

Celebrating Our 55th Year

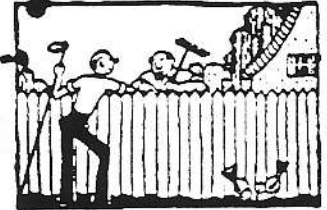


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

March 1997, Volume 55, Number 3



March Dinner Meeting...

Dayton's Bachman's Flower Show

The Gardens of Vienna



Strauss

The 33rd annual Dayton's Bachman's Flower Show will fill the eighth floor auditorium with a Viennese garden flowing around monuments dedicated to some of the great composers who lived in Vienna; Mozart, Schubert and The Waltz King, Johann Strauss II. The music of the great composers will fill the air as 15,000 bulbs and over 100 varieties of flowers, shrubs and trees surround them in color.

Following dinner Dale Bachman will share some behind the scenes secrets of the show. Dale helped plan the show and will show slides of his visit to Vienna so we can compare the show to the real thing.



Schubert

Dinner is \$15 per person. The permanent reservation list is not effect. Everyone who wishes to attend must send a check for the total number of people attending with the reservation coupon below to Kay Wolfe by Friday, March 14.

Date: Tuesday March 18

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Place: Skyroom Restaurant - Dayton's, Eighth and Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis



Mozart

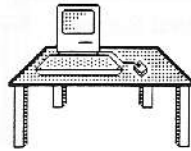
Please reserve dinner for my guest(s) and me at the
Dayton's-Bachman's Flower Show dinner on March 18

Member Name: _____

Guest(s) Name: _____

Enclosed is my check for _____ dinners @ \$15.00 for a total of \$ _____

Return no later than March 14 to: Kay Wolfe, 2740 Florida Avenue South,
Minneapolis, MN 55426-3330 or call her at 922-0762



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

While we are all gearing up for the growing season by starting seedlings and cuttings, planning vegetable gardens or plotting a new piece of landscaping, so too is MGCM gearing up for the coming season. Both the Plant Auction and Flower, Food and Foto Show committees are meeting in the next few weeks. Plans have been made to turn the current fragrance garden over to a responsible organization to be used in a good cause. Work has begun with our partners on the new perennial demonstration garden. Soon the Arbor Day committee will announce its planting day.

These all are wonderful activities that have value in their own right—raising funds for the club, showing off our talents, beautifying our communities and helping increase scientific knowledge of horticulture. As important – maybe more important – to me is the opportunity these activities present to work with my fellow gardeners. The camaraderie and chance to share gardening secrets have value that cannot be measured.

I urge you all to be selfish. Grab up as much fellowship and shared knowledge as you can. Volunteer for and participate in committees. Participate in the events. You will be all the richer for it!

We are really on a roll as far as membership is concerned. The Board approved three new members at its February meeting and we have at least one more applicant to be voted on at the March Board meeting. This after we began the year with the highest membership total in recent memory. Good going, members!

Coming Attractions

Tuesday, March 11 – 7:30 pm
Board of Directors' Meeting
Mary Maynard's House

Tuesday, March 18 – 6:00 pm
Dayton's Bachman's Flower Show
Skyroom Restaurant
Dayton's
8th & Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis

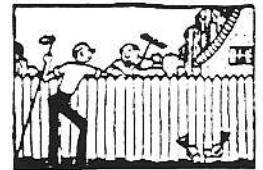
Thursday, March 20 – 7:00 pm
Flower, Food & Foto Show
Committee Meeting
Mel Anderson's House

Tuesday, April 1 – 7:30 pm
Board of Directors' Meeting
Walt Muehlegger's House

Wednesday April 2 – 7:00 pm
Plant Auction Committee
Westwood Lutheran Church
9001 Cedar Lake Road
St. Louis Park

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, MGC

There are undoubtedly many reasons why gardening is such an attractive pursuit for so many people. Home beautification, bright summer colors, love of a certain type of flower, the pleasure of growing your own food supply, the challenge of growing "difficult" plants—the list could go on and on. There are probably as many reasons as there are gardeners. (Incidentally, recent surveys show an increase each year in the number of people who list gardening as one of their hobbies.)



Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

The motivation for gardening often goes beyond the obvious pleasurable experiences to be gained from it. Elements of design, the balance of form and symmetry are fascinations for many. Others find great satisfaction in careful contrast of foliage types, integration into the natural surroundings, or the challenge of growing plants on a less than ideal site.

