

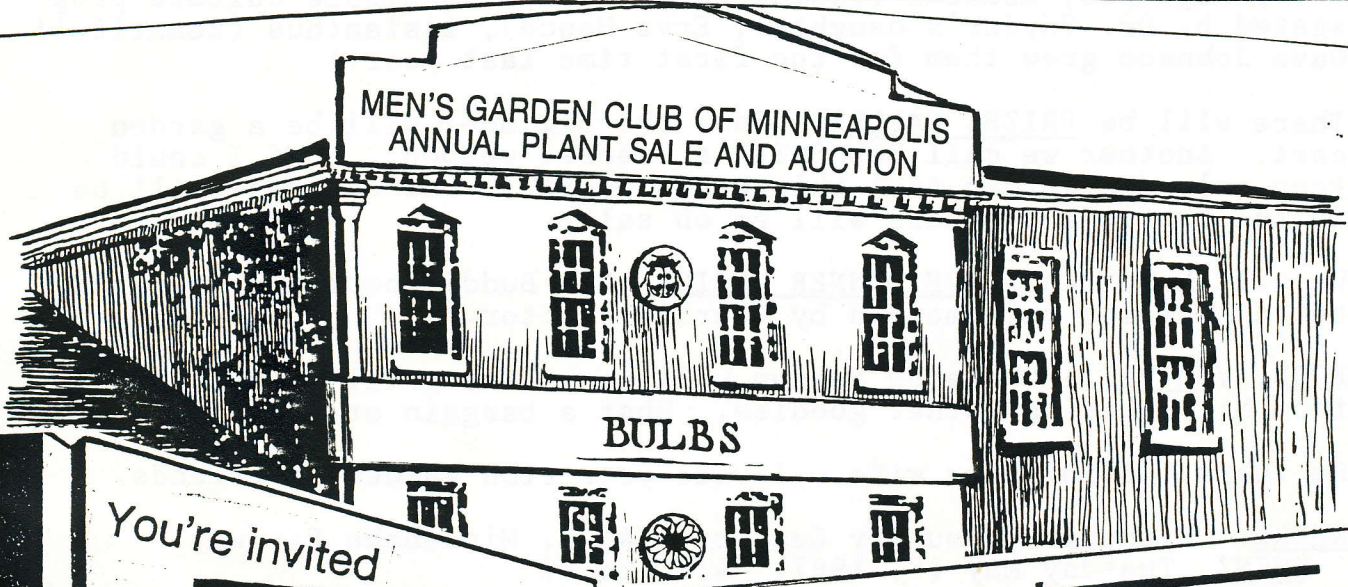
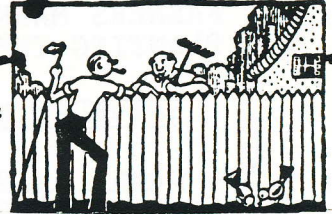


The Garden Spray

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

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

May 1987, Volume 45, Number 5



You're invited

Spring Sale

AUCTION

QUALITY HOME GROWN
NURSERY STOCK.



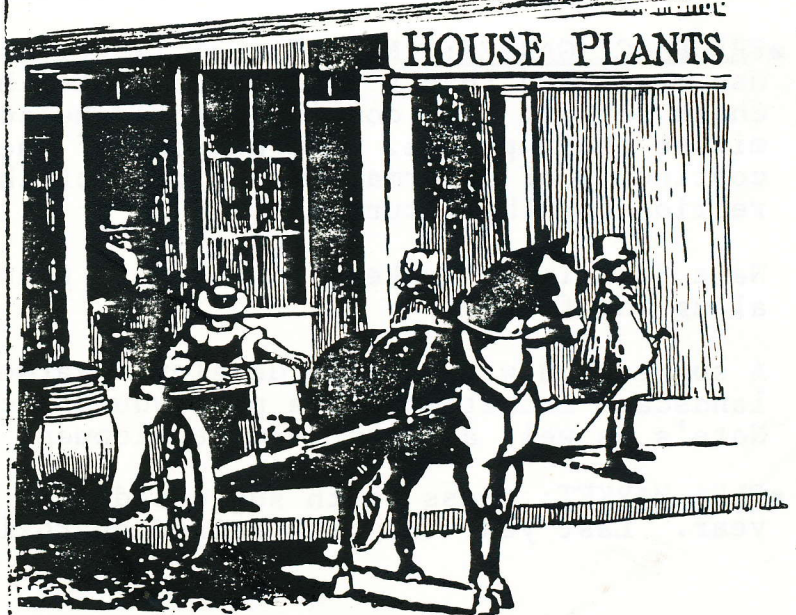
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis
TUESDAY MAY 12th 1987

