

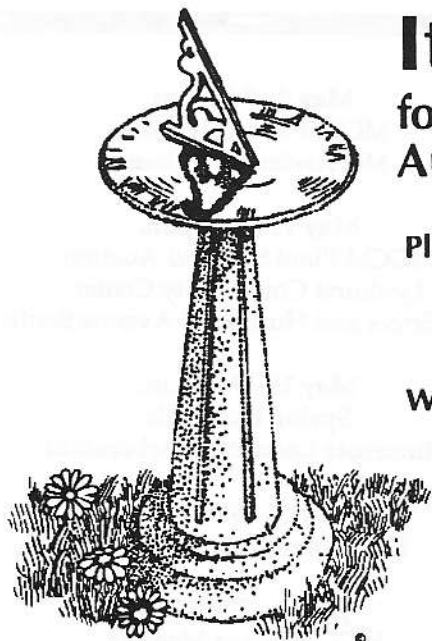
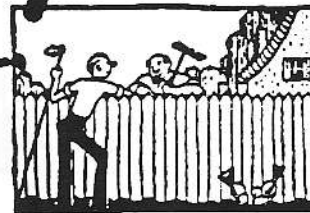


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

May 1993, Volume 51, Number 5



It's Time for the MGCM Annual Plant Sale, Auction and Country Store.

Place: Lynhurst Community Center
50th Street And Humboldt Avenue South
Minneapolis

(Same place as last year)

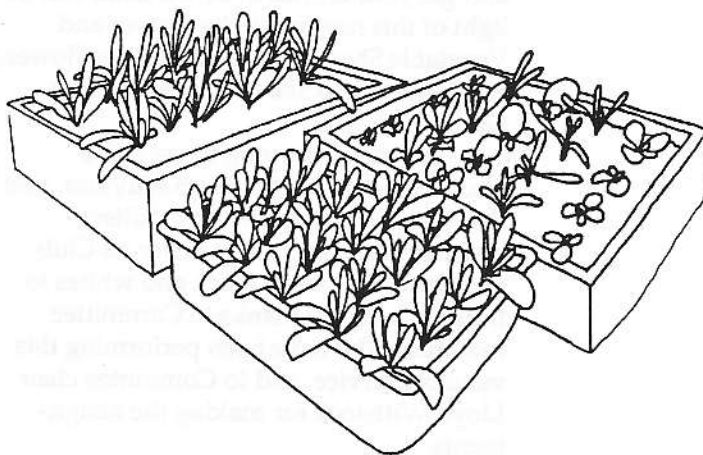
When: Tuesday, May 11, 1993

Time: 5:00 p.m. Country Store Opens
(donations accepted)

5:40 p.m. Dinner (\$6.5)

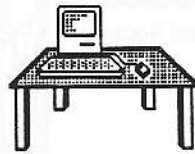
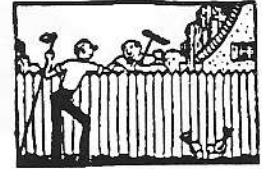
6:30 p.m. Auction begins

This much-anticipated annual event is a wonderful opportunity for you and your friends to buy outstanding annuals and perennials for your gardens, meet other gardeners and have a good time. Dave Johnson and his committee have secured quality plants from some of the best growers in the area.



Volunteers are needed for several tasks. Call Dave Johnson at 544-0111 to offer your help. Funds raised from this event benefit the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and other MGCM projects.

The permanent reservation list is not in effect for this event. Everyone needs to mail back a reservation card to confirm their attendance. Make sure to include the names of your guests. Be there and bring prospective members!



The Editor's Desk
Andy Marlow

Spring is finally here. The first flowers are in bloom. The soil is dry enough to work. Trees and shrubs can be planted. The lawn will need mowing before long. And, seedlings and cuttings are warm and growing under lights in the basement. It's a great time of the year—maybe the best time. I hope you are enjoying it as much as I am.

On page 6 of the *Spray* you will find rules for our first annual MGCM photo contest, to be held in conjunction with the Flower and Vegetable Show at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Interest in photography is very high among MGCM members this year, as the size and activity of the photography committee attests. If you are among the "shutter-bugs," read the rules, snap away and get your entries in by the deadline. In light of this new facet, the Flower and Vegetable Show is being called the Flower, Food and Photo Show....a very catchy name.

We are also trying to get more photos, particularly of Club activities, into the *Spray*. Photography Committee members are assigned to cover all Club events and get some black and whites to the editor. Many thanks to Committee members who have been performing this valuable service, and to Committee chair Lloyd Wittstock for making the assignments.

