

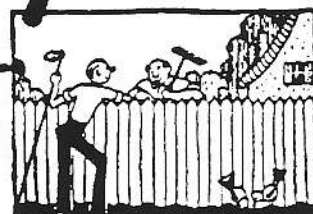


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

January 1995, Volume 53, Number 1



January Dinner Meeting



Stump the Experts...
and welcome the
New Year with your
gardening friends!

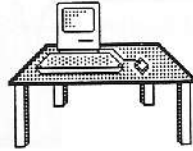
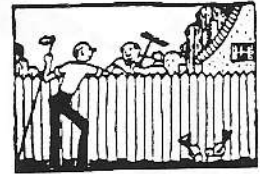
Tuesday January 10, 1995
6:30 P.M.

Lake Harriet United
Methodist Church
4901 Chowen Avenue South

There will be plenty to do at the January meeting, including trying to *Stump the Experts* — the experts being your colleagues in MGCM. *Stump the Experts* is an idea exchange and open discussion. Bring your questions to challenge other members.

Plus 1995 Officers and Directors will be inducted into office by TGOA/MGCA National Board Member Bill Hull. Bill will also award the infamous **Green Thumb** to all members with perfect 1994 attendance. Members will **vote on the 1995 budget and whether to continue the 6:30 p.m. meeting time** (or revert to a 6:00 p.m. start). Clyde Thompson will **auction more tools and gardening books** from the estate of the late Floyd Ashley. And Chuck Carlson will unveil the **new gardening slide show** he is presenting to organizations around the Twin Cities.

The cost for this activity filled evening is still just \$7.00 if you reserve dinner in advance. It costs \$8.00 without a reservation. The 1994 permanent reservation list is still in effect for this meeting. If you don't find a reservation card with this copy of the *Spray*, you are on the permanent list. Please call Secretary Mary Maynard if you will not attend the January meeting. If you do have a reservation card with this issue, return it to Mary as soon as possible to reserve your place at dinner. You will have a chance to sign up for the 1995 permanent Reservation list at the January meeting.



The Editor's Desk
Andy Marlow

Congratulations to all those who were presented with awards at the MGCM Holiday Party in December. Gardening is usually a non-competitive sport, but it's important to recognize those whose skills, achievements and contributions exceed expectations. Pictures of this year's award winners are on page 5.

Last month I mislead readers by saying that the December issue of the *Spray* would be their last if they had not paid their 1995 dues. The truth is this is your last issue. Also, you have not been included in the MGCM Directory which is at the printer's as you read this and your subscription to the *Minnesota Horticulturist* is expired, too. I hope those of you who intend to renew, but haven't yet, get the message. If you haven't, I won't have another chance to deliver it.

It's a day or so after Christmas and I've already received garden catalogs from Park's, Springhill and Burpee's. What a delight to begin planning my purchases and imagining the mature flowers and vegetables of late summer. Too bad the arrival of catalogs coincides with the arrival of tax forms. It's a clear case of having to accept the bad along with the good.

Your Board of Directors and Officers are planning an exciting year for you. January's dinner meeting, at the new time of 6:30 p.m., will include awarding of green thumbs, installation of new officers, a vote on the budget and a chance to vote whether to continue the 6:30 meeting time—and an interesting program. Be there or be square!

Coming Attractions

January 3 – 7:30 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
Clyde Thompson's House

January 10 – 6:30 p.m.

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

January 21 – Noon

MSHS Winter Garden Tour
Center for Northern Gardening

February 4 & 5 – 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Winter Carnival Orchid Show
Orchid Society of Minnesota
Como Park Conservatory

February 7 – 7:30 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
Bob Voigt's House

February 14 – 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Every new year starts with a great deal of optimism. This year, 1995, is no exception. I sense a strong appreciation among our members for the many great activities this past year and a high degree of enthusiasm for the year ahead. I hope you do, too.

Nineteen ninety-four was successful in many ways. Our membership continued to grow, attendance at meetings increased, more people participated in the auction, tours and flower show, and I believe we have all grown in knowledge and interest in gardening.