LYNHURST COMMUNITY CENTER
1345 West Minnehaha Parkway

Farmer's Market 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.
Dinner at 6:00 P.M. — Price \$4.50

Auction Following Dinner
Wives and Guests Welcome

SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION CARD AT ONCE



THREE BIG EVENTS FOR MGCM IN MAY

1. ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING. 10 A.M. Saturday May 9. Meet just north of Lake Harriet rose garden. (Details in April SPRAY)
2. FARMERS' MARKET AND AUCTION. Tuesday May 12 (See below)
3. PLANTING THE COMMUNITY GARDEN. Saturday May 30 (See page 3)

SATURDAY MAY 12. AUCTION PRECEDED BY THE FARMERS' MARKET

A The plant selection looks great! There will be lots of hanging bas- A
U kets, begonias, azaleas (Winter hardy varieties tissue culture prop- U
C agated by Dr. Snyder's daughter, Erva Hance), lisianthus (Beautiful! C
T Dave Johnson grew them for the first time last year.) T
I
O There will be PRIZES GALORE. One, the big one, will be a garden O
N cart. Another we call Bob Smith's secret weapon. ("If I could N
keep only one garden tool this would be it") One of these will be
A in the raffle and others will go on sale. A
U
C We will have real LIVE DINNER MUSIC. Not Buddy Koopman's Big Band C
T but a musician recommended by Charlie Proctor. T
I
O FOOD, YOU BET. Carleton Nelson will be at the grill with Bratwurst O
N from Milwaukee and other goodies. What a bargain at \$4.50! N

A Be there. Bring your wife. Invite your rich gardening friends. A
U
C WHERE? Lynhurst Community Center, 1345 W. Minnehaha Parkway. C
T WHEN? Tuesday May 12, 1987. 4:30 to ?? T
I WHAT FOR? .Farmers' Market 4:30 P.M. I
O .Dinner 6:00 P.M. (Only \$4.50) O
N .Auction and prizes 6:40 P.M. N

NOTES FROM THE APRIL BOARD MEETING

- PLANT SALE: It was recommended that we keep thorough records of plants that were purchased, returned or in big demand.
- NATIONAL CONVENTION: The rooms reserved at Holiday Inn have been dropped and the number of rooms at the Hyatt Regency was reduced to 175 based on the history of previous convention attendance. MGCM must fill 75% of the room reservations in order to guarantee free use of meeting rooms. For every 50 rooms filled the club receives one free suite.
- FRAGRANCE GARDEN: Nate Siegel is writing a history of the garden. He has requested that a special committee be formed to advise the current chair person. The committee would be comprised of the last three committee chair people. The purpose of the committee would be to provide continuity of information and care of the garden as well as to give direction for the future.

Nate Siegel will make a donation to plant perennials, preferably clematis, along the fence.

A suggestion was made we develop a garden plan using the assistance of a landscape architect. The plan would incorporate contributions such as Nate's as well as long term development and design of the garden.

- FLEA MARKET: Russ Smith suggested that we have a flea market again this year. Last year the club raised approximately \$600. Russ and Herb Neby

(continued page 3)

will coordinate the market this year. The date was set for the week after the plant sale. Bob Churilla will look into hosting the event. The criteria for a good location include: good parking, access to a high volume pedestrian/auto area, easy to locate, and shelter in case of rain.

