



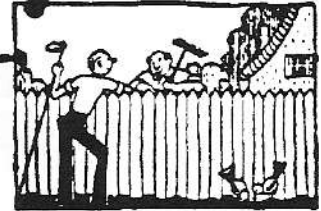
# The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

April 1994, Volume 52, Number

April Dinner Meeting Program:



## Perennials for the Shade

Clayton Oslund, Founder/Owner  
Shady Oaks Nursery  
Waseca, Minnesota

Mr. Oslund has developed one of Minnesota's fine nurseries offering perennials for shade, including hostas, ferns, shrubs and ground covers. His presentation will include slides of perennials for the shade and a reference catalog of his nursery's specialty plants.



Day: Tuesday April 12, 1994  
Time: Dinner at 6:00 p.m.  
Business meeting & Program 7:00 p.m.  
Place: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church  
49th and Chowen Avenue South  
Minneapolis  
Cost: \$7.00 if you reserve dinner in advance  
\$8.00 at the door

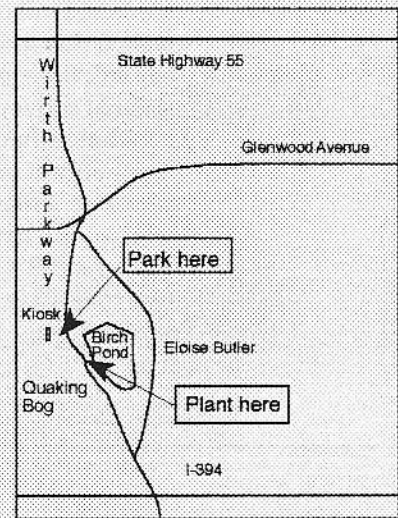


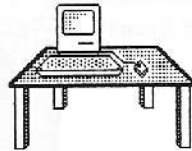
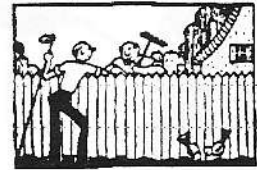
*Astilbe 'Sprite'*

If you are not on the permanent reservation list, a dinner reservation card is enclosed with the *Garden Spray*. Please return it as soon as possible.

## Arbor Day Planting

MGCM's planting in celebration of **Arbor Day** will take place near **Birch Pond in Theodore Wirth Park** on **Saturday, April 30, at 9:00 a.m.** Mary Maguire Lerman of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has arranged for 10-4' clumps of Heritage River Birch, 5-6' clumps of Heritage and 10-2' Buttonbush shrubs. There will be plenty of holes to dig and plants to plant. Wear your boots (we're planting on a sloped area) and bring a friend, a shovel and a bucket for hauling water from the pond. After the planting, Mary will provide a tour of the Quaking Bog area (just across the Parkway west of Birch Pond), which is currently being renovated. Birch Pond is just north of I-394 on Theodore Wirth Parkway. The map (not to scale, believe me) shows both where the planting will take place and where to park.





### The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

Chuck Carlson asked me to pass this note on to you:

"One of MGCM's Mentor Gardeners commented to me that no one calls or asks questions of Mentor Gardeners. Don't make them feel like the Maytag repairman. They are there for a reason, to help. Everyone should feel free to give them a call. If you don't know they exist, look in the Club directory. Remember no question is too dumb, and you may learn something."

This issue of the *Garden Spray* could almost be called the photo, or as the planners of our annual gardening show prefer "foto", issue. On page three, Photography Committee chair Lloyd Wittstock reports on committee activities. On page seven you'll find the rules for MGCM's second annual photo contest. And, on page five is Chuck Carlson's open letter asking for help showing TGOA/MGCA slide shows to community organizations. These items are must reading, even for what Lloyd calls the "photographically challenged."

Bill Hull called me just before deadline this month, wondering if there was still time to get in an article about the national convention. When he shared with me what he had learned about the success of our efforts in selling TGOA/MGCA calendars, I made sure there was time to get it in. We have a lot to be proud of as a club, and Bill's report gives us one more item to include in that list. Check out Bill's report on page four.

