

Celebrating Our 55th Year

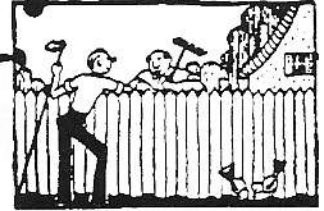


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

December 1997, Volume 55, Number 12

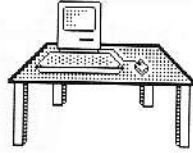
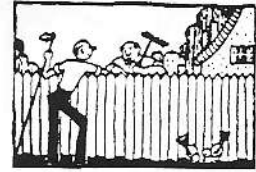


Season's Greetings



from the

*Men's Garden Club
of Minneapolis*



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

This is my last column after six years as editor of the *Garden Spray*. Although my predecessor as editor, Ed Culbert, served for 22 years, I am not blessed with either his stamina or patience. In fact, I promised then-President Merle Thomas Pulley that I would take the job for five years, so I have had more stamina than I predicted.

I am going to stay involved in the process of producing the *Spray*. Chuck Carlson is going to serve as Managing Editor and a whole crew of people will take over many of the other jobs necessary to get the *Spray* into your hands each month. Apparently no one else feels they have the computer skills necessary to lay out the *Spray*, as I will be the new production manager. To me, that's the most fun and easiest part of the job. However, if you are interested in learning these skills, I would welcome an apprentice. Eventually I might be able to pass this job along to someone else, too.

There are lots of "thank you" to hand out, and I hope I don't miss anyone. Thanks to the six Presidents I have served under - Greg Smith, Lee Gilligan, Clyde Thompson, Bob Voigt, Bob Stepan and Maury Lindblom - for providing their monthly column in a timely manner and lots of support for my efforts. Thanks, too, to the Vice Presidents for monthly program information. And the Secretaries, Treasurers, and Committee Chairs for their contributions. Special thanks to the Photography Committee for their photo-

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Coming Attractions

Tuesday, December 2 - 7:30 pm
Board of Directors' Meeting
Maury Lindblom's House

Tuesday, December 9 - 6:00 pm
Holiday Party
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

Tuesday, January 6 - 7:30 pm
Board of Directors' Meeting
Mary Maynard's House

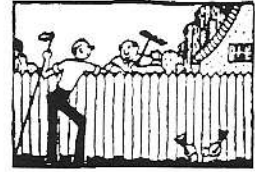
Tuesday, January 13 - 6:30 pm
Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen

Tuesday, February 3 - 7:30 pm
Board Meeting
Maury Lindblom's House

Tuesday, February 10 - 6:30 pm
Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen

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,
Richard Coldren, Sher Curry and
Robert Olson



Maury's Musings

by Maury Lindblom, President, MGCM

Here it is time for my last column for the *Spray*. The old expression "time flies when you're having fun", comes to mind. It has been a labor of love to do these columns each month, a task to which I always look forward.



Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

I want to thank all the board members for their faithful service. Their dedication to the mission of the club was very much appreciated by me, and I am sure all the members of the club would join me in that appreciation.

This has been a good year for the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Attendance at the meetings has been good, the programs have been first-rate, and membership has been steadily increasing. The tours this summer were very successful and the Flower, Food and Foto Show was excellent, also. My thanks

to all the members for these accomplishments.

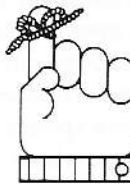
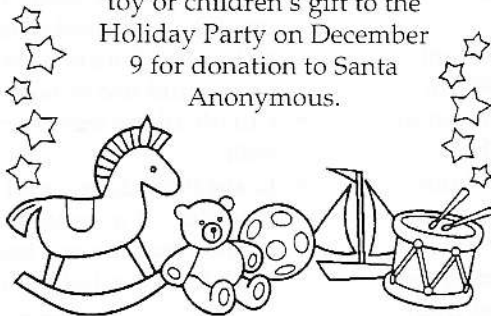
I want to extend a special thank you to Andy Marlow for his years of service as editor of the *Spray*. We have all benefited from his expertise and diligence. Every month I am amazed at the ingenuity and variety of the *Spray* and its layout.