COMMUNITY FRAGRANCE GARDEN
(The Garden for the Blind)
19th and Aldrich Avenue South
M-I-N-N-E-A-P-O-L-I-S

What fun we had April 11, 1987! Five of us dug, pitched, threw, raked, piled and planned while cleaning up the Community garden. By the end of the morning we were five dirty old men. What a team (Alexander, Culbert, Peterson, Stenger and Johnson). Now I'll bet you are just itching to get your hands into the dirt, too. Your chance is coming.

ON MAY 30th AT 9:00 A.M. WE WILL BE PLANTING 1100 ANNUALS. These little garden beauties will be provided by the Minneapolis Park Board.



If you wish to get an early look at these infant specimens call Phil Peterson (869-3730). Volunteer to help him pick up and hide them from marauders. May 29th is the date for this activity.

We'll need more than a dirty dozen on May 30th so if you don't give me, Duane Johnson (824-0295), a jingle I may elect to give you this once a year opportunity. Bring all your usual tools (shovels, rakes, trowels).

ONE LAST ITEM. We know these little seedlings need attention. If you fail to help with watering and weeding they will expire from neglect. Remember the national MGCA convention is coming in 1988. We need to be the model for the country. So, give me a call and offer to help by watering and weeding for a week.

--Duane Johnson,
824-0295



Nut Grass - the creeping grass of the sedge family which when found in a garden location will drive one "nuts" trying to get rid of it.

Dayton-Bachman Flower Show Reviewed

by Andy Marlow

In what has become an annual tradition, MGCM members and their guests gathered March 24 for dinner, a talk and a tour of the Dayton-Bachman Flower Show at the downtown Dayton's store. This year's theme was "The Guthrie Gardens" in honor of the 25th year of the Tyrone Guthrie Theatre. The talk was called "The Magic of the Theatre" and was given by Ruth Bachman, wife of MGCM member Dale Bachman and a long-time volunteer at the Guthrie. She gave a series of lectures throughout the show to make the connection between the show and the theatre even more direct. Her talk was both interesting and informative. In addition to providing a general background on the collaborative process known as theatre and on the Guthrie's history, she also provided a biography of the Flower Show's designer, Desmond Heeley.

The 1987 Dayton-Bachman Show was Heeley's first effort at designing a flower show. He has had a close association with the Guthrie over the years, having designed sets and costumes for such Guthrie productions as "Oedipus the King," "Love's Labour Lost," and "Arms and the Man." Ms. Bachman called Heeley a "self-professed romantic" who designed the show with children in mind. She also quoted him as saying that "creating with things from nature is more difficult than creating the illusion of the theatre."

In creating "The Guthrie Gardens," Heeley used all the theatrical design elements; color, shape, texture, lighting and sound. Each area of the 8th floor auditorium had its own ambience, complete with appropriate lighting and unique sound. The entrance, for example, was a dimly lit horticultural tunnel, lined with azaleas and roofed with hanging baskets of fuschia. The only sounds were those of the excited show-goers. The tunnel gave way to a large dome of mylar panels. A foot path followed the edge of the dome and circled a central pillar of ferns, palms and hanging vinca. This pillar was also a fountain, the water falling with characteristic tinkling sounds onto a "pool" of broken mirror glass. The lighting here focused all attention to the fountain.

From the fountain room the visitor emerged into the large central room centered on two large, blooming Kobus magnolias. The fragrance of freesias and hyacinths scented the air. The sounds of birds singing added to the illusion. Large plexiglas panels, some opaque and some transparent, hid the walls from view and gave an almost oriental feel to the space. A long peninsula of white birches with a carpet of narcissus and tulips provided a screen which hid the centerpiece of the show.

That centerpiece was a carousel atop a bed of multi-colored tulips. The carousel actually turned to the accompaniment of softly-played carousel music. All the animals aboard -- including an elephant, geese, rabbits, etc. -- were simulated topiary; moss attached to wire mesh frames. All of the ornate decoration of the carousel was of horticultural materials, with a center of Japanese maples.

