

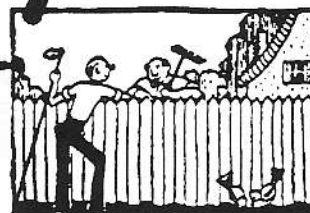


The Garden Spray

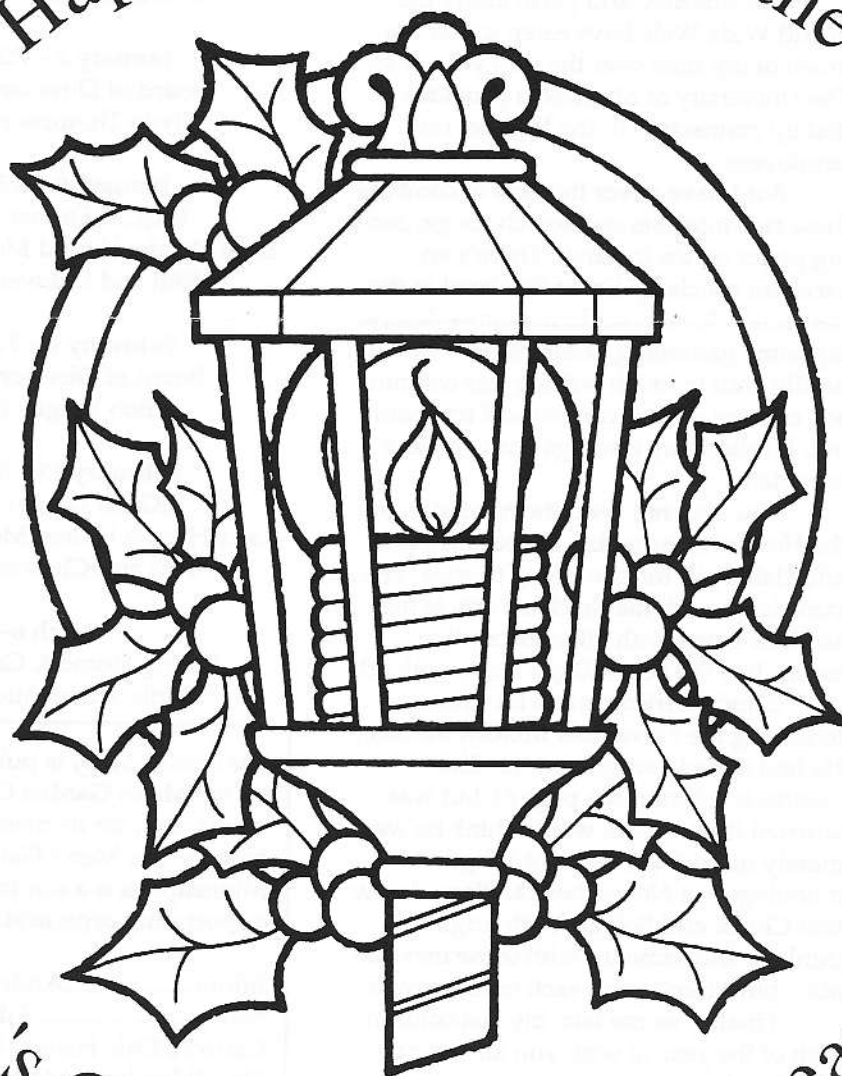
Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

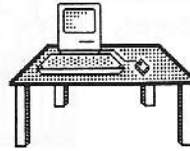
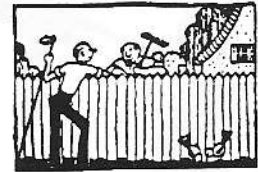
December 1995, Volume 53, Number 12



Happy Holidays from the



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

I have been both a gardener and a computer user for many years. I have tried a couple of gardening programs for my computer, but I haven't found a good one yet (suggestions anyone?).

The Internet, and particularly the World Wide Web, have eaten up far too much of my time over the past year or so. The University of Minnesota provides a dial up connection to the Internet for employees.

But I have never thought to combine these two interests and search for gardening pages on the Internet. There's an excellent article by Kevin Reichard in the December *Minnesota Horticulturist* describing some gardening home pages. I can hardly wait to finish writing this column so I can fire up the modem and try them out. I'll share my findings with you at a later date.

You may not need the reminder, but the *Horticulturist* makes an excellent and affordable gift for gardening friends. The same issue with the Reichard article has an outer cover with gift subscription forms. It is the best \$10 gift I can think of!