Among those gardeners who emphasize fruit and vegetable growing, size of an individual specimen, yield from one tomato plant or the size of an apple crop are sources of great satisfaction and pleasure.

To other gardeners, growing flowers that excel in form, color and substance is the greatest pleasure of all. Many in this group like to have their own judgment validated by entering their flowers or vegetables in competitive shows. Winning ribbons often inspires them to even greater achievements.

Beyond all the reasons I have noted

(and the larger number I have not mentioned), there is another aspect of gardening from which we benefit. That is the whole variety of lessons that we learn from the culture of flowers and vegetables. How many times have we admired the fortitude of a plant growing in a difficult place, or had our spirits lifted by the sight of dew drops on a flower as the sun rises. Surely the reemergence of plants in the spring is a perennial lesson about the renewal of life.

An author who wrote about some of these ideas was William Wordsworth, the English poet who lived from 1770 to 1850, and wrote quite a bit about the beauty of nature and flowers.

"When all at once I saw a crowd, a host of dancing daffodils" is from one of his poems. Another quote—"of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower".

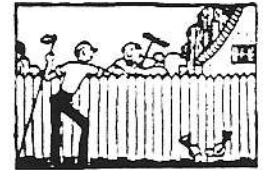
He also wrote most effectively about the lessons we learn from nature and flowers:

Thanks to the human heart by which we live,
Thanks to its tenderness, its joys and fears,
To me the meanest flower that blooms can give
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.

Committee Meetings

Flower, Food & Foto Show
Thursday March 20 – 7:00 pm
Mel Anderson's House
5701 35th Avenue South
Minneapolis

Plant Auction
Wednesday April 2 – 7:00 pm
Westwood Lutheran Church
9001 Cedar Lake Road
(just east of US 169 in St. Louis Park)



Monthly Program Report

by Andy Marlow

You'd think that as the President of a national gardening society, Dr. Bob Olson would have a little more self confidence. As the speaker at the MGCM February meeting Olson admitted he brought his mother to the meeting as a guest just in case no one else showed up to hear his talk on "Hosta Hunting in Japan".

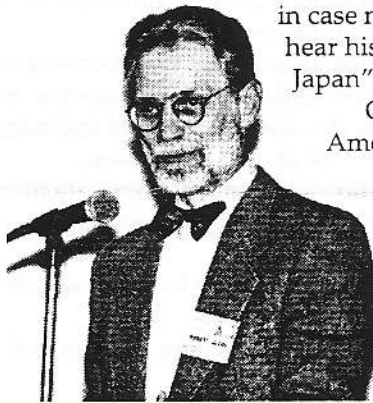


Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

Olson is President of the American Hosta Society, serving his second three year term. He caught the hosta bug from the late Bob Savory and now has over 300 hostas in his modest-sized St. Louis Park yard.

One of the symptoms of the hosta bug, according to Olson, is that plants you didn't know about 10 minutes ago you now can't live without. The rarer and more unusual (and more expensive) the hosta, the more you have to have it.

Admitting the best hostas in the world are bred in the United States, Olson nonetheless invested considerable money and time in a pilgrimage to Japan where hostas are a native plant. Of the 40 to 45 species of hostas, all but three or four are native to Japan. One inhabits an island off the coast of Korea and China plays host to two or three native species.

A group of members of the American Hosta Society, facilitated by Minnetonka hosta grower Hideko Gowan, were

hosted by members of the Japanese Hosta Society. MGCM's Roger Koopmans was part of the group. They visited many gardens, nurseries and out of the way places where hostas grow naturally and reproduce true in the wild.

Their first stop was the National Hosta Garden in Tokyo. Olson was not too impressed as most of the plants came from America. Better gardens were found in the old imperial capital of Kyoto. Particularly impressive were the grounds of the Shogun's Palace there.

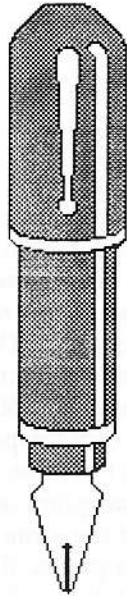
Olson's group did not stick to the flatlands, however. They climbed much of the way up Mount Fuji. Olson shared a Japanese adage which says "any young man in Japan who has not climbed to the top of Mount Fuji has no heart; any one who does it twice has no brain."

