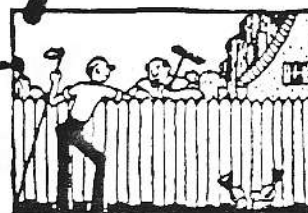




Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

April 1993, Volume 51, Number 4



April MGCM Dinner Meeting and Program

Part one:

"What Ever Happened to Your County Agent?"

with Hennepin County Extension Agent Bob Mugaas

Part Two:

Special Recognition for MGCM Master Gardeners:

Mel Anderson

Archie Caple

Bob Churilla

Stan Crist

Lee Gilligan

Duane Johnson

Kieth Monjak

Kent Petterson

Duane Reynolds

Russ Smith

Part Three:

Garden Book Sale and Auction

Bring a couple of your favorites to auction off, with proceeds to the MGCM Treasury, plus Kent Petterson will have a selection of books for sale with a portion of the proceeds going to MGCM

Date: Tuesday April 13

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South

Cost: \$6.50 per person

Reservations: Return your reservation cards to Eldon Hugelen as soon as possible. If you are on the permanent reservation list and cannot attend, notify Eldon as soon as possible.

Youth Gardening

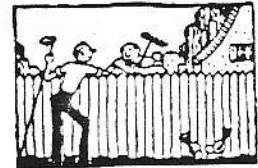
Sponsor a child—your own, your grandchild or friend-child—and have him or her grow the biggest **Pumpkin** or largest **Sunflower** this year.

The Gardeners of America (TGOA) have a contest for young gardeners to grow the biggest and best sunflower and/or pumpkin in all the USA.

To enter, just call Eldon Hugelen (431-4334 or 431-3114) by April 15th or see him at our April 13th meeting. The he will know how many seeds to order from our national headquarters (all contestants have to start out with the same seeds). Some time in early May the child will get the seeds (about 10 of each) and a copy of planting instructions. The it's up to you to mentor your young gardener to grow the biggest flower or pumpkin possible.

The Club has many good judges and winners will be selected at the end of the growing season. Look for details later. Maybe we can honor our young growers at the October or November MGCM meeting and make special note of our Minnesota Champions.

The deadline for reporting the winners to national headquarters is December 1, 1993. The winner will be announced in the December Newsletter of TGOA. Maybe the biggest sunflower and/or largest pumpkin will have been grown right here in Minnesota.



Coming Attractions

April 3 & 4

Open House

Center for Northern Gardening
Minnesota State Horticultural Society

April 6 - 7:30 p.m.

MGCM Board Meeting
Clyde Thompson's House

April 13 - 6:00 p.m.

MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

April 24 - 9:00 a.m.

Fragrance Garden Clean-up

April 29-May 1

Art in Bloom
Minneapolis Institute of Arts

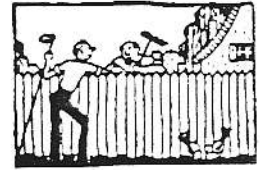
May 4 - 7:30 p.m.

MGCM Board Meeting
Mel Anderson's House

May 11 - 6:00 p.m.

Plant Sale and Auction
Burroughs School
1501 West 50th Street

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members and friends. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.
Editor.....Andrew J. Marlow
Staff.....Chuck Carlson,
Mary Maynard, Phil Smith



The President's Report

Lee Gilligan, President, MGCM



(photo by
Dr. Bill Jepson)

Now what about the proposed name change for our club?

Your Directors have offered three options, first—no change, second—Metro Men's Garden Club of Minnesota, and third—Metro Garden Club of Minnesota. These choices are options offered in place of Metropolitan Garden Club of Minneapolis which was placed with

the Board by a petition of members. Our April meeting will settle this issue by membership vote.

My personal feelings as your President are that whatever the membership decides for a name will be fine with me. The things that this group has accomplished and continues to accomplish - the fine members that have made this organization what it is - its many traditions and the fellowship, these are the things that I feel are the important reasons for our Club's existence.

The more involved in Club activities that you get, the more admiration you have for the membership. I just can't think of any finer people to be associated with.

Now, off my soap box and back to the garden!

A New Name for MGCM?

At the February MGCM meeting, President Lee Gilligan asked, on behalf of the Board of Directors, if there was any sentiment to change the name of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Interest had been expressed to the Board of Directors on this issue about two years ago because the Club now admits women as members and a majority of members live outside the confines of Minneapolis. It was decided then to wait, as the Men's Garden Clubs of America had not permanently adopted their new name, The Gardeners of America.

At the February meeting Lee said if anyone wished to initiate a name change, they should prepare a petition to the Board of Directors. A petition was initiated and signed by more than the required 10 members asking that the name be changed to the Metropolitan Garden Club of Minneapolis. This name had been suggested during the previous discussions. It dropped the reference to men, which could deter women from seeking to join the Club. It added the term metropolitan to indicate the broader geographical range of the Club, but retained Minneapolis to indicate our interest in the state's major city. This name also allowed retention of the initials MGCM.

