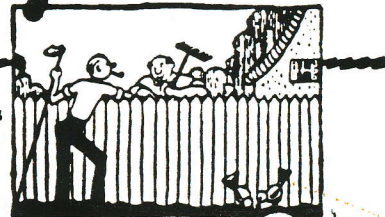




The Garden Spray

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

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



April 1990, Volume 48, Number 4

NEXT MGCM MEETING

TUESDAY EVENING APRIL 10th, 1990

LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHOWEN AVENUE SOUTH at 49th STREET

DINNER 6:00 P.M. PRICE \$6.00

GET YOUR RESERVATIONS TO REED SONSTEGARD AT ONCE

THE AUCTION IS COMING MAY 8TH -- YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

The Country Store depends primarily on materials contributed by MGCM members though there usually are a few other items. We need your excess perennials, excess annuals, surplus but usable equipment. There may still be time to start some quick growing annuals or vegetables in peat pots or paper cups just for the Country Store. Bring your contributions early. The Country Store closes at 6 P.M. to allow time for dinner before the auction starts at 7 P.M.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

THE DATE IS DECEMBER 4, 1990 (Not December 11, 1990 as shown in the Roster Calendar.) so to get the ball rolling co-chairs Don Powell and Walt Gustafson have called a committee meeting for Monday April 2nd at Walt's home, 3812 W. 57th St. They note: "We should be thinking of the menu, preparation and service of food, decorations including floral arrangements, entertainment, gifts, etc. Also, it would be good to inject something novel, add a little "oomph" somehow. Dwight Stone has volunteered to take charge of the "turkeys" and has assured us they will be done to perfection this year."

* * * * *

Have you signed up yet for the trip to visit Doug Smith's Trillium Lake Farm on June 1, 2, 3? If not we have reprinted the notice about the trip, together with the sign up form, on page 7.

See, also, the further information given by Kent Petterson on page 3. The trip promises to be not only informational but also fun.

"Let us learn more about and from nature, and once we are more knowledgeable, may we work with natural processes in producing the food and fiber we need-- and relegate synthetic foods, clothing, and the like to museums where we might pause to reflect on how interesting was the hundred year period of humankind which made all manner of curious things out of fossil fuels through chemistry."
--Thomas M. Butterworth, in Avant Gardener, July 1988

ARBOR DAY PLANTINGS AT LAKE HARRIET

The Men's Garden Club has had a long standing practice of planting at Lake Harriet park. It started in the 40's with a planting of crabapple trees near the rock garden and continues to this day.

Why trees not shrubs, not perennials, not annuals? Member Charles Carlson has supplied the following answers. Trees have the longest lives of any living thing.--Some bristlecone pines are over 4000 years old.

Trees are the biggest living things on earth.--The giant sequoia is six times heavier than the blue whale.--Redwoods and eucalyptus are more than 300 feet tall.

Trees supply many practical things

- Wood for houses, furniture, heat.
- Fruits and nuts

- Spices--cinnamon, nutmeg, cocoa.
- Paper
- Maple syrup
- Drink flavors--
gin from juniper berries
kola from kola nuts

Trees clean air (by removing carbon dioxide)

Trees make oxygen

Trees are the basis for medicines

- Salicin (aspirin) from willow leaves and bark.
 - Quinine from cinchona bark
 - Ginkgolide from the ginkgo