The Mount Fuji expedition was just a way of preparing the group for the more arduous task of trekking up Chi Chi Iwa in central Honshu. This expedition was mounted in search of the giant white backed hosta, *H. hypoleuca*, native only to the peculiar climate and terrain of this mountain. Olson's description of the difficult climb to the top had this author rolling so hard with laughter that he couldn't take notes to retell the story here. Thankfully they survived the climb and a rain storm to commune with this elusive plant. Olson said it was worth the effort.

After sojourns to the island of Shikoku in the Japanese Inland Sea and other exotic locales, the trip culminated with a visit to the "forbidden greenhouse" of Kinji Watanabe, who literally wrote the book on hostas. His *The Observation and Cultivation of Hosta* published in 1985 was the first significant scientific book on the genus.

Like every place else in Japan, the hostas at Watanabe's greenhouse were expensive. Plants ranged in price up to

(continued on page 7)



Board Meeting Minutes

Walt Muehlegger, Secretary

February 4, 1997

The meeting was called to order by President Lindblom at 7:30 p.m. All members were present except Chuck Benson and Bill Jepson.

Reports

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the January meeting were approved on a motion by Mary Maynard seconded by Kay Wolfe.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Chuck Carlson seconded by Mary Maynard.

Old Business

Howard Berg moved, Mary Maynard seconded that the Board recommend to the membership that Henry Halvorson be made an honorary member. The motion passed.

New Business

Howard Berg moved, Kay Wolfe seconded to approve membership applications from Sharren Briekzin, Patti Lee and Lloyd Weber. The motion passed.

Chuck Carlson recommended that MGCM transfer responsibility for the Fragrance Garden to the PEASE Academy. Maury Lindblom moved and Howard Berg seconded a motion to approve the agreement. The motion passed.

There are not enough glasses at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church to meet MGCM's needs for the monthly dinner meeting. Bob Stepan moved and Chuck Carlson seconded that Treasurer Berg buy

additional glasses and donate them to the church. The motion passed.

Adjourn: Bob Stepan moved and Howard Berg seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting is March 11 at Mary Maynard's house.

New Members

Sharren A. Brickzin

201 East Third Street
Jordan, MN 55352

home phone: 492-2646

business phone: 894-8740

Committees: Community Garden, Flower and Vegetable Show, Holiday Party, Garden Tours, Plant Auction, Telephone

Patti Lee

7635 Alden Way NE
Fridley, MN 55432

home phone: 572-8158

Committees: Community Garden, Flower and Vegetable Show, Garden Tours and Plant Auction

Lloyd J. Weber

7635 Alden Way NE
Fridley, MN 55432

home phone: 572-8158

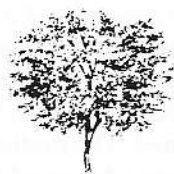
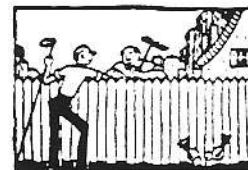
business phone: 561-2022

Committees: Community Garden, Flower and Vegetable Show, Garden Tours and Plant Auction

Rich W. Van Sickle

2310 Wilson St. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

home phone: 782-2077



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

The National Garden Bureau has designated 1997 the Year of the Petunia.

For the last couple of years the mention of Petunia makes me think of 'Purple Wave'. I think this is one of the best creeping flowers that has been introduced in a long time. Now there's also 'Pink Wave'. Each 'Wave' will spread to around 3 by 3 feet and bloom over the whole area for a long time. The only thing extra it needs is a little iron. It also makes a nice potted plant.

Today's petunias are all based on two species discovered in South America the late 1700s and early 1800s. They were the white *Petunia, axillaris* and the purple *Petunia, violacea*. Isn't it amazing that all the varieties we have today come from just two species?

Most early breeders were in Germany and England. Americans also got into the act. In 1934 the first consistent fully double was bred in Japan. It was an All-America Selection called 'All Double Victorious'. Also in the 1930s, Burpee got into the search and discovered the dominant gene for doubleness.

Petunias like full sun. They will grow in part shade but will flower less and spread more.

You can start petunias inside 8-12 weeks before the frost free date. Double flowered ones should be seeded at least the 12 weeks before the frost free date. When starting from seed, do not cover the seed with the starting mix since they need light to germinate.