## Coming Attractions

April 5 - 7:30 p.m.  
MGCM Board Meeting  
Eldon Hugelen's House

April 9 - 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Spring Gardening Seminar  
MSHS Fifth District  
Robbinsdale Community Ed. Center  
4139 Regent Avenue North

April 12 - 6:00 p.m.  
MGCM Dinner Meeting  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church  
49th and Chownen Avenue South

April 16  
Lifting of the Roses  
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

April 23 - 9:00 a.m.  
Spring Cleanup  
MGCM Fragrance Garden

April 30 - 9:00 a.m.  
MGCM Arbor Day Planting  
Birch Pond, Theodore Wirth Park

*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.

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Staff.....Ed Biren, Chuck Carlson, Dale Fisher, Carolyn Hayward, Mary Maynard, Derrill Pankow, Merle Pulley



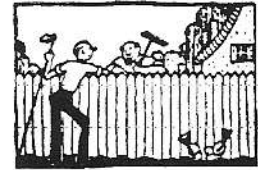
# The President's Report

Clyde Thompson, President, MGCM

March drags on when the snow is almost gone but the temperature lingers just below freezing. This is the time to catch up on the English garden magazines, such as *Gardens Illustrated*. The pictures are so lush, it makes my gardening efforts look like the first year after the Great Hinckley Fire.

The Minneapolis Home and Garden Show in early March sprouted a mass of indoor gardens to give the feeling of spring. The Minnesota State Horticultural Society, with the help of several MGCM members led by Jerry Shannon, placed several hundred plants to spell out the name of the exhibit. When we ran out of space before the title was complete, there was a long pause—followed by readjustment. It reminded me of the sign, "Think Ahead" with the last four letters trailing down the right edge.

In her book, *Plants in Garden History*, Penelope Hobhouse says the oldest garden layout was found in an Egyptian tomb dating from about 2000 BC. By about 1830, Ms Hobhouse reports, almost every identifiable garden style had been tried. Today we rely on three or four basic designs—loosely adapted, of course. So much for originality in the garden.



# Snapshots

Lloyd Wittstock  
Chair, Photography Committee

The photography committee met on March 19 to plan activities and to get MGCM members involved in recording and showing their gardens.

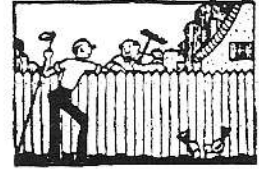
Several members have expressed an interest in seeing more slide shows, especially at the fall and winter meetings. Fortunately, several also have slides of trips, of tours, or of their gardens and would like to organize presentations.

The photography committee has many tasks, including recording events for the *Spray* as well as keeping a permanent visual record of club activities. And as the meeting brought out, we also look to the committee for a chance to learn about and share insights into photography.

We offer the person power to meet these interests and to be a resource for the entire club. One subcommittee, consisting of Archie Caple, Chuck Carlson, Bill Jepson, Henry Orfield and Roger Sefelt, will be gathering slides and preparing shows for the meetings or other uses.

Here's where you can help. Call us with your ideas, provide us with duplicates of a favorite slide, ask for help in editing your own show, or donate a few of the slides you submit for the August photo contest. And don't forget your *prints* of tours and activities, which other members would like to see posted at meetings. Bill Jepson even offered to arrange for a photographer for your garden specialty if you are among the "photographically challenged."

So if you wish to participate in our photo clinics, in the contest, or in other ways, watch for announcements from the photography committee.



# TGOA/MGCA Convention Report

*Bill Hull, MGCM historian*

The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America convention at Jackson, Mississippi, was well planned and of value. The registration was mediocre, being only 310, compared to the 572 we had in Minneapolis in 1988, the all-time record. Stan and Esther Crist, Duane and Janet Johnson, Russ and Janet Smith and my wife Carol and I represented MGCM. Hosts and hostesses were cordial and anxious to make us feel at home.

They really succeeded on Sunday, when most of the people had left for home; we were offered a chance at a tornado, for which we were under a warning all Sunday afternoon. From our hotel window we could see the huge purple-black clouds dominating the horizon and "way over there" on the horizon, we could see a small twister which left us and proceeded to Alabama, where it added to the destruction. MGCM received an Honor Club certificate for growth in membership, as did several other clubs.