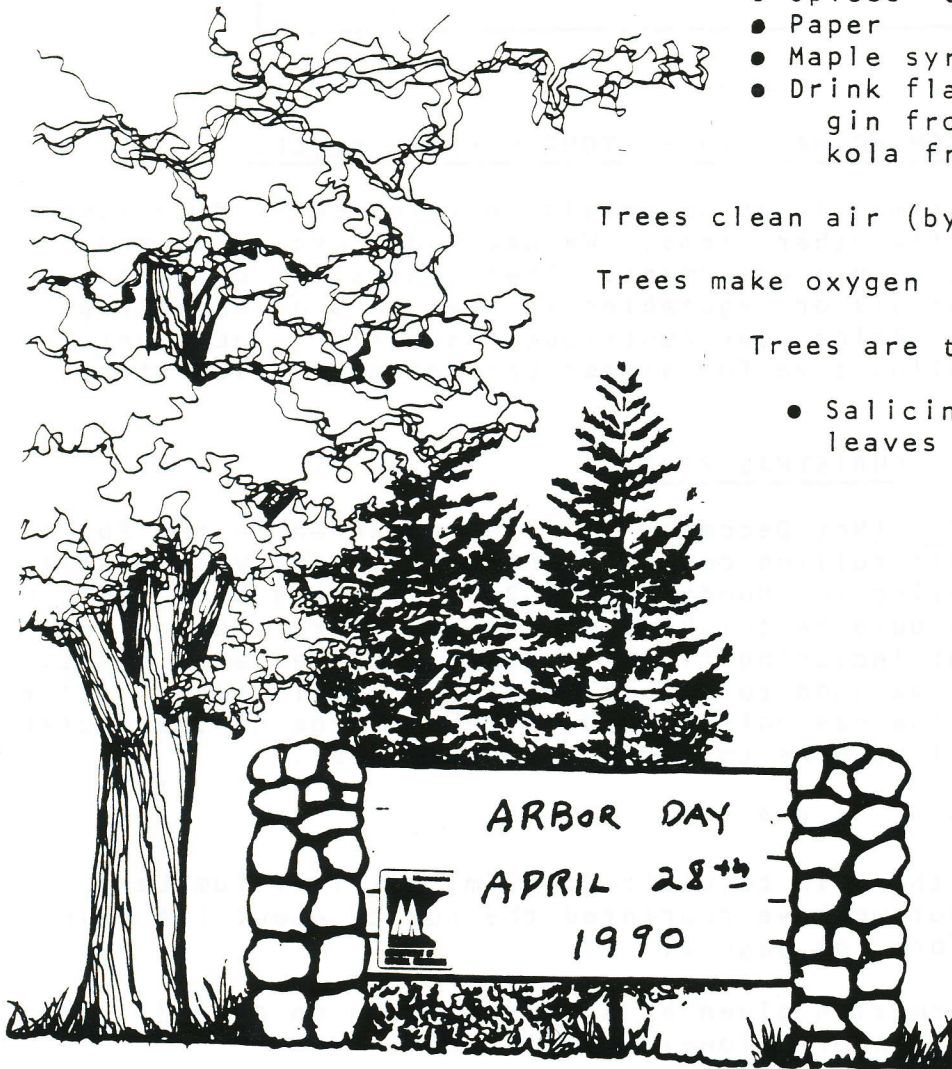
Trees cool the land by:

- Enhancing rainfall (Trees put water into the air.)
- Providing shade

Trees provide wind breaks to prevent erosion.

PLANT TREES

PLANT TREES



VIEWS FROM THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

MGCM PRESIDENT KENT PETTERSON



VEGETABLES FOREVER

Our club Historian, Bill Hull, called me recently to announce the long lost picture book of past officers has been found. The book contains pictures of officers from MGCM's beginnings thru 1955. A bit of our club's history has been reclaimed you might say. A second picture book, which Bill himself developed, carried this picture record of club officers thru to the mid 60's. Bill has proposed to your Board and received encouragement and approval to complete the task of assembling a third book of officer pictures thru to the present. If you are a past officer or have contact with the family of deceased officer members, I'm sure Bill would appreciate your help.

We think one of the best aspects of club meetings is the member presentations - the Mini Sessions. If you have a horticultural topic you'd like to share with the club, give Merle Pulley a call. Our April MGCM Volunteer of the Month, Russ Smith, was the presenter for our February meeting. If you missed it, Andy Marlow wrote about it in the March Spray. Russ, exemplifies the type of volunteers we have in MGCM. Thanks Russ for your dedication to the Men's Garden Club. Last winter when we assembled the committees for the 1990 Roster, I asked Russ which Committee's he wanted to work on. He said, "just put me down wherever you need help". We were delighted and the club benefited. The point is, MGCM is worthwhile because we as club members make it so by participating.

Elsewhere in the Spray, you will find the registration form for the MGCM tour to Doug Smith's Trillium Lake Farm. Registrations have started coming in and we're very enthusiastic about this event. Some have asked if this tour is open to wives and children. Yes, we hope everyone invites family members. Bring the whole family! Bring your neighbors and friends too. We will have several interesting activities, but we won't try to entertain you for the entire weekend. Plan to have time available for a walk in the woods, family games, a good book or conversation - it's your weekend. A nice summer outing.

