

Sharon summarizes feelings and emotions about fall better than I could ever hope to. I encourage you to get a copy and read it. I know you will enjoy it. What follows are paraphrases of some of her thoughts.

Yes, the first frost brings on a flurry of activities—picking tomatoes, covering plants, doing whatever you can think of to extend the summer! It's a time to scramble without admitting that in spite of all you have done through the past months, frost maybe is a good way to rid our garden of bugs, blight and intrusions, as well as a lot of demanding work.

The positive side of fall is that many disease resistant and temperature hardy plants are "cheerfully beckoning to migrating butterflies." Also, mums are blooming, peppers are finally showing color and leaves are starting to put on a gorgeous show. We appreciate these things even though they are harbingers of the winter ahead.

Sharon concludes:

Once the garden is cleared and

prepared for winter, rich with new compost just added, it will lie in wait for the first peas and greens of next April, for the burst of energy—both the garden's and mine—that comes every spring. But for now it beckons the snow to come down from the sky and cover it. Sweet dreams, dear garden. I'll see you in the spring.

As part of our ongoing educational activities in MGCM, we will try an experiment at our October meeting. We will have several tables reserved for special interests and encourage members to join a discussion if they wish. October's informal topics and table hosts are:

Composting—Kent Petterson

Hardscape construction—Henry Orfield

Hostas and shade gardening—Andy Marlow

Most of the tables will be set up as they have in the past for general conversation and socializing prior to the business meeting and program. In the future we will occasionally try to have other topics members would like to discuss. These are not formal presentations, just informal visits about areas of common interest.

Also at the October meeting we will have special recognition of individuals who became MGCM members in 1995. Come prepared to greet Carol Hull, Dave W. Johnson, Penny Peterson, Robert Rathje, Spencer Johnson, Daniel Riley, Diane Dahle-Koch and Kathleen and James LoSapio.

We had great attendance at our September meeting. I hope this continues through the year. I look forward to seeing you. Happy gardening!



Monthly Program Report

by Ed Biren

Peter Olin, MGCM member and Director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, neatly took the podium for our September program and announced he was not a "doctor." Despite his insistence, he proceeded to offer us a complete diagnostic picture of the Kew Royal Gardens of England. Peter spent last summer there with his wife and daughter attending a 10 week seminar on Botanic Garden Management.

With the precision of a surgeon, he deftly cut through two carousels of slides depicting many of the glories of that trip. Kew Gardens began nearly 275 years ago and has grown from 9 to 300 acres. Situated on a bend of the majestic Thames River between Richmond and London, it has become a magnet for those interested in all things botanical. Kew's colorful history involved British royalty, luminaries such as Charles Darwin, and characters with names such as Capability Brown. The first director, William Hooker, was appointed by Queen Victoria in 1840.

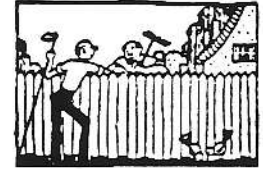
On the grounds today stand three marvelous greenhouses: the Palm House, Temperate House and the Princess of Wales House. The Palm House, not surprisingly, is very warm inside and dominated by a 40 foot palm tree. Peter considers this house "one of the most attractive conservatories in the world." The Temperate House took 30 years to build and contains many plants not native to England. The Princess House is made up of a series of rooms, each reproducing

a different climatic zone.

Without meaning to, Peter was able to show slides about aging (200 year old Ginkgo tree), orthopedics (metal bands holding together a Black Locust tree), rehabilitation medicine (Japanese Pagoda tree supported by metal rods) and depression (Weeping Sequoia). Just like a modern medical center, Kew Gardens has a lab, this one called Jodrell Laboratory. Taxonomy, the economic uses of plants, and discovering new plants are all activities here and at the Joseph Banks Building, where the study of botany is rightly emphasized. Research work on taxonomy gets its due at Kew. Last year 100 new plants were discovered, most of them from tropical areas. Researchers are looking at genetic characteristics and learning that many plants have been wrongly classified.

