



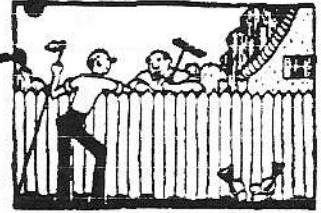
The Garden Spray



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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

March 1992, Volume 50, Number 3



"Flowers and Fjords" The Scandinavian Countryside

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Henry Bachman

1992 Dayton's-Bachman Flower Show

(No Standing Reservations)

Tuesday March 17, 1992 6:00 p.m.

The Sky Room - Dayton's Downtown

700 Block of Nicollet Mall

Adults \$12.75 - Children \$4.25

Menu:

Scandinavian Roast Chicken with Pan Gravy,

Tossed Mixed Green Salad and Peach Crisp with Streusel Topping

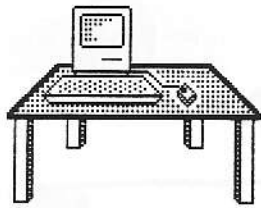
Mail this reservation form (with your check) by March 12 to Mel Anderson, 5701 35th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

Please Reserve _____ adult meals @\$12.75 _____

_____ children's meals @\$4.25 _____

Total Check Enclosed _____

REMEMBER: Permanent Reservations are not in effect. Send in your reservation now!



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

Let me start off with a correction, not to something in the Spray, but in the 1992 Club Directory, which your humble editor puts together. He's especially humble because, despite the correct information from the President, he put in the wrong date for the spring plant auction. The correct date is Tuesday May 12. Please correct your calendars!

This issue of the Garden Spray is brimming with horticultural information thanks to Mary Maynard (her report on Kent Petterson's program from the February MGCM meeting starts on page four), Terry Robertson (who begins a series of interviews with mentor gardeners on page eight) and Dr. Bob Olson (who confesses his addiction to hostas on page nine). Contributions like these make your Club bulletin more useful to all our members. If you have an idea for a story or feature, your contribution will be equally as welcome.

The MGCM 50th Anniversary Committee would like to look at your slides — at least those you may have taken at Club events through the years. They want to collect a tray full to set up with an automatic carousel to run during the social hour of the 50th Anniversary Banquet on October 6. Pictures of garden tours, holiday parties, planting day at the fragrance garden and so forth are needed. The Committee is also looking for a volunteer to collect the slides and arrange them for showing. If you want to volunteer or have some slides you can share, get in touch with Chair Bill Hull or another member of the 50th Anniversary Committee.

Thanks to Bill Hull, two proud MGCM members will be wearing new garden gloves

this season. Mel Anderson and Russ Smith received "green thumb" awards at the February meeting to recognize their perfect attendance record in 1991. Mel, in fact, had two "thumbs" painted green to mark two consecutive years of perfect attendance and Russ had seven. Bill called them "the most expensive cheap gloves we can find." Congratulations, Mel and Russ! The Green Thumb awards seem like such a small thing — but those gloves and the pledge that goes with receiving them help make our Club unique.

Classic Hostas

(continued from page 9)

- There were three varieties that were grown by everyone who filled out a questionnaire, and 80% said were a "classic" hosta:

'AUGUST MOON' - a medium sized light green hosta which turns a magnificent gold in August if you grow it where it gets morning sunlight.

'FRANCEE' - a medium sized dark green plant with a pure white border, which is always pure white, even if you grow it in the shade.

'ROYAL STANDARD' - a lush all-green plant with very fragrant white flowers and which tolerates a lot of sun.

Any of these three you can buy for five dollars...and they grow like the wind.

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.....Mary Maynard,
Robert C. Olson, Terry Robertson



The Freedom Garden

Gregory P. Smith
President, MGCM



Put on your green and come celebrate St. Patty's Day, Tuesday, March 17, with friends, guests and members at the annual Dayton's-Bachman Flower Show. We all will enjoy the smell of fresh flowers and warm soil after a sit-down dinner fully catered in Dayton's Sky Room restaurant. Our own Club members, Lloyd and Todd Bachman, along with cousin Dale, always put on a "first class" show. This year theme, "Scandinavian Countryside," was originally designed as a Russian landscape. However, according to the Bachmans, too much unrest in the (former) Soviet Union caused Show organization to shift gears. As famous Norwegian Fred Glasoe said, "It was a wise choice." This special Club event is open to people of all ages, with a special children's menu, so arrange with a friend or loved one and send in your reservation now. We will see you

at the Show!

Last month several MGCM members received special recognition. Chet Groger, an active Club member for 20 years, was awarded an honorary life membership in MGCM by his peers. This honor is but a small way of saying "thank you" for all of his service to the Club. People like Chet are what makes a Club outstanding. Russell Smith and Mel Anderson received the traditional "Green Thumb" award for perfect attendance during 1991. Kent Petterson agreed to be MGCM's representative to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society replacing Bob Churilla, who is cutting back after many years in that position.

Spring is in the air. Come join in the fun. Bring along a friend. Enjoy the freedom of gardening!

Wanted and Needed

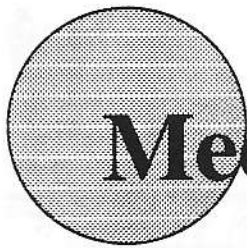
Anyone on March 14th

at 9:00 a.m.

for trimming trees and bushes at the

Fragrance Garden

Bring your loppers, chainsaws and hand saws



MGCM Meeting Report

by Mary Maynard

February 11, 1992

Kent Petterson's Calendar for Vegetable Growers

This month's featured speaker was one of our esteemed Past Presidents, Kent Petterson. Kent is a vegetable specialist. In fact, when he joined MGCM, he "didn't think guys grew flowers." (Other members have since set him straight on this!)

Kent pointed out that we, as gardeners, can control many aspects of gardening - the amount of moisture, the composition of the soil, fertility, insects, disease, etc. But one of the things it's hard to do anything about is the amount of sun our plot gets. And, without at least six hours of sun in the middle of the day, we aren't going to have much luck growing most vegetables. So we should select a sunny location for vegetable growing.

Kent took us through the vegetable grower's year, month by month. Here are some tips from Kent on how to spend our vegetable gardening time:

October, early November Get vegetable beds ready for the coming year: Proper preparation sets up success for the following year. Clear out the beds, pile debris, and prepare the soil so we don't have to do anything in the spring but rake up and plant.

Debris can go to the compost pile. Kent keeps two compost piles: (1) a "working pile", right in the middle of the garden, where all the weeds and prunings for the active garden go, and (2) the major compost-making pile, somewhat removed from the growing beds.

Late November, December Relax and read about gardening. Recommended books: *Designing and Maintaining Your Edible Landscape Naturally*, by Edmund Kourik (advocates using vegetables in flower borders: pepper plants, strawberry Swiss chard, day-neutral strawberries, herbs, lettuce, kale); *The Taylor's Guide to Vegetables and Herbs* (and other books in the *Taylor's Guide* series); *Gardening: A Guide to the Literature* (anthology of gardening references, subjects, etc.).

Recommended magazines: "Minnesota Horticulturist," especially Lawrence Rule's excellent contributions; "National Gardening," perhaps the best vegetable reference; "The Gardener," which has an excellent article on vegetable growing in the most recent issue (by Calvin Finch, p. 23).

January Seed Time! Time to order seeds. Here are some of Kent's favorite seed catalogs:

- *Stokes*. Best cultural information, good seed packets.
- *Shepard's Garden Seeds*. Open pollinated vegetables, unusual varieties.
- *Park's*. Whopper tomatoes and peppers.
- *Johnny's*. New, up-and-coming.
- *Vesey's*. Canadian. Seeds for short seasons.
- *Vermont Bean Seed Co.* 75 varieties of beans and more.

Catalogs and seed packets vary a great deal on the amount of cultural information they provide. Be prepared to have to find cultural information from a source other than your seed packet.

February Time to start early seeds. Onions, leeks and celery can be started now.

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Meeting Report

(continued from page 4)

March Seed the brassica's (cabbage, broccoli, etc.). Or maybe late February. Start seeds four to six weeks before hardening off, and allow one week for hardening. They should be ready to plant out around April 10-15, if the soil was prepared last fall.

April Seed out cool and root crops: lettuce, peas, carrots, beets, etc. Look at culture information for various vegetables. If it says to seed "as soon as soil can be worked in the spring," it means it! These can withstand frost, and will do better in cooler temperatures.

At the same time, start tomatoes, peppers and basil indoors.

May For vegetable gardeners, May can be the cruelest month. With cool season crops already out, it's important to *wait* until the soil is warm before planting the warm season crops. Keep weeds down by frequent cultivation — but don't cultivate too deeply, since deep cultivation can damage small feeder roots.

After the warm season crops are in and the soil is thoroughly warm, put a generous layer of mulch on the garden. This will retain moisture, inhibit weed germination, reduce the spread of disease and add organic matter to the soil. There are a lot of different materials that can be used as mulch. Kent uses chopped oak and maple leaves.

June Think about second crops. Maybe a fall crop of broccoli, after the lettuce is done?

Also, we should start ornamental kale in June. Starting it earlier results in overgrown, leggy plants by the fall, when we most appreciate ornamentals.

July If we've done all our work up to now, there shouldn't be much to do in the

vegetable garden now. We can relax, keep our maps and gardening records. Maybe work on flowers?

August and September Harvest Time! Since we'll undoubtedly have more bounty than we can eat or preserve, we should develop a relationship with a Food Shelf, the Salvation Army, a Senior Citizen's complex, or some other organization that will welcome donations of high quality, locally-grown produce.

Also, we should exhibit some of our best work at the MGCM Flower and Vegetable Show in August. Good show vegetables:

- Carrots: Stubby variety like "Nantes". Long, slender ones like in the grocery stores are difficult to grow in this area without deep, deep cultivation, sandy soil, etc.
- Tomatoes: Park's "Whopper" doesn't crack, has very even color. Vermont Bean Seed's "Very Best" is another favorite. "Sweet Million" cherry tomato is very prolific, uniform in size
- Green Beans: "Derby" (new release). Stays small, straight.

And we're back to October, where we started.

Some Questions from the Floor

Q. Do we need to worry about disease because of the Halloween snowstorm kept us from cleaning the garden in the fall?

A. We probably all have some worries about this. The best thing to do is to clean up as early as possible in the spring. If composting, it might be a good idea to dispose of garden debris

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Meeting Report

(continued from page 5)

this spring, if it has been in the garden all winter.

Q. Aren't you worried about a compost pile right in the garden? Doesn't it attract insects, disease organisms?

A. A compost pile may serve as much as an insect "trap" as an insect source. As for disease organism, the inner heat of an active compost pile can kill some organism, although others might thrive in a warmer environment.

Q. What do you think of pelleted seed?

A. It's offered by certain companies, and it can be a real convenience. It's much easier to control the amount of seeds, small plants — a real boon for carrots.

Q. What about lower light (less than six hours per day)? I grow beans, peas, peppers, etc. with some success, although root and vine crops don't do well at all.

A. You'd probably also find that early season crops do better than late season, because much of their growing season is before the trees have leafed out fully.

Q. Do you use any additional fertilizer?

A. I use a starting solution (like Miracle Gro) with transplants in the spring, when cold soil keeps nutrients from being available. Otherwise, compost provides the best fertilizer. Gardeners starting new beds without a good stock of compost may want to amend with a general purpose fertilizer.

Q. How do you avoid soil compaction when planting out early in the spring, when the soil might be quite wet?

A. The easiest way is to set up "designated" planting areas, with adequate walking/working area between them. This helps in

planning crop rotation, targeting soil amendments, etc. Some people use pieces of lumber as paths — defines the walkways and spreads our weight over a greater area, reducing compaction.

Raised beds are also an excellent way to designate planting areas, and also help us to

Minneapolis 1942



50th Anniversary Feature

(We continue our look back at the news from 1942 — the year MGCM was founded — with headlines from the Minneapolis Star Journal.)

March 1	Jap Troops Land on Java; Air-Land-Sea Battles Rages
March 3	Nine Billions Requested in New Taxes; Would Double Levies for Most Payers
March 4	New State Tax Returns Indicate Incomes Soared 20 per cent in '41
March 6	Japs Disarm Filipinos to Bar Uprising
March 7	Java Radio Says "Goodbye"
March 10	Revolt Threatened in India
March 11	City Gets a Wintry Coat of White
March 12	Kline Urges 25 Miles an Hour City Speed Limit for Duration
March 13	Pay Averages \$75.07 Weekly at New Brighton Arms Plant
March 15	T-2,395 Will be Top Draft Lottery Number Affecting Minneapolis
March 17	MacArthur is in Australia
March 18	23 Jap Ships Sunk, Damaged
March 22	40-hour Week Issue Generates Heat in Capital
March 24	Yanks on Corregidor Battle Off Raiders
March 27	Stassen Joins Naval Reserve Enters Active Service After Next Legislature

Coming Attractions

March 7 6:30 p.m.
Garden Club of Ramsey County Silent Auction
(a benefit for the new MSHS building) Como Park
Conservatory

March 9 7:00 p.m.
50th Anniversary Committee Meeting
Christ Presbyterian Church

March 14 9:00 a.m.
Tree Trimming at Fragrance Garden

March 17 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner/Dayton-Bachman Flower Show
Dayton's Downtown Store

April 4 8:30 a.m.
MSHS 5th District Spring Gardening Seminar
Robbinsdale Junior High School

April 7 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board Meeting
Eldon Hugelen's House

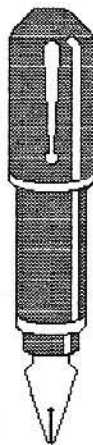
April 13 7:00 p.m.
50th Anniversary Committee Meeting
Christ Presbyterian Church

April 14 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet Church

May 5 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board Meeting
Mel Anderson's House

May 9 9:30 a.m.
MGCM Arbor Day Planting
Lake Harriet Rose Garden area

May 12 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Plant Auction and Dinner
Location to be Announced



Meeting Notes

At their February meeting, The
MGCM Board of Directors:

- received a letter of resignation from Bob Churilla as the Club's representative to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Kent Petterson was suggested as a replacement. The Board was reminded that we need to have 100 members to maintain our representative. We now have 93.
 - approved Alice Chapin as a new member.
 - received a list of ten men who expressed interest in joining a garden club from the Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota.
 - received the audit of the 1991 books from Frank Vixo, Chair of the Audit Committee.
 - voted to recommend to the membership that Chet Groger be made an honorary member of MGCM, based on a petition signed by 32 members.
 - received from Vera Snyder a donation of the book Native Plants for Northern Gardening by the late MGCM member Dr. Leon Snyder. The book will be loaned out to members on a rotating basis.
- At the February meeting of the **MGCM membership**, the following took place:
- Chet Groger was unanimously voted an honorary life membership in MGCM.
 - Kent Petterson was approved as the new Club representative to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society.
 - heard Arbor Day Committee Chair Jerry Shannon report that the Club's Arbor Day planting at the Lake Harriet Rose Garden area take place Saturday May 9 at 9:30 a.m.
 - Mel Anderson (2 years) and Russ Smith (7 years) were awarded Green Thumbs.

Reynolds Talks About Gladiolus

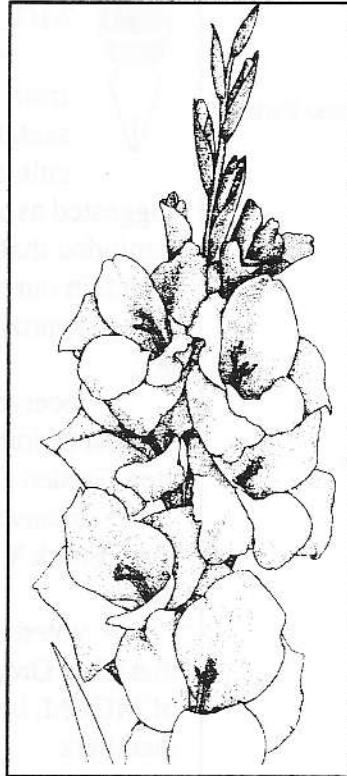
by Terry Robertson

This month I begin a series of articles on the specialties of our self-professed Mentor Gardeners. Our Mentor Gardeners will tap their memories and their resources to answer your toughest gardening questions. Yes easy questions are allowed. Mentor Gardeners will help you make the most of your skills and your garden. Everything from sources of plant materials to pest control. You'll find a listing of Mentor Gardeners on page six of the 1992 directory.

Duane Reynolds' specialties range far and wide. He seems to be able to grow anything with a green leaf. This month I would like to focus on just one of his specialties.

Would you like to grow show-quality gladiolus? If you're like me you have probably already tried and given up. Well, in that case, Duane's advice comes none to late. It appears we have all been trying too hard.

Spend your money on good quality plant materials. Don't shop discount stores or discount garden centers. There are now plenty of reputable growers right here in Minnesota. You might find them at a Gladiolus Society plant sale. The Gladiolus Society's business interest is to keep you growing gladiolus. They don't want you to fail. "They want to hook you; they want to have you as a member; they want you to have success". And look for the words "All American" somewhere on the label. Duane says that these are often times "good show varieties that are most appealing, easiest to grow, most



disease resistant and most reliable". By all means, beware of an offer that seems too good to be true (ask Duane about tetraploid daylilies).

Now that you've spent some of your hard earned cash, don't just plant the corms anywhere and everywhere in your yard. Chances are only a few places in your yard are suitable for gladiolus. Gladiolus need a long growing season. You can plant some as early as April. But, don't try to plant any later than the beginning of June. Prepare your beds properly. And rotate gladiolus between beds every year to avoid a build up of disease and pests.