I was not able to be at last month's meeting, but I want to commend members for the care and concern they put into the vote on the name of the Club. The choice was made in an appropriately democratic manner. (see Meeting Notes, page 7)

Coming Attractions

May 4 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board Meeting
Mel Anderson's House

May 11 - 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Plant Sale and Auction
Lynhurst Community Center
50th Street and Humboldt Avenue South

May 15 - 9:00 a.m.
Spring Plant Sale
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

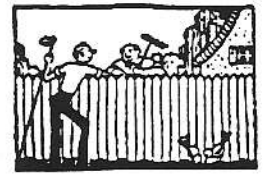
May 22 - 9:00 a.m.
Fragrance Garden Planting

June 1 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board Meeting
Lloyd Wittstock's House

June 8 - 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Center for Northern Gardening
1755 Prior Avenue
Falcon Heights

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,
Mary Maynard, Phil Smith



The President's Report

Lee Gilligan, President, MGCM

Our auction comes up next in the MGCM program year. For those new to the Club, this is a fun and rewarding experience. Yes - it is also our major fund raiser, which is obviously important to the club, but it is also a great place to get plants hand-selected by some of our best gardeners.



(photo by Dr. Bill Jepson)

Dave Johnson and his committee do a great job in choosing outstanding plant material—the best you can buy. A word of warning—bring your vehicle with the largest

capacity because the spirit of the sale gets in your blood.

Many of these plants will be the ribbon winners at the August Flower, Food and Photo Show, and will also grace the gardens we will tour in July and August.

So, let's see everyone at the auction and get this gardening season off to a perfect start.

HAPPY GARDENING!



New Member Profiles

by Duane Reynolds, Chair
Membership Committee

Dale Fisher, who lives in Maple Grove (15440 96th Place North, 55369 - home phone 420-9017) is currently active in growing both annual and perennial flowers, foliage and flowering house plants, fruits, vegetables, and trees and shrubs. He is interested in preserving an attractive neighborhood environment and may be a potential host for a summer garden tour. He learned about MGCM by attending one of 50th Anniversary tours last year. Dale works for the Hennepin County Bureau of Corrections.

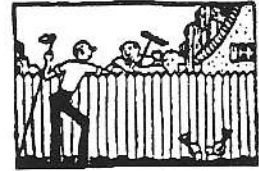
Lynda Williams lives in St. Louis Park (3701 Kipling Avenue South, 55416 - home phone 928-0763). She is interested in annuals, perennials, foliage house plants, trees, shrubs, landscaping and container gardening. She would like to learn more about gardening and make changes in her garden without making too many mistakes. She is interested in photography and our community gardening projects. Lynda works for Target.

Fred Pearson lives in Bloomington (2409 West 98th Street, 55431 - home phone

(continued on page 5)

Flower and Vegetable Show

The National Award in our flower and vegetable show will be for the Carrot and the Celosia. Please include these in your garden and exhibit them in the show.



Monthly Program Report

by Mary Maynard

We had a lot of activity planned in addition to excitement of the name change votes at the April MGCM meeting. All of our Master Gardeners were recognized during dinner, and Dwight Stone auctioned off a large number of gardening books while we waited for ballots to be counted during the business meeting. (I'm not exactly sure how Dwight talked me into buying that big stack of books, but I'm not sorry!)

Our speaker was Bob Mugaas from the Hennepin County Extension Service, who gave us an overview of the history and current focus of the service...

The Agricultural Extension Service was founded by the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, in recognition of the need for field staff to work with producers and growers — to move knowledge from universities out to farms. Primary mechanisms were demonstration plots, meetings on specific topics, etc. Its funding comes from three sources: the federal government (USDA) through the University; the State of Minnesota, through the University; and individual counties. Extension educators (as our County Agents are now called) are faculty members of the University of Minnesota.

During the 1920's, because of farm crises and very limited funding, the Extension Service began to use more and more volunteers. Ever since, the Service has had a rich history of using a strong core of volunteers. This strong core survives today. Our Master Gardeners are examples.

There is a lot of variety in the Extension Service. Educators and staff answer a lot of questions, and no two questions are exactly alike. Computers have revolutionized their work, giving the service access to many, many databases around the country.

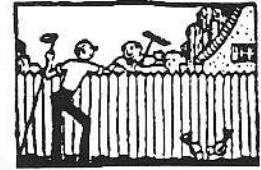
The 4-H program is very active in Hennepin county. Clubs are located mostly in suburbs and rural areas, and the 4-H Theater Company has received a grant to renovate the old Capri Theater.