The Board of Directors, at their March meeting, decided to reject the petition without asking to hear from any of the signers in defense of their request. The Board said it did not like using both Metropolitan and Minneapolis in a new name. Their rejection means that 75% of the members attending the April membership meeting must vote for it in order to

(continued on page 4)



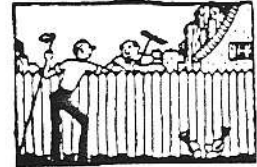
Monthly Program Report

by Andy Marlow

A near record number of MGCM members and their guests gathered on March 16th in the Skyroom Restaurant at the downtown Minneapolis Dayton's for dinner and a tour of the 1993 Dayton's-Bachman Flower Show. The delightful dinner was followed by remarks from Todd Bachman, who helped put the show together, that heightened the enjoyment of a spectacular display of horticulture and stage craft.

The theme of this year's show was "An English Country Garden" and the 8th floor auditorium was transformed into one of the shires of olde England. Some horticultural highlights were the twin spiral dwarf Alberta spruce, a topiary cut in the shape of a large crane, and a foot-long Rosary plant in the greenhouse. There were forced bulbs of tulip and narcissus, banks of azaleas and rhododendrons and a marvelous weeping cherry with the most beautiful and colorful bark imaginable. Lots of English roses and English Daisies helped create the sense of place.

The most spectacular specimen was a huge magnolia that Todd said was the largest one the Bachman's crew had ever tried to force. When it arrived in Minnesota, it was laid on its side in a greenhouse and packed in snow for two months to hold back the already budded flowers. When it emerged from the snow bank, it was too big for Dayton's elevators. Early one Saturday morning it was trucked up the Dayton-Radisson parking ramp to the



very large back door of the auditorium. It was a stunning sight to behold, especially when you knew the tremendous effort, not to mention faith in its hardiness, that was required to get it to that spot in such good condition.

Mark the Date for the Annual Plant Sale and Auction - May 11

by Bob Voigt

A friend of mine in Atlanta told me recently that he thought we could only grow snow peas and iceberg lettuce in Minnesota. If he could just come and see the array of beautiful plants available at the MGCM Plant Sale and Auction, he would realize he is sadly misled.

Dave Johnson and his committee have been busy visiting with growers and arranging for the same high quality plants as in years past. Plan to come to Burroughs School on May 11th and bring friends, relatives and a strong desire to beautify your yard and enrich the Club's treasury for special projects.

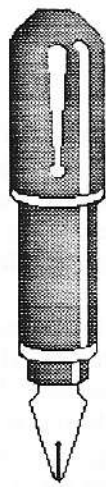
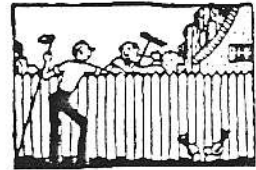
More news about this great event will be in *The Garden Spray* next month.

Name Change?

(continued from page 3)

approve this name.

The Board then decided to put up their own slate of names to be voted on at the April meeting, should a 75% majority not be found for the petitioned name. They decided that three names would be put on the ballot: 1) Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, 2) Metro Men's Garden Club, and 3) Metro Garden Club of Minnesota. A name must receive 50% of the vote to be selected. If none receives 50%, a run off will be held between the two highest vote getters. A quorum of 40% of MGCM members must be present for a legal vote.



Meeting Notes

At their March meeting, the MGCM Board of Directors:

- heard advice from Treasurer Mel Anderson that some fund raising would be needed to keep a year end balance of \$7000.
- assigned each Board member to be a liaison with specific committees. The assignments were as follows:

- Lee Gilligan -
Auditing and Nominating
- Clyde Thompson -
Awards and Trophies, and Tours
- Eldon Hugelen -
Community Garden and Sunshine
- Mei Anderson -
Calendar Sales and Flower and Vegetable Show
- Greg Smith -
Telephone and Bronze Medal
- Don Powell -
Holiday Party and Hospitality
- Bob Stepan -
Garden Spray and Plant Auction
- Bob Voigt -
Arbor Day, Community Service and Raffle
- Lloyd Wittstock -
Membership, Publicity and Photography
- decided, after consulting with Mary Lerman, to spend this year's Arbor Day allocation for plantings at the Center for Northern Gardening, the new home of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society.
 - rejected the initiative signed by 24 Club members to change the Club name to Metropolitan Garden Club of Minneapolis, objecting to the use of both "Metropolitan" and Minneapolis."

- decided to offer members a choice between retaining the present name or one of the following: Metro Men's Garden Club or Metro Garden Club of Minnesota. One of the three must receive 50% of the vote at the April meeting to be selected. If none receives 50%, a run off between the two leading names will be held. (see article on page 3)
- learned of plans to held the June MGCM meeting at the Center for Northern Gardening.
- decided to sponsor a youth gardening big sunflower and big pumpkin contest. (see article on page)
- elected Dale L. Fisher as a new member.

