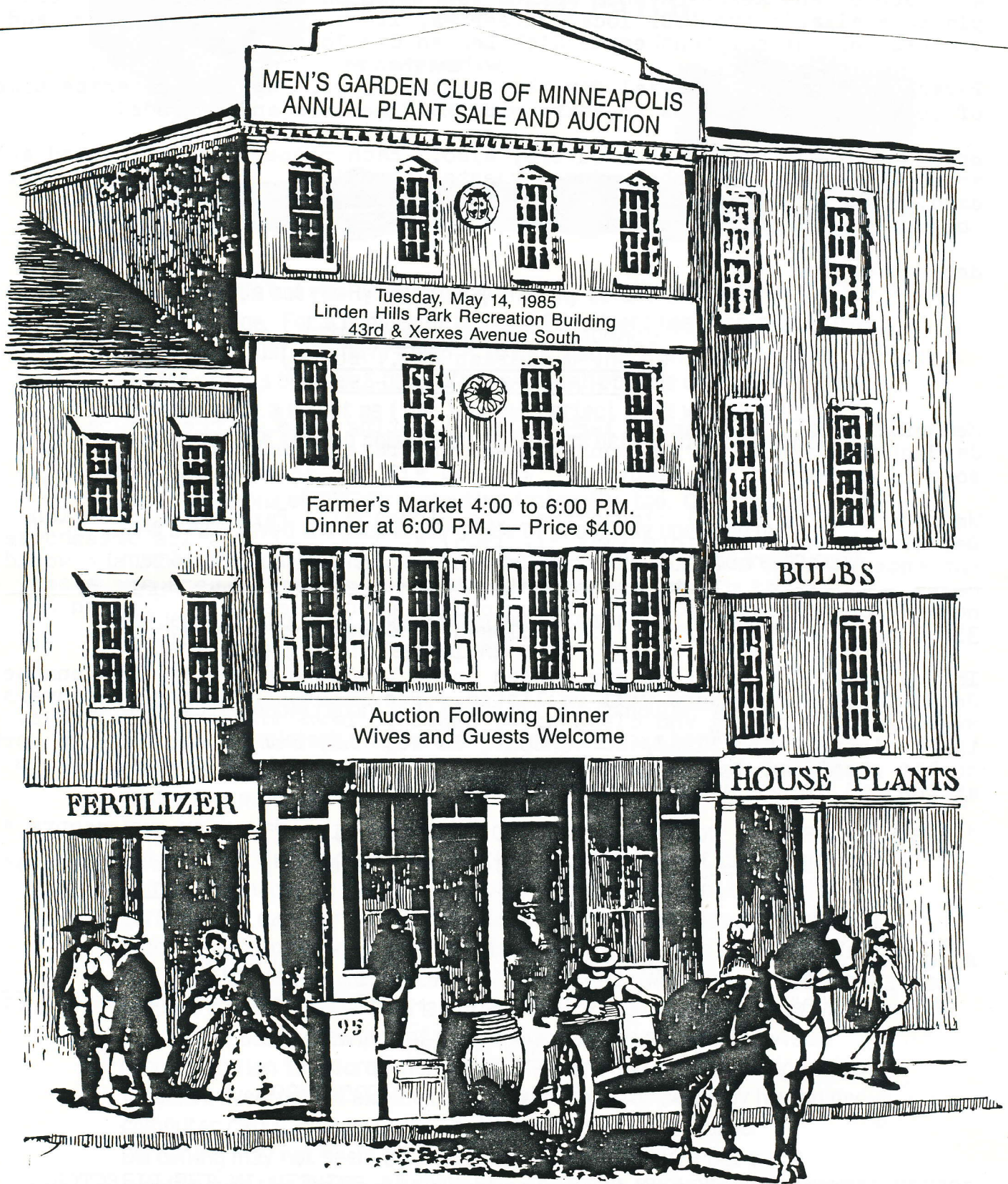


# The Garden Spray



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

MAY 1985, Volume 43, Number 5

IT'S TIME FOR THE BIG PLANT SALE AND AUCTION

The date is Tuesday, May 14th. The place is Linden Hills Park building, 43rd Street and Xerxes Avenue South. Our auction will provide the best plants available from our local nurseries, items from the Arboretum, and the best of the chrysanthemums Dick Lehman developed.