Chuck Carlson was a bit uneasy following the November MGCM meeting. He had already submitted his *Chuck's Chestnuts* column (see page 6), but was worried that readers would think he was merely mimicing President Voigt's monologue of November 14. Please know that Chuck and Bob are both original thinkers and came up with those inexcusable (but funny) puns each on their own.

Finally, let me take my last column inch of the year to wish you all "Happy Holidays!"

Coming Attractions

December 5 – 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Party

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Ave. So.

January 2 – 7:30 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
Clyde Thompson's House

January 9 – 6:30 p.m.

MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Ave. So.

February 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
Bob Voigt's House

February 13 – 6:30 p.m.

MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Ave. So.

March 6–10

Spring Home & Garden Show
Mpls. Convention 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, Mary Maynard, Derrill Pankow, Merle Pulley



Cuttings

by Bob Voigt, President, MGCM

The old saying "time flies when you're having fun" could be revised to "time flies when you are involved in gardening". Three years ago Merle Pulley, who was chairing the nominating committee, invited me to stand for election to the MGCM Board of Directors. Two years ago the nominating committee recommended me for vice president, and one year ago you graciously elected me as your president for 1995. It's been a great time, and I thank all of you who have made these past three years so memorable.

Over the years, I have worked with and served a variety of organizations and individuals. The groups include people involved in banking, zoos, orchestras, arts and cultural organizations, historical societies, museums, human service agencies and philanthropic groups. None has given me more pleasure than MGCM.

Gardening is a spiritual activity. It is a way to immerse oneself in a process both challenging and rewarding. It is an opportunity to learn about things of beauty, and how nature's seasonal evolution can be managed to create joy and pleasure that can be shared with others.

One of my frustrations is that I know very little in-depth information, when there is so much to learn. Over time I have focused on a few plants and growing challenges that have been reasonably successful and provided me with great pleasure. One truism is that there is a positive correlation between effort and results. My recent discovery, though, is that my enthusiasm often exceeds the

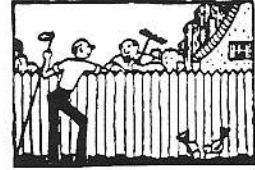
available time and energy. I hope you are having greater success at this than I am.

This year has resulted in many achievements for members of MGCM. I thank all of you for your participation and support. It is you who are members of committees where the work really takes place. Collectively we all share in the efforts and benefit from each other's contributions of time and talent.

Andy Marlow deserves special thanks from all of us for his commitment to write, edit, produce and distribute the *Garden Spray* each month. While each of us is active and participates in our own individual way, I believe the *Garden Spray* is the glue that holds us together and also provides the information, announcements and reports that we all need and look forward to each month.

A special thanks, too, to Bob Stepan for coordinating the programs and participating in many of the committee activities that have made this another meaningful and exciting year. Mary Maynard has kept the records and official minutes of all the board activities and served enthusiastically on several committees. Howard Berg has followed the numbers, which is a major job we all take for granted, but is essential to keeping records of the income and expenses of the club. And, of course, thanks to all the board members, committee chairs and each of you for actively participating and making this a great year. We have all benefited.

Happy gardening!



Monthly Program Report

by Andy Marlow

If you have the right plant in the right place, you don't have to have it on life support—just let it grow. That was the central message delivered by the speaker at the November MGCM dinner meeting. Doug Owens-Pike is the proprietor of Evergreen EnergyScapes and holder of a Master's degree in Plant Ecology.

Doug talked about native plants in the landscape. He emphasized the point of the right plant in the right *place* with the example of the Showy Pink Lady's Slipper, Minnesota's state flower. It is a native plant, but only grows in very select places. Backyards are not among those places.

Sometimes the wrong *plant* is too successful in the right place. A couple of examples are the European buckthorn, which has taken over the under story in many urban forests, and purple loosestrife (*lithrum*), which is forcing out many native plants in boggy areas.

In order to understand which native plants will be successful, Doug looks back at what grew here before the arrival of European settlers. The Twin Cities was primarily oak savanna, clumps of primarily burr oak, surrounded by prairie-like habitat. Any Twin Cities property owner can get the surveyor's notes, which include habitat descriptions, by bringing the legal description of their property to the Minnesota Historical Society.

Doug showed slides and talked about many plants. You will only get the highlights here, as the slides flew by too

fast for accurate notes.

