



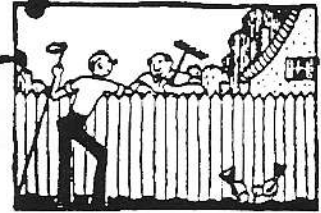
Celebrating Our 55th Year

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 1997, Volume 55, Number 10



October Dinner Meeting...

New Trends in Perennial Plants

Our October speaker will be Steve Kelley. Steve is the proprietor of Kelley and Kelley Nursery in Long Lake—a family-owned business that recently observed its 75th year in business. Kelley and Kelley is known for its wide selection of new and unusual perennials, annuals and herbs. They also have distinctive containers and sculptures—and an extensive shade garden. Along with general discussion, we have asked Steve to present his views on the newest trends in perennials. (Steve is married to Arla Carmichiel, who is in charge of Noerenberg Gardens, and who spoke to the club last year.)

Date: Tuesday October 14, 1997

Place: Lake Harriet United
Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South

Time: Dinner 6:30 pm
Business 7:00 pm
Program 7:30 pm

Cost: \$7.00 if reserved in advance
\$8.00 at the door if meals are available

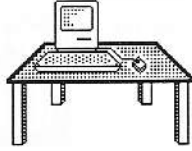
Special Added Attraction

Giant Sunflowers & Giant Pumpkins

The 1997 MGCM Giant Sunflower and Giant Pumpkin Contests will conclude with measuring and weighing at the October 14 dinner meeting. If you have been growing either sunflowers or pumpkins for the competition, make sure to bring your specimen to the meeting.

Important Note about Reservations

The 1997 permanent reservation list is in effect for this meeting. Check your mailing label. If it says "p" in the corner, you are on the permanent list. If there is no "p" on your label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must call Director Kay Wolfe by Friday, October 10, to be assured a place at dinner. If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Kay by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the price of your dinner. Kay can be reached at 922-0762. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person or send her an e-mail at opperwolfe@att.worldnet.com.



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

Remember this: the sins of your past will come back to haunt you.

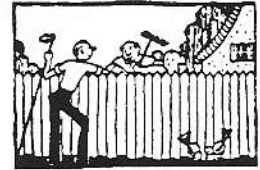
Twenty years ago I decided to run electricity out to our unlighted garage where we lived. I bought Romex cable and rented a trencher to run the cable out to the garage. When I got it all done, I realized I had used Romex rated for regular use, not underground. But, because it was so much work, I decided to leave it. Surely it would never cause me any problems!

This summer my wife Phyllis was driving by the old house and noticed a woman working in the yard. She stopped and struck up a conversation. In the end, the two agreed that in September Phyllis and I would come and dig up the peonies we had planted there. They were special to us, as the man who bred them and sold them to us has passed away. The plan was to take one-third of each plant, give one-third to the owners who were moving and replant one-third.

The plan going well on a Saturday morning in mid-September until I dug into that cable I had run to the garage. I shorted out not only the garage lights, but the circuit that the TV and VCR was on. Needless to say, this called for the repairs I had been loath to make two decades ago.

But our share of the peonies are now planted in the front garden at our house, one-third are in the ground at the old house, and, presumably, the other third is planted in a new bed in South St. Paul.

As I have often remarked when a project goes just slightly awry—it sounded so easy at the time!



Coming Attractions

Tuesday, October 7–7:30 pm
Board of Directors' Meeting
Bob Stepan's House

Tuesday, October 14–6:30 pm
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

Tuesday, November 4–7:30 pm
Board of Directors' Meeting
Maury Lindblom's House

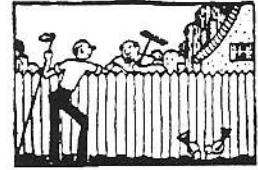
Tuesday, November 11–6:30 pm
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

Friday, November 28
Wreath Making
Klier's Nursery
4901 Nicollet Avenue South

Tuesday, December 2–7:30 pm
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.....Chuck Carlson,
Richard Coldren, Sher Curry and
Robert Olson



Maury's Musings

by Maury Lindblom, President, MGCM

As we get into the fall season we can pause and reflect on the past spring and summer. Lots of contrasts this year, weren't there?