We saw quite a few gorgeously blooming azaleas and tons of the loveliest wisteria I have ever seen, which was so prolific even Jackson gardeners were pronouncing it "unusually heavy." We'll never forget two gardens—a lovely estate

garden through which we wandered and a most unusual garden of a writer-radio garden programmer-television program host. There is not enough room to talk in detail about them here, but ask any member of our delegation if you'd like to hear more.

I want to compliment those people who were in charge of our calendar sales for 1994, Howard Berg in particular. What a magnificent job he and the committee

did in taking advantage of this opportunity to earn funds for both our Club and TGOA/MGCA. Here are some specifics:

- Our Club sold the largest number of calendars of **any club** in TGOA/MGCA, some \$1,380 worth, and we are only the 14th largest club.

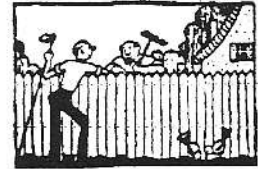
- That is more calendars than 13 total regions sold—regions with from four to

seven clubs each.

- Only six regions sold more than our single club, and those regions had six to 12 clubs each.
- Our Club sold 50.7% of all calendars purchased from TGOA/MGCA last fall.

Congratulations to Howard, the Calendar Committee and to all of us for a job well done!





## Open Letter

For the last eight years, Chet Groger has been a one man effort in giving slide shows as a representative of our club. He has resigned from the project. Thanks for all your efforts, Chet!

These shows were given to churches, garden clubs, senior citizens groups, community centers, etc. There is no charge for the shows, but donations have brought in over \$8,000. It would be a shame to let this opportunity die.

We have five shows with music. I have shown two of them. They were easy to do and well received. There are a number of advantages in presenting these shows, besides the money the club will receive:

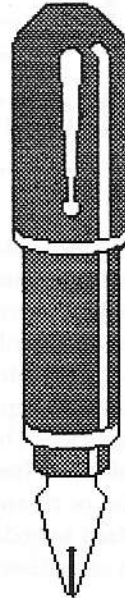
- Recognition by community groups
- Recruitment of new members
- Community service
- A forum to advertise our public events
- A place to sell calenders
- Your personal satisfaction and recognition in volunteering.

The only disadvantage is that the club will have to purchase a Kodak slide projector since the shows are in Kodak carousels. Chet says he will donate the tape player and a carrying case for the projector.

I have volunteered to be the contact, organize the effort and present some shows with the provision that a number of people (minimum of 6) be willing to take turns at presenting these slide shows.

If you are interested in becoming a presenter, please contact me. Even doing one or two a year would help. Please contact me. Any effort you could put into it would help. **The project will die if no volunteers are forthcoming.**

Thanks for you consideration  
Chuck Carlson, 571-0463



## Board Meeting Notes

At their March meeting, the MGCM Board of Directors:

- approved a budget of \$1000 for the public garden tour to be held June 9 and 10, subject to final approval by the membership
- approved the membership application of Joane Anderson
- nominated MGCM member Duane

Johnson for an award by the 5th District of the MSHS

• decided they had no reason not to allow a wedding to be held in the Fragrance Garden on September 3

• approved the Steven's House subcommittee of the Community Garden Committee to be chaired by Lee Gilligan with members Clyde Thompson, Jack Kolb and Roger Sefelt

• directed the Secretary to explore having MGCM events listed in the *Minnesota Horticulturist*, with Lee Gilligan listed as the contact person

At their March meeting, the MGCM membership voted to approve a budget item of \$1000 to be used for expenses connected with the public garden tours on July 9 and 10.



# Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

## The Chestnut

A previous column listed some new plants for 1994, some of which were listed as F1 hybrids. A question arose from the multitudes who read this column—well, one person asked—“what does F1 mean?”

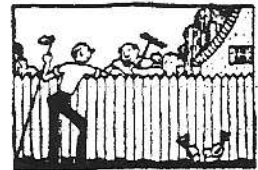
The answer involves genetics. Webster says “genetics is a branch of biology which deals with heredity and variations of similar or related plants or animals.” In the plant kingdom this results in offspring which are either standards or hybrids.

Standards are open-pollinated varieties which have more or less stabilized from one generation to another. Breeders can patent standards and control the sale of the seeds. This is supposed to encourage the development of new standards. A few examples of flowers which fall in this category are; Alyssum, Browallia, Cosmos, Dusty Miller, Nasturtiums, Salvia and Vinca.