In home economics, there are programs that emphasize environment and energy (e.g. indoor air quality); family financial management; expanded food and nutrition education, etc.

One of the things Bob has been focusing on is environmental horticulture — managing pesticides, water quality awareness, composting, minimizing grass clippings, etc.

Master Gardener programs began in 1972 in Washington or Oregon. The first Minnesota program began in 1977, at a time when consumer horticulture was booming. The Master Gardener program has been one of the most successful Extension programs. About 800 gardeners have gone through the training, and at any given time, there are about 130-140 active volunteers.

In addition to answering more than 5,000 phone calls in seven-month period, master gardeners participate in civic projects (with the Arboretum, clinics, classes, etc.), garden center clinics, and 4-H activities. They are a University resource right in our community and provide an immeasurable service to horticulture.



Fragrance Garden Notes

by Chuck Carlson

A trip to the garden on April 7 found most of the garden in a state of rest with a few of the residents awakening. Some Pansies and rock garden plants wintered over with nice green leaves. The Sedum and Lambs Ears are growing, and the newly planted yellow and white Snow Crocus have pushed out enough to see their color.

By the time you read this, the cleanup will be done. Thanks to all who were there. The next task will be planting of the annuals on Saturday May 22 starting at 9 AM. We will plant over 1500 items and expect to be done by noon. So, come with your trowels and enthusiasm.

I will list those who have those who have signed up for weekly maintenance in this column each month as a reminder. Please watch for your name. This months volunteers are:

- May 23 & 28 – Duane Reynolds & Glenn Bartsch
- May 29 & June 4 – Bob Redmond & Kent Petterson
- June 5 & 11 – John Moon & John Groos

New Members

(continued from page 3)

884-5666) and is interested in container gardening, annual and perennial flowers, growing and propagating under lights, house plants, trees, shrubs and vegetables. He is also active with hostas and roses. He would like to help with the telephone and auctions committees, plus "committees as needed." He joined MGCM to share the company, experiences and knowledge of like-minded people. Fred works for the Minneapolis Public Schools.



Meeting Notes

At the April Membership meeting:

• Chuck Benson reported that this year's Holiday tree at the Arboretum will be decorated with dried red peppers. Volunteers to raise the peppers signed up during the meeting. The pepper plants will be given out at the Plant Auction.

• Fred Pearson and Lynda Williams were inducted into the club. We now have exactly 100 members.

• Considered an initiative to change the name of the club, followed by voting on three additional alternative names:

The membership failed to override Board rejection of a proposal to change the name of the club from the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis to the Metropolitan Garden Club of Minneapolis.

The Board proposed consideration of three alternatives to be voted on. If no choice got 51% of the votes, a runoff ballot would be held:

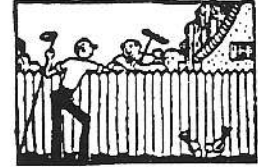
1. No change from current name
2. Metropolitan Men's Garden Club
3. Metropolitan Garden Club of Minnesota

A spirited discussion was followed by the first vote, where the totals were:

- #1: 24 votes, #2: 12 votes,
- #3: 20 votes.

In a runoff ballot, #1 received 35 votes and #3 received 24 votes, so the club name remains the same.

President Gilligan said the results indicate that many people are happy with our current name, but there is also a large percentage that believes there's room for change.



MGCM's First Annual Photography Contest

This competition is to encourage good horticulture photography. The photos will be exhibited in Oct. in conjunction with the Flower & Vegetable Show.

RULES

1. Anyone is eligible to enter
 2. Deadline for entries is August 1, 1993
 3. Up to twenty (20) entries in each section may be submitted with no more than five (5) in any class.
 4. All entries must be submitted with a typed or hand printed list; of the entries submitted, their section and class and a description of the subject plus your name and address. One must also comply with the following requirements:
 - a. Slides must be 2" x 2" mounts and must work in a 140 Kodak Slide Carousel.
 - b. Place a round dot on the lower left corner of the slide when looking through the slide and seeing the correct subject orientation. The side toward the screen should be on the non-dotted side.
 - c. Each slide or print must be identified as to the kind of plant (Rose, Zinnia etc.) and the variety together with the section and the class and your name. Test your writing media so it does not bleed through the photo.
 - d. Slides or prints must be previously unpublished, not electronically altered and have their original color.
 - e. Prints shall not exceed 5 x 7 in.
 - f. Duplicate slides may be submitted to avoid losing originals.
 - g. Include a self addressed stamped envelope for return of your entries. If not included, the entries can only
 - h. be picked up at subsequent meetings or become the property of MGCM.
- h. Send entries postmarked by Aug. 1, 1993 to:
Lloyd Wittstock
913 19th Ave. SE
Mpls. MN55414.
- Or give them to anyone on the photography committee.
5. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st 2nd 3rd places in each class and the best of show for both sections.
 6. Slides and prints will be judged separately.