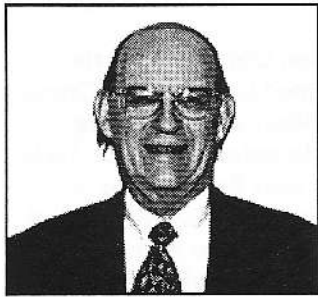


Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

Late snow and frosts and a generally cold spring caused a lot of damage. Our gardens suffered, and even worse were the disastrous floods in western Minnesota and North Dakota.

June was quite dry and July was very wet. Many of us had fungal diseases, mildew, and various types of rot to deal

with. Late July and August evened out the picture and gardens progressed nicely. Those plants that like a lot of water really thrived this year

Now its October and we pause to consider what has gone before and how we can learn from it. Perhaps we found some plants simply do not do well in our garden and must be replaced. Often we find pleasant surprises for the season. I have finally found the right place for my *Digitalis purpurea* 'Excelsior hybrids'. They rewarded me with three flushes of blooms; the last just in time for the State Fair flower show.

Division of crowded clumps of perennials and moving of some plants to better locations is generally better done in the fall than spring, although this varies with the species. I have done a lot of dividing and transplanting in the fall and have had very good success with it.

So we work away toward winter, planning, moving, planting bulbs, tipping roses and finally mulching—putting the garden to bed for its *long winter's sleep*.

Then we can rest a bit and enjoy the fireside and the profusion of seed catalogs that start arriving just after Christmas!

Fall - a time for reflection, planning and planting. Let's enjoy this beautiful season!

New Members

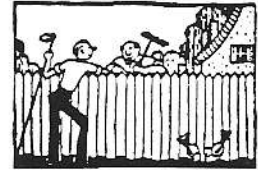
John M. Ceryes
190 Wayzata Boulevard East, #5
Wayzata, MN 55391-1652
Home Phone: 475-1013

Jackie J. Overom
14024 Frontier Lane
Burnsville, MN 55337
Home Phone: 431-5761

Spread Some Sunshine

Whenever an MGCM member is hospitalized, the Sunshine Committee makes sure he or she receives a plant and a get well card as a token of our caring. This can only happen, though, if the Sunshine Committee knows the member is in the hospital. Recently two members were hospitalized and released before the Committee was notified.

If you know of someone who is in the hospital, please call Sunshine Committee Chair Phil Peterson as soon as possible at 949-3433.



September Program Report...

Minnesota's Special Gardens

by Andy Marlow

There is no more familiar or friendly face in Minnesota gardening than Dorothy Johnson. Dorothy is a skilled gardener, one of the first Master Gardeners and retiring as Executive Director of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. She is officially finished in that post as of the end of the year, but is now working on special projects for MSHS from her home.

Dorothy's accomplishments as Executive Director are legion—under her leadership the Society moved to the new Center for Northern Gardening (which is nearly paid for), increased its educational programming for members and other gardeners, and greatly improved the *Minnesota Horticulturist* magazine. But Dorothy's enduring legacy will be the many gardening friends she has made throughout the state.

Dorothy drew on this latter aspect for her talk at the September MGCM dinner meeting. She showed slides and talked about Special Minnesota Gardens. From Baudette on the Canadian border to Austin near the Iowa border, Dorothy has visited gardens and their creators. She knows the gardeners and what they grow. Public gardens did not escape her scrutiny, either.

She suggested gardens to visit in each season of the year, and I will briefly summarize each. Because of the changing lives of many of these gardeners, it may not be possible for you to visit all these gardens. In fact, it would take years to duplicate Dorothy's slide tour even if you could make arrangements to see all the gardens.