Past President Clyde Thompson can take a bow for his delightful and energetic leadership this past year. Mel Anderson completed his fifth year as Treasurer and managed the job with great diligence and commitment, tracking the many details involved with revenues and expenses. For the past four years, Eldon Hugelen has done a superb job as Secretary, recording all official actions and business of the Club.

Clyde, of course, continues on the Board of Directors as Past-President. Mel, Eldon and Don Powell are retiring from Board duties and will continue to be active on many committees this next year. Past-President Lee Gilligan automatically goes off the Board, but remains a constant source of information on protocol, policies and growing techniques. We thank all of you for your great contributions.

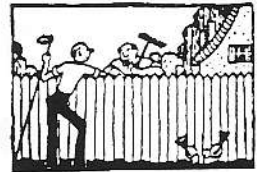
Bob Stepan takes on the task of Vice President. A member since 1986 and a Director for the past four years, Bob has been active on the heavy-duty committees and participated on many others. Mary Maynard moves up from Director to the

Secretary's job, overseeing and recording official goings-on and decisions. Former Director Howard Berg will be the Club's Treasurer, a move from his successful role as Chair of the Calendar Committee and his participation on many others. Chuck Carlson, author of *Chuck's Chestnuts* each month in the *Garden Spray* and Chair of the Fragrance Garden Committee, provides the anchor position on the Board, returning for his second year. New Directors are Bill Jepson, Henry Orfield and Kay Wolfe, each bringing dedication, distinction and enthusiasm to the Board.

This is a great team. You can look to all of us to do the very best we can to bring you quality programs and Club activities. We invite you to share suggestions to strengthen our Club and to participate in many activities. We have 16 committees offering a variety of opportunities to work together.

One of the great benefits of membership in MGCM is sharing experiences and learning from other members. I hope during the year we can find more time to exchange ideas and information on a regular, ongoing basis.

Happy gardening in 1995.

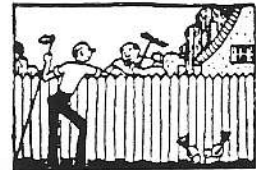


New Members

Carol Hull
6833 Creston Road
Edina, MN 55435
Home Phone: 926-1327

Dave W. Johnson
5291 Matterhorn Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55421
Home phone: 571-2713

1995 MGCM Board of Directors



MGCM Directors and Officers for 1995

Back row: Bill Jepson, Director; Kay Wolfe, Director; Bob Stepan, Vice President; Howard Berg, Treasurer; Henry Orfield, Director. Front row: Chuck Carlson, Director; Mary Maynard, Secretary; Clyde Thompson, Past President; Bob Voigt, President

Parting Shots

Clyde Thompson, Past President, MGCM

That was some Holiday Party! The committee did a great job converting a church basement into a festive banquet hall—plus having a program that kept everyone awake after that scrumptious turkey dinner.

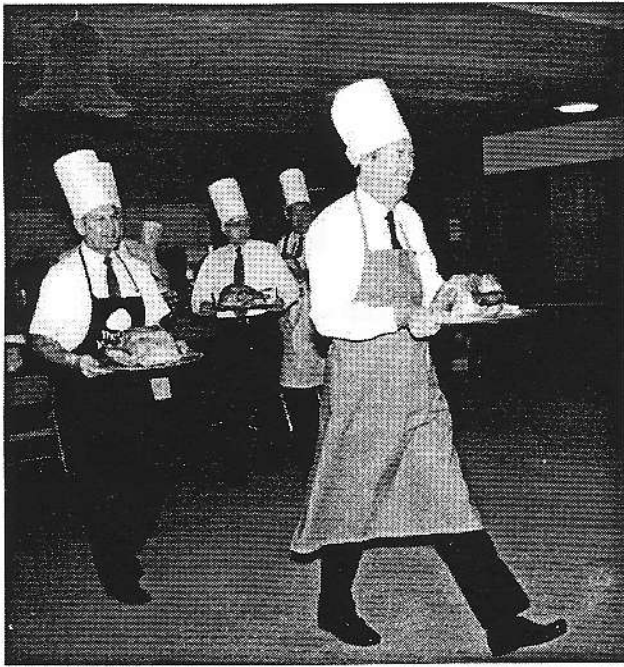
It's still December as I write this. This is the month when we think of things that were before the things that will be. The neat trophies that were awarded and the kudos handed out all point to planning our garden so as to share in the spoils next year. It's also time to choose what part we will play to make MGCM a continuing success.