SECTION A (SLIDES)

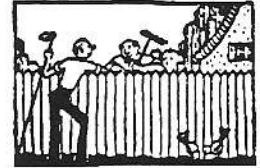
- Class 1. Annuals
- Class 2. Perennials
- Class 3. Roses
- Class 4. Bulbous Flowers
- Class 5. Container Grown Plants
- Class 6. Trees, Shrubs, & Woody Vines
- Class 7. Vegetables
- Class 8. Club Activities
- Class 9. Landscapes
- Class 10. Groups of Cultivated Plants
- Class 11. Wildflowers
- Class 12. Misc. or Educational

SECTION B (PRINTS)

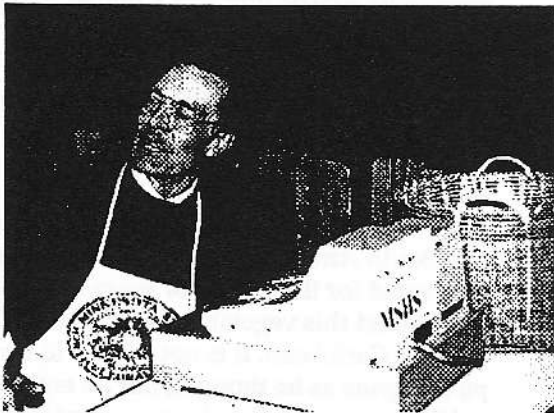
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Dwight Stone and Duane Johnson staff MSHS booth at the Minneapolis Home and Garden Show.



Henry Orfield helps visitors select books on gardening in the MSHS display.



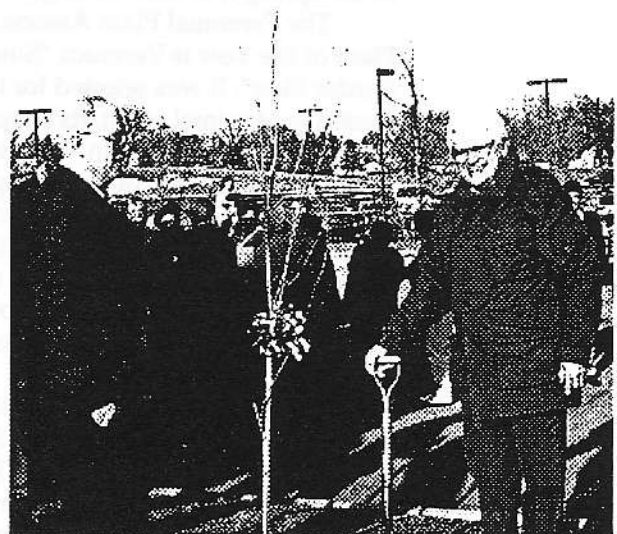
The MSHS cash register is operated by MGCM member Dick Arnevik

MGCM Members Help MSHS

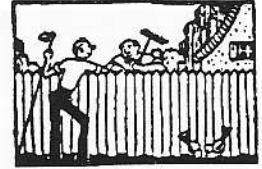
(Top three photos by Lloyd Wittstock. Two bottom photos by Chuck Carlson)



President Lee Gilligan looks on as Duane Johnson, Bob Voight and Russ Smith plant a ceremonial tree at the Center for Northern Gardening on April 3.



Duane Johnson and Russ Smith take time to admire their handiwork.



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

In China this is the year of the rooster. This is also the year of the - - - - for some of the garden organizations.

Our club, for instance, has the National Award in the Flower and Vegetable Show. 1993 is the year of the Celosia and the Carrot. Make sure your garden includes them and that you exhibit them in the show.

The Minnesota Rock Garden Society has made this the Year of the Dianthus. I attended a talk by Karen Schellinger about the genus Dianthus. I was amazed at the diversity in this genus and the beauty of their flowers. I some seeds given away at meeting, watered them and then placed the pot in a plastic bag. This wasn't too different for me, but the next step was. After allowing it to sit over night, I then placed the bag outside to age over winter. In the spring it is allowed to germinate.

