

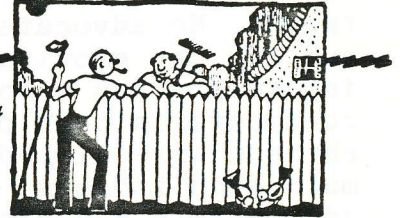


The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society

April 1980, Volume 37, Number 4



WHO'S THE BIG GUY?

None other than Ray Marshall, landscape architect for Bachmans, former vo-tech teacher, current MGCM member-director.

WHY'S HE ON THE FRONT PAGE?

Because he's going to talk at our MGCM meeting Tuesday, April 8th, at Mt. Olivet Church, 50th and Knox South.

WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

About trees and shrubs in the back border, foundation plantings, etc. By the way, did you see the plans for our 1980 Community Garden which Nate Siegel had on display in March? That was Ray's work.

BUT FIRST we'll enjoy another fine dinner (\$3.75) served at 6:00 by the ladies from the church.

If you're not on the permanent reservation list
RETURN YOUR RESERVATION CARD AT ONCE

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PLANT AUCTION MAY 13th

To make it a success let's all participate. I urge all who have green-houses and/or the ability to grow good plants to grow two or three extra flats for the auction. Flower plants sell more readily than vegetables.

There are eleven members on the auction committee. The club membership list will be divided into eleven parts. You will be contacted by a committee member. Line up now what you may have or can do for your club. Please cooperate with your committee caller.

We can all bring guests--guests who will buy good plant material. LET'S MAKE MAY 13th A JOYOUS OCCASION. LET'S SHOW OTHERS WHAT WE CAN DO.

--Larry Corbett, Auction Committee Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

Howard H. Berg 545-7290
 10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka
 55343

Russell C. Smith 475-1878
 1610 Holdridge Ter., Wayzata
 55391

Andrew Marlow 933-5759
 10700 Minnetonka Blvd. 373-3177
 Minnetonka 55343

Lloyd Nerburn 935-4642
 3031 Decatur Av. S., St. Louis Pk.
 55426

Gary Magrum 888-6793
 9532 Oakland Av. S., Bloomington
 55420

THE MARCH PROGRAM REVIEWED

Charles King takes nothing for granted so before taking us on a trip through Stokes 1980 seed catalog he distributed a full page "Glossary of Terms Used in a Seed Catalog".

"Get 'em in early" is King's dictum re cold season crops. He doesn't stop there. He advocates the use of lights, cold frames, greenhouses to extend our 100 day growing season. He starts beets under lights--For direct seeding he prefers monogerm seed since it requires less thinning out--He starts cucumbers in peat pots about May 1; plants them out about May 30 to grow on chicken wire sloped at a 45° angle. He waits until April 15 to plant tomato seed indoors; uses plastic mulch when setting them out (the plastic adds warmth and discourages soil born diseases); hold off organic mulch until Mid-July.

Reminders: Use an inoculant on your legumes....Use a soil insecticide to handle onion root maggots....Rotate your cole crops (cabbage, Brussels sprouts, etc.) every year....Wait 3 to 5 years before growing asters in the same spot.

Advice: Plant cobaea seed on it's side. If planted flat it rots....Grow spinach and lettuce together. They make good combination greens for salads....Use a tweezer to plant medium sized seed in containers.

Demonstration: (Using salvia seedlings from a February 10th planting) If using a moist planting mix punch holes in mix with a pencil; drop seedlings in; close mix around roots. If using a dry mix lay seedling on it's side; punch into mix with a pencil; then moisten.

Asides: "Swiss chard is nothing but a frustrated beet." "If your radish takes over 21 days to develop you've done something wrong."

MORE ABOUT THERESA MIESELER'S TALK ON "HERB GROWING, INDOORS AND OUT" (From secretary Jerald Shannon's February meeting minutes)

"Some pertinent points that she made included:

Herbs require less watering.

Herbs have few insect problems when grown outside.

Herbs can be attractively companion planted with other annuals or perennials.

Most herbs are tender but some such as Golden Marjoram are hardy to Minnesota.

Five varieties of lavender can be grown for their bloom effect.

Dills and fennels make good background material.

Most herbs require full sun and are more odoriferous when so grown.

Herbs can be either grown from seed or from rooted cuttings."