After the carousel, the only thing left was the exit -- through the mouth of a gigantic cat with fur made of ferns and a snout of moss. Like the exit, the path through the show was controlled. It was difficult to just wander, as in years past. You could only succeed by following the route laid out by Mr. Heeley. But it was a route that let room after room unfold. Just when you thought you'd seen the best part, you find something even better. To me this was one of the best Dayton-Bachman Shows of recent vintage. It was a theatrical as well as horticultural experience. If you didn't make the MCGM meeting, I hope you got a chance to see the show and compare your feelings with this one reviewer's opinions.



"TELL THEM TO WAIT - I'M BUSY GARDENING"

- Bob Olson
President
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

When I first became interested in gardening, a neighbor gave me a few Hosta plants to put around the elm tree in front of my house where nothing seemed to grow. I thought it amazing that these tough little plants could be divided into such small divisions and yet seem to thrive the first season. Shortly after that I visited a friend's home and in her back yard she had some beautiful old stands of Royal Standard (a very large sun tolerant variety). I was surprised to learn that these were also Hostas. My mother then showed me a variegated type she had been growing in her back yard since I was a young boy but had obviously never noticed. I then knew that there were three types of Hostas: small, large and variegated.

Dr. Crossley (our January speaker on peonies) told me he had seen an ad for Hostas for sale from a greenhouse in Edina. He gave me the number and I called Bob Savory. He gave me the elaborate directions on how one gets to his home from the freeway and I eventually made it. Once there I was stunned. I had no idea there was such a huge number of Hostas one could grow. The Savorys (Bob and Arlene) took time out to show me their huge collection of plants. Their enthusiasm for these wonderful little shade plants is incredibly contagious. I soon had purchased a large one, a small one and a variegated one. Arlene Savory then suggested that I see the prize groupings outside her living room window. Dutifully I walked up the gravel driveway and came upon a remarkable collection of mature Hosta plants. Among them was the most lovely shade plant I had ever seen. It was a huge mature clump of Montana Aurea Marginata. This is a grand large-leafed clump of leaves with wide gold margins and dark green centers. It is truly a show-stopper. I just stood there and looked at that plant for many minutes.

After awhile I returned down to the sales area and asked Arlene, "What was the name of that beautiful large plant with the gold edged leaves?" She told me. I then asked if perhaps they sold one of those every now and then. She said that they occasionally did but didn't put it in the price list because it was very slow growing and quite expensive. I asked if they might have one available then. She told me that she was pretty sure they did and it was in the back. She eventually told me it was \$40.00. I immediately changed the subject and left knowing that no reasonable gardener would pay over \$3.95 for a plant.

I went home then and planted my beautiful new specimens. It was a very enjoyable day but I kept thinking back to the big Montana with the gold leaves. For the next two days I thought about that plant every now and then and finally driving down the freeway one day said to myself, "If you were going to think about this twice a day you'd be better off just going and buying one." So, with a small cache of money I had hidden from my wife, I went over to Savorys and asked if I could buy one. Bob Savory himself brought it out from the back room and said, "This is a real beauty but she grows kind of slow." There it was in a quart size pot with one leaf. This was a sorry little specimen compared to the huge one outside their window. He assured me, however, that it was the same plant and theirs had started just like that 6 or 7 years before - well, maybe 8 or 9 years before.

I went home with high hopes and promptly dug up a little bush to find a spot to put this. Bob Savory told me that if I gave it a little sun it would grow faster. So

(over)

I put it where it would get some east morning sun. I dug two 40 lb bags of composted manure in my hole and carefully set the plant in the center of this \$10.00 hole. Over the next few days I went out and looked at that with love and admiration and gave it a lot of TLC.

About a week later I was having breakfast and my wife was looking out the kitchen window and shouted, "Bob, you'd better come quick!". I raced to the window, looked in the backyard and there was a rabbit eating my Montana. I ran into the backyard to chase that rabbit, throwing my slippers, shouting evil things about his mother, but the rabbit finished eating the plant to the ground before I could get there and then scornfully hopped away through the fence. My plant had been eaten to the ground. I was disconsolate.

