

The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

Your editor was pleased to learn that the *Garden Spray* received an honorable mention in the TGOA/MGCA newsletter contest. It's the least of the awards won by MGCM and its members. Check page 9 for details on other award winners.

This summer seems to be one of *spells*. First we had a long cool spell, then a wet spell and, most recently, a hot, dry spell. My gardening has been very much the same—very active spells followed by periods of lethargy or inactivity brought on by weather inhospitable to gardening. Here's hoping everything evens out, both meteorologically and motivationally!

I had better get thing organized around my own garden, because there's a lot of activity ahead. My son and I have already begun inspecting plants for likely specimens to be entered in the Flower, Food and Foto Show on July 8 and 9. I have been out of town or otherwise indisposed the last two years and am really looking forward to competing!

I also am eager to check out other people's gardens on the regular tours in July and August, and the periodic open gardens. The Tour Committee is really knocking themselves out to create these opportunities for us. I hope many of us take advantage of the opportunities.

Once I have everything planted, I hope to map the perennials (particularly the hostas) in my garden. I am getting old enough, or I have so many of them, that I am losing track of which variety is planted where. As more hostas are registered and cultivated, it get harder and harder to tell them apart.

Coming Attractions

July 5 – 7:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
Bill Jepson's House

July 8 - 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
July 9 - 11:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Flower, Food and Foto Show
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

July 11 – 5:30 p.m.
Members Garden Tour
Pershing Neighborhood Center
3523 West 48th Street (48th and Chownen)

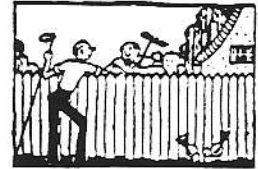
July 15 - 10 a.m. - 5: p.m.
Open Garden
Jerry Olson's Garden
10841 Stanley Avenue South
Bloomington

August 1 – 7:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
Bob Voigt's House

August 13 - TBA
Guest Garden Tour & Picnic

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

Dear Diary:

Sunday afternoon; 90°. Two truisms (variations of some you might recognize) come to mind as I'm gardening in the heat of the day: A gardener's work is never done! and Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun. So what am I doing hauling two pickup loads of sphagnum/peat? It's for top dressing on our sandy loam garden soil, so the plants won't dry out so fast.

It seems like the recent warmer and drier weather has necessitated watering the border every day—both a slow and tiring process. Okay, the peat is a good long-run addition for the soil. The garden looks great. Our time and effort are good investments. But, we're tired. A good kind of tiredness at the end of the day. But weekend gardening for about 12 hours each day makes us appreciate the fact that we don't do this 12 months of the year.

How's your garden this year. Ours is spectacular! Well, maybe not ready for a feature article in a major magazine, but good enough for me to brag about and to invite anyone to stop out and see our

garden/farm north of Hastings.

Several of our in-town neighbors cannot believe we have gone from a small yard, shady borders, ho-hum stuff to a humongous series of 12 different types of border presentations (woodland shade, perennials, annuals, small vegetables, vines and potatoes, herbs, etc.) with over 5000 square feet of things to take care of.

Our work-travel-home schedule is pretty scrambled this summer; however, if you want to visit us at the farm, you could drive out to Afton for an ice cream cone at Selma's and then go south eight miles. Turn left (east) on 110th Street and go about a half mile to the end of the road. Just give us a call—the latch string is always out (another truism).

This year's weather and growing conditions should produce maximum quality exhibits for the Flower, Food and Foto Show on July 8 and 9. And the tours (both open gardens and the July 11 bus tour) will give us a chance to see some beautiful gardens. I hope to see you at these major MGCM events.

Happy Gardening!

Flower, Food and Foto Show Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

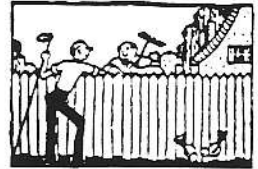
Saturday July 8

Entries 7:00 - 10:30 a.m. Judging 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Exhibition 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday July 9

Exhibition 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Monthly Program Report

by Andy Marlow

What is a landscape architect and what does he/she do? That was the subject for the program at the June MGCM meeting.

MGCM member Eldon Hugelen is a practicing landscape architect—and he says no one has a firm definition of the term. But he showed members what a landscape architect does by way of a series of slides of projects on which he has worked. Some were complete and some still works in progress.

Eldon admitted to being born and raised in Iowa, obtaining his education at Iowa State University. Later he was stationed in Germany while he served in the Army. After his hitch with Uncle Sam, he came to Minnesota. He has since returned to Germany twice, the latest time for about five years.