NEWS The By-Laws revision committee, Archie Caple, Ed Culbert, Bud Christenson, Fred Glasoe, Chet Groger, Charles Proctor, Cameron Smith and Bill Hull, chairman, has spent three long evenings reviewing the club Articles of Incorporation and revising and rewriting the club By-Laws. Hopefully, all will soon be in form to present to membership.

CHANGE of ADDRESS and TELEPHONE

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6836 Creston Road, Edina 55435

C. A. (Jack) Peterson 830-9417
8100 Highwood Dr. #B121
Bloomington 55438



FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

by
Archie Caple

Today I am going to come down from atop the compost pile. I'll not talk with you about gardening or growing, but want to speak with you - each of you - about our club, The Men's Garden Club of Mpls., Inc.; - our club - your club and my club.

A few years back (and I am a young member of this club - by affiliation, not age) when I first joined even joining was accomplished in a strange way. Allow me to elaborate. In the course of our church visitation activity it was my fortune to call on a Men's Garden Club member. On being invited into his home I observed a very distinguished, attractive trophy displayed on a small table. Upon completing my business at hand I made inquiries as to the trophy; what it was for; and how it was obtained. My host lost no time in telling me all the details of this gardening prize; who had presented it; and the qualifications for winning same.

With this explanation satisfying my questions the conversation came around to gardening and as to my personal interest. Of course, being a suburbanite with a large lot I, too, garden. I have a small vegetable garden, several small floral plantings accompanied by some shrubs, trees; of course, lots of lawn. My host then proceeded into great detail about the Men's Garden Club of Mpls., with the closing question: "Would you like to attend one of the Club meetings as my guest?" I thought he would never ask! Those next few weeks waiting for that meeting date to arrive were the slowest in my life. Well, I attended as a guest with my host, now both a very close friend and a fine fellow gardener. As you can guess, very shortly thereafter I made application to the club and was accepted as a member.

Past experience tells me one gets nothing from a club as just a member. You get what you give via participation. The following year I volunteered to serve on some committees. I felt if I wanted to get closer to knowledgeable members of the club, other than by dining and listening to the lectures in their presence, committee participation was the surest and fastest way. I was correct. I worked for the Community Garden Committee; I roto-tilled with a member learning all the time; I planted with members learning even more. I weeded with others, this I already knew how to do; but, however, I gained excellent fellowship. I watered and cultivated with others, and, yes, I was learning all the time. I had already reaped an invaluable harvest of friends and learning experiences from a single committee involvement, and I wasn't yet a two-season member of the club! Further, I found participation with the Plant Auction Committee, the Flower and Vegetable Show Committee, and the Photograph Committee, each and every one brought gross additional learning experiences.

Serving as Director and Vice President also had its rewards but here I encountered confusion, frustration, and certainly some disappointments; not with those with whom I was working, as each and every one of these members was dedicated and devoted trying to satisfy individuals. My disappointment came from the membership. Not every member, please believe me, but from a few. The disappointment came as a result of putting forth a lot of effort for program preparation in the form of obtaining interesting and varied lectures, slide presentations, and demonstrations, only to have poor attendance. This is most disheartening not only for the Club,

(continued over)

but for your Club officers. What went wrong? Where were all of our members, why didn't they attend?

Let's research some of these questions. One doesn't attend because one is not informed of the date and time. This is reiterated to every club member at least 10 days prior to the meeting when he receives his issue of the GARDEN SPRAY. Every member has been given the calendar of events laying out the meeting scheduled for the calendar year. Your club has a Hospitality Committee with the duty of telephoning members who have missed two consecutive meetings to solicit their attendance and promote good club participation. We are concerned about your absence! If you have a problem in being able to attend, such as transportation, your club has a Buddy Committee with duties to assist you with this problem. We care about you and want to cooperate in every way possible to assist in obtaining your attendance at club meetings.

What exactly is the reason for non-participation of members?? My experience with efforts of the past club officers lays the entire problem at each club member's doorstep. What are your reasons for being a non-participating club member? Your non-participation and club cooperation is reflected not only by your attendance records but by your failure to note your name on any of the numerous club committees. Further, search yourself--how long have you been a club member; how many green thumb awards have you earned; how many committees have you served on; how many committees are you now serving on; how many entries have you shown at the annual flower and vegetable show? If you are able to affirmatively answer none of the above, then the final question is how have you helped other gardeners or persons interested in horticultural endeavors? This is the single purpose, as I see it, for the existence of a club such as ours, the Men's Garden Club of Mpls. Are you as a club member a true, dedicated, cooperative, willing to help and serve member? Or are you a button member only?

