

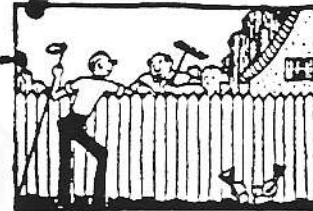


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

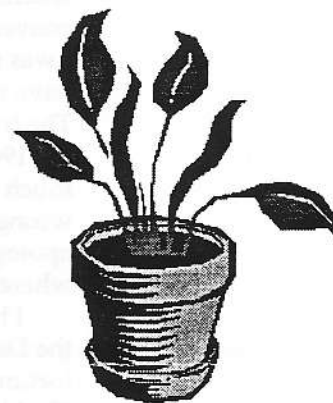
April 1995, Volume 53, Number 4



April Dinner Meeting...



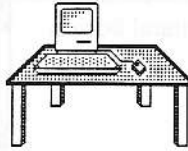
**Warning:
Plants Could
be a Danger
to Your Health**



Dinner Speaker Carl Hornfeldt of the Hennepin Regional Poison Center will talk about the common garden and house plants that can be toxic to humans and pets.

Date: Tuesday April 11, 1995
Place: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
4901 Chowen Avenue South
Minneapolis
Times: 6:30 p.m. — Dinner
7:00 p.m. — MGCM Business Meeting
7:30 p.m. — Speaker
Cost: \$7.00 if reserved in advance
\$8.00 with no advance reservation

The permanent reservation list is in effect for this meeting. If you are not on the permanent reservation list, please return the enclosed dinner reservation card to Secretary Mary Maynard no later than Friday April 7 to reserve a dinner for you and your guest(s). If you are on the permanent reservation list and do not plan to attend the meeting, please notify Secretary Maynard by the same date or you may be responsible for the cost of your meal.



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

My memory and good judgment are both failing me. In last month's *Spray* I erroneously gave credit to Bill Hull for chairing both the 1967 and 1988 national conventions of MGCA hosted by MGCM. I was relying on faulty memory and didn't have the good judgment to check the facts. The truth is Dwight Stone was the chair of the 1967 convention. He put every bit as much effort into that convention as I had wrongly given Bill credit for. My apologies for not giving proper credit where it was due.

I hope everyone enjoyed the visit to the Dayton's-Bachman's Flower Show. I, fortunately or unfortunately, was in Florida, enjoying the vastly different plant life raised on the sands of a coastal barrier island. Although there is plenty of water nearby and plenty of rain during the year, the very porous soil is more suited to desert plants than many of the tropical plants grown on the nearby mainland. Every gardening environment is a challenge, even one so seemingly ideal as tropical Florida.

Before going to Florida, I spent an enjoyable shift hawking MSHS memberships at the Home and Garden Show. I got to chat with any number of people interested in gardening. Plus, Archie Caple and I (we staffed a booth together) made our contribution to recruiting a record setting number of new members, as was reported in the April *Minnesota Horticulturist*. It was also a treat to spend a couple of hours with Archie, one of the more experienced members of the Club and a person whom I respect a great deal.

Coming Attractions

April 4 – 7:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
Mary Maynard's House

April 11 – 6:30 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Ave. So.

April 29 – 9:00 a.m.
Garden Cleanup
Fragrance Garden
19th & Aldrich South

May 2 – 7:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
Howard Berg's House

May 6 – (tentative)
Arbor Day Planting and
Stevens House Garden Cleanup
Minnehaha Park

May 9 – 6:00 p.m.
Plant Sale and Auction
Lynnhurst Community Center

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



Cuttings

by Bob Voigt, President, MGCM



On March 25 I attended the Spring Fling Gardening Seminar sponsored by the Fifth District of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. It was another example of the many resources we gardeners have available for good, practical information

MGCM members involved in organizing, teaching and participating in the seminar included Duane and Jan Johnson, Duane and Patti Reynolds, Russ and Janet Smith, Bob and Lorraine Churilla, Chuck Carlson, Clyde Thompson, Bob Olson, Jerry Shannon, Fred Glasoe, Lee Gilligan, Warren Nordley and Kent Petterson. If I overlooked someone, I'm sorry. Over 200 people attended and 15 topics were covered. Six of the 11 presenter were MGCM members.

Each issue of the *Minnesota Horticulturist* lists a calendar of events offered throughout the state. There are over 50 affiliated garden clubs in the greater Metro area. Duane Johnson says there are over 4,000 members of MSHS in District Five alone. Talk about a growth industry—gardening is it!

We can all draw from the rich sources of information. It is so inexpensive as well as tremendously gratifying. We make take it for granted that we will always have access to these valuable ideas. This is true only as long as volunteers are willing to share their experiences and guide us as we learn more about gardening. Thank you, volunteers!