After that I resolved to put chicken wire around the entire perimeter of my yard to keep rabbits from ever being able to do this again. By the next week I was feeling a little better and one day while walking past my garden I noticed there were two little shoots coming through the ground. The Montana Aurea Marginata was sending up two shoots where there had been one before. You can't imagine my relief. Now this plant is the superstar of my collection. It has 25 crowns each year when it comes up in the Spring. Its picture was inside the front cover of the bulletin of the American Hosta Society last Fall. If you want to see it sometime, come by my house and I will tell you all about rabbits, fences, Hostas and how one shouldn't despair even when catastrophe strikes your garden. Sometimes the most unexpected benefits come from such a situation if you persevere. It's certainly true in growing Hostas.

* * * * *

This may be the best time to divide your Hosta plants. It may be even a little past that. If you can divide the plant when the unfurled leaves look like upsidedown golf tees protruding out of the ground, you can divide the plant into the maximum number of divisions with the least trauma to the plant itself. If you wait until later in the year when the leaves are in full bloom and at the end of long petioles the plant will grow well enough but it will probably have to be supported with stakes for the rest of the summer. This usually looks a little tacky if nothing else. The divisions made earlier in the year grow like normal plants and in general do better.

Premium, slow growing, or otherwise special Hostas should be divided in the following fashion:

1. The entire plant should be dug up being careful not to cause much trauma to the root system.
2. The excess dirt should be shaken gently from the clump and then the root immersed in a large bucket of water. Using your hands, all the dirt should be gently washed from the root system.
3. You should now be able to see each crown or unfurled leaf attached to its root system. In the center of the clump it will be difficult to distinguish individual crowns and their root systems. A sharp knife should be used to cut 2 or 3 good crowns and their root systems from the main bunch. Although it is a bad idea to have only a few roots for a crown, these are amazingly tough plants and with care you can nurse along a division with an extremely limited root system. An expert like Bob Savory can sometimes divide a Golden Tiara clump down to single crowns. The rest of us settle for two or three.
4. After the crown has been soaked in water for a good period of time (an hour or so) you can plant it directly in the ground.
5. "Never put a \$5.00 plant in a 50¢ hole." Dig a good hole for your Hosta plant. It will be there for 20 years I hope. This is your only chance to prepare the soil. I dig in half a 40 lb bag of composed manure for each small plant. I make the hole at least 18 inches across even for a small plant. The single most important factor is adequate organic material as the plant begins to grow. Don't fertilize it. The soil should be deep and well drained, especially in the Spring.

Swing into Spring with the

1988 FLOWERS YOU COULD GROW.

As Colonel Potter of "Mash" would say, "It's four o'clock in the blessed morning and why are you working on the 1988 convention, Bill?"

Because I've just been reading a new book called "The Gardener's Palette" that lists flowers by height and blooming time and ultra-hardiness, which means they should bloom in summertime in Minnesota and live through our winters. With apologies to all those who know better than I do, here is a list, taken from this very complicated book, for what it's worth:

Over five feet: Goat's Beard (*Aurincus dioicus*), Black Snake Root (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), and Plume Poppies (*Macleayaa* species).

Two to five feet: Italian Bugloss (*Anchusa azurea*), Columbines (*Aquilegia* species and hybrids), Shasta Daisy (*Chrysanthemum maximum*), Cosmos (species and varieties), Delphiniums (hybrids and varieties), Globe Thistles (*Echinops* species and varieties), Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*), Daylilies (*Hemerocallis* hybrids), Chinese Peonies (*Paeonia lactiflora* hybrids), Oriental Poppies (*Papaver orientale*), Phlox (*Phlox paniculata* varieties), Obedient Plant (*Physotegia virginiana*), and Potentilla (*Potentilla fruticosa* varieties and hybrids).

One to two feet: Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*), Snapdragons (*Antirrhinum majus nanum* varieties), China Asters (*Callistephus chinensis* varieties), Bellflowers (*Campanula* species and varieties), Coral Flower (*Heuchera sanguinea*), Spike Gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*), Catmint (*Nepeta X faassenii*), Pincushion flowers (*Scabiosa* species and varieties), and Speedwells (*Veronica* species and varieties).