Spring gardens of note included those of Diane Emerson in St. Anthony

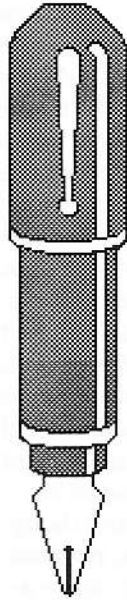
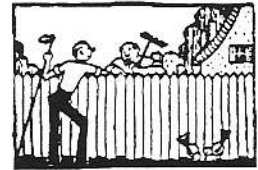
Park and Lois Ecklund in Clearwater. Lois' garden includes a number of troughs and planters which Chuck Carlson writes about in his column this month (see page 6).

In midsummer, Dorothy likes the Leon Snyder designed landscape of Grand View Lodge near Nisswa, Noerenberg Gardens at Lake Minnetonka and Dr. Dale Hedlund's garden near Baxter. Two of these gardens are in zone 3, so the peak of summer is a week or so later than here in the Twin Cities. Dr. Hedlund's lakeside retreat has a host of great ideas for visitors, including the use of planters instead of railing to keep visitors to his deck from falling off.

In late summer Dorothy suggests the gardens of Larry Rule in Brainerd, St. John's University and Abbey in Collegeville, Carol Kollander in St. Paul and Dorothy Johnson in West St. Paul. Larry is famous for his vegetables, which he has written about for many years in the *Horticulturist*. Carol's garden illustrates excellent use of a small city yard, with a shady rock garden, boulevard plantings and vining plants growing on the privacy fence. Dorothy's garden will soon change locations. She and her husband will start building their retirement retreat near Nisswa and moving there in a year or so.

Gardens to visit in any part of the growing season including the Japanese Garden at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Enger Tower in Duluth, Munsinger and Clemens Gardens in St. Cloud and River Glen Gardens at Little Sauk. The latter was toured by some MGCM members this summer and is only

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Board Meeting Minutes

Margaret Hibberd, Secretary

September 2, 1997

Present: Howard Berg, Chuck Carlson, Margaret Hibberd, Maury Lindblom, Mary Maynard, Ritchie Miller, Russ Smith, Bob Stepan, Kay Wolfe. Absent: Chuck Benson

The meeting was called to order by President Maury Lindblom at 7:35 pm

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the August board meeting were approved on a motion by Mary, seconded by Kay.

Treasurer's Report: The report was approved on a motion by Mary, seconded by Margaret. Treasurer Howard Berg will attend the September 11 meeting at the Arboretum for garden clubs and plant societies to discuss interactions. Marilyn Brummer, as Arboretum liaison, may also attend, or else Kay Wolfe.

Vice President's Report: The October speaker will be Steve Kelley of Kelley and Kelley on Trends in Perennials. The November speaker will be Sher Curry on the good, the bad and the ugly in gardening. The January speaker will be Joan Cooper on Travel and Gardens in the Far East.

New Business

Russ Smith reported on the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America in Spokane on July 21. MCGM received a 55 year award and the award for a greater than 10% increase in new members. Now our North Star Region will

merge into the Midwest Region and this new region will still have two directors because there are more than 750 members in the region. Russ is willing to remain as a director and the other will come from somewhere else in the region. From a motion made by Margaret and seconded by Howard, Russ will write a letter to the TGOA/MGCA Board supporting the merger.

Next there was discussion about money for delegates (directors/past presidents) to travel to meetings. It was suggested that \$400/delegate be included in the 1998 budget. Perhaps other clubs in the new merged region would contribute.

Hotels for 2001 Convention. Since this was the time to get advice from Russ Smith on national conventions, his first advice was to get Ron Hagen to review hotel contracts. Mary and Kay toured the Airport Hilton, Radisson South, and Sheraton Park Place hotels. The location of the Hilton by the airport and the Mall of America makes this suburban hotel a good possibility. Chuck said the Rock Garden Society had used it and will check to see how they liked it. Russ said he has attended national meetings at suburban locations and that worked fine. Another comment was that the dates of the meeting should not be over July 4 weekend.