On December 9 we will be having our annual Holiday party. This is the big social event of the year for the club and we would urge you all to call in your reservations right away, if you have not already done so. We would like to see all of our members and their guests there. The Holiday Party Committee has put in a lot of work in planning and I am sure you will all enjoy it.

In closing, I would ask all of you to support your new president, Mary Maynard, and the new board as they take over in January. With your support and cooperation 1998 will be another banner year for MGCM.

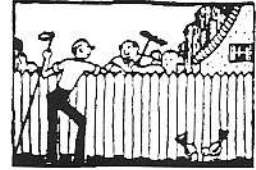
Make Someone's Holiday Happier

Bring a new, unwrapped toy or children's gift to the Holiday Party on December 9 for donation to Santa Anonymous.



Dues Reminder

If you have not yet paid your MGCM dues for 1998, this is your last issue of the *Garden Spray*. Your *Minnesota Horticulturist* subscription, paid for by your dues, may already have been canceled. To continue to receive the *Spray* and get back to regular deliveries of the *Horticulturist*, mail your dues to Treasurer Howard Berg **today** at 10107 Lakeview Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305-2615.



Arboretum Annual Meeting

by Marilyn Brummer, Arboretum Liaison



On September 11, 1997, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Education Committee held its second annual meeting with interested plant societies and garden clubs.

Brenda Hauschild, Arboretum Membership Director, talked about the benefits to plant societies and garden clubs of club membership in the Arboretum, currently \$60.00. Benefits include free admission, the newsletter and one free room rental a year.

The Arboretum realizes the mutual benefits between societies and the Arboretum. The plant clubs provide expertise and volunteer efforts that the Arboretum doesn't have the resources to acquire otherwise. The societies also bring new cultivars and research developed at the Arboretum to the public.

The Arboretum is developing a 12 month calendar that societies may use to reserve a room well in advance. The Arboretum also has insurance through the University of Minnesota for co-sponsored activities. There is great interest in joint activities and the Arboretum will develop a policy for deciding which events to co-sponsor. Societies are specifically invited to teach adult classes, which can be arranged through Shirley Kooyman, Education Director.

The Arboretum will sponsor a Plant Society Trade Fair on April 18, 1998. All clubs and societies will be invited to set up a booth, give demonstrations, teach classes, sell memberships and distribute information to public. There will also be a series of short courses going on all day.

The Arboretum is also developing two educational carts that can be moved from

garden to garden as the need arises. For example, the Iris Society could use one in the iris garden when plants are in bloom and then again in August to demonstrate how to divide plants.

Finally, it was decided the annual meetings with plant societies and garden clubs will be continued in 1998.

The Arboretum seems determined to build partnerships with garden clubs, and provide opportunities for the clubs to "show their stuff." As one of the founders of the Arboretum, MGCM should be developing plans for ways to take advantage of these opportunities.

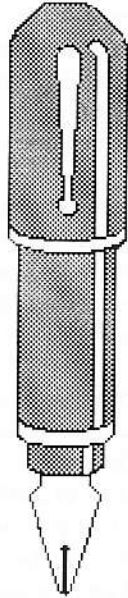
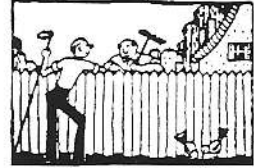
Forcing Hostas

by Dr. Bob Olson, President
American Hosta Society

Interested in forcing a hostas for a midwinter show (or just for your own enjoyment)?