The Perennial Plant Association's Plant of the Year is Veronica "Sunny Border Blue". It was selected for its long season ornamental effect, its adaptability and its ease in production. It is hardy in zones 3-8, likes full sun to very light shade and well drained soil. Its qualities are deep green foliage, a long blooming period, ease of culture, minimal maintenance and possible use as a pot plant. It is a cross of Veronica *spicata* and Veronica *longefolia*.

The National Garden Bureau designated two plants to honor in 1993. They have The Year of the Pansy and The Year of the Pepper. The pansy is an ancestor of the Viola, a large genus containing at least 500 species. The name pansy can be

traced back to the French word *penseé*, meaning thought or remembrance. Many strains have been developed, but in the last 50 years hybridizers in Germany, USA and Japan have developed many new colors and unusual bicolors.

Starting pansy seeds requires cool and darkness. Sow the seeds, water and cover with plastic film and a folded damp newspaper. Check daily to assure it is moist. When the first shoots appear, remove the plastic and the newspaper and move them to a cool area with bright lights. The temperature must be kept between 50 and 60 degrees.

The pepper is a native to the Central and South American tropics and has been cultivated for thousands of years. Columbus named this vegetable when he tasted it in the Caribbean. It is not related to the *piper nigrum* as he thought, but an entirely a different genus, Capsicum, part of the Solanaceae or nightshade family.

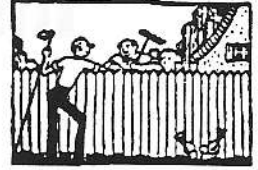
Remember when planting peppers, the nighttime temperature must be over 55 degrees. Peppers may be harvested and enjoyed when mature or immature. but remember sweet peppers become sweeter when they mature. Likewise hot peppers become hotter as they mature.

The Word

The word for the month is "glabrous." One can say most succulents are glabrous and peaches are not glabrous. It means free of hair, down or fuzz.

The Tip

If you like fresh basil, you can also have it in the winter. Just grow some sprouts. Grow some on a plastic sponge kept in a open plastic bag. Snip some the sprouts (3-5 days) for some fresh basil and have some larger leaves in 3-4 weeks.



Native Uses for Native Plants: Wild Ginger

by Mary Maguire Lermen, Coordinator of Horticulture Programs,
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

COMMON NAMES: Wild Ginger, Indian Ginger, and Canadian Snakeroot

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Asarum canadense*

NATIVE NAME: *namé pin* which means sturgeon plant

Wild Ginger is one of those wild-flowers that one needs to closely examine in order to see the flower. Each plant grows two leaves each year that develop from the underground creeping and branching rootstock called a rhizome. The leaves are heart or kidney-shaped and covered with soft hairs. There is only one flower per plant and it is brownish-red with a cream center. This bloom develops just above the ground underneath the leaves in May.

The rhizome of Wild Ginger has a food use. The dried rhizome can be dried and pulverized and used as a substitute for the ginger spice. According to Frances Densmore in *How Indians Use Wild Plants for Food, Medicine, and Crafts*, "The root of this plant was regarded as an 'appetizer', being put in any food as it was being cooked."

At one time, Wild Ginger was used as the ginger spice substitute both in the U.S. and Canada. If you plan to collect your own rhizomes for drying, it is best done during spring and summer.

In addition to its food uses, there are several medicinal applications. According to Oliver Perry Medsger in *Edible Wild Plants*, "it was once used as a remedy for whooping-cough." A publication from the Blue Ridge and Smoky mountains area

called *Pioneer Comforts and Kitchen Remedies*, comments that a tea made from the rhizomes could help control gas problems.

Frances Densmore noted in her book that Wild Ginger also helped in cases of indigestion and fractures:

FOR INDIGESTION: If food does not agree with a person, put about an inch of this root in whatever food is being cooked for him.

FOR FRACTURES: Dried and equal parts of the roots of Wild Ginger and spikenard are used. They are mashed and applied as a poultice. If the arm is very sore and the poultice has become dry, the poultice may be moistened with warm water before removing.

Wild Ginger may also be used for inflammations and for a tonic.

Finally, in *Potter's New Cyclopaedia of medicinal Herbs and Preparations*, the following is noted:

MEDICINAL USE: Expectorant, carminative, stimulant. As a carminative it is useful in all painful spasms of the bowels and stomach. In colds or in amenorrhoea from cold it is a valuable stimulant. The infusion of 1/2 ounce of the powdered root in one pine of boiling water produces copious perspiration, when taken hot. The powder may be taken dry in doses of 20-30 grams.

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