Bottles for the Flower, Food and Foto (FFF) Show: Chuck reported there are 3000 larger bud type vases available at 75 cents and smaller ones at 25 cents from the Rose Society convention and they can be purchased by the case. The board charges the FFF committee with buying bottles.

The Board reviewed the New Member Application Form redesigned by Mary and Chuck. It looked good and will

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Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

Rock gardeners call them troughs, other gardeners call them planters, some even call them pots. But planting container is a good general name for them. The information in this column comes from an article by Karen Schillinger entitled "Simulated Stone Troughs", "Troughs" by H. Foster and some other miscellaneous sources.

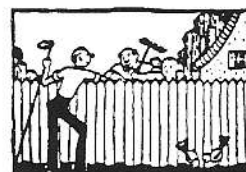
These containers provide a place for small plants that might get lost in the garden, a place to build a miniature landscape, a place for frustrated gardeners living in apartments to garden on a small scale, or a way to add something different to a regular garden. They can be large or small depending on their function, but large ones full of soil are heavy; put them where you want them when empty.

Shapes can be anything from rectangular to round to freeform. They can have fluted, smooth or textured outsides. The only limiting factor is your imagination.

Containers can be made from many things, such as clay, ceramic, concrete, or wood. Two limitations are weight and cost. A new material being used is a mixture of cement and peat moss. This mix is cheap, light weight and easy to use. Here's a formula for this mix:

- 1 gallon of portland cement
- 1 gallon of perlite or vermiculite (most use vermiculite because of the color)
- 2 gallons of peat moss (strained to remove sticks, etc.)
- 2 handfuls of fibermesh and enough water to make the mix like dry cottage cheese

This recipe makes a container 2 inches thick about 10x20x5 inches. The



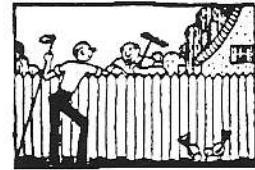
thickness can be reduced for small containers. When making larger containers, a layer of chicken wire should be embedded in the container walls to strengthen them. You can color the mix with cement coloring powders at the rate of 2 cups per gallon of portland cement.

Forms can be made of wood, cardboard boxes, or plastic pots. They can even be freeformed using a damp sand mold. Figure 1 shows how two cardboard boxes can be used. (*ed.'s note: illustrations on page 8*) If the container will be large, or if you want to make more than one of the same size, the forms should be made of wood. Figure 2 shows an example of a freeform mold using damp sand. Figure 3 shows how plastic pots can be used. Fluted plastic pots make an interesting shape.

To create a container:

1. Place heavy plastic over a table or a sheet of plywood. This gives you a place to make the container. Plywood will allow you to move it until it is cured.
2. Mix all the dry ingredients.
3. Add water and mix to the consistency of dry cottage cheese.
4. Fill the form to make the bottom, Tamp to firm and remove air pockets. If using chicken wire, insert it after an inch of mix has been poured, then add another inch of mix.
5. Put in dowels to make drainage holes.
6. Add the inside form, fill down the sides between the two parts of the form with mix and tamp to eliminate air pockets. If you are making a large container, add chicken wire before adding the mix.
7. When finished cover with a plastic sheet to allow it to cure it slowly.

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Chestnuts

(continued from page 6)

The slower it cures the stronger it will be.

8. After 3 days remove the forms and scratch the outside with a steel brush for cleanup and texturing.
9. Remove the dowels and again cover with a plastic sheet for at least another week. When using a freeform mold do steps 1 through 3 as above then follow the steps below:
4. Make a form out of damp sand and bowls or other containers as shown by figure 2. This can be done outside on the ground if desired.
5. Pour about an inch of the cement mixture over the sand form on which a sheet of plastic was laid. Then add the chicken wire and another inch of cement. Small containers don't need the chicken wire and they can also be less than two inches thick.
6. Put in the dowels which will make the drain holes.
7. Cover the formed cement with a sheet of plastic. Sand can be put on the plastic to hold it in place.
8. After the cement is partially hardened - 12 to 24 hours - remove the sand and the plastic. Remove the dowels and scrape the bottom flat with a piece of metal, glass or wood so it will sit well when turned over.
9. Again cover and let it cure for a couple of days.

