

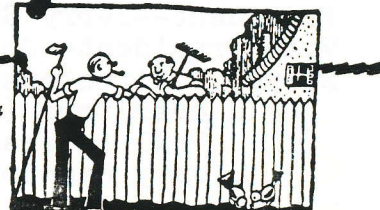


The Garden Spray

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

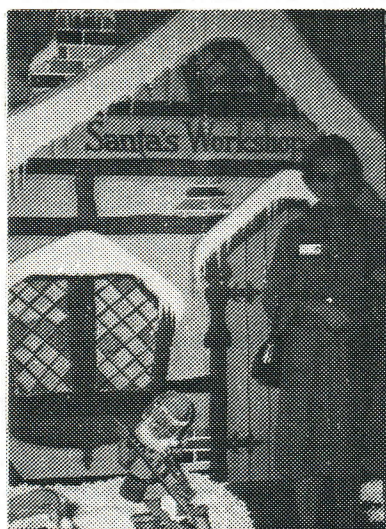
Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society

December 1981, Volume 39, Number 12



CHRISTMAS PARTIES PAST WERE MEMORABLE

THIS
WAS
BACK
IN
1978



THIS
WAS
BACK
IN
1979



THE 1981 MGCM CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE EVEN BETTER
SO
COME TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY, THURSDAY EVENING DECEMBER 10th
at
MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th St. at Knox Ave. S.

- There'll be a social half hour in advance
- There'll be the PARADE OF TURKEYS--A turkey per table
- There'll be a poinsettia for each lady
- There'll be entertainment--Spring Lake H.S. Chorus
- There'll be door prizes

IT'S BY RESERVATION ONLY--Deadline This Thursday December 3rd
SO
CONTACT DEAN SCHNEIDER if you haven't already reserved
\$8.50 Per Person -- In Advance

REMEMBER: Social Hour at 6:15 Dinner at 6:45

FAMILY, WIVES, GUESTS INVITED

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS IT

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

A nominating committee composed of Archie Caple, Chairman, Bob Gage, Fred Glasoe, Leon Snyder and Bob Livingston presented the following slate for 1982:

President--Jerry Shannon
Vice President--Chet Groger
Board of Directors--
 Hold over term (one year)
 Phil Peterson
 Gary Magnum

Secretary--Kent Canine
Treasurer--George McCullough

Two year term
 Bob Churilla
 Dale Durst

At program time Mary Maguire Lerman speaking from a recently resurrected bound volume on the history of the Lyndale Gardens--(the Lake Harriet Gardens, the Rose Gardens--take your choice), copies of which she had sent to every public library in the city, reported that as early as 1872 a Mr. King offered to sell a portion of his farm abutting on Lake Harriet for a park. There were no takers.

Finally, in 1890, the Park Board started buying land in the area and Mr. King donated 55 acres adjacent to the present rose center. A large swampy area was filled in. The original proposal for development of a rose garden was not well received because "rose gardens were not considered to be likely to prosper because of this climate". Nevertheless, in 1906 the Board spent \$10,000 for land purchases around Harriet and accepted \$46,000 worth of donated land.

Ms. Lerman digressed frequently from her major topic to present other interesting bits of information among them:

- Theodore Wirth wanted a park or playground within reach of every youngster in Minneapolis.
- Wirth planned to have plants, flowers, trees--a miniature arboretum--in the developing Lyndale Gardens. This accounts for the great variety of trees there at the time of the June 1981 tornado.
- The reason for the unusual shape of the large gingko is unknown. It has been attributed to loss of the original leader which loss has by some been blamed on youthful climbers.
- The Minneapolis park system is known nationally for it's continuity in development. Few other systems in the country have similarly developed continuing support for parks and carried on park expansion as the city grew.
- Vandalism in the parks is a real problem.
- The Park Board estimates that 48% of the persons using our large parks are non-residents. The park police obtained this information by checking the license numbers of cars in the Lake Harriet parking lots with the state license division. This provides an argument for county maintenance assistance.