The little guys - less than one foot: Mouse-Ear Chickweeds (*Cerastium* species), Pinks (*Dianthus* species and hybrids), and Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*).

Now these are the "Ultra-Hardies" supposedly capable of taking twenty to forty below zero. But, fellows, there ain't no guarantees in life.

If anyone wants to argue with the editors I'll gladly furnish their address.

Cordially,

Bill Hull

**Every Member Sponsors A New Member
Every Member Sponsors A New Member
Every Member Sponsors A New Member**



THE (PLANT) DOCTOR'S ADVICE

By Chuck Levine

Selecting bedding plants

It's that time of year when we begin purchasing bedding plants for transplanting into our gardens. Regardless of the type of plants to be purchased, here are some tips for selecting the best ones.

First of all, select plants most appropriate to your location. Consider the mature heights of the plants as well as their soil and light requirements.

Plants should be carefully checked for signs of pests or diseases. Look on the undersides of the leaves as well. Tall, spindly plants and those already blooming are best avoided. Some plants such as cosmos, celo-

sia and amaranthus may become permanently stunted from too long a stay in the packs. Instead, select compact, branched plants that are barely in bud. These will take to transplanting better and adjust better to your garden. Avoid plants with pale green foliage, as this may indicate a nutritional deficiency. As always, start right with healthy plants.

Lastly, plants grown in compartment type containers are much easier to transplant. Those sold in solid packs often suffer root damage when torn apart. If solid packs are purchased, divide the plants by cutting them apart with a sharp knife rather than tearing them apart.

There is a tremendous variety of plants to choose from. Plants are available for every area of the garden. Experiment with new varieties and plants not grown before. Those marked "All-America Selections" are new varieties that have been rated as the best for North American gardens by a council of experts across the USA and Canada. Many of these can be seen in annual trial gardens.

Remember, before doing any major plantings or changes in your common area, to consult with the Grounds Committee. You can do this in person or by submitting your idea, on paper, through the clubhouse slot.

The following list may be helpful in selecting plants for various locations:

Light shade—Alyssum, Mimulus, Nasturtiums, Pansy, Snapdragons

Heavy shade—Balsam, Begonia, Coleus, Impatiens

Poor soil—Amaranthus, Balsam, Portulaca, Vinca (Catharanthus)

Heat and drought—Cleome, Marigolds, Portulaca, Salvia, Verbena, Zinnia

Climbers—Cypress Vine, Gourds, Hyacinth Bean, Morning Glory, Sweet Pea, Scarlet Runner Bean

Quick bloomers—Dwarf Marigolds, Alyssum, Petunia, Dahlia, Zinnia

May, 1987

TIP FROM HOUSTON'S YARDNER: A good tool to make your transplants from a tray is an old lead pencil, preferably one used by someone that makes a lot of mistakes so the eraser is worn down flat. The eraser end can be used to push the plugs out without damage, then the pointed end can be used to make the hole in the medium. Finally use the eraser end to tamp the medium around the plug.

- 8 -

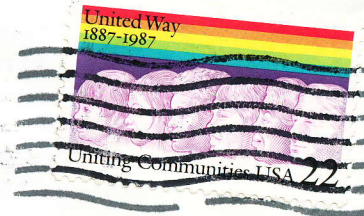
Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.
CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Robert C. Olson
2840 Glenhurst Ave., St. Louis Park 55416
Vice-President: Duane A. Reynolds
7116 - 39th Ave. N., New Hope 55427
Secretary: Rick L. Bonlender
3345 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis 55407
Treasurer: Joseph L. Stenger
5421 Girard Ave. S., Minneapolis 55419
Past-President: Robert G. Churilla
2608 - 34th Ave. N.E., St. Anthony 55418

DIRECTORS:

Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka 55343
David O. Moehnke
2400 E. 125 St., Burnsville 55337
Charles R. Proctor
7220 York Ave. S., Edina 55435
Herbert L. Neby
3801 Welcome Ave. N., Crystal 55422



Mr. Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55343