We have received a letter from Herb Roerick of the Deep Portage Staff. Our host "Deep Portage" is an outdoor adventure center. The overnight facility consists of sleeping rooms which have three to four bunk beds. Each room has a private locking shower and toilet. They do not provide bedding (pillow, sleeping bag or sheets and blanket), towels, washcloths and personal toiletry items. The building is handicapped accessible and they are flexible in accomodating any special expressed needs. The building is smoke free and alcohol beverages are permitted for adult groups "within reason". We have color picture brochures available to give you a better idea of the facility involved. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 332-1821. We'd like to hear from you.

When each of you joined MGCM you also joined the national MGC and the Minn. Horticultural Society. Recognizing this fact, we have been including in our "Dates to Remember" at least a mention of important events in these other groups. In particular, you may wish to check out the 5th District MSHS Seminar on April 7th. If you'd like more information, call Lee Gilligan at 536-9858, or to register call Duane Johnson at 824-0295.

Good Gardening to you,

Kent

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 2 - Christmas Party Committee meets at W. Gustafson's
April 3 - Board Meeting at Reed Sonstegard's
April 7 - 5th District MSHS Seminar, 824-0295
April 10- MGCM regular meeting at LHUMC
April 28- Arbor Day planting at Lake Harriet, 822-0371
April 28- Fragrance Garden cleanup, 332-1821
May 8 - MGCM annual plant auction
May 19 - Fragrance Garden planting day
June 1,2,3 - Doug Smith Wildflower Tour, 332-1821
June 16-19 - MGCA Convention in Des Moines

REMEMBER 25 NEW MEMBERS FOR 1990 - INVITE A FRIEND

IS YOUR NAME ON THIS LIST?

IF SO WE NEED YOUR PHOTO VERY SOON

Good News! A long lost album of our club officers photos was recovered recently when a member moved. We are overjoyed to find this book, for which we have searched for years, which photographically covered years 1942 through 1955. A second book covers 1956 through 1967. Now, as historian, our board has instructed me to update the second book, or add a third, carrying photos of the four officers and the bronze medal winner each year.

Will you help? We need portrait-type prints (sometimes called billfold size prints (not snapshots) size 2 1/2 X 3 1/2 inches, either black and white or colored. If photos are not supplied your space will remain empty. So, please, let's get hopping now. Of course a few of these members are deceased and present special problems.

This list shows the number of prints which we must have.
(Remember the description of the prints above.)

Ackland	1	Holst	3	Proctor	1
Anderson, R.	3	Hulbert	2	Pulley	1
Bonlender	2	Johnson, D.	5	Reynolds	4
Brisco	2	Johnson, E.	2	Robbins	2
Canine	2	King	1	Roufs	1
Caple	2	Lillibridge	2	Schneider	2
Carlson, V.	1	Livingston	3	Shannon	4
Christenson, D	2	McCullough	8	Smith, P.	2
Churilla	3	Marlow	3	Smith, Russ	1
Culbert	3	Marshall	1	Snyder	1
Denesuk	1	Mielke	2	Sonstegard	1
Durst	1	Nelson, Al	1	Stenger	4
Gage	3	O'Donnell	1	Stone	1
Glasioe	4	Olson, R.	2	Van Vorst	1
Groger	4	Perrin	2	Victor	2
Haedecke	6	Petterson	2	Vixo	1
Halvorson	2	Pinkham	1	Wilson	2

Totals: 52 people, 118 photos.

If you can help with contacts to families of deceased members, give me a call, please.

This may cost you a very few dollars but, so what? Do it now and remember the size is 2 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches.

Bill Hull
Historian 926-1327
March 15, 1990

LAWN WINTER DAMAGE - WHAT TO EXPECT

John L. Kolb

As far as the plant world is concerned winter should be considered as a period of rest. At least in regions of appreciable snow, most plants go dormant and nothing happens until spring. Turf or grass, although not actively growing in the cold of winter, is very much alive and affected by its environment.

An interesting feature of this winter environment is that it supports an amazing array of micro-organisms, and on Golf Courses this becomes an economic reality. These cold-temperature fungi are active at temperatures near or below freezing and can cause severe damage to intensely managed turf. However, Ed has asked me to predict some of the problems with Garden Club members' lawns, or to be more specific what some of the problems will be since we have not had much snow.