The February meeting was the debut of a new approach to sharing gardening ideas; cards at each table on which to write questions and recommendations. Here are a few of the suggestions. After you have

tried them, please let us know the results:

1. Stokes 'Ultra Girl' tomato has consistently done well for me. It is indeterminate, but not especially large.

2. Include *Lisianthus* 'Heidi' in your next garden plan.

3. Park's 'Whopper' tomato (medium red indeterminate) or 'Sweet Million' are suggested.

4. If you really like beets, 'Mammoth Red Mangel' will yield up to 40 tons an acre.

5. Someone recommended a climbing cucumber, but I can't read the writing. Please tell us again at the next meeting.

Don Powell has volunteered to chair the Calendar Committee, a major fund raising program for the Club. Several members purchase sizable quantities of the TGOA/MGCA calendars and give them as holiday gifts. Howard Berg has been chair of the Committee for the past several years.

A photo by MGCM member Henry Orfield, whose work has appeared in past calendars, will again be featured in the 1996 edition. By the way, the Photography Committee, chaired by Lloyd Wittstock, offers opportunities for professionals and wannabees.

Here is another idea worth trying. We all accumulate books, journals, catalogs and other valuable references over the years. Bring your extras to the April MGCM meeting. Put a suggested value on them. We'll have a collection box for the books, and will offer them for sale at the May Plant Auction. This is another way we can share with fellow members.

Happy gardening!



Looking For "Open Gardens"

by Kay Wolfe, Chair
MGCM Tour Committee

Spring is here! And the Garden Tour Committee is bursting with new ideas! We'd like to visit more members' gardens this year and share the gardening expertise with our Club!!

The Committee wants to host "Open Gardens"—informal garden visits to members' gardens on Saturdays during the months of May, June, July and August. An "open garden" could be a visit to a member who has a specialty — such as bulbs, rock garden plants, irises, peonies — or a beginning gardener who would like the Club's mentors to stop by and share their knowledge and advice. These informal visits would give us more time to chat with the garden owner and enjoy the beauty that we are all creating—without having to run for the bus every few minutes.

We anticipate scheduling one or two Saturdays of "open gardens" per month. The date and hours can be determined by the hosting member. Two gardens could be open on each visiting day — say from 10:00 a.m. till noon — leaving the whole rest of the day to go home and weed!

Any member wanting to share their garden for a Saturday visit should call Kay Wolfe at 922-0762. The schedule is open. The committee will work with you to coordinate details.

Watch the *Spray* for "open garden" announcements!

Bean is National Vegetable

by Mel Anderson, Cochair-
Flower, Food and Foto Show

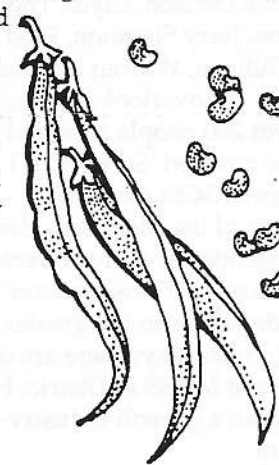
The bean has been selected as the National Vegetable for 1995. A special ribbon will be awarded for the best bean at this year's MGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show on July 8 and 9.

There are six bean categories for this year's Show. If you grow another type of bean, the judges will set up another category for it. The best of all first place bean entries will be picked by the judges to receive this ribbon.

Bring seven beans for each entry. They should be of good culinary quality (be edible) and at the proper stage of maturity. The seeds should be small, about half grown. The beans should be uniform in color, as straight as possible and of the same length.

To prepare your beans for exhibition, brush them lightly with a soft brush or dry cloth to remove dirt. Leave the stems on, but trim them to a uniform length (about 1/4" to 1/2").

The first beans of the season are usually the nicest, so plant them to be ready for the Flower, Food and Foto Show on July 8, 1995. A good hint for timing is that State Fair exhibitors plant their bush beans on July 4 and pole beans a week earlier. So count back on the calendar and plan to start planting your beans as soon as the soil is warm enough (in a good year around May 15).





An Invitation from Dallas

In 1841, a daring Tennessee trader wandered in the land near the three forks of the Trinity River and liked what he saw. At the site he established a small trading post. And, in the famous words of Moe Howard, said, "There ain't no other place around the place, so this must be the place." And, boy, it was no place – just



scrub prairie black-land. But John Neely Bryan was a trader, not a gardener.

Old J. N.

dared, survived and prospered. And barely more than 150

years later, Dallas is the place—your place for outstanding programs and great garden tours, plus fun events, shopping and tours for spouses. Daring, too, are the members of the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas, as you will discover when you join us at the 60th Annual TGOA/MGCA Convention May 26 through 29, 1995.

Join in the fun with good friends and good food. We'll have the chili pot on, the bubba-cue a-smokin', and the warm sun a-shinin'. So y'all come. Y'hear?