Hybrids are non-patentable. But the breeder is the only one who knows the parents and may keep it that way. Webster defines hybrid as the offspring of two animals or plants of different races, varieties, species, etc. It is a cross between two genetically different parents. I wonder if that makes me a Swedish-German hybrid.

While a hybrid plant can occur by chance, they are more likely the result of a hybridizer carefully selecting parent plants that will produce offspring with special characteristics. The offspring of a hybrid cross is called an F1 hybrid.

F1 stands for “first filial”. Filial means a generation following the parental.



Thus F1 is the first filial generation of the mating of specific parent plants, or simply, a first generation hybrid. These seeds will produce plants that are very uniform in habit and carry a combination of traits of the parent plants. Flowers primarily offered as hybrids are Ageratum, Begonias, Geraniums, Impatiens, Lisianthus, Marigolds, Nicotiana and Petunias.

Hybrids other than F1 are possible. These are made by crossing two F1 hybrids and are called F2. One can have F3, F4, etc. The problem with these hybrids is they have very unpredictable, mixed results. Nor do they have the uniformity of F1. If you plant F2 hybrid seeds, you may have a winner or a loser, but it probably will not look like its F1 parent.

Why F1 hybrids rather than standards? Here are a few reasons:

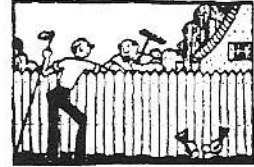
- wider adaptability to environmental stress.
- uniformity in size and appearance.
- better disease resistance
- better germination.

You should know not every F1 is a winner—only those we see in the seed catalogs. Lots of them never make it to a catalog.

## The Tip

Keep growing what works for you, but try some new F1 hybrids or other new plants each year. Some things don't grow the way they are shown or described in the catalog. My two biggest disappointments have been Stripped Marvel, a single Marigold, and Silene. On the other hand, the Marvel strain of the double marigold, Salvia, horminimum 'Claryssa' and Veronica 'Sunny Border Blue' were great additions.

Tell me about some of your successes and failures. I will pass them along so all can benefit from your experiences.

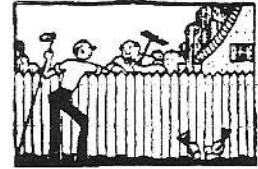


# Rules for MGCM's Second Annual Photo Contest

This competition is to encourage good horticulture photography. The photos will be exhibited on August 20 and 21 at the Flower Food and Foto Show held at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

## RULES

1. Anyone is eligible to enter
  2. Deadline for entries is July 15, 1994
  3. Up to twenty (20) entries in each section may be submitted with no more than five (5) in any class. A series (see rule 7) will be considered as one (1) entry. It is suggested, but not required, that the slides be submitted in a 20 pocket (8 1/2 x 11) plastic filling sheet.
  4. All entries must be submitted with a typed or hand printed list of the entries submitted, their section, class and a description of the subject, such as plants identified by kind and variety. It should also include your name and address. Some photos may want to be used by the club for shows or history. Make sure you indicate on the entry sheet if the club can retain these.
  5. One must also comply with the following requirements:
    - a. Slides must be 2" x 2" mounts and must work in a 140 Kodak Slide Carousel.
    - b. Place a round dot on the lower left corner of the slide when looking through the slide and seeing the correct subject orientation. The side toward the screen should be on the non-dotted side.
    - c. Each slide or print must have the class and your name. Also each slide or print shall be titled. Title with the kind of plants and variety whenever possible. Test your writing media so it does not bleed through the photo.
  - d. Photos previously winning MGCM awards can not be entered.
  - e. We suggest all prints be 5 x 7; they may be smaller but not larger.
  - f. Duplicate slides may be submitted to avoid losing originals.
  - g. Entries shall be mailed or delivered to Lloyd Wittstock at 913 19th Ave. SE, Mpls. MN 55414. They must be postmarked or delivered by July 15th, 1994. At the finish of the contest, photos to be returned may be picked up at one of the monthly meetings or by other arrangements with Lloyd Wittstock
  - h. Photos submitted may be from any year but must be taken by the submitter.
  - i. Photos with no horticultural content will be disqualified.
6. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each class. Special ribbons awarded for the best print, best slide and for best of show. A traveling trophy will be awarded for the MGCM member who has the best overall showing. This will be based on total points amassed. Points are awarded as follows:
- 4 points for any first
  - 2 points for any second
  - 1 point for any third
  - 4 points for best of show
  - 2 points for best of class
7. A series of photos is defined as 3 to 6 exposures showing the development of a subject. This will count as one entry.
8. Slides and prints will be judged separately.