Some of the most interesting slides included Boxwood hedges in the Palace Garden, Lime trees (we call them Linden), spectacular rock gardens and a Heather garden. Peter was able to travel a bit to see Wakehurst (managed by Kew Gardens), Whistley (home of the Royal Horticulture Society), and King's College. He also visited the Oxford Botanical Garden, which is 375 years old. Slides of these locations were delightful. Finally, we got a look at an interesting eating establishment, curiously named *Slug & Lettuce*. But, like a wise nutritionist who heeds his own advice, Peter and his family chose not to eat there.

G. K. Chesterton once said, "I shall continue to praise the English climate till I die, even if I die of the English climate." The pictures Peter treated us to belie that old stereotype. It is our good fortune that Peter is not a "doctor". The marvelous beauty of Kew Gardens was best revealed through the appreciative eye of a landscape architect.



Committees...

Flower, Food and Foto Final Report

by Mel Anderson and Duane Johnson
Cochairs

The vegetable portion of the competition from the MGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show was concluded at the September dinner meeting. Ten exhibitors entered 89 items to fill four tables with tomatoes, herbs and fall fruits and vegetables. 65 ribbons were awarded.

The Vegetable Sweepstakes was won by Bob Voigt with a total of 82 points. Runnersup were Kent Petterson with 27 and Chuck Carlson with 24.

The Best Vegetable ribbon was won by Kent Petterson for his Derby Bush Beans. Reserve Champion was Dave Johnson with Heritage Raspberries.

Mary Maynard was the best first time exhibitor with a total of 59 points for both flowers and vegetables from both the July and September shows. She will be awarded the Robert L. Smith Trophy.

Bob Voigt laid out a very nice exhibit of dried beans and was given a Special Award. This is a category we do not have in our schedule now, but will add for the 1996 Show. Should there be other items you might like to exhibit next year, please contact Duane Johnson or Mel Anderson over the winter.

Special thanks to Stan Crist, Henry Orfield and Jan Johnson who, along with the exhibitors, made the Show a great success.

Fragrance Garden

by Chuck Carlson, Chair

October 28 October 28

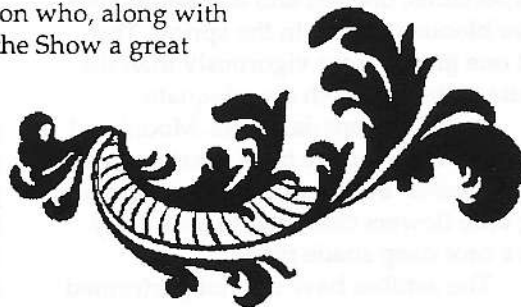
October 28 October 28

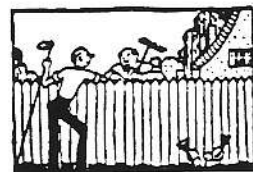
October is the month we wind down the work at the Fragrance Garden. All that is left is mowing, cleanup and a late October fertilizer for the lawn. It is also the month that the entries for the herb garden layout are due. If interested, get your entries in by or at the October meeting. The area was detailed in July's *Spray*.

Things that I see which need attention in the near future are tree and shrub trimming, a spring application of preemergence to the lawn and a redo of the perennial / herb bed. Other items that could use some attention are: the bare ground area in front of the benches and the repair of some of the raised bed walls.

Now for the October 28 date shown at the top of this column. This is the date set for fall cleanup. It is Saturday October 28 at 9 a.m. Bring your clippers, rakes and a bag or two. It doesn't take long—we should be done by noon or before if enough people show up. I will bring some coffee and a donut for a break in the garden.

Thanks to all of you that have worked at the garden this year. I appreciate your efforts.





Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

Unter den Linden was Berlin's grandest boulevard, but World War II destroyed many of the Linden trees and buildings. I saw it in the mid 50s. It looked bleak and, in some places, barren. I hope it is better now.

For the last few years I have been trying to grow a shade bed under my Linden tree. It could safely be called deep shade. I have tried a number of plants, some with success and others less so.

In the bed are Hostas, Primulas, Dicentras, Pulmonarias, Astilbes, Lamium, Asarum europaeum, Jacobs Ladder, Browallia, Ligulara, and Heuchera.

The Hostas are doing fine except for some slug damage but not as well as those in another bed which gets a little more light. The varieties are 'Golden Scepter', 'Lemon Lime', 'Gold Drop' and an unknown bicolor.