You can clean the outside with a steel brush. The brushing will also texture the surface. Carefully remove the container from the sand form, gently clean the inside, and set aside covered with plastic to cure for another week.

Before planting in the container, let it set out in the elements for at least a month so the lime will leach out. Water can be

put in to aid in the de-liming process.

The Tip

The soil used in containers should drain well. A soilless mix fortified with sand, granite grit and bonemeal is a good general purpose mix to use for many plants. Alpines, sempervivums and others can use extra portions of the sand and granite grit. Moisture loving plants will benefit by adding leaf mold or compost.

Board Minutes

(continued from page 5)

provide more information than before.

Old Business

Committee Reports.

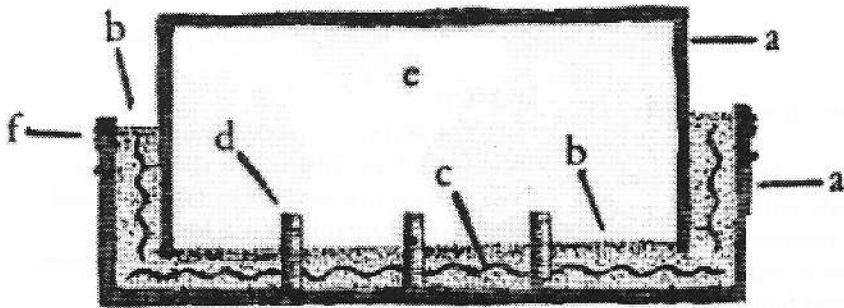
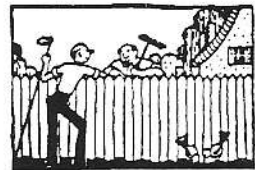
FFF Show: The August show went well, filling all the space. It was decided the committee should have a fall meeting to decide on location of the 1998 show.

Tours: Biennial public tour still probable for next summer. We have good new gardens to add to tours.

Membership: The Board voted to approve a membership application from Jackie Overom, on a motion by Kay and seconded by Howard.

Contributions to Women's Memorial Garden on the State Capital Grounds: Maury had gathered more information on it. \$250,000 came from the legislature, but it was necessary to raise another \$50,000 and most of that has been done. They are now seeking money for plant materials. The state will maintain the garden, statues, and explanatory plaques. A theme will be the History of Pioneer Women and Early Settlers. It was decided to consider it in 1998 budget construction.

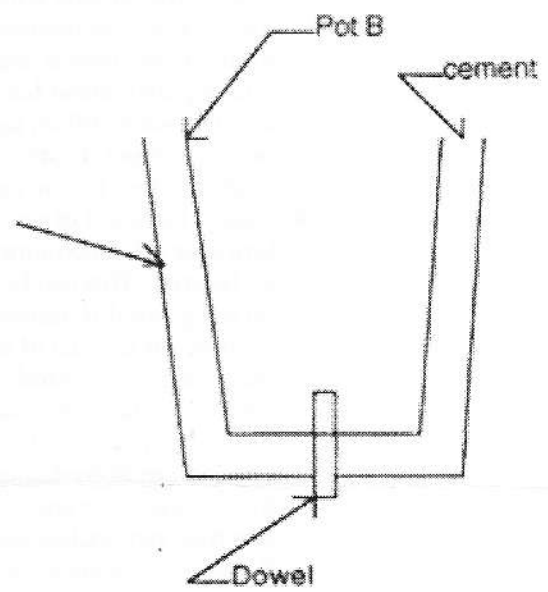
Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.