I always cover the seeded packs with plastic to keep the humidity high

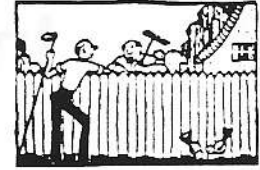
until germination. Watering from the bottom so you don't cover the seeds by splashing the dirt around. It will take around 12 days for the seeds to sprout and emerge at 75 degrees. Then remove the cover and keep the plants close to the light with a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees. The light and cool temperatures are so the seedlings don't become too leggy.

Don't transplant until it is warm outside, about the same time as other warm weather plants. If the seedling is over 6 inches tall or is flowering when transplanted, pinch off the terminal growth and the flower to promote branching.

A layer of mulch will be appreciated by the plants and will keep the dirt from splashing on the flowers when watering. Fertilize monthly. They will bloom profusely but by midsummer will have a tendency to stretch out and have less blooms. This is the time to prune back quite severely to produce new shoots and a new set of flowers.

The Tip

Grow some petunias, particularly some of the new varieties. If you are not a seed growing person there are many varieties of bedding plants available. If you like some fragrance, plant the blues. Classes of Petunia include Multiflora, Grandiflora, Spreading, Floribunda and Milliflora. If you like lots of flowers, plant floribundas. If you like big flowers, plant Grandifloras. If you like compact plants and small flowers, do the millifloras ('Fantasy' series). By all means try the 'Wave'; I think you will be happy with it.



Fragrance Garden to Change Hands

by Chuck Carlson

The MGCM Board of Directors has approved turning over the garden at 19th and Aldrich to the PEASE Academy.

The academy is a nonprofit organization run by The Holos Foundation, Inc. The academy is a four year alternative high school for high risk students who seek a chemically free, individualized, innovative and whole-mind learning environment. The school is in its eighth year of operation and has received full accreditation from the North Central Accreditation Association of Schools and Colleges.

At PEASE Academy, each student makes a commitment to living a sober life style, and to being nonviolent, non-racist, and nonsexist as they learn to live productive, fulfilling lives. The goal of the school is that all students will earn a high school diploma and upon graduation pursue post secondary education.

The garden will be a part of the school's summer program, which is considered essential to each student's success. Those who participated in the summer program had a 93% return to the next year of school, 80% reported continued abstinence from drugs and alcohol and 96% reported no involvement in criminal activity.

Plans are that the garden will become a remote classroom for the spring and fall academic sessions. During the summer the garden will also be a classroom for students to learn about horticulture, organic gardening, plant species, ecology and garden care. The garden will also be a gathering place for the student's

AA meetings, reflection, picnics, other meetings, classes and performances. Additionally they hope it will become a place of refuge for neighborhood residents.

The students hope to work in partnership with the Sustainable Resource Center, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. They would like MGCM members to become mentors to the young gardeners. The students will be responsible for creating garden plots, and maintenance of the plots and the entire garden grounds. The students will earn high school credit for their study of the garden environment.

I think we have found a good match for the garden and I hope that some of our members will choose to become a mentor.

Hosta Hunting

(continued from page 4)

\$1,200. The group pooled their funds to buy a few of the moderately expensive ones to have tissue cultured when they got home. Olson himself – in the thrall of hosta disease – brought back 45 plants in total. He reported that the 15 person group spent \$6,000 in one day buying hostas.

As a person with a slight touch of the hosta malady, I envied Olson his experience. It is a trip he will never forget, but if his memory starts to slip, the sight of a few of the specimens he brought back with him will refresh it in short order.

Inside:

Page 2/	Editor's Column Events Calendar
Page 3/	President's Column Committee Meetings
Page 4/	February Program Report
Page 5/	Board Meeting Minutes New Members
Page 6/	Chuck's Chestnuts
Page 7/	Fragrance Garden Future

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Maurice Lindblom
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Vice-President: Mary J. Maynard
4375 Dart Ave. So., St. Louis Park, MN 55424
Secretary: Walter Muehlegger
715 Lone Oak Road, Eagan, MN 55121
Treasurer: Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305
Past President: Bob Stepan
7717 Riverdale Dr., Brookly Park, MN 55444

DIRECTORS:

Chuck Benson
5808 West 78th Street, Edina, MN 55410
Chuck Carlson
1001 Hackman Circle, Fridley, MN 55432
Bill Jepson
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2740 Florida Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55426

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