Please bring plant material for the Country Store. Why not separate some of your prize perennials to share with MGCM members and friends?

Bring some good prospective buyers, also. Each member will be called and asked to report the number of his guests attending. (Return a reservation card, anyway.) A fun time will be provided for all. This is our one money raiser with the bulk of the profits going to the Arboretum.

See you there!

--Dave Johnson, Co-Chairman

COMMUNITY FRAGRANCE GARDEN  
(19th, & Aldrich Ave., South)  
( M-i-n-n-e-a-p-o-l-i-s )

Members!!!!!!!!!! - June 1, 1985 is our planting date in the Fragrance Garden! Come All! Bring your shovels and rakes! On that date we have some 1,500 plants for planting. We need all the help we can get.

We have to pick up all plants from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Department the day before (May 31, 1985) at 1:00 P.M., at its Greenhouse entrance at 38th & Colfax. Mary Lerman of the Park Board said she would have a variety of plants in her selection. A number of cars are also needed for this pickup. The pickup of the plants has to be done on May 31, 1985 since the park board is closed on Saturday, June 1, 1985.

In the June 1985 issue of our Garden Spray bulletin a weekly Maintenance Schedule of our members will be listed. The maintenance schedule covers weeding and watering and clean up of debris. Lawn mowing is handled by the Society of the Blind, so we don't do it. Any member not able to work on his specified week should get a substitute from the Alternates shown at the end of the maintenance schedule.

"MEMBERS - WE WANT TO DO OUR BEST TO MAKE OUR CLUB PROUD OF THE GARDEN."

----Happy Gardening----Joseph L. Stenger, Committee Chairman

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

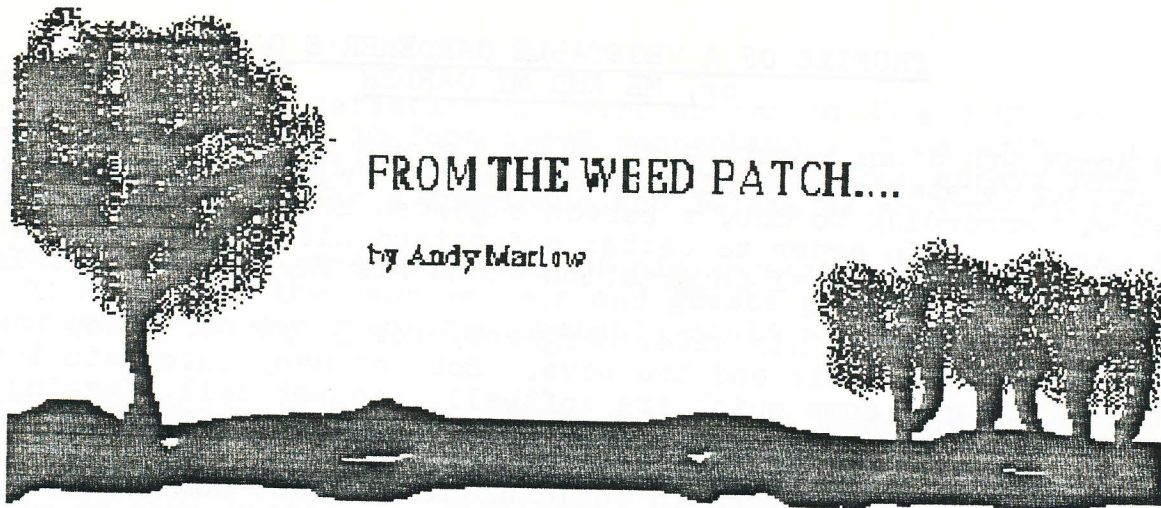
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Mpls. 55404

S. J. Rutherford  
521 Gamble Bldg.  
3737 Bryant Av. S., Mpls. 55409

NEW MEMBER

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St. Louis Park, MN 55416

JOSEPH ALFANO'S TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE NOT AS PRINTED IN THE DIRECTORY. They are: Home, 872-9864; Work, 871-2555. Please correct your directory.