As a final bonus Ms. Lerman brought for distribution a new, beautiful illustrated booklet, "Eloise Butler Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary--A Guidebook".

The Minnetonka MGC really works on city beautification. That its work is appreciated was evidenced by a check for \$200 received from John and Russ Gray for the plantings in the Excelsior area. This fall the club planted 700 tulip bulbs in the same area.

MGCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOVEMBER 6-7, 1981

Reported by Sherm Pinkham

Thirty directors from coast to coast were in attendance. With several wives there were 52 at the banquet on Saturday night. At this dinner John Leonard was installed as President for the coming year. The business sessions included reports by all officers and committee heads.

Finances Top priority as usual. Treasurer Harry Bevington's report was very favorable. Since former Executive Director Glenn Vincent left last May, his work has been taken over by Nancy Gorden, an employee of several years ago. The saving in salary is sizable. Becky Shiel has replaced Jim Brown as bookkeeper. Both woman are capable. Brown spent some time in the Iowa State prison but he has been released with the provision that he pay back to MGCA \$100.00 monthly or "back to the klink". The last two issues of The Gardener have been edited by Bob Fischer of the Des Moines Club. He is an experienced magazine man and, also, he is a rare specimen who refuses to accept pay from MGCA for his work. However, he was given a check for \$500 in appreciation. His plan is to enlarge The Gardener beginning March, 1982. He will welcome articles on gardening from club members.

Just prior to the meeting the books were audited by M. Collier. The cash condition was found to be correct and it is expected that we will go into 1982 with a fair cash balance. It was voted to repay the \$10,100 of notes payable outstanding by January 1st. The budget for 1982 was set at \$81,000.

Gardening from the Heart Pete Peterson of St. Louis, the spark plug of this committee, reports progress. Several clubs work with orphans and disadvantaged children on the order of our Fragrance Garden. The results are rewarding. This committee has ten garden slide programs available, chief of which is "We find God in our Garden".

Calendar Committee The report is favorable for the first year of operation --18,000 sold. It is believed that Minneapolis leads with 1602 sold*, although Pres. Jeff Collier's club leads with average sales of 18 per member. Chet Groger, a committee member, covered half of the U.S. with many phone calls. The project will be continued in 1982 with the drive slated to end by August 31. This is a money raiser in addition to acquainting people with MGCA.

Endowment and Investment Committee Total assets have reached \$105,000. Profit this year \$8,500; \$10,000 expected in 1982. Life members total 686. Life membership cost stays at \$100 or pay as you go, \$25 for 4 years. Both are a bargain. Akron 67 members, Austin 39, Minneapolis 17. The E & I assets are in a safe deposit box at the First Bank, Edina, and were inspected by Bill Hull and Chet Groger on November 3, 1981 and found intact.

Jacket Sales John Leonard has done a good job in the sales of garden jackets. They are a handy thing to have and they also help to advertize our clubs. The price is very reasonable. Profits to date for MGCA have amounted to \$3,800.

In my opinion the meeting was a real success. It was an opportunity to learn what is taking place on a national scale and to rub elbows with a great bunch of people from a town north of Seattle to Atlanta, from New York to Texas. These folks spend a lot of time (and money) to help promote gardening countrywide and to, thereby, beautify America. Not to mention the happiness given a little kid through the local club and spearheaded by our national organization. As for me, if we can make one disadvantaged

(over)

child happier the dues amount to nothing.

*Editor's Note: In a letter to me dated 10/26/81 Bob Smith of Spokane, MGCA Calendar Committee chairman, wrote, "The Minneapolis order for calendars is terrific and hard to beat nationwide. Hank Strange in Austin sold 1,555 by himself--he said, 'If I have to come in 2nd, it couldn't be behind a better bunch'".