This past year clearly illustrates how a group of fine gardeners, working

together in a spirit of friendly competition, keeps the Club growing year after year. They share their knowledge and seeds, and bring forward the experiences of the past for newer members.

The one area we could benefit from is somehow to be able to visit, or publish colored pictures of, some of the great gardens as they change through the season. We miss the early spring gardens entirely. Maybe a Saturday visit to the "Garden of the Month" would work. Just as new seeds and plants are germinated, so new ideas will keep MGCM alive and growing.

I hope your 1995 will be as much fun as my 1994 was.

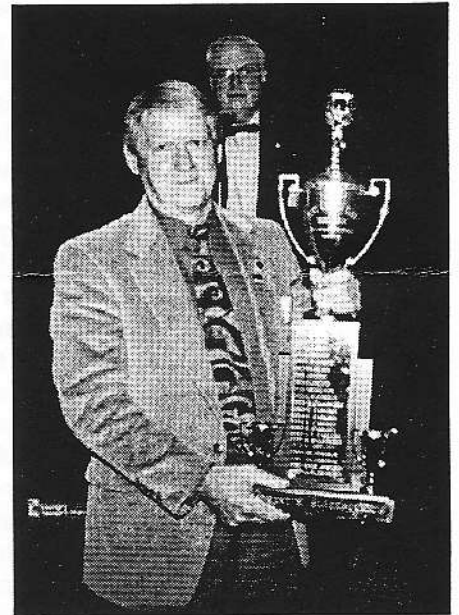


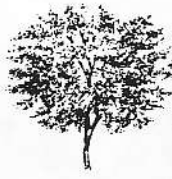
Holiday Party Photos

by Lloyd Wittstock



(clockwise from upper left) Todd Bachman leads the Parade of Turkeys. Don Powell carves a bird for an eager audience. Henry Orfield with Flower Sweepstakes Trophy. Mel Anderson receives Bronze Medal. Bob Voigt awarded President's Cup. Mel Anderson with Vegetable Sweepstakes Trophy. Kay Wolfe receives Smith Trophy from Greg Smith.





Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

A painting called "The Gleanings" has women and children going through a previously reaped grain field picking up the little food that remained. Though I believe this picture has a religious connotation, it came to mind when I was looking for a subject for this month's column. So, I'm cleaning out the file of miscellaneous horticultural bits and pieces I've saved. They are interesting and maybe even useful.

For those of you who oppose insecticides or spraying in general, here are a few bits of information on the subject:

For best results with insecticidal soap, use rain water. Do it by adding soap to the water, not water to the soap. Douse all plant surfaces, but test first by trying one leaf to make sure it won't harm the plant. Wait 24 hours for the test results. A few plants known to be harmed using soap are palms, jade, crown of thorns, mountain ash and Japanese maples.

Ann Mann of Hobby Greenhouse suggests the following spray for mealybugs, scale and sometimes aphids. Add one tablespoon of dish detergent and one of corn oil (only corn oil—no others will do) to one gallon of water.

Broccoli stems and leaves are good for wilt control. Grind or chop these stems and leaves (dried or fresh). Till into the garden at a rate of one cubic foot per 100 square feet. This was found useful in tests by the University of California.

Control of black flies, white flies or fungus gnats can be done easily with paper cups. Glue some yellow cups upside down on a plastic lid or a paper

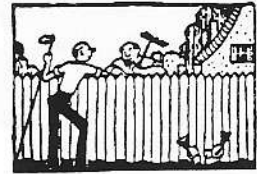


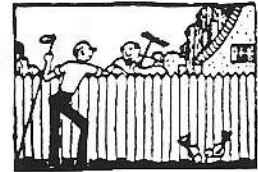
plate. Cover the cup with tanglefoot and place them in the infested area. The little fliers will disappear and you will end up with a cup full to toss away. It will work both inside or outside.