I am your Club President. You have an excellent group of officers, and a finer group of members you can't find anywhere--all we need now is YOU!

Food for thought: One volunteer is better than ten forced men.

Thanks for listening.

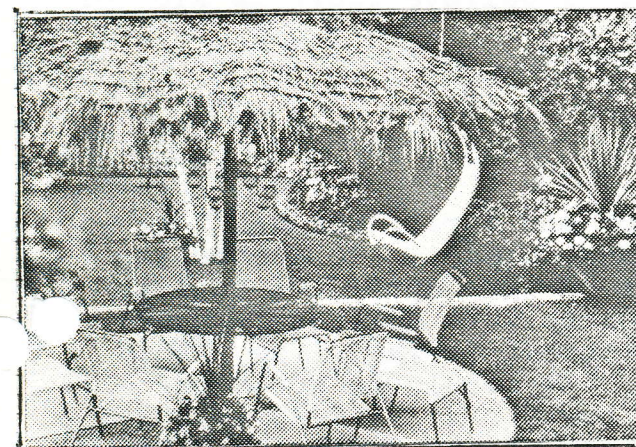
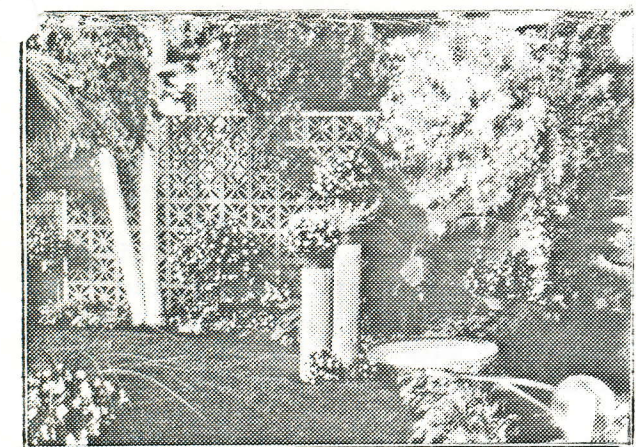
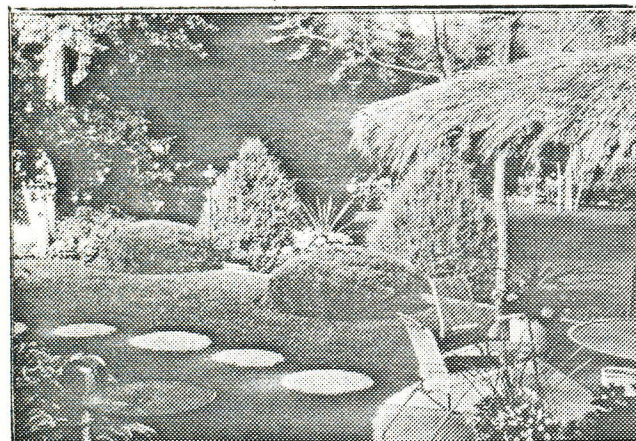
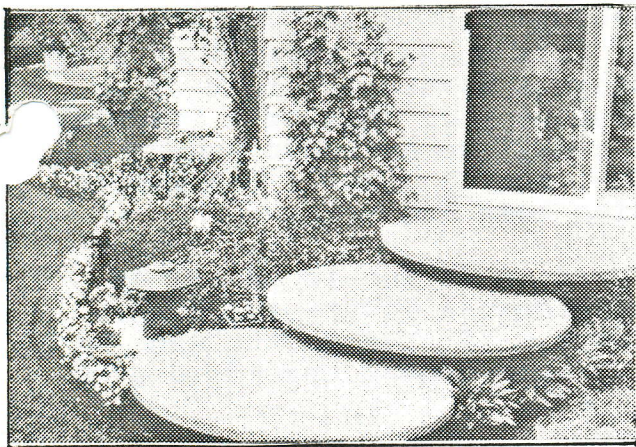
THAT TIME AGAIN!