MERVIN EISEL, YOU TURNED ME ON
by Bill Hull

Thanks, Mervin Eisel, for turning me on to terrariums, as you did at our October meeting. I went home and thought about it for a while before acting; I'm not in that much of a hurry that I acted quickly but on a bright, cheery morning two Saturdays later I came to life and made two terrariums. Or is it terraria? One in a green wine bottle, which I later tore apart, and another in a clear glass apple cider jug. Since then I've made one in a five gallon clear glass carboy formerly used for wine making. It's going to be passable.

What have I learned on my own, Mervin? Mainly that I need a "spoon" on a long handle. On hand I had a funnel with a long tube on the end; I could make temporary tools of other sorts from wire clothes hangers; and I bought a long "grabber" for a dollar and a half from my favorite hardware store. But moving sand, rock, soil, etc., around at the bottom of the bottle without a long-handled spoon is the toughest job.

For plants I bought small ones of: Norfolk Island pine, Buddhist pine (*podocarpus macrophyllus*), Peperomia species, Creeping fig (*ficus pumila*), and Selaginella kraussiana brownii which some call cushion moss and others call a club moss. Most of these were listed in your excellent sheet of instructions. For native moss I went scrounging in a nearby large park and found all I could possibly want.

Somewhere in one of my own books I picked up another idea; I wish I could give credit to the author but can't locate the paragraph again. This author suggested letting some ground moss dry, then putting it through a rough screen, moss, soil and all, sifting atop the soil and planting in the terrarium. He said it would eventually turn into a solid growth of new moss. So I've tried that as best I could. The problem is that ordinary window screen is too fine; with the residue of moss roots and tops I considered cutting it into shreds in Carol's blender, which would have worked fine, but every time I try to do it, she's around, so I ended up shredding it with scissors. Let's see if this technique works; I believe it will.

So thanks again, Mervin, for your good talk. I'll never be as good at this as you are, and won't even try to be, but I've had a little fun--at a time when I needed it.

Sedum Ellacombianum and the two-row stonecrop (*S. spurium*) are both recommended for the fronts of borders because they can be clipped every time the lawn edges are cut. They will make new growth to fill in the bare stems, and this can be repeated time after time throughout the growing season.

NEW MEMBERS

David P. Hoel
5540 Elliot Ave. S., Mpls. 55417

822-0551

Richard L. Tepley
2101 Drew Ave. S., Mpls. 55416

926-6944

KEY TO PEPPERS IS PROLIFIC HYBRIDS

The sweet or pungent, long or blocky, hot or mild pepper is often the pickiest plant in the vegetable patch. Picking the proper variety to grow is one solid step in solving the many problems home gardeners experience with this vegetable.







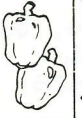













Pepper problems for home gardeners seem to revolve around the problem of yield per plant. Zucchini overwhelms the garden; the pepper plant often stands proud, lush and barren.

Peppers are somewhat particular about temperatures for fruit set. Peppers fertilized with heavy applications of nitrogen, or not given adequate phosphorous, may develop into good looking plants, but will not produce much fruit.

Ball Seed Company offers some tips to home gardeners:

- Use a complete fertilizer such as 10-10-10 before planting your vegetable garden. Do not side-dress peppers until after a good fruit set.
- Get all fruit-producing plants off to a good start at planting time with the addition of a starter fertilizer (such as 8-24-8).
- Plant peppers only after night temperatures have risen above 55 degrees. Planting too early will often stunt plants.
- Harvest fruit regularly. After mature fruit is harvested, new fruit set will begin.
- Rotate tomato, pepper and eggplant crops, making sure these three vegetables do not follow each other in the same location. Each is subject to the same diseases, some of which are soil-borne.
- The cooler the season, the more important the selection of early varieties. Peppers will not set fruit in very cool weather.