It was in Germany that Eldon's interest in perennials began to develop. While he uses trees, shrubs and annuals in his design, the mainstay is perennials. He says he is always breaking the accepted rules of the trade. His major goals are to respect the land and try to get the client to appreciate what they have.

Listening to the client and asking questions is the first step in the design process. Then Eldon measures the land and buildings. Finally comes the overall plan and planting list. Eldon says his clients aren't rich, but have a sense of investment in their property. Some want to complete the whole project immediately, while others slowly build toward

the final plan over a period of years.

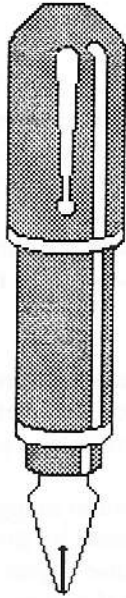
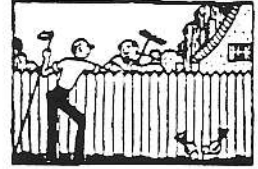
In order to be certain of the suitability of perennials for his clients in Minnesota, Eldon grows plants on his town house property. He modestly says "If I can grow it, probably anyone can." This also enables him to check blossom times, so he can plan adjacent plants to bloom together.

Eldon concluded by showing about 50 slides of perennials he uses. Some are quite common, but others are hard to find. Occasionally he finds himself dividing one of his own plants to help complete a client's garden.

Among the interesting perennials he showed was Cushion Spurge (*Euphorbia epithymoides* 'Polychroma') which blooms around the first of May. It has a yellow blossom, much like a poinsettia, atop a nice mound of foliage. Bushy Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*) is one of the hard-to-find specimens. It blooms mid May and stands about a foot tall.

He uses Meadow Phlox 'Rosalinde' (*Phlox maculata* 'Rosalinde') because it not only blooms two weeks earlier than common garden Phlox, but is disease resistant as well. Another alternative to a common garden plant that Eldon uses is Autumn Joy Sedum (*Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy'). As the name implies, it blooms in the fall with a blossom that changes from white to pink to plum as it ages.

Eldon has a complete list of the plants he showed in his slides. He would be happy to share it with you.



Board Minutes

by Mary Maynard,
MCCM Secretary

June 6, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Bob Voigt at 7:45 p.m. All officers and directors were present.

Committee Reports:

Tours (Kay Wolfe): July tour planned for 2 buses at a cost of \$12.00. Will tour Bakken Library Garden, and gardens of members Henry

Orfield and Russ Smith. August tour agenda and price approved. Open gardens scheduled for June, July and August.

Programs (Bob Stepan): Peter Olin speaking in September on his sabbatical in England. November will feature Doug Owens-Pike on landscaping with native plants. October still open.

Plant Auction (Clyde Thompson): Went well. We got out on time without complaints from the park service. Auctioneer did a good job. Numbers were pretty good, and perennials in country store were very well-received. The Board thanks the committee for all the work they did to make it a success.

Flower, Food and Foto Show (Henry Orfield): Everything is on track. Bill Jepson has made easels for foto show display.

Education (Bill Jepson): Going to ask Andy Marlow for space in the *Spray* for column entitled "Masters and Mentors", based on questions from cards filled out at meetings.

Community Garden (Chuck Carlson): Still need help for maintenance.

One tour is coming in July — Center for Victims of Torture. Should be written up in newspapers. Bill Jepson talked to a friend who works with blind community. Would be happy to give some publicity to Community Garden over their special radio channel. Need copy. This would be an opportunity to reemphasize fragrance in the garden.

New Business:

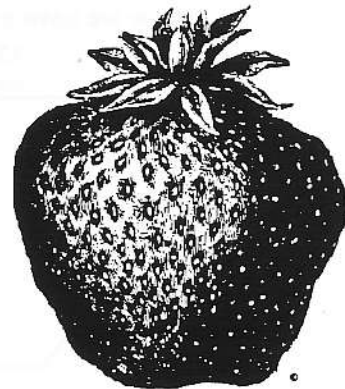
Catering: Laurie Larson, our caterer, has requested a price increase to allow her to continue to purchase low-fat and low-sugar ingredients for her meals. Board agreed to increase her payment by \$.50 per meal, to be absorbed in this year's budget. Price increase will not be passed on to membership at this time.