Primulas such as 'Lois Lutz', carturoids, and chinesis all flowered well the last two springs but now look somewhat dried up. I will be moving these. Diminished water availability may also be a problem.

The two dicentras are both varieties of spectabils, one red and one white They have bloomed nicely in the spring. The red one grows more vigorously than the white 'Alba' but both are adequate.

Both Pulmonarias, 'Mrs. Moon' and 'Roy Davidson', have been great growers. They flower in the spring with interesting blue flowers changing to pink They are a nice deep shade plant.

The astilbes have not not performed

well. They keep growing but flowering is very minimal. I have decided to move them.

The lamium I planted is *L. aureum*, a golden-yellow leaved variety which I thought would light up the area. Instead, I have been wondering where the yellow went. My other lamiums, 'White Nancy' and 'Silver Beacon' have been much more aggressive in an area that gets a little sun.

The ginger I planted is *Asarum europaeum*. It has been there for only one growing season and seems to be growing in size but not vigorously.

The Jacob's Ladder bloomed and is growing well so it must get enough light.

The Browallia, Ligulara and Heuchera 'Place Purple' have grown relatively well but with reduced flowering. I think they will all do much better in more sun.

The Tip

My experiment shows that Hostas and Pulmonarias are the best plants for deep shade. My findings agree the recommendations from Shady Oak Nursery which suggests the following:

- Berginia, cordifolia
- Chelone (turtlehead)
- Cimicifuga (Bugbane)
- Hosta
- Pulmonaria, saccharata (Lungwort)
- Tricyetis (Toad Lily)
- Ground covers like Lamium, Lamianstrum and Pachysandras
- Wild flowers like Solomon's Seal, Jack-in-the-Pulpit and Foam flower
- Ferns

Tip #2

Fibrous begonias are considered a good plant for the shade. This year I tried some in full sun. They took on a completely different look. In the shade the leaves were a nice luxuriant green, but in the sun they took on a shiny red glow. It looked like a different variety.



1996 All America Selections Winners

by Chuck Carlson

Three new plant introductions have been chosen as All American Selections for 1996:



Petunia 'Fantasy Pink Morn'

This is a milliflora F1 hybrid. The blooms are pink with a creamy white center. It has many blooms 2/3rds the size of a normal petunia. It does not need to be pinched or pruned. A good pot plant.

Petunia 'Heavenly Lavender'

This is another F1 hybrid that has large double pure lavender flowers.

Salvia, farinacea 'Strata'

This has 10-12 inch bicolor white and blue flower spikes and is 1-1/2 to 2 feet tall.

The Board of Directors Wants You!

The MGC Board of Directors invites indications of interest from members who would like to serve as the club's representative to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. This is a one year appointment. If you are interested, please contact President Bob Voigt prior to the Board meeting on October 3.



Bring your checkbook to the October meeting!



1996 TGOA/MGCA calendars are here!

The Calendar Committee is ready to distribute the calendars you ordered—if you are ready to pay for them!

Inside:

Page 2/	Editor's Column Events Calendar
Page 3/	President's Column
Page 4/	September Program Report
Page 5/	Committee News
Page 6/	Chuck's Chestnuts
Page 7/	1996 AAS Winner MSHS Representative Wanted Calendars at October Meeting

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Bob Voigt
4934 Aldrich Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55409
Vice-President: Bob Stepan
7717 Riverdale Dr., Brooklyn Park, MN 55444
Secretary: Mary J. Maynard
4375 Dart Ave. So., St. Louis Park, MN 55424
Treasurer: Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305
Past President: Clyde Thompson
4429 Dunham Drive, Edina, MN 55435

DIRECTORS:

Chuck Carlson
1001 Hackman Circle, Fridley, MN 55432
Bill Jepson
13207 Henning Circle, Prior Lake, MN 55372
Henry Orfield
6124 York Ave. So, Edina, MN 55410
Kay Wolfe
2740 Florida Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55426

Return to:

The Garden Spray

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.
Andrew J. Marlow, Editor
10700 Minnetonka Boulevard
Hopkins, MN 55305-4404

First Class Mail

FORWARDING AND RETURN
POSTAGE GUARANTEED,
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED