

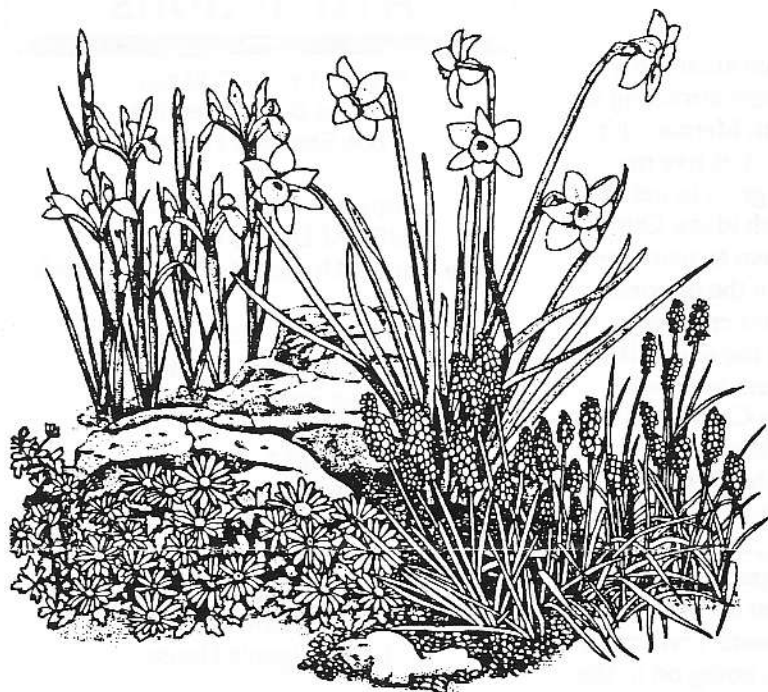
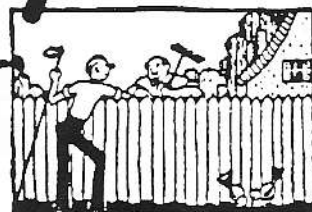


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

September 1993, Volume 51, Number 9

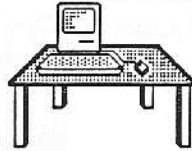
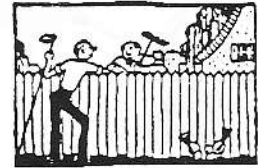


Many small bulbs, such as *Iris reticulata*, *Anemone blanda*, *Narcissus albus* and *muscari* (grape hyacinth) shown at left, are ideal for growing in the rock garden or filling in the front of a border where they can be easily seen.

Think Spring!

Think Spring is the theme for the September 7, 1993, MGCM Dinner Meeting. A surprise speaker will talk about all the things you can do in your garden now to get ready for the next growing season. Besides the drudgery, such as cleaning up the beds, tilling in compost and raking leaves, there are also lots of fun and productive things to do. Plant tulips, crocus, narcissus and lilies. Divide or put in a few new hostas. Get some help in being creative with your fall gardening—gardening that will pay off in a big way next spring!

The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. with fellowship and dinner. The business meeting follows and the speaker concludes the evening. Get your reservation card in the mail to Eldon Hugelen today. The cost is only \$7.00, unless you fail to make a reservation. Then dinner costs \$8.00. If you are on the permanent reservation list and won't make the meeting, call Eldon so you won't be charged for the meal.



The Editor's Desk
Andy Marlow

Just last month I wrote about how many new members we were attracting to MGCM in 1993. This month Membership Chair Duane Reynolds profiles five new members (see page 3). It's great to get all these new people with fresh ideas. Our challenge now is to put them to work and, at the same time, give them the opportunity to exercise some of their creativity. Make sure and say "hi" to the new folks at the next meeting. Make them welcome and help them get going in Club activities.

I, unfortunately, am taking a slight sabbatical from meetings this fall. I am taking a graduate program in telecommunications designed for people already working in the field. That part's good. The bad part is that classes meet on Tuesday nights during the fall. It means I will need help keeping up on what's going on in the Club. Call me with any news. My number at home is 933-5759 (and I have voice mail to take a long message if I'm not home) or at work it's 625-2856.

All the activities of summer are great—the garden tours, the Flower, Food and Foto Show, etc., but somehow I always look forward to returning to the cozy confines of the church basement. The friendly conversation, the smell of dinner and the knowledge shared by the speaker are all pleasant things.

Please note that Phil Peterson has moved down the hall. His address is correct as printed in the directory, except he's now in apartment 303 instead of 301.

And Dwight Stone has moved. Write to him at Becketwood Unit 268, 4300 West River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55406-3678. His new phone number is 722-0297.

Coming Attractions

September 7 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board Meeting
Bob Stepan's House

September 14 - 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

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

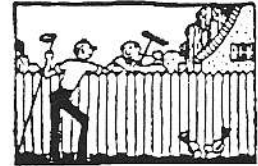
November 2 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board Meeting
Lee Gilligan's House

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

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

Lee Gilligan, President, MCCM

September already! You're kidding me - the weather just warmed up - it can't be September. Really it is! Well, I'll be.



(photo by Dr. Bill Jepson)

I better hustle, cuttings need to be done on the coleus, impatiens and geraniums before we get 40 degree nights. I need to spray my broad leaves after the first frost, and get my gardens cleaned up this fall, do my rototilling work, turn this summer's compost into the gardens... Wait a minute. This is starting to sound like New Year's Resolu-

tions, mostly because this is golf season for me. Do all gardeners play mostly of their golf in the fall? That must be why it's so hard to get the yard put to bed in a timely fashion.

I never have anywhere near the same enthusiasm for fall work as spring. Maybe it has something to do with the expected results. Next we'll be engulfed in the beautiful fall colors by the Head Gardener of the world.

Fall is a great time, isn't it? Enough of my ramblings. Happy Gardening!

New Member Profiles

by Duane Reynolds
Chairman, Membership Committee

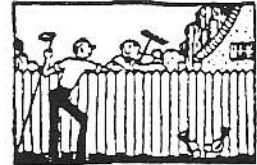
Marty Anderson lives at 8616 Quarles Road in Maple Grove and works for IDS Financial Services. He is currently active in growing annual and perennial flowers, including roses, and wants to develop new skills in the area of landscaping. He has volunteered for the Club Bulletin and Garden Tours Committees.

Robert Harrie, M.D., lives at 5924 Oakland Avenue South in Minneapolis. Robert is currently interested in container gardening, annual and perennial flowers, house plants, vegetables, roses and landscaping. He wants to learn more about growing under lights and environmental projects. He expresses an interest in serving on the Flower and Vegetable Show, Community Garden and Garden Tour Committees.

Michael Menzel, M. D., lives at 5410 York Avenue South in Edina. He is currently active in environmental projects, annual and perennial flowers, vegetables, landscaping and house plants. He would like to know more about container gardening, fruits, growing under lights, lawns, trees and shrubs. He is volunteering for the Sunshine and Emergency Telephone Committees.

Jim Naves is the owner of a tree care company and lives at 5724 Dale Avenue in Edina. As you might guess, he is interested in landscaping, trees, shrubs, lawns and vegetables. He would like to know more about growing annual and perennial flowers and growing under lights.

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Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut.

I usually make at least one visit a year to the University of Minnesota Horticultural Learning Center. This year I was surprised to see the demonstration garden is being reworked. They have even added a garden structure. I believe one would call it a pergola. In any case it looked good. Here are a few notes on the flowers that interested me:

Dianthus: Three different ones struck my fancy. A violet colored one called 'Ideal', one called 'Snowfire' and of course telstar 'Picotee'. I understand the 'Ideal' series will stand the summer heat and defy the cold winters. I sure hope the ones I raised from seed this year do the same. I planted about ten varieties I gleaned from the Rock Garden seed exchange, so I am interested in seeing their flowers next year.

Verbena: The one that really raised its flower head above all the rest was a deep blue color with a white eye, called 'Novalis'.

Nicotiana: No name but it had a green flower which stuck out like a sore green thumb. An interesting change from the reds, blues and yellows.

A planting: They had one area which really looked striking even though it was made up of two simple plants, red moss roses intermixed with dusty miller.

I enjoyed my walk-through and I recommend it to anyone. There are other plantings in the area which you may like also.