CROSS SECTION OF CARDBOARD CARTONS USED FORM A CONCRETE PLANTER

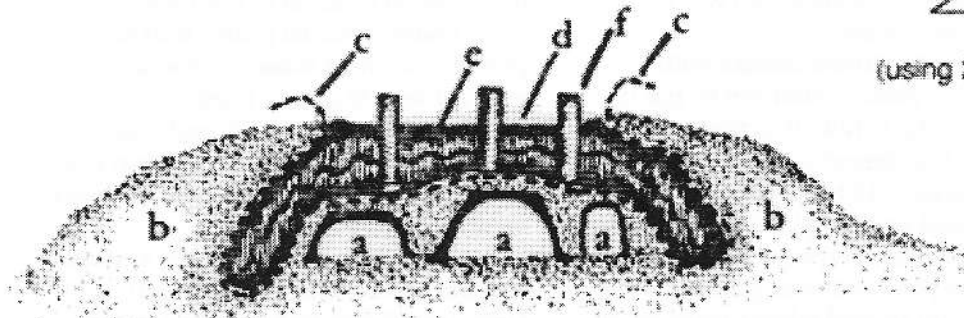
figure 1

- a. Cardboard cartons
- b. Concrete
- c. 1-inch-mesh chicken wire embedded in concrete
- d. Wooden dowels or stiff plastic tubing
- e. Airspace
- f. Cord around top edge of outside carton



(using 2 pots as a mold)
figure 3

Planter Illustrations



CROSS SECTION OF CONCRETE FREEFORM PLANTER IN MOLD

figure 2

- a. Empty bowls
- b. Hard-packed moist sand
- c. Sheet of flexible plastic
- d. Concrete
- e. 1-inch-mesh chicken wire embedded in concrete
- f. Wooden dowels or stiff plastic tubing

MGCM Membership Renewal

(Must be received by November 15, 1997, or you will not be in the 1998 Directory)

Name: _____ Spouse: _____
 (Last) (First) (Initial)

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

 (City) (State) (Zip+4) Business Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____ Check here if you are a Master Gardener

Please list me in the directory as a mentor gardener. My specialties are:

Please list any occupations or hobbies you have or have had that might be useful to MGCM:

I will serve on the following committees (minimum of two). If you do not select two committees, you will be assigned as needed.

- Arbor Day Awards & Trophies Calendar sales Community Service
- Perennial Garden Flower, Food & Foto Show Garden Spray Garden Tours
- Holiday Party Hospitality Membership/Publicity Photography Plant Auction
- Sunshine Telephone I am willing to chair the _____ Committee

Breakdown of Total Dues

(Due by 11/15/97)

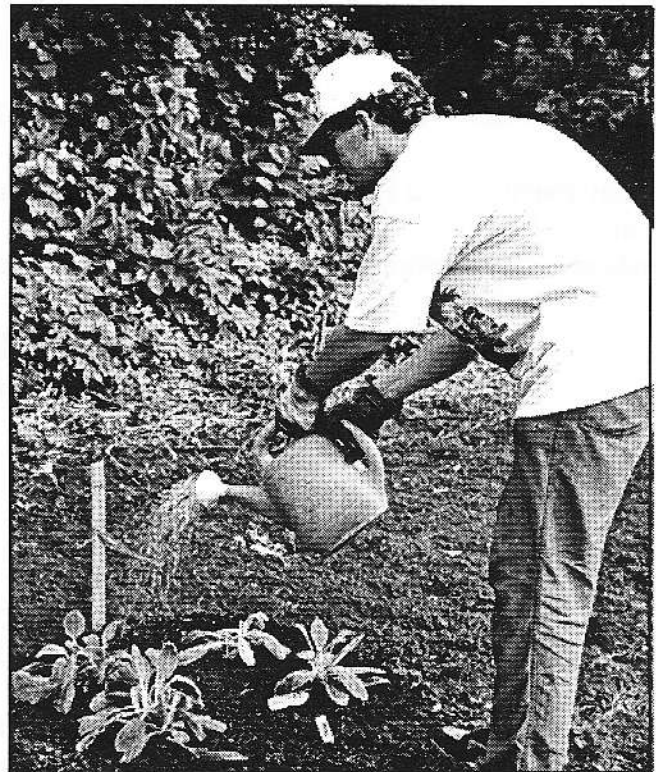
		<u>1st Mem.</u>	<u>2nd Mem.</u>	
(TGOA)	The Gardeners of America	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$ _____
(MSHS)	Minnesota State Horticultural Society	\$17.00	\$7.00	\$ _____
(MGCM)	Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$ _____
	TOTAL RENEWAL DUES	\$42.00	\$22.00	\$ _____