Do you mulch? I know Mary Maynard does. She collects leaves from all her neighbors and chops them in her driveway with the lawn mower. Take heart, Mary. If your leaf supply dries up, you can use newspapers. Ohio State University mulched test plots with shredded newspapers and found they provided higher yields on corn, tomatoes and soy beans than did their other control mulches. They also found that they could be incorporated into the soil in the fall with no detrimental effects from ink or heavy metals.

Chilling some flower seeds can increase germination. Chill for 4 to 10 weeks prior to germination. Put them in a container and keep them at 40 degrees or colder. I have been keeping all my extra seeds in the refrigerator with good results. I have germinated some after 4 years of storage. Wild flowers benefit the most from a cold cycle, but I have tried it with rock garden plants with good success. I just planted the seeds in a small pot, watered them, covered the pot with a plastic bag and put them outside (in the shade) over winter. Bring them inside for an early start or just wait for spring to germinate them outside. Just remember to remove them from the bag when you see the green shoots.

Want early Beans? Plant Contender, Earliserve or Top Crop a week before the frost free date. You can expect a 50% chance of success. Plant them 1" deep every 1-1/2" in a ridge of soil 4 to 5 inches high. Thin to 4 or 5 plants per foot. Use stagger plantings for continuous yields; plant new seeds when the previous

(continued on page 7)



Chuck's Chestnuts

(continued from page 6)

planting has 2 or 3 leaves. If you stagger plantings, a 6 foot row will provide you with an adequate supply of beans. In the summer, plant the seeds 2" deep.

If you want to push earliness even further start the seeds inside by sprouting them. Put the seeds in a moist coffee filter and then in a zip lock bag. Keep warm until they sprout the radicle (the first root), usually about 3 days. Check daily or you will have a mass you can't separate. Plant the sprouts outside directly in the garden or keep inside, potted in peat pots. If kept inside too long they will have to be hardened off. A cold frame is also good for the potted ones. You always plant transplants green side up but for sprouted seeds it is radicle down.

Do you end up with spindly cabbage transplants? Just plant them deep right up to the leaves. You can do this with tomato transplants also. Just remove any low branches or leaves and plant the stem horizontally and tipping the leaves up straight. The tomatoes will root all along the stem and you will end up with a stronger plant.

Next fall when you harvest your cabbage dig up some of the roots. Heal them in next to the house and cover. In the spring plant them in the garden. You will have some early cabbage greens.

Here is another "did you know?". Carrots and squash have good carotenes, but dark green leafy vegetables like kale and spinach have a greater variety of carotenes than the yellow vegetables.

Remember my article on garlic? Here's another way to store garlic. Chop the bulbs in a blender with very little water and freeze them in an ice cube tray. Store them in a zip lock bag in the freezer. Just pop a frozen cube into the delicacy

you're making. It's easy when you want some in a hurry for soup or pasta sauce.

The Tip

I will leave you with this to stimulate planning ahead for next year's garden. "While the earth remains, seed time and harvest, heat and cold, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease."

Garden Tools

The auction of Floyd Ashley's hand tools, held at the November MGCM Dinner Meeting, yielded over \$350 for the Club. In addition to hand tools, the following items were bequeathed to MGCM:

- One antique trunk
- Two 50 gallon wooden stave barrels
- One Gravely tractor with 8 attachments
- Four 18-inch cement Japanese urns
- Two 8-inch cement Japanese urns
- Two birdbath pedestals
- One tool storage cabinet
- One Kemp soil shredder
- One Toro 21-inch self propelled mower
- One Troy-Built rototiller
- One Scott's fertilizer spreader
- Four galvanized garbage cans
- Two 8X8 hemp floor mats
- Two step ladders
- Three galvanized bushel baskets
- Two trimmer/lopper/saws
- One hand-push edger
- One cement Japanese pagoda (in sections)
- Two wooden saw horses
- Tons of clay pots

The committee is planning to auction these items sometime in the spring. If you have any questions about this generous bequest, please contact Bob Stepan, Clyde Thompson or Bob Voigt.

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