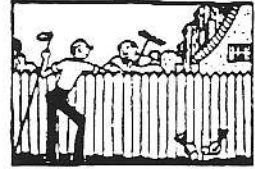
Treasurer's Report: Approved on motion by Bob Stepan, seconded by Kay Wolfe.

Secretary's Report: Approved on motion by Clyde Thompson, seconded by Bob Stepan.

President's remarks: Russ Smith nomination for honorary membership will be presented to membership for vote at June meeting. Board meeting for August changed to Tuesday, August 2 at Bob's house in Minneapolis.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 on motion by Clyde, seconded by Chuck.





Chuck's Chestnuts

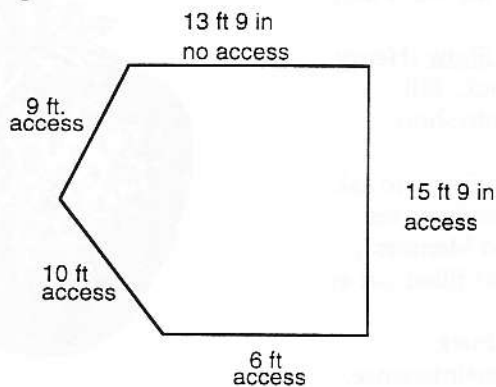
by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

Bring back the fragrance! There have been some discussions that the fragrance in the fragrance garden has taken a back seat to the visual aspects of the community garden. Though we do have items such as Hyssop, Sweet Peas, Nicotiana, Marigolds, Roses, and Alyssum some members think we should make an effort to accentuate the odoriferous part of nature. An effort is being made to get a spot on the visually impaired radio network to advertise the garden. So fragrance would even be more important.

Ways to promote fragrance have been discussed. One is to have a herb garden. We have a perfect place to do this which has access on four sides. We also want our membership to be involved; thus we are initiating a contest to design a Herb Garden. We hope enough of you will participate to make it a project that can be planted in next spring. Think about it and get you pens, your imagination and your gardening know-how in action.

The area is sketched below for the space we have in mind.



This is a raised bed with access on four sides. It receives about a half a day of sun. Anyone is eligible and there are no rules. Send or give your entry sketch to anyone on the board of directors and you are entered in the contest. Entries are due by the October 1995 regular MGCM meeting.

The Tip

About a week remains until the Flower, Food and Foto Show, so start getting your entries preened and ready for cutting.

The onion maggot fly has done its dastardly deed by the end of June. Thus it is a good time to plant some onion sets or transplants if you only want green onions.

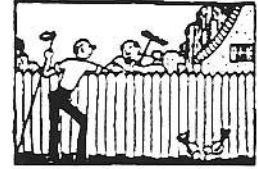
Acouple of days ago a person asked if hot peppers were a deterrent for rabbits or squirrels. My immediate thought was that a fence or hot lead would be better, but I replied that it might work for a while, until rain or general watering washes it off. I came across a recipe for a spray for aphids which uses peppers. It could also be good as a critter deterrent.

In a blender puree the following;

- 1 garlic bulb
- 1 small onion
- 1 Tbsp cayenne or Habañero
- 1 quart of water

Let it steep for a couple of hours or a day, then add 1 Tbsp of non-detergent soap and mix. Strain and use as a spray or just sprinkle it on the plant. Keeps for a week or two in the refrigerator.

To close for this month I will relate a conversation heard by a city man. He heard two farmers at the market talking about spreading manure over their strawberries. He thought this was a bit odd since all his friends used whipped cream. The tip: Both are good depending on the timing.



Committee News

Open Garden for July

by Kay Wolfe,
Tour Committee Chair

Saturday, July 15 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Garden of Jerry Olson
10841 Stanley Avenue South
Bloomington

With about 450 roses, Jerry is one of MGCM's rose aficionados! Visit his beautiful display! Jerry lives in Bloomington. Go south on highway 100 and continue south on Normandale Boulevard past the intersection with Old Shakopee Road. Turn east on West 110th Street. Go one block and turn north on Toledo for one block and east one block to Stanley. His garden is at the corner of 109th and Stanley.

Plant Sale a Big Success

by Clyde Thompson,
Sale Committee Co-chair

The success of the 1995 MGCM Plant Sale and Auction began last winter. The committee met in February to review the previous year's activities and make assignments for 1995.

The plant selection committee met at Malmberg's on April 9 to discuss plant availability and place the tentative order for pickup on May 9. Dave Johnson made the contacts with the suppliers of the annual plants, which included Chastex at Corcoran and Flowerfarm at Delano, in addition to Malmberg's.