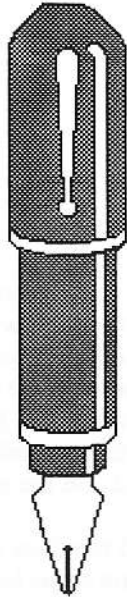
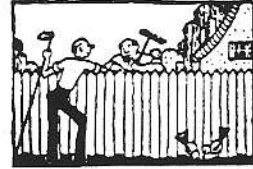
Two outstanding tree/shrubs for the under story - to replace the buckthorn you kill by girdling it - are iron wood and blue beech. Iron wood has a slate gray bark and holds its leaves through the winter. Blue beech has distinctive large leaves and a unique blue/gray bark.

Ground plants that succeed here include most of the spring ephemerals; plants which emerge and flower before the over story trees leaf out in the spring.

He also recommended two ground covers, Virginia water leaf and big leaf aster. Virginia water leaf is very aggressive and will cover an area in a short period of time. Big leaf aster works well in shady area, growing about 6 inches tall.

Some areas of the Twin Cities were covered by prairie and sand plain. Doug recommends some of the hardy native grasses, such as switch grass. In addition to its summer green, it is a tall tawny gold in winter and will stand up through even the heaviest snow. Cup plant is almost hedge size. It has cup shaped leaves that hold water near the stem. Birds come there to drink and to eat the insects attracted by the water. It has an attractive yellow flower that appeals to bees and butterflies, too.

Doug cautioned that prairies take room to develop. You need a large tract of land to even attempt restoration. Then you need to burn it periodically - every 3 to 5 years - to keep out invasive non-native plants.



Board Meeting Minutes

Mary Maynard, Secretary

November 7, 1995

Present: Howard Berg, Chuck Carlson, Mary Maynard, Henry Orfield, Bob Stepan, Clyde Thompson, Bob Voigt, Kay Wolfe. Not Present: Bill Jepson

The meeting was called to order by Bob Voigt at 7:43 p.m.

Old Business

Minutes of September and October meetings were approved on motion by Chuck, second by Kay Wolfe.

Treasurer's Report was approved as presented on motion by Bob Stepan, second by Mary.

1996 Budget: The Board approved the proposed 1996 budget on motion by Mary, second by Henry. The budget will be published in the *Spray* and presented to the membership at the January meeting.

Membership renewals: 87 renewals received as of November 7.

Holiday Party: Russ has everything under complete control.

New Business

New Members: The following applications for membership were approved on motion by Clyde, second by Howard: Carole Ann Brekke, Ritchie Miller, Ed Piechowski, and Mary Wahl.

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee has chosen a proposed slate of candidates for 1996:

President: Bob Stepan
Vice President: Maurice Lindblom
Secretary: Mary Maynard

Treasurer: Howard Berg
Past President: Bob Voigt
Directors: Chuck Carlson, Bill Jepson, Henry Orfield, and Kay Wolfe

Donation: The Board decided to donate \$100 to the Minnehaha Oaks Association, which is working to preserve a small stand of old oak trees along Highway 7 in Hopkins. This donation will be made from the funds generated by the sale of Floyd Ashley's garden equipment.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 on motion by Clyde, second by Bob S.

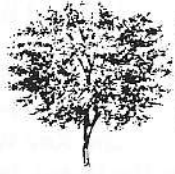
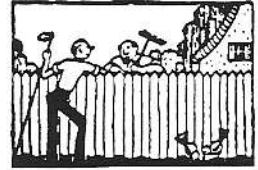
New Members

Carol Ann Brekke
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Burnsville, MN 55306-5161
Home phone: 435-6029
Work phone: 423-7685

Ritchie Miller
4249 Twin Oak Lane
Robbinsdale, MN 55422
Home phone: 535-3245
Work phone: 535-4695

Edward T. Piechowski
1011 West 24th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55405
Home phone: 374-2527
Work phone: 340-0475

Mary B. Wahl
1308 East Crystal Lake Road
Burnsville, MN 55306
Home phone: 435-6475
Work phone: 690-6870



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

News from the City of Horticulture

The following are a few notes of the lives and times of the City of Horticulture. The city lies in a valley between the mountains of Hardwork and True Enjoyment. Many say Horticulture is the lily of the valley. The people of Horticulture are very thoughtful, some even say they are a group of *bleeding hearts*. In general the men are dandelions. The women are mostly *mums* and the children are all *impatiens* but *obedient*. In the city there is a lady called *Felicia* who sewed for *Basil* the bachelor who loses his buttons. The city also has a couple who became famous and have a lot of *static*. They were so inundated with people watching their every move they cried out to "*Lettuce* alone". The city also has some people which have become has *beans*.