(Registration is \$165. Registration deadline in April 15. Registration forms are available from the editor of *The Garden Spray*.)

**REMINDER:
COMMUNITY GARDEN
ON 19TH & ALDRICH
SPRING CLEANUP
APRIL 29 - 9 a.m.**

Jottings...

Elden Hugelen and Clyde Thompson, Cochairs of the Plant Auction Committee, have visited suppliers for this year's auction, set for May 9. In addition to the traditional high quality annuals, they are procuring a number of new introductions and some spectacular perennials.

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An article on wildflowers in the February issue of *People for Parks News*, published by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, mentions the native plants in the Stevens House gardens and gives credit to MGCM for planting and maintaining the gardens.

•••••

The April issue of *Minnesota Horticulturist* features an article by MGCM member Sharon Parker. In the article she recounts her efforts at garden record keeping. She credits the writings of Fred Glasoe for inspiration. She imagines he must keep detailed records in order to write so knowledgeably. Sharon also wrote an article on community gardening for the January issue of *Minnesota Horticulturist*.

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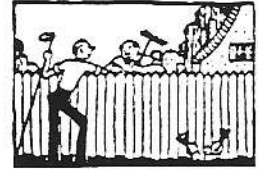
The Perennial Plant Association will hold its 13th Annual Perennial Plant Symposium in Minneapolis from July 30 through August 5. For more information write to the Perennial Plant Association, 3383 Schirtzinger Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026.

•••••

MGCM's bylaws, as amended at the February meeting, are available from Secretary Mary Maynard.

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Rules for the 1995 MGCM Photo Contest will appear in the May issue of the *Garden Spray*.



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

The National Garden Bureau designated this as the Year of the Impatiens.

The impatiens was discovered in eastern equatorial Africa and is thought to be indigenous to the island of Zanzibar. Dr. John Kirk brought them to England in 1896 when he was a member of Dr. Livingston's expeditions. I wonder if he was the one who said "Dr. Livingston, I presume". (ed. note: No. That was the newspaper reporter, Stanley.)

The plant class was first called IMPATIENS, sultanii in honor of the sultan of Zanzibar. It was later renamed IMPATIENS, wallerana after the missionary, Horace Waller.

The first impatiens available were open pollinated plants. One of the first F1 Hybrids was 'Pixie White', developed by the Ball Seed Company.

In 1968 Claude Hope and the Pan American Seed Company introduced the Elfin Series. These, together with the New Guineas, started the impatiens revolution. It made them the most popular bedding plant in North America. Do you know what is second? (Answer at end of story)

Two common names, Snapweed & Touch Me Not, give a clue to the Latin name impatiens. When the seeds are ripe, the slightest touch will cause them to pop open, thus scattering the seeds impatiently.

Here is a quick guide to impatiens: IMPATIENS, wallerana; I, holstii and I, Sultanii.

Common names: Impatiens, PatienPlant, Snapweed, Busy Lizzie,

Brittle, and Touch Me Not. It is a half hardy perennial (HHP) but is treated as a half hardy annual (HHA).

Germination: Sow indoors about 12 weeks before planting outdoors. Plant outdoors after the frost free date, about June 1 in Minnesota—about the same time as peppers. Thus seed starting time is about March 12th. You can start earlier if you have a well lighted indoor space or you want to make cuttings to increase the numbers of plants. When planting, do not cover the seeds and do provide a good light source during germination. Maintain a temperature of 70 to 75°. Seeds germinate in about 15 to 20 days.

After germination the plants can be kept at 65 to 70°. Hot indoor temperatures and or low light levels will result in spindly plants. Propagate spindly plants via cuttings.

Culture: Plant them in a rich well drained moist soil in the shade or a spot with only early morning sun. A typical spacing is 12-15 inches, but if planted closer will grow taller.

The Tip

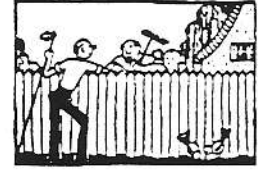
Here are some term definitions I found in Thomson and Morgan's literature:

HA—Plants that complete their cycle in one year if they are sown in early spring and can be sown directly outdoors. Sometimes in Minnesota these are started inside or in cold frames to extend or provide earlier bloom or harvest.

HHA—Plants that complete their cycle in one year but need a long growing season. They must be started indoors or in a heated enclosure.

HHP—Perennials, but treated as half hardy annuals. Generally perennials will not flower the first year but HHP's will, if started inside.

By the way, the second most popular bedding plant is the petunia.



1995 MGCM Scholarship Announcement

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis (MGCM) will be awarding a scholarship to a student of horticulture in 1995. MGCM will award at least one \$1,000 scholarship to a student or students interested in a career in horticulture, landscaping or related professional area.