- Dig the plant now, before the frost hardens the ground, and remove as much soil as possible.
- Plant it in a plastic pot (a clay one will crack more easily with freezing) using a peat-based soilless mix such as Promix, Sunshine Mix or anything you would use to raise seedlings.
- Cut off all the leaves and water it well.
- Leave it outdoors until it freezes, then store it in an unheated garage or shed (not in your basement). You want it "unheated but out of the

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Board Meeting Minutes

Margaret Hibberd, Secretary
November 4, 1997

Present: Howard Berg, Chuck Carlson, Margaret Hibberd, Mary Maynard, Ritchie Miller, Bob Stepan, Kay Wolfe. Absent: Chuck Benson, Maury Lindblom.

Mary Maynard, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

1. The Secretary's minutes of the October Board meeting were approved on a motion by Howard, seconded by Bob, with a correction to read that Dave Johnson will remain as chair of biennial public tours and Kay would like a new chair for club tours.

2. October Treasurer's report by Howard Berg was approved on a motion by Chuck seconded by Kay.

3. Vice President's report by Mary Maynard. The January meeting speaker will be Joan Cooper on Travels and Gardens in the Far East.

New Business

Awards. The Board would like to see as many major awards as possible given at the Holiday Party in December. Maury will talk with the holiday party committee.

Calendars. 204 have been sold. We have a total of 575.

Old Business

We received a thank you letter from Peter Olin for our \$200 contribution to the Arboretum.

Committee Reports

Perennial Garden - Done for this

year. Kay still wants to talk with Mary Lerman about helping with design ideas. Dave Moenhke has resigned as cochair but Bob Redmond will stay.

Membership - On a motion by Howard, seconded by Margaret, Ruth Bannerman was accepted into membership.

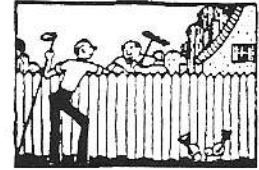
Garden Spray - Chuck C. and Mary met with Andy and prepared a *Spray* task description to distribute the work. This will be presented at the November meeting and more volunteers will be sought to write articles and help with other parts. Andy is willing to continue doing the layout

National convention - Duane Reynolds and Kay looked again at specific requirements, dates, and rates for the Airport Hilton and the Radisson South. The Radisson appears to have lower room rates and probably better facilities. If we choose any weekend other than one near July 4, rooms cost \$20 more per night. Last time National was here, the attendance was about 500 because so many MGCM members attended. Normal is 200-300 from out of town and total attendance is smaller than the 500 here. Duane, Mary and Kay will write up their best program, date, and hotel proposal and send it to TGOA/MGCA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. on a motion by Chuck, seconded by Ritchie.

New Member

Ruth Bannerman
1311 Boardwalk Avenue
Minneapolis MN 55411-3365
Home phone: 529-2239



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

Since this is my last column of the year, I thought I would provide you with some information on gardening things to do or to look for in the coming year.

Impatiens are getting a lot of attention. I have read that there is an *Impatiens grandulifera* that is 6 foot tall with white or pink/purple flowers. This will be a good *back of the border* plant. It's available from Flowery Branch, Box 1330, Flowery Branch, GA 30542.

Another slightly shorter one (2 ft.) is *I. niammiamensis*. It has pink-red-yellow shrimp shaped flowers that bloom all summer. To obtain this one try Logee's Greenhouses at 141 North St., Danielson, CT 06239. Another interesting one is *I. falcifer*. The flowers are speckled yellow and look a little like the dancing lady orchid.

Orange will be the *in* color for next year. So if you want to be one of the crowd pick flowers that are orange. Marigolds, Zinnias, Tithonia and Sunflowers have been in my garden for years. Maybe I will look for some other oranges. Carlton Nelson's Marigold garden has been predominately orange for as long as I remember. Carlton, it looks like they are catching up with us.

Are you looking for a ground cover? You might try *Spaeralcea, coccinea*. Not only is this drought tolerant, hardy to -30 degrees, 8" tall, and 1-1/2 inch flowers on silvery foliage, but it has orange flowers. Caution: it spreads by rhizomes, so it can be invasive. But it sounds like a good bank ground cover. Try Rocky Mountain Rare Plants for this one.