# Plants from Friends

by Eldon Hugelen

A few years ago an old gardener back in Iowa gave me a small box with poppy seeds. She said, "I think you'll like these."

I planted them in the garden in a typical Midwestern row. That June there was a brilliant row of 3-4" pink poppies, 24-30" tall, many of them doubles. It turned out my old gardener friend had introduced me to the Shirley poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*). The name comes from Shirley, England, where in the late 1800s the Reverend Wilkes selected poppy seed of the English native corn poppy.

The next spring I found that the Shirley poppy is a hardy self-seeder. That year the garden was a field of poppies. It's hard for me to pull up those innocent volunteer seedlings. Now in the fall when the seed pods are ripe, I spread the seed in designated "planned" garden areas.

The seed should be sown into well-tilled garden soil. The poppies cannot compete with established grasses such as a meadow planting. Seeds germinate and grow in cool, moist soil. One author suggested sprinkling the seed on top of the snow and letting it wash in by snow melt.

The poppy can be a good cut flower, too. Wayne Winterrowd in his *Annuals for Connoisseurs*, suggests cutting the blossoms, with all the stem they have, early in the morning. Take flower buds that are just splitting, showing flower color. Stem ends should be dipped as soon as possible in boiling water, or held for a second or two above a gas flame, and then plunged into barely tepid water. The flowers will open almost immediately, and will last for

2-3 days—longer than in the garden.

If you would like some Shirley poppy seed, watch for them at our next meeting. There will be a limited supply for you then.

## New Members

Joane Anderson  
8616 Quarles Road  
Maple Grove, MN 55311  
home phone: 420-8901

David C. McKeen  
5041 Aldrich Avenue North  
Minneapolis, MN 55430  
home phone: 529-4143  
business phone: 544-4474

### Anyone interested in a Pumpkin or Sunflower contest?

**Open to anyone:  
friends, neighbors, children,  
spouses, yourself or whomever**

You will receive rules, seeds, and planting instructions.

Call or see anyone on the MGCM Board of Directors







# Growing for Showing: Judging

by Duane Reynolds, Certified Judge

Judges look for certain faults when evaluating specimens, and it's useful for the exhibitor to consider those faults when evaluating a specimen for entry. Judges will evaluate for the following fault or merit characteristics:

	<u>Merit Characteristics</u>	<u>Fault Characteristics</u>
Color	Bright Clear Vibrant Lustrous Uniform	Dull Gray Blotchy Insect injury Burns Mildew Fading
Form	Centered Round Full Tight Symmetrical	Lopsided Thin Missing petals Immature
Substance	Firm Thick Uniform Crisp	Gaps Soft Thin Shriveled Withered
Stem	Strong Straight Graceful	Long Short Weak Willowy
Foliage	Healthy Rich Green Firm Thick	Small Coarse Crinkled Pale

Vegetables in a show should be in the proper stage of development and maturity: crisp, tender and fresh; uniform in size, color and shape; free of blemishes, cracks and insect damage; free of dust and spray residue; and average or above average in size.

There are many people who don't know about the wide variety of plant materials to be found in a well-kept garden. Breeders and hybridizers are constantly producing new varieties. Professional horticulturists are increasing the color range, refining the shape or improving the taste, keeping quality and disease resistance of a species. Flower and vegetable shows, garden clubs and plant societies can bring horticultural advances before the public and inspire amateur gardeners to enjoy the fun of gardening.

To learn more about growing and exhibiting, I recommend the following books: *Handbook for Flower Shows*, *National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.*, and *The Horticultural Handbook*, all available from Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota, 2635 Burd Place, St. Louis Park, MN.

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# The Garden Spray

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