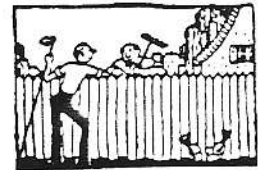
New Member:

Dale L Fisher
15440 96th Place North
Maple Grove, MN 55369
420-9017

Returning Members:

Len Brenny
943 88th Avenue Northwest
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Henry Halvorson
4915 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55422
588-4369



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

The following comes from a book by Les Blacklock entitled *Meet My Psychiatrist*, part of it struck me as just right for an Arbor Day tribute. I am quoting it since it is much better written than I ever could paraphrase it. This part is called "One Hot Afternoon In July".

"...you say what can I learn from a tree? It's nice to have in my yard but it doesn't know anything. It's just there. Now wait a minute. Trees have been on earth almost forever. That's a lot of learning how to live. The fact that they are still here is proof that they're doing something right. Just look at what a tree does. All through its long life it helps us breathe, taking carbon dioxide from the air, giving oxygen back. Its fallen leaves form soil beneath it from which it and other plants grow. Perfect recycling.

It is a hot afternoon in July. Thunderheads pile high in the west. The storm grows frighteningly fast as the churning clouds keep boiling up and out. Under the tree is a loud snap. A major root has broken and the mighty tree gives way.

The big opening in the forest lets morning light into the understory. Shrubs and flowers will spring up and berries, nuts and grasses. And what about the dead tree? Dead my eye! That great trunk is still full of life. Man invented death. Nature knows only continuing life, passing from form to form, beautifully, forever. When the tree fell, the upturned roots exposed yards of mineral soil. Grouse will soon discover this fine source of grit. Tree seeds that need mineral soil to

"catch" may start in this bed. The thick trunk is hollow near the base as are some of the bigger branches. A bear might winter in the trunk: raccoons, chipmunks and other mammals may den in the branches.

Insects will start at once to break down the wood into soil. They'll work on the inside while mosses, lichens and fungi will start the transition process from the outside. Before long, the entire log will be a lovely green velvet moss garden, enhanced by colorful lichens and toadstools. Still surging with life, the log will enrich growth here for decades.

Source of oxygen, air purifier, provider of food and cover, home for wildlife, soil builder, a beautiful part of the natural world—the tree is an exemplary citizen.

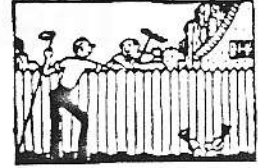
I think you'll agree that the world is a better place because the tree was here."

The Word

This month I have two words, "Angiosperm" [An jih oh spurm] and "Gymnosperm" [Jim no spurm]. These are both classes of plants. A gymnosperm is any of the coniferous woody perennials having naked seeds. They are among the oldest living plants. The angiosperm are plants which have seeds covered by a seed case and usually having flowers and reproduce by cross pollination. Most trees except evergreens are in this class.

The Tip

This year plant a tree. It will help your environment by producing oxygen and using carbon dioxide and giving us all those leaves for cooling in the summer. Plus providing us with free mulch and compost.



Native Uses of Native Plants: Pagoda Dogwood

by Mary Maguire Lermen, Coordinator of Horticulture Programs,
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

COMMON NAMES: Alternate-Leafed
Dogwood, Pagoda Dogwood

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Cornus alternifolia*

NATIVE NAME: *muj omij*, which means
moose plant

Everyone has a particular plant that is the "apple of their eye". For me, the Pagoda Dogwood takes the cake as my favorite small tree because of its umbrella-layering branches. This branching habit provides for interesting winter features when the snow collects on these layers.

Pagoda or Alternate-Leafed Dogwood is a native small tree or shrub in Minnesota. It is the only dogwood that has an alternate-leaf arrangement. All other dogwoods have an opposite-leaf arrangement. It will reach a height of 20 feet and a spread of 15 feet if it does not have to compete for light. White flowers appear in June followed by blue-purple fruits. In the fall, the foliage turns red-dish-purple.

Typically found in woodlands or near bogs, this dogwood prefers a moist soil. Dogwoods provide food for various wildlife. Gamebirds, songbirds, chipmunks, and waterfowl dine on the fruits and tender buds. Beavers, rabbits, squirrels, skunks, deer, bears, and moose prefer to dine on the fruit, twigs, and foliage.

Frances Densmore notes uses of the Pagoda Dogwood in *How Indians Use Wild Plants for Food, Medicine and Crafts*. Medicinally, a decoction made from equal parts of the roots of Pagoda Dogwood and Redosier Dogwood was used as a wash or

compress for the eye. The root was used as a charm when it was put on muskrat traps.

MGCM to the Rescue Thanks from Minnesota Green

A big heartfelt thanks to MGCM representatives Lee Gilligan, Eldon Hugelen and Kent Petterson for assisting in the Minnesota State Horticultural Society's Minnesota Green community gardening conference held in Minneapolis during March. This trio came to the rescue on short notice by presenting the community garden award winners. Another fine example of MGCM's leadership in the community gardening movement.

On that same note, it is important to mention that Minnesota Green continues to use the MGCM fragrance garden as a prime example of successful public greening. Your maintenance schedule, several slides and long history are regularly shared with other communities starting garden sites. Great work, guys!

Rick Bonlender, Minnesota Green
Coordinator.

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Pagoda Dogwood
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