The very young girls of the city *turnip* their noses at the boys but later in life become more like *Iris*. *Iris* likes to make eyes at the unmarried men and has *tulips*, which the men yearn to kiss. She hoped someone would marry her, and prayed her intended would be rich since she always wanted to *marigold*. She finally found her dreamboat who gave her a ring that had a diamond of many *carrots*. They were eventually married and lived happily as *Birds of Paradise*.

One of the teachers in the city is a firm believer in class outings. She took the class on trips to the library to look through the *stachys* and *stachys* of books and to the planetarium where they learned about the

stars in the *cosmos*. They even went to see a comic called *Dusty Miller* who dispensed a lot of *corn*. He had a number of one-liners such as: "*Fred Rose* sat on a tack. *Fred rose*. You know the *Tin Man* wanted a heart and so did the *artichoke*, the *cabbage* only wanted a head and the *potato* some skin."

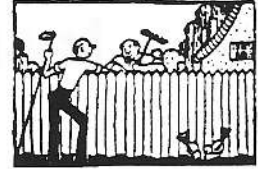
He also asked the class some questions: "If the *Soo* line stops for water does the *NPea*? Why do so many children say *yucca* to *vegetables*? Why do birds gather in *phlox* every fall to go south? What *flower* is in the symphony orchestra?" *Johnny* jumped up and responded *violas*.

We could talk about the feminists to see who carries the *Lady's-Mantle*, or the men's group and see who is the *Jack in the Pulpit*, but we better quit for now.

That is the news from the City of Horticulture, where all the *vegetables* are virile, the *flowers* are all good looking, and the *weeds* are all well behaved.

The Tip

Plant a flower and delight in its beauty. Plant a vegetable and savor its nutrients. Plant a tree and breathe its life giving oxygen. Plant a friendship and reap its rewards for life.



1996 Budget

The following budget for 1996 was adopted by the MGCM Board of Directors at their meeting on November 7, 1995, and will be voted on by the membership at the January 1996 meeting.

Income

Dues	\$4,500.00
Meetings	5,000.00
Plant Auction	5,100.00
Club Tours	700.00
Holiday Party	2,000.00
Calendars	3,330.00
Interest	500.00
Raffles	200.00
Misc. Income	100.00
Slide Shows	300.00
Flower, Food & Foto Show	300.00
Tour - Scholarship	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Income	\$25,030.00

Expenses

TGOA/MGCM Dues	\$1,450.00
MSHS Dues	1,450.00
Garden Spray	1,300.00
Meetings	5,000.00
Plant Auction	3,300.00
Tours	700.00
Flower, Food & Foto Show	850.00
Holiday Party	2,000.00
Directory	200.00
Sunshine	200.00
Honoraria	100.00
Awards	200.00
Arbor Day	250.00
Fragrance Garden	850.00
Convention Delegates	400.00
Calendars	1,800.00
Membership Campaign	100.00
Life Membership	150.00
Photography	100.00
Miscellaneous	200.00
Basement Rent	400.00

Slide Shows	100.00
Scholarships	3,000.00
Office Supplies	300.00
Bank Charges	50.00
Honorary Members	<u>80.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$25,030.00

Director's Report

by Russ Smith, Regional Director

Janet and I, along with Bill and Carol Hull, attended the TGOA/MGCA Director's meeting in Des Moines on November 3-4. The business was fairly routine and no major arguments took place.

There was a great deal of discussion about providing direct services to members as a way to shore up memberships. The Planning Committee put forward one idea which will be implemented; reviving the Seed Test Program. TGOA/MGCA will provide packets of seeds for any interested member to grow and test. The only requirement is that results of the test be returned to the national office at the end of the season. I've been involved with this program in the past. It's very enjoyable and should be tried by all active gardeners.

Our goal should be to develop programs that return to each member services equivalent to their annual dues. If you have ideas, contact me and I'll forward them to the powers that be.

The 1996 National Convention will be held June 16-19 at Colorado Springs. This is always a fun and educational event, well worth the time, effort and cost of attending.

The President Elect for 1996 had to resign for medical reasons. Look for the new list of officers in *The Gardener*.

Inside:

Page 2/ Editor's Column
Events Calendar

Page 3/ President's Column

Page 4/ November Meeting Report

Page 5/ November Board Minutes

Page 6/ Chuck's Chestnuts

Page 7/ 1996 Budget
Regional Director's Report

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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Treasurer: Howard H. Berg
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Past President: Clyde Thompson
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