## FROM THE WEED PATCH....

by Andy Marlow

I suppose it's not really fair to say that my column has entered the computer age. For a number of months, Ed Culbert has been able to use the column just as I have given it to him, rather than send it to the typist. That's because I have often written it on the computer at work. Even as inept a typist as I can turn out perfect work when I have a chance to look for and correct all the errors before they are printed out.

Bill Hull is one of MGCM's computing fraternity, too. Over the last two years he's saved the Club a fair piece of change by updating our membership list on his Commodore 64 and sending a photo-ready copy to the printer. No typesetting to pay for that way. He also edited Gardening Lessons We Have Learned on the computer, making his job easier and the print bill less expensive.

Now I can proudly report that I have my own computer. A bright, shiny new Apple Macintosh sits before me, ready to make both words and pictures at my command. The graphic at the top of the page was done in just a few minutes.

Not only is this thing good for writing, but a recent article in Family Computing magazine gave me all sorts of good ideas for using it in gardening. I can store all my garden records in a data base program and quickly compare year to year results -- even print out a paper copy for the skeptics who might not take my word for it. With the excellent graphic capabilities of the Macintosh and the right application program, I can make scale drawings of my various gardens and key the visual representation to information about the plant material growing in each location. Eventually I expect to be able to shop for seeds by having my computer call Park's or Burpee's computer to place the order. Gardening may not seem all that high-tech when you're out there turning over the garden with a spading fork, but the computer's impact is being felt in even less likely fields.

PROFILE OF A VEGETABLE GARDENER'S GARDEN  
or, ME AND MY GARDEN

At the April 9th dinner meeting of MGCM, the men attending were treated to a program on vegetable gardening by Bob Smith, vegetable gardener extraordinaire. According to Bob, a person's garden reflects the personality of the gardener. In order to better understand his garden, Bob gave the following autobiographical information about his family and himself.

Bob has been married to his wife, Margaret, for 34 years. They have four grown children, two girls and two boys. Bob has many interests that are athletic in nature, some which are softball, racquet ball, jogging, backpacking and hunting. He also has run a marathon or two in some very respectable times. His hobbies include carpentry and cabinet making, both skills which he utilized in building his present home.

The diet pattern of the Smith household is reflected in Bob's gardening, for numerous vegetables are always included on the menu. Bob's vegetable garden measures 150' by 100' subdivided into equal 50' x 50' plots.

Free leaf compost by the ton from Hennepin County is rototilled each spring into the garden after a year of composting as a mulch in and around the numerous foundation plantings. Bob leans toward being an organic gardener, being careful that when he uses fertilizers he use only fish emulsion, urea, wood ashes, bone meal, solpomag, etc. Insects and disease problems are kept to a minimum by rotating crops, and using Dipel (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) on the cruciferous vegetables. Fifteen years ago when slugs became a problem, toads and garter snakes totally eliminated this pest.

Corn, potatoes and tomatoes are produced in abundance in Bob's garden.

Corn is planted at five day intervals beginning with early maturing varieties such as Harris' Spring Gold on April 15, which is ready for picking by July 15. Planting of midseason varieties such as NK199 starts by May 1. These varieties start to come in by July 31. Silver Queen, Bob's favorite late variety seeding of which begins around June 5, is ready for harvesting around September 10. Besides sweet corn, field corn such as Longfellow is grown to grind into corn meal. Bob also grows several varieties of pop corn.

Potatoes should be planted early in rows 36" apart, 4" deep. The single eyes of certified seed should be spaced differently according to the variety. Extensive record keeping of yields has resulted in the following recommendations as to spacing:

Norland, 10"; Norgold Russet, 10"; Kennebec, 6"-8"; Anoka, 12"-14"

Potatoes should be hilled about June 15 and a six inch leaf mulch applied. Bob uses Solpomag (0-0-22) as a fertilizer on potatoes.

Bob grows his tomatoes in rows 4' apart with individual plants spaced at 36" intervals. Indeterminate varieties such as Big Boy are staked with only four stalks allowed to grow. The stalks are tied securely to the stake. This gives maximum yield. Determinate varieties that Bob grows are Celebrity and Roma, a paste type.