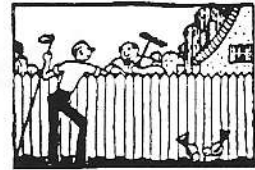
**** Please deduct the appropriate fee if you are a life member of (TGOA), (MGCM), (MSHS) or a member of (MSHS) directly or through another club. ****

Mail this form with a check payable to (MGCM) to: Howard Berg, MGCM Treasurer,
 10107 Lakeview Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305-2615

Photo Gallery

(clockwise from left) Merle Pulley and Henry Orfield check the plan for planting the MGCM Perennial Test Garden at Lake Harriet, a row of MGCM members carrying out the plan, and new plants get watered. Clyde Thompson (top) and Eldon Hugelen (bottom) prepare exhibits for the MGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show on August 9 & 10 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Garden photos by Roger Sefelt. Flower show photos by Lloyd Wittstock.





All America Selections for 1998

by Chuck Carlson

Do you want to try something new next year? The new All America Selections for 1998, two flowers and two vegetables, have been announced.

One is a F1 hybrid Impatiens called 'Victorian Rose'. It has many semi-double blooms of a muted old fashioned rose color. It is a season-long performer.

The second one is called 'Prism Sunshine', a creamy yellow F1 grandiflora Petunia. Flowers are three inches across and bloom freely throughout the season. The plant spreads 15 to 20 inches in width.

Two vegetable were given AAS awards. 'Sweet Dani' is a lemon Basil and 'Bright Lights' is a Swiss Chard. 'Bright Lights' is one I have to try for its ornamental look. I have been growing 'Vulcan' as an ornamental for a couple of years. It has provoked many comments but I believe this new one will be a show stopper. The stems of 'Bright Lights' can be yellow, gold, orange, pink, violet or striped, plus the normal red or white. It is also edible with a mild flavor.

Look for all four AAS winners in the seed catalogs next spring.

Honors

MGCM and some of its members were honored at the national convention of The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America (TGOA/MGCA) in Spokane, Washington. MGCM member

and Regional Director Russ Smith announced the awards at the September dinner meeting.

An Honor Award was presented to MGCM for increasing its membership by 10.34% in the past year. In addition, MGCM was presented a Special Award in recognition of our 55th year as a club. MGCM was chartered by the then MGCA in 1942.

Our photographers won awards, too. Henry Orfield's photograph entitled Trees, River and Rocks was selected as Best of Show in the TGOA/MGCA Photo Contest. And a photo by Chuck Carlson will appear as the February illustration in the 1998 TGOA/MGCA calendar.

Also at the September meeting Bill Jepson and Mary Maynard were presented with Spade Club pins for bringing in two or more new members during the last year.

Special Gardens

(continued from page 4)

open every other year.

Dorothy also mentioned some of what she called "inspiring gardeners and their gardens". She didn't have slides, but paid homage to Janice and Dennis Frederickson in Austin, Bud and Virginia Hiniker in Monticello and Charlie King in Bloomington. The Fredericksons have been the principal promoters of water gardening in Minnesota. Hinikers grow hundreds of orchids and other tropicals outdoors and in their greenhouses. And Charlie King is one of the state's most knowledgeable gardeners, sharing what he knows with the readers of the Horticulturist over several decades.

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