If you are just starting out with gladiolus don't be a slave to fashion trends. Plant the colors, sizes and varieties that appeal to you. Some-

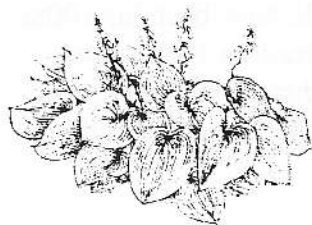
times the simpler varieties are more hardy than the hybrids with extensive parental lineages. There will be plenty of time to play with fancy hybrids next year. Duane tells me that the whites and pinks have been strong winners in shows in recent years. Parade is one that has been around a long time. White Ice is a 300 class flower (100 = approx. 1 inch in flower diameter). High Style, a 15-20 year old hybrid, is lavender in color. Queen, hybridized in St Charles, MN, is a pink flower.

If you would like still more information concerning gladiolus give Duane a call. Or look him up at the meetings. And when the growing season comes around go take a stroll through a Mentor's garden.

Classic Hostas

by Dr. Robert C. Olson

Hostas are my passion. I don't know exactly why, but they are. I grow almost 200 varieties in my yard (there are hundreds of registered cultivars and more being added each year). However, as with so many other plants, the new ones are not necessarily better than the older varieties — and not as good in many cases. But everyone seems to want the “new” one or the “expensive” one — they are often the same.



When people come to my yard to see the hostas, they usually are attracted to some old favorites, rather than the new or rare ones. ‘Great Expectations’ is an exception, a brand new variety to which both connoisseurs and neophytes are drawn. Garden visitors can seldom tell the plants that would sell for \$100 from those that go for \$5-10. And when I am being honest with myself, I know I like many of the “garden varieties” best, too. Some of the “hot” new hybrids are like penny candles; they are all the rage for a year or two and then you never hear of them again. On the other hand, others seem to have been around “forever” and they are still favorites everywhere. These also tend to be inexpensive.

A couple of years ago I went to Chicago for a winter meeting of hosta growers. Almost 100 people attended. They came from as far away as Ohio, Oklahoma, Michigan and Washington, D.C., for this weekend and we never saw a plant, only pictures of them. As you can tell, these were hardcore hosta fans. They were also an extremely knowledgeable group.

I took this opportunity to hand out a questionnaire. It listed the 48 cultivars which were listed as “those available” in the 1968 American Hosta Society Bulletin. People were asked:

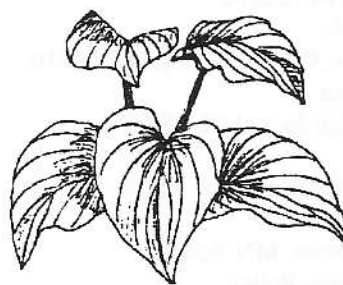


1) How long have you been growing hostas and how many different cultivars do you grow?

2) Which of these 48 plants do you have and which ones do you consider a “classic” hosta?

Over 40% of those present responded. In several cases they had grown hostas for over 45 years, and some individuals had over 1000 cultivars they had collected. For a reference point, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, which is the National Hosta Display Garden, grows about 500 cultivars. The average was about 200-300 different types amassed over about 15 years or so.

The results of the survey:



- Of those hostas available from 25 years ago, almost half are rarely found anymore, even in the gardens of the most avid collectors. Two varieties were thought to be extinct — no one knew of someone who even *may* have them.

- Only a handful (18%) are grown by most collectors.

But...

(continued page 2)

You Would Have Liked...

HENRY BACHMAN



50th Anniversary Feature

by Bill Hull

Henry C. A. Bachman was not only a charter member of our club, but a leader in the floral business and a very beloved man. He was a second generation florist in the large Bachman business, the father of Lloyd and others, and grandfather of Todd.

Yes, Henry was one of the founders of our club, actively participating in the early days when the club was just getting started. He was there with his great smile, his willingness to act and to give of himself.

It is interesting that when Henry provided information for an early roster of the club, he was asked about his gardening specialties. He wrote 1) "general" and 2) "Jack of all trades."

He was probably not being facetious because he was expert in many areas of floriculture. He was a modest man, perhaps shy would be a better word. I remember one incident when he told someone his favorite spot in the greenhouses complex was back at a special growing/potting bench. I know that is where he could often be found at the plant. His real love was Easter lilies.

It is especially fitting to remember Henry this month. March 6 would have been his 100th birthday, but we lost him back in 1984. Everyone who knew Henry Bachman loved him, so you can see you would have "liked" him, too.

Return to:

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