Another excursion was to a garden just north of White Bear—a place called

simply "The Garden." I had been noticing ads in the newspaper for workers and another ad just said to come out and visit, so I did. The Garden was just started in May, thus it's in its infancy. There were many Asiatics in bloom and a number of other items inside a split-rail corral, but the most striking thing was a 20 acre field of raised beds. These raised beds are about four feet wide and seem to go on for blocks. They will have both flowers and vegetables plus other things a full line nursery would have. It's worth a stop but I think it would be more developed next year.

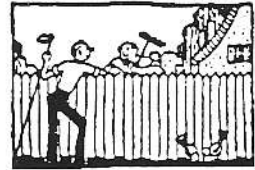
The Word

This month you pick out the word from the following: What do the Cuckoo Flower, the Prairie White-fringed Orchid, the Pitcher's Thistle, Leafy Prairie Clover and the Forked Aster all have in common?

The *Chicago Tribune*, reports they are all endangered species in the Chicago area. I know we have a number of endangered species in our area also, so watch where you walk, don't pick or dig the wild flowers, just stop and smell the roses. The word, of course, is **endangered**.

The Tip

This is bargain month because I have two tips for you. You can identify your smooth tubers when saving them over the winter by writing directly on the tuber with a permanent marking pen. Another thing you might try, especially on begonia bulbs, is to spray them with an anti-desiccant, allowing it to dry before storing them in vermiculite.



Native Uses of Native Plants: White Oaks

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

COMMON NAME: White Oak
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Quercus alba*

Oaks are common hardwood trees in our state. They are divided into two general categories: The white oaks with rounded lobes on the leaves and the red oaks with pointed lobes. This article covers just one member of the white oak group.

Quercus alba, the White Oak can reach a height of 15-20 meters and a diameter of 1 to 1.5 meters. It is commonly found growing in heavy, well-drained acid soils. It is a very deep rooted tree with a strong tap root making it difficult to transplant. Leaves of white oak persist on the tree into the winter months. The acorns develop and ripen in one growing season and the seed meat is sweet. Several references discuss the edible characteristics of White Oak. *Sturtevant's Edible Plants of the World* notes the following:

The dried acorns are macerated in water for food by the natives of the Roanoke. Acorns were dried and boiled for food by the Narragansetts. Oak acorns were mixed with their pottage by the Indians of Massachusetts. Baskets full of parched acorns, hid in the ground, were discovered by the Pilgrims, December 7, 1620. White Oak acorns are boiled for "oyl" by the natives of New England. The fruit of some trees is quite pleasant to the taste, especially when roasted.

Oliver Perry Medsger's *Edible Wild Plants* adds that:

Several species of oaks bear acorns that are somewhat sweet and are sometimes collected and eaten. They were much used by the American Indians, who gathered them in large quantities for winter use. The acorns were ground, making a sort of flour which was often mixed with corn meal and baked in the form of cakes. In the mountains of Mexico, the natives still use acorns in this way. In some places, the Indians roast the acorns, then grind them and use the product as a substitute for coffee.

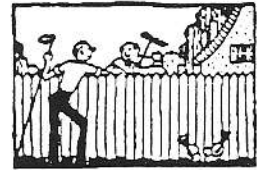
The Indians usually ground the acorns of the various species until the mass was in the form of flour or meal. This was placed in water for a day to soak out the tannin and other bitter substances. The water was then drained off and the material was molded in the form of cakes or loaves or mixed with other food. Sometimes the acorns were roasted before they were ground into meal.

In addition to its edible characteristics, White Oak has other uses. In the past, the wood has been used for heavy construction, shipbuilding, woodwork and flooring in homes and as fuel. Today it is very difficult to obtain White Oak lumber.

The bark of White Oak is astringent and is used for tanning.

For wildlife, oaks rate at the top of their food list because they supply food to many animals, particularly during the critical winter season. Among those

Continued on page 7



Fragrance Garden Report

by Chuck Carlson

The garden has been well groomed and looks like a garden should. Some of the annuals and the perennials have had their big flush of bloom and others are just in their prime. We had a tour of the garden on August 12 when about 35 Edina seniors perused the garden. A number of them commented on how nice the garden was and all seemed to enjoy their visit. We also received a \$25 stipend from Medicine Lake Tours for their visit. Chester Groger and I passed out a summary of the garden's history and a short dissertation about the club. It included a pitch for membership. Maybe a new member can be realized.