Eldon Hugelen sent requests out in March to five nurseries: Ambergate Gardens, Shady Oak Nursery, The Botanical Gardens, Borbeleta Gardens and Dooley Mum Gardens. All responded to our interest in having a special section of perennials and were very generous in

providing plant materials.

Additional materials were obtained from Savory's and Bachman's. Klier's saw to it we had items for drawing as did others, such as the Hennepin County Coop. Carleton Nelson loaned us his flower truck, a three layer covered pickup to haul the flowers from the greenhouses to the site of the plant sale.

Our auctioneer (Delores Johnson's brother) did a grand job of moving the sale along well to allow the cleanup crew to finish on time at 9:30. About 12 flats remained unsold. These were sold to the Edina Garden Council, who had their sale the next day.

The sale and auction brought in \$5,679.00. Expenses were \$3,339.00, leaving net income of \$2,340.00. Thanks to the committee and all of the people who participated the sale was a great success.

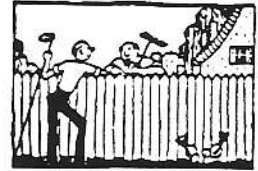
Fragrance Garden News

by Chuck Carlson
Fragrance Garden Committee Chair

The garden was planted on May 22, but I was disappointed in the attendance especially from the committee members. Only seven people turned out and one of them was not on the committee. Those that were there had to eat a lot of donuts, but we got the planting done before noon. I hope the rain we are having during this first part of June gives the plants a good start.

Look for a mention of the garden in advertisements by the Center for Victims of Torture. They will tour the garden in July.

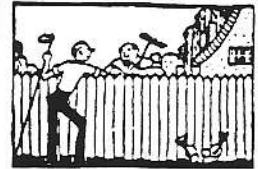
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Fragrance Garden Planting

Scenes from the Fragrance Garden planting on May 20. Clockwise from above: Designers Henry Orfield and Eldon Hugelen check the plan before starting; Mary Maynard and Kay Wolfe take a break and wave at the photographer; Bob Redmond is the man in the Foster Grants planting fibrous begonias; and Mary Maynard firms the soil around a nicotiana plant.





MGCM Honored at National Convention

Bill Hull and Russ Smith attended the 1995 National Convention of TGOA/MGCA in Dallas, Texas, as delegates from MGCM. It's a good thing they had extra room in their suitcases, as they brought home a large number of awards for MGCM and its members.



MGCM was named an Honor Club of 1994 as a result of a 17% increase in Club membership. The *Garden Spray* received an honorable mention in the newsletter competition. And the following members won ribbons for entries in the TGOA/MGCA slide show:

- Peter Olin – third place
- Dave W. Johnson – second place
- Lloyd Wittstock – first and third place
- Duane Reynolds – first place, 5 second place and 7 third place
- Henry Orfield – 7 first place, 8 second place and 5 third place plus one of Henry's entries will be the June photo in the 1996 TGOA/MGCA calendar
- Chuck Carlson – 11 first place, 3 second place and 5 third place

Jottings...

Russell C. Smith was unanimously elected as an Honorary Member of MGCM at the June meeting. The vote was the result of a petition presented to the Board of Directors and a subsequent recommendation from the Board. Russ joins Chet Groger, Dave Johnson, Bill Hull, Charlie Proctor and Frank Vixo on the role of Honorary Members. Up to 10% of MGCM's total membership can be Honorary Members.



Rebecca Kolls, meteorologist and Master Gardener, invites MGCM members, as a group or several individuals, to tour WCCO-TV's rooftop gardens sometime during this gardening season. Tours scheduled on Tuesdays and timed to watch the noon or 6:00 p.m. newscast, and then talk gardening with Rebecca. If you are interested, please notify Bob Voigt, who will coordinate the visit. The exact date is yet to be determined.



The Edina Garden Council is holding a benefit garden tour on August 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 if purchased in advance or \$6.00 if purchased the day of the tour. Call Phyllis Gulde (wife of MGCM member Harold) at 922-1302 for tickets or more information.

Fragrance Garden

(continued from page 7)

The volunteers for July are:

- July 1-7 Nancy Jepson
- July 8-14 Bob Stepan & Jerry Shannon
- July 15-21 Dave & Delores Johnson
- July 22-28 Maury Lindblum
- 7/29-8/44 The Hulls & Mary Maynard

Thanks to all who have worked to date. It is much appreciated.

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