Lift up your hearts men, rejoice and sing,
At last we've come to the first day of spring.
Bid fond farewell to the ice and the snow,
Get out the lawn mower, rake and hoe.
Old man winter has gone on his way,
And spring, we hope, is here to stay.
The first spring flowers have burst forth,
The wild geese are winging their way to the north.
The lark and the bluebird sing out their praise,
For this wonderful spring and the warm sunny days.
Clean up the yard and pick up the trash,
Get out the ladder and remove the sash,
Wash all the windows, the back and front doors,
Clean off the walks and scrub the porch floors,
Remember the early bird catches the worm,
So let's get it done before the next storm!

Lyle A. Myers

--GREEN FINGERS, MGC Toledo, Ohio

by Roger F. Koopmans



The best way is to begin with an overall landscape design (similar to a house plan but pertaining to the exterior) done with several things in mind: privacy, creating a vista, focal point, and sound barrier.

LANDSCAPING for me is to beautify your property and create the environment you yourself want to live in. It is a living-growing arrangement combining several kinds of plants into an artistic, harmonious whole. For example, good grass harmoniously puts everything together and is one of the basics of landscaping to me. My philosophy of landscaping is to create what is pleasing to your eye and lifestyle. Use simplicity in design, mass color and unusual things done artistically and in proportion. Specimen trees, for example, should be spaced carefully when planted allowing them room to mature without crowding each other. Remember a well placed tree is like air conditioning. Use half trees under electric wires. A few well placed specimens will do the work of many.

When installing a new foundation planting make sure you give adequate spacing to allow the plant material to grow naturally. Each plant fills out as it matures and the entire border soon looks full and attractive. Choose the right material for the right location (this is where a professional designer can be of much help) and don't be afraid to come way out on a corner to soften it or to use a mass planting of one kind. A well-designed foundation planting should last many years with proper pruning. Learn how to prune--don't prune everything round like a globe or everything to a point. When you do this you take the beauty away.

Most neophytes put things too close to the home or building and too close together. It's like wallpapering (pasting to the wall). They forget what size the finished material will be in years to come. Also remember a woody shrub (deciduous) outgrows its environment in about six years. However, with some knowledge of pruning, many plants can be restrained in height and spread so that they can remain in their original spot. The greatest error in pruning is to delay too long in controlling the form of young plants.

(continued over)

One of the hardest things for people to accept is hearing that they must eliminate some of their overgrown trees and shrubs that have been there for years....like Arborvitae that are 20 feet tall on each side of an entryway, or Mugho Pines covering walkways or humungous Spruce in front of a home blocking light and view, or a large deciduous tree shading a swimming pool. People are horrified, they think it's crazy, to cut down "such beauty". They think it should last a lifetime, but it doesn't. Remember, proper planning is the key in having attractive home landscapes.

The most interesting home garden is one designed so as not to be all in view upon entering the garden. It's like going down a river--you don't know what is around the bend until you get there. You can do the same with a garden, the grass being the inviting path and evergreens spaced to give privacy and background.

Once the initial trees and foundation plantings are in you can begin to add the color and focal points--all to a predesigned plan. Flowers can be added where you can enjoy them even from inside your home beginning with window boxes, vines growing on trellises (Clematis), hanging plants attached to overhangs, and then perennial borders, annual flower plantings, patio pots. Two of my favorite plants that should be used more are Hostas (for shade) and Hemerocallis (for carefree summer COLOR in a sunny spot). Flower beds at the far corners of your lot or flower borders pasted along a lot line are very ineffective--plan to have your flowers bloom where you can readily view them and ENJOY them.

Plan a patio or an outside living area close by your kitchen for convenience and close by your beautiful plantings for enjoyment. If you have developed privacy and attractive plantings nothing is more enjoyable than spending leisure time outside in the summertime.

Beginning with a good overall design and continuing with a good lawn and adding beautiful blooming plants, go one step farther and keep up your enthusiasm with GOOD MAINTENANCE. This includes learning to care for your investments of trees and evergreens, fertilizing your grass 3 times for lush green growth and freedom from weeds. Top that off with regular mowing and ample watering for a constant well-groomed look. Your flower beds will look best when you cultivate the soil weekly early in the season until the growth fills in and weeds no longer even bother, then continue to cultivate just the edge that shows between your lawn and border for that finished look. Keep faded blossoms cut and spend a little extra time on your geraniums in pots to keep them looking fresh by removing any drying leaves and blossoms. Fertilize patio pots weekly for maximum bloom and growth.

All this provides you with exercise and time to enjoy your plants up close and the overall effect is a BEAUTIFUL GARDEN. I believe there is alot of tranquility and enjoyment in gardening.