Hot or sweet, the pepper will grow, and bear prolifically, providing the gardener knows its requirements and asks for the hybrid varieties.

| PEPPERS...FOR STUFFING, SALADS, PICKLING AND SEASONING | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| SWEET VARIETIES | F ₁ Better Belle | Yellow Belle | Sweet Banana | Pimiento Perfection | Long Yellow Sweet | Red Cherry Sweet | Roumanian Sweet | Italian Sweet | Pepperoncini | Cubanelle | Dutch Treat |
| SHAPE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| COLOR | Green/Red | Yellow/Red | Yellow/Red | Green/Red | Yellow/Red | Green/Red | Yellow/Red | Green/Red | Green/Red | Green/Red | Yellow/Red |
| LENGTH | 4 1/2" | 3 1/2" | 6" | 2 1/2" | 6" | 1" | 3 1/2" | 6" | 4-5" | 6" | 4" |
| WIDTH | 3 1/2" | 3" | 1 1/2" | 3" | 1 3/4" | 1 1/2" | 2 1/2" | 1 1/2" | 3/4" | 2 1/2" | 2" |
| HOT VARIETIES | Hungarian Yellow Wax | Jalapeno | Cayenne Long Slim | Red Chili | Roumanian Hot | F ₁ Goldspike | Anaheim TMR 23 | Red Cherry Hot | Tabasco | | |
| SHAPE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | |
| COLOR | Yellow/Red | Green/Red | Green/Red | Green/Red | Yellow/Red | Yellow/Red | Green/Red | Green/Red | Yellow/Red | | |
| LENGTH | 5 1/2" | 3 1/2" | 6" | 2 1/2" | 4" | 2 1/4" | 7-8" | 1 1/2" | 2" | | |
| WIDTH | 1 1/4" | 1 1/4" | 3/4" | 1/2" | 2 1/2" | 1 1/4" | 1 1/2" | 1 1/2" | 1/2" | | |

NOTE: The first color listed is the stage when picking is most preferred. The second color indicates the mature stage.

RENUMBERING YOUR BY-LAWS

Since the by-laws changes carried in the September 1981 issue of the Garden Spray, were passed unanimously at the October meeting, you may want to make those changes in your copy of the by-laws (It's a green bound booklet distributed to all last year). This is what you should do:

The new Article II becomes page 17 in your book (or 16-A if you prefer), and each article thereafter is renumbered. The existing Article III becomes Article IV, etc. At the end of existing Article VIII (henceforth Article IX) you should add Section 3. Memorials, which was part of your September issue. Hence, your by-laws are updated.

--Bill Hull, historian

GET YOUR DUES IN. As noted in the letter you recently received from secretary Shannon MGCM 1982 dues are payable on or before December 1, 1981. As of November 12 treasurer McCollough had received checks from approximately 50% of our members. If you aren't one of that 50% hurry to take advantage of the \$24 bargain rate.

You can help prevent your Christmas tree from drying out by keeping it moister with a tree stand that holds a water based tree preservative. This is drawn up into the tree through the base, and keeps the whole tree fresher. One popular homemade preservative was developed by Harold Cook, nationally known florist and lecturer in 1965. It is a simple mixture of hot water, chlorinated bleach, light corn syrup and micronized iron packaged under the name Green Garde.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417



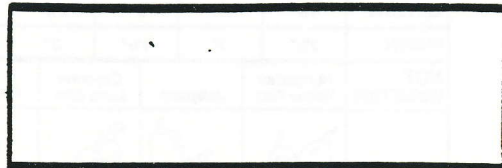
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

- President: RAYMOND D. MARSHALL
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- Vice President: DONAL O'DONNELL
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- Director: CHET H. GROGER
6836 Creston Road, Edina 55435
- Director: GARY J. MAGRUM
9532 Oakland Ave. S., Bloomington, 55420
- Director: PHILIP M. PETERSON
6529 Knox Ave. S., Richfield 55423

FIRST CLASS

To



IT'S TOLEDO, OHIO FOR 1982 -
August 7-11 at University of Toledo
Help us celebrate OUR 50TH!