All of you seed savers look for "Calgly". When used to dry seeds they will have longer viability and better germination. You can make "Calgly" yourself from glycerol and calcium chloride.

Grow some lemon grass in pots. Buy some from the supermarket for your cooking, use the tops for your culinary delicacies and the bottoms for planting. It is very easy to root but don't plant it too deep.

Did you know that deer don't like daffodils? All you deer lovers can plant a garden of daffodils and be safe. Maybe you can interplant with daffodils and help other things from being devoured. In any case you will have some beautiful flowers of the yellow-orange persuasion.

If you don't like daffodils, the *Hardy Fern Foundation Newsletter* gave a recipe for an effective deer-slug-insect repellent. It may seem a bit outrageous but after you read the ingredients you can see why the deer will ignore it.

Put 2 cups of water, 2 cups of green onion tops, 2 cloves of garlic and 3 whole eggs including the shells (the older the eggs the better) into a blender. Blend for 2 or 3 minutes. Add this slurry to a pail of water in which some Fels Naptha bar soap has been dissolved. Then add 1 or 2 tablespoons of any of the following: ground red pepper, hot sauce, cumin, mustard or anything very spicy. This would be a good use for Habañeros. If you do use Habañeros, make sure you use gloves and don't get any on your lips or in your eyes. Mix well and brush on the plants and buds you want to protect.

This mixture should be prepared ahead of time and given time to ripen to have its greatest effect. The residue in the bottom of the pail can be put on the ground around any susceptible plants to

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Chestnuts

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inhibit those pests crawling in on the ground.

Coir dust, derived from coconut husks, will be used as an alternative to sphagnum peat in new growing mixes. Iowa State University experiments showed improved growth using coir mixes. It may even be available by itself for those of you that mix your own soilless mixes.

Petroseed has announced some new vegetables, some of which will be on the market in 1998. I selected a few for you to consider. Watch for them in the new catalogs.

- A large Jalapeño—"Mucho Nacho"
- A French cucumber—"Cool Breeze"
This one doesn't need cross-pollination
- A French filet bean—"Straight 'N Narrow" 5" beans, 18" bush plants and matures in 53 days.
- A long keeper tomato—"Keepsake" Determinate, 70 days maturity, keeps on the vine 10 to 14 days after ripe and up to 6 weeks after picked.
- A beta carotene rich carrot—"Pot 'O Gold" 9" and smooth, good taste; 71 day maturity.
- A pear tomato twice the size of a Roma—"Classica" High sugar content, 76 days maturity and good for sauces, salsa or eating.
- A big extra early onion—"Candy" Sweet, mild and 85 days maturity. This one you don't have to wonder if it is a short or long day variety since it is for all locations,
- A big sized Bell Pepper—"Fat 'N Sassy" Big, thick walls and blocky; 58-65 days to maturity

Forcing Hostas

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weather"—it won't survive outside if it gets fifteen below.

- In your garage you will need to water it from time to time—use a few ice cubes placed on top of the soil (soilless mix). Snow is even cheaper.
- Bring it inside in January and put it under artificial lights or in a sunny window (or in a green house if you are so blessed. It will take about two to three weeks to get it to full foliage.

(adapted and expanded from an article in the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society newsletter. Bob submitted this article for the November Spray, but space issues delayed it until this issue.)

Editor's Column

(continued from page 2)

graphs, particularly Lloyd Wittstock, Chuck Carlson, and Bill Jepson.

My steadiest contributor in the writing department has been Chuck Carlson. Every month for more than three years his interesting and, frequently, humorous column has graced these pages. Other regular contributors have been Mary Maguire Lerman, Mary Maynard, Dr. Bob Olson and Sher Curry.

Thanks to you all—and any I may have missed. It's been a great run!

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