A few months ago I sent some information to Sharon Lumsden about the garden. I just received a note from her that our garden is included in her book Green Byways. I ordered a copy and will bring it to one of our meetings. I don't know what was written but at least we received a little publicity.

September maintenance volunteers are almost nonexistent. We NEED YOU!

Sep. 4-10 Chester Groger & ?????
Sept. 11-17 ???????
Sept. 18-24 ???????
Sept. 25-Oct. 2 ???????

Please call Chuck Carlson if you can fill one of these spots. Thank you for your anticipated participation
Until next month, Happy Gardening.

1994 All-America Selections

by Chuck Carlson



The 1994 All-America selections have been released. This year three plants have been selected.

• Lavender 'Lady,' or if you prefer

Lavandula angustifolia., is a English lavender grown for its spikes. It is a perennial hardy to zone 5 but can be treated as an annual in zones 3 or 4. This is because it will flower the first year if started inside.

• Tomato 'Big Beef' is an indeterminate beefsteak type F1. The fruit will grow to 8-12 ounces. It grows to maturity in 73 days and its disease resistance exceeds that of 'Better Boy'.

• Cucumber 'Fanfair' is a slicing cucumber which grows to 8 or 9 inches and is monoecious, thus doesn't need a pollinator plant. It matures in 63 days and needs only 24 inches of space. It can be grown in a pot and can be trained to grow on a trellis.





1993 MGCM Scholarship Winner

by Kent Petterson
Scholarship Committee

Scott W. Endress of Hampton, Minnesota, has been selected as the recipient of the 1993 MGCM Horticulture Scholarship. Scott is a senior at the University of Minnesota. He will receive \$1,000 to help continue his education in environmental horticulture.

The MGCM Scholarship committee, consisting of Kent Petterson, Merle Pulley and Andy Marlow, chose him from a field of eight outstanding applications. The Committee unanimously agreed that Scott's application met all requirements and demonstrated outstanding personal and horticultural achievements.

After graduating next June, Scott will work toward a master's degree in horticulture. He plans to work in field nursery production with the goal of eventually starting his own business. Scott is currently President of the University's Horticulture Club, and was recently chosen President of the Mid-American Collegiate Horticultural Society. Scott has also worked in his community, helping senior citizens with maintenance and landscaping around their homes, thus enabling them to stay in their homes for a longer time.

We are pleased to be able to support this outstanding student of horticulture, who has already proven to be an asset to his community and who, we are confident, will continue to make contributions to the field of horticulture.

New Members

Continued from page 3

Douglas Whitney lives at 4820 Dowling Street in Minneapolis and is a lawyer. He currently grows annual and perennial flowers and landscapes with trees, shrubs and turf. He wants to learn more about roses. He has volunteered for the Arbor Day and Community Garden Committees.

I'd like to welcome our new members to our club, and call upon those current members who are knowledgeable in these areas of interest to help the new members achieve their goals of learning more about gardening. Also, committee chairmen should be calling these new members to involve them in their requested committees.

And, a "note" to new members... The club has a packet of handouts, including a directory of members. If you haven't received yours, please look up Duane Reynolds or Kent Petterson at the next meeting you attend.

White Oaks

Continued from page 5

animals that feed on the acorns, twigs, foliage, or bark are duck, grouse, pheasant, prairie chicken, quail, turkey, crow, sapsucker, woodpecker, hare, chipmunk, squirrel, gopher and deer.

An additional advantage of White Oak is that it is not as easily destroyed by the oak wilt disease that can rapidly kill red oaks.

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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Lee Gilligan
6506 W. Broadway, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
Vice-President: Clyde Thompson
4429 Dunham Drive, Edina, MN 55435
Secretary: Eldon Hugelen
7473 W. 142nd St., Apple Valley, MN 55124
Treasurer: Melvin C. Anderson
5701 35th Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55417
Past President: Gregory P. Smith
1540 Rhode Island Ave. No., Golden Valley, MN
55416

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Donald A. Powell
346 13th Ave. No., Hopkins, MN 55343
Robert Stepan
7717 Riverdale Dr., Brooklyn Center, MN 55444
Robert S. Voigt
4934 Aldrich Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55409
Lloyd C. Wittstock
913 19th Ave. S. E., Minneapolis, MN 55414

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The Garden Spray

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.
Andrew J. Marlow, Editor
10700 Minnetonka Boulevard
Hopkins, MN 55305-6744

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