Most of our lawns are under managed, so we do not worry about the above problems commonly referred to as "snow mold" damage. We would rather attempt to explain the causes of some of the common problems of lost grass other than fungal diseases.

LOSS OF GRASS CAUSED BY PHYSICAL AGENTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

1. DESICCATION

This problem is caused by the lack of snow cover, and during extreme cold periods moisture is lost from the plant cell by "sublimation". This problem is often found on higher locations or humps that tend to be blown free of snow and exposed to the cold dry winds of winter. The winter of 1989-1990 was virtually snowless so we have the environmental problem of being exposed to the winter elements. What we did not have in the winter of 1989-1990 were the cold dry winds, so its anybody's guess whether this will have affected many lawns.

Grass species will vary as to their ability to survive this problem. We predict that very little if any ooa annua or annual blue grass will survive this winter. We predict that a large proportion of the perennial Rye grasses will also succumb to the environmental conditions of the 1989-1990 winter.

The leaves of virtually all the grasses are and will be affected by this condition during the 1990 spring; however, if only the leaves are affected the grass will usually recover. The more severe damage and problem exists when the crowns are desiccated and the plants are killed. You will not see many areas of "green-growing" grass this spring until after the first mowing which will remove the dead portions of the old leaves and expose the new growth underneath.

2. LOW-TEMPERATURE KILL, FREEZING INJURY

This occurs most commonly during periods of alternating freezing and thawing usually in low lying areas when standing water increases crown hydration and ice crystals form within the plant cells causing mechanical destruction. The higher the water content of the tissue, the larger the ice crystals and the more severe the damage, hence the importance of good external drainage for the elimination of small depressions in your lawn.

3. ICE-SHEET DAMAGE

There is some controversy whether damage attributed to this cause is due to oxygen suffocation or toxic gas accumulation, or whether it is due to

freezing/thawing injury of excessively hydrated tissue. Whatever the mechanism we know that turfgrass is damaged under prolonged ice cover, especially where the sun can shine through the clear ice. An ice sheet with hard frozen ground below it and a heavy snow cover that does not allow much sunlight will give virtually no damage. An ice sheet over warm soil (30 degrees plus) and high sunlight penetration is certain to cause problems.

If and when the latter condition exists apply some dark form of material such as organic fertilizers (Sustane) with low salt concentrations and analysis, to the surface of the ice. The dark particles cause the ice to melt, inhibit the sun's penetration and restore the gaseous exchange.

4. TRAFFIC (or CRUNCH FACTOR)

Damage from traffic occurs in 2 ways:

a) Directly when pressure from traffic (shoes or wheels) on frozen grass causes small ice crystals within the cell to rupture the cell wall thus leaving wheel tracks or footprints on your lawn. This damage is often attributed to your mailman or paper boy. This condition occurs in late fall before the grass goes into dormancy or on frosty mornings in early spring as the grass is just beginning to become succulent.

b) Indirectly by compaction of snow cover. This condition is not completely understood but damage follows the pattern of compacted snow. We won't worry about this one for the spring of 1990.

These are the details of the horrors that can occur over winter to the turf on your lawn. Let's hope that you escape most of them. We predict that if you have the common or elite blue grasses along with a few fine fescues your lawn will come out just fine. As for specialized intensely managed turf the jury is still out.

FRAGRANCE GARDEN (FIGS)

The Community Garden Committee met on March 13th at Kent Petterson's home. In attendance were Duane Johnson, Dale Durst, Mary Maynard, Reed Sonstegard, Bob Redmond, Dave Moenke and Merle Pulley. Tree trimming was scheduled for March 17th. Spring cleanup will be April 28th followed by planting day on May 19th. Reed Sonstegard will be working on the summer maintenance schedule. Fall cleanup was scheduled for October 20th. Please keep these dates in mind and try to help where you can. On April 28th we will rake and generally clean up the garden. Plan to arrive at 19th and Aldrich about 8:00 AM. The Park Board with the help of Mary Lerman will once again be donating plants to this project.