MGCM is a group of men and women interested in gardening, home landscaping and improving the communities in which we live. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who has career goals consistent with the interests of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

CRITERIA OF APPLICATION AND AWARD

- 1 - Student must be a resident of the State of Minnesota.
- 2 - Student must be accepted or currently enrolled at a school within the State of Minnesota. The curriculum must be accredited or formalized.
- 3 - Student must have a demonstrated career interest in areas such as home gardening, greenhouse management or landscaping.
- 4 - Applications must be postmarked no later than May 1, 1995. A committee of MGCM members will choose the winner and award the scholarship by August 1, 1995.

5 - Finalists may be interviewed at a date and location to be determined.

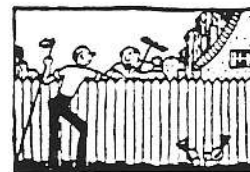
6 - Financial data, age, gender, race or religion will not be considered in awarding this scholarship.

INFORMATION REQUIRED WITH THE APPLICATION

- A - A fully completed application form.
- B - A letter of recommendation from an individual (non-family) knowledgeable about the applicant's horticultural experience and goals.
- C - A letter of recommendation from an individual (non-family) knowledgeable about the applicant's personal character.
- D - Other information the applicant deems appropriate.
- E - A statement indicating to which institution address the scholarship funds should be sent.

Applications and requests for information should be addressed to:

MGCM Scholarship
c/o Kent Petterson
908 East River Terrace
Minneapolis, MN 55414



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis 1995 Scholarship Application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HIGH SCHOOL: _____ GRADUATION DATE: _____

SCHOOL OF ENROLLMENT: _____

HORTICULTURAL AREA OF STUDY: _____

PRESENT ACADEMIC STATUS: _____ EXPECTED GRAD. DATE: _____

CUMULATIVE GPA: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

- 1) Describe your education/career goals.
- 2) Describe the specific horticultural program in which you are/will be enrolled.
- 3) Describe your personal horticultural experiences and any group involvements.
- 4) Why do you wish to pursue a career in horticulture or related areas?

Signature

This completed application, along with the required information (see announcement letter) must be provided by all applicants. Only those that meet all the criteria and provide all information will be considered. Please use additional paper as necessary.

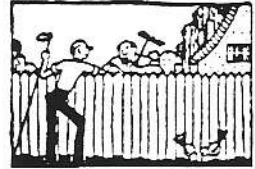
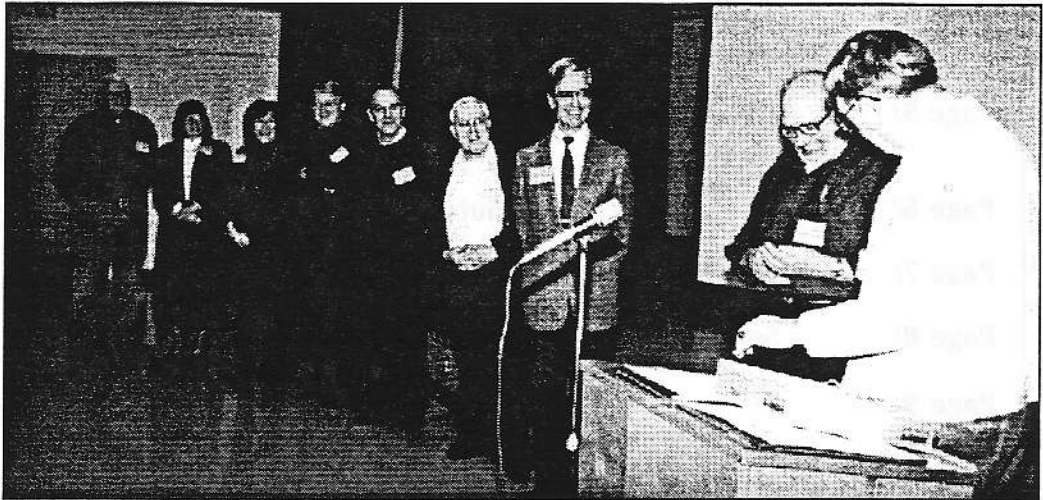


Photo Page

Photographs by Lloyd Wittstock



TGOA/MGCA National Director and MGCM Historian Bill Hull installs 1995 officers and directors. From left to right Director Bill Jepson, Secretary Mary Maynard, Director Kay Wolfe, Director Henry Orfield, Vice President Bob Stepan, Director Chuck Carlson, President Bob Voigt, Treasurer Howard Berg and Hull.



Bob Voigt models one of many unusual hats he has worn as MGCM Vice President in 1994 and President in 1995



Joe Stenger shows members how they mowed in the "old days" (on the floor?)

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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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4375 Dart Ave. So., St. Louis Park, MN 55424
Treasurer: Howard H. Berg
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Past President: Clyde Thompson
4429 Dunham Drive, Edina, MN 55435

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The Garden Spray

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