* * * * *

LILIES

Removal of Winter Cover This can begin about mid April, but don't be too hasty as it is well to hold the ground cold and dormant. To accomplish this remove the cover in three stages so that by late April the soil is bare but still frozen. Another way to accomplish this delayed dormancy is to locate the lily planting on a north or northwest facing slope. This method is used successfully at the Arboretum. It should be noted the lily planting at the Arboretum receives no winter cover. By late April they like to use a dormant spray to rid the plantings of any pests and diseases left over from last year.

SUGARSNAP PEAS

Would like to quote Dick Saess from THE GARDENERS CORNER of Marietta, Ga. on his experiences with Sugarsnap peas. In his area he could plant them Feb. 12th. They were planted in two rows about ten inches apart, with a 48" fence between the rows, then two wires above the fence making the support about six feet high. They eventually topped out about eight feet, meaning that they reached the top wire, then dropped about two feet.

They do not twist around the support like pole beans but put out tendrils which curl around the wire or string. Wind and rain tended to make them break loose, especially after they passed the top wire and began to drop down. I attached a small rope to the posts and kept some of them from going all the way to the ground though a few vines got away from me and did just that. The vines are tender and brittle so do break if subject to too much stress.

Once they began to bloom they set on and bore profusely. I was too anxious and picked the first pods before they were quite ready. I was disappointed in

that there wasn't much taste. A week later I found some I had missed the first time. By then they were nice, fat pods, quite delicious. When they are that mature, they need to be strung. I recommend waiting until they need to be strung before trying to pick them. Then they are delicious.

We liked them best fresh. Just pick, string and eat right in the garden or cut in pieces and put in a salad. They are also good creamed as regular English peas or sauteed lightly in butter. My wife also cooked them with meat and other vegetables such as celery. And I am sure there are still other ways to prepare them.

They stayed edible and sweet even when the pods were so mature that they began to turn white. We continued to have some to pick for about six weeks. When they were bearing the heaviest we put several packages in the freezer. We like them best creamed as they do not retain enough crispness after thawing to be good in salads. (unquote)

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
OF CORTLAND COUNTY, NEW YORK

GARDEN TOURS

How About Yours?

Our summer tours are one of the high points of the club's summer activities. It is not too early to plan your garden additions on plantings so that your place may be attractive as a tour garden.

Over the years we often visit many of the same gardens. This is perhaps inevitable considering the desire to tour the nicer gardens and also the necessity of including homes in the same general locale. However, it is always good to see new gardens and ideas.

This year we have decided (as has been done at times in the past) to solicit members who would like to have their garden on tour. If you would like the committee to consider your garden for one of the tours, please complete the form below and mail it to Phil Smith. The committee will visit the gardens before arranging the tour schedule.

We cannot promise that all submitted gardens will be included in the tours. However, we will do our best within the confines of general interest and quality, numbers and geographic location. We may also consider a September tour for late gardens.

Phil Smith, Chairman
Tours Committee

GARDEN TOUR PROSPECT

I would like my garden considered for one of the tours. My garden will be more enjoyable in July, August or September. (circle)

Mail to: Phillip H. Smith
7511 Harold Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55427

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No. _____

TEST YOUR LEFT-OVER SEED

Most gardeners end up with part packages of seeds from previous years. Some are viable and some are not, so, here are a couple of methods of determining which are and which are not.

Number the compartments in an egg carton and fill with a medium such as vermiculite or perlite. Moisten well. Plant five or ten seeds of a variety in each compartment and record. Enclose a pliofilm bag. Take a count if and when seeds germinate and discard those which fail to germinate or those with too low percentage.

Another method used is to place a number of thicknesses of white paper towelling on a flat surface such as a cookie pan, mark into sections, moisten well, place a number of seeds in each section and cover with glass. Since the toweling has a tendency to dry out, it may be necessary to remove glass and water with an atomizer at intervals.

These weeks before the weather warms up permanently and the gardening begins in earnest, are the second-best time to get out all your tools, from trowel to lawnmower, and give them a good going over. First-best time was last fall, before they were put away. Oil everything that needs it, remove all dust, and sharpen up edges with a file. Remember, almost all garden tools are essentially specially-shaped knives. The sharper the edge the faster and easier the job.

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Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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FIRST CLASS

To

William H. Hull
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St. Louis 1980