Peas are planted in mid-April in rows 6" apart with poultry netting in between as support. Favorite varieties are Lincoln, Green Arrow, and Little Marvel.

(continued on page 5)

APRIL MTG. from p. 4

Bob grows some forty varieties of dwarf apples on M9 and M26 root stock which gives 8 foot and 10 foot trees respectively at maturity. In keeping with his idea of spraying as little as necessary, Bob sprays four times a season with Polly Ram as a fungicide and Imidan as an insecticide.

I don't know if Bob gave away many of his vegetable gardening secrets, but I do know that the many members and guests present had more gardening tips passed their way than they probably could assimilate.

--Jerry Shannon

OTHER FLOWER/GARDEN SOCIETIES INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR  
1988 MGCA CONVENTION

Recently we have written special letters to 34 flower, garden, and horticultural groups in Minnesota, informing them of our 1988 MGCA convention here in Minneapolis and leaving the door open for their possible involvement in the convention. Just what that involvement might be, remains to be determined. One thought we have thrown out is the possibility of low-cost exhibit booths for these groups.

One paragraph included in the letters reads: "It has occurred to us that your group may want to participate, to present your story to our people, to make this contact with other gardeners, and to enhance the advance appeal of our meeting."

Of course this includes the Minnesota State Horticultural Society as well as "single-plant" societies like those specializing in roses, African violets, cacti, daffodils, dahlias, hemerocallis, hostas, marigolds, ad infinitum.

--Bill Hull, 1988 Convention Gen. Chm.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED

A meeting of past presidents was called for April 16 by past president Bill Hull to set up a 1985 MGCA 1988 Convention Committee, as instructed be done by the Board of Directors of our club at its regular April board meeting.

Past Presidents were notified of this meeting either at the regular MGCM meeting on April 9 or by mail dropped the next day. They were told they could call ahead and volunteer to be on the committee.

The committee has now been set and is announced as follows:

Bob Gage	Andy Marlow	Jerry Shannon	Frank Vixo
Chet Groger	Charlie Proctor	Russ Smith	
Ed Culbert, editor		Bill Hull, General Chairman	

The committee announced that it had been accumulating convention ideas, had contacted 34 other clubs in the area and, in general, making plans.

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DO YOU HAVE a Men's Garden Club of America green and white cap to distinguish you in your garden from the run-of-the-mill grimy-handed toilers of the turf? Why not get one?

**Every Member Sponsors A New Member**

LAKE HARRIET ROCK GARDEN PORTRAYED AT DAYTON-BACHMAN SPRING PARTY

Mary McGuire Lerman of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Department used beautiful slide projection on a huge reverse screen to take us through the early history of the long lost rock garden to its present status as a Park Board Project. It was originally conceived and constructed during the Theodore Wirth administration in 1929-30. A special limestone rock was hauled from near Red Wing and used to build the rock garden across the road from the Rose Garden. It became a much-visited area of Lyndale Park and the home of many plant collections, including alpine plants, ferns and evergreens.

Over a period of years, the rock garden was invaded by undesirable trees, shrubs and vines to the point where it became unmanageable. Care and maintenance were suspended in the mid 1940's. It wasn't until after the June 1981 tornado that the rock garden was again exposed during the clean-up operation. Neighbors and Park Board people became interested in restoring the Rock Garden and donations allowed the start of the project. Under the guidance of Mary Lerman and Betty Ann Mech of the Rock Garden Society, work was started in 1984 and is well under way. All rocks had to be excavated and repositioned according to a master plan and in such a way as to discourage the growth of unwanted plants. Some plantings have already been made and plants from the Dayton-Bachman Show, that are adaptable to the new rock garden environment, have been contributed to the project.

Work will continue on the Rock Garden this year and it will be interesting for us to watch its development. When we visit the Rose Garden, we should walk across the road and watch its progress. Our Club has a special interest in the Lyndale Park area, starting with our original flowering crabapple planting in 1952, our replacement of that planting in 1983, our gift of several large trees in 1983 to replace some lost in the tornado, our Arbor Day trees planted in 1983 and 1984 and our planned rose planting in the Rose Garden in memory of Carl Holst. Our interests will now include the new and developing Rock Garden.

— Chet Groger



Return to  
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