STAN CRIST'S telephone number is 540-6358. The number in the roster is incorrect.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Richard C. Arnevik	561-3944
3706 Urban Ave. N.	561-4101
Brooklyn Center 55429	

MGCM TOUR TO DOUG SMITH'S TRILLIUM LAKE FARM

Many of you may recall Doug and Delores Smith from personal acquaintance or Bob Smith's article about them in the July '89 Spray. We have been invited to visit their farm near Hackensack. With Doug's help, a tour has taken shape that should prove to be an outstanding weekend outing for the club. Here are the details:

- 1) Spring woodland wildflowers are in bloom in early June. We've chosen the weekend of June 1,2,3.
- 2) A Coach will be chartered from Minneapolis with departure late on Friday afternoon and return late on Sunday afternoon.
- 3) A Conference Center at Deep Portage which is nearby, has been reserved for our group. Deep Portage is an environmental learning center with new sleeping facilities and a dining room plus a library, resource center, gift shop, bookstore and walking trails. Members Burton Deane and Jerry Shannon have seen it and had favorable impressions.
- 4) The following activities are anticipated.
 - A) Visit with Doug and Delores Smith at Trillium Lake Farm
 - B) "Gardening with Wildflowers", a presentation by Ione Strandberg local Master Gardener and Chair of the Governor's Operation Wildflower will be on Saturday
 - C) Ione Strandberg's home garden and possibly another local garden will be visited
 - D) Enjoy ten square miles of Deep Portage, some of it with paved paths in the "Land of the Loon and the Lady Slipper".
- 5) We are taking reservations for limited bus space. The tour will be available to members first, but also to non MGCM members. We must have a minimum number of participants to proceed with this tour. Call Kent Petterson at 332-1821 for further details. Total cost per person will be \$90.00. This includes transportation, two nights lodging, a box lunch meal on Friday night, three meals on Saturday and two on Sunday. Except for personal expenses, and linen at Deep Portage, this is a complete package. A list of recommended personal items to bring will be provided.
- 6) A \$25.00 deposit per person will be required to hold your reservation. Final payment in full will be due by May 15th. After May 15th, your deposit will be non refundable should you choose to cancel. If a waiting list develops and your reservation is taken by another, then the deposit will be refunded. Please fill out the following form and return it with your payment to hold your reservation.

MGCM TOUR TO DOUG SMITH'S TRILLIUM LAKE FARM

Please make _____ reservations for the wildflower tour to Doug Smith's and Deep Portage on June 1,2 and 3. Total cost for transportation, food and lodging is \$90.00 per person. I have enclosed full payment or a deposit of \$25.00 per person to hold my reservation. Final payment is due May 15th. After May 15th the first \$25.00 per person will be non refundable unless my reservation is taken by someone off a waiting list.

Return to: Joe Stenger _____ persons at \$90.00 each = _____
5421 Girard Ave. South
Minneapolis, Mn. 55419 Deposit or full payment enclosed _____

Checks to MGCM

Signature

Date

**STORAGE OF GARLIC AND NEW "DR. SAKAI GARLIC" FOR GARLIC-FREE BREATH

Many garlic gardeners put peeled cloves in a jar of olive oil in the refrigerator. After a few months, this may result in brown cloves and rancid oil, reports ORGANIC GARDENING magazine. Here's a better alternative, from the Fresh Garlic Association:

Start with fresh, peeled cloves and freeze them on a baking sheet. Break them up like peanut brittle into small chunks, pack them in plastic zip-lock bags and put them back in the freezer. You can expect this stored garlic to keep for at least a year.

Those who love garlic but avoid it because of bad breath can now eat all they want. Dr. Sakai's Garlic is on the market and it looks, tastes and smells like regular garlic. Its flavor remains in the mouth and its odor on hands and fingers. But soon after the garlic is consumed, no garlic breath is evident. The telltale breath disappears in 30 minutes, but actually may be 10 minutes or less. The garlic is the invention of Dr. Kotaro Sakai who holds about 100 patents on agricultural products in Japan. He treats the garlic bulbs in some manner that makes them inoffensive.

MORE ON ORCHIDS Most orchids won't survive planted in soil. They attach themselves to tree bark for support only; they are not parasitic; they live from taking nutrients from rainfall and bird droppings. In homes orchids enjoy 45% humidity, temperature varying no more than 10° from night to day. They need light but not full sun--air movement is also extremely important. Orchids should be planted in porous material for best results. Some orchids live over 100 years. Some orchids are so small they must be examined under a microscope.

Return to
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