

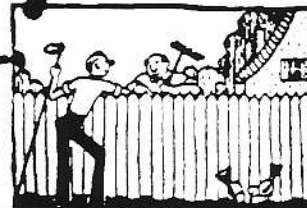


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

October 1994, Volume 52, Number 10



October Dinner Meeting:

A Slide Tour of New Zealand



Last winter, MGCM member Fred Glasoe was the tour leader for a trip through the gardens of New Zealand sponsored by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. In addition to being a teacher, gardener, talk show host and man about town, Fred is also a skilled photographer. He'll be sharing the slides he took and the memories he gathered with the MGCM membership at the October meeting.

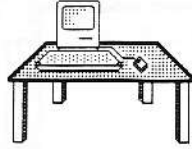
Day: Tuesday, October 11, 1994

Time: 6:30 PM Dinner
7:15 PM Business Meeting

**Place: Lake Harriet United
Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South
Minneapolis**

Cost: \$7.00 for advance reservations
\$8.00 with no reservation

If there is a dinner reservation card enclosed with this issue of the *Garden Spray*, you must mail it back to Secretary Eldon Hugelen by Friday, October 7. If no card is enclosed, you are on the permanent reservation list. If you are on the permanent list and do not plan to attend the October meeting, please call Eldon Hugelen by Friday, October 7. Otherwise you may be responsible for purchasing the meal reserved for you.



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

Summer is a busy time for gardeners and, obviously, for our Garden Club as well. This issue of the *Spray* is chock full of news about summer goings on. On page 4 is a report on our September meeting. Page 5 features the second installment of Merle Pulley's meticulous review of the gardens featured on our July fund-raising tour. On page 7, Show Committee Co-Chair Mel Anderson reports on the results of the Flower, Food and Foto Show held August 20 and 21 at the Arboretum. Hats off to all of you who participated in one or more of these events and managed to keep your own garden looking good at the same time.

Chuck Carlson has been so busy honchoing (is that a word?) the fragrance garden effort that he could only mangle a sentence or so in his monthly report on page 4. I think he's just plain tuckered out, what with the fragrance garden work, his own garden, eavesdropping at the Flower Show (see Chuck's Chestnuts on page 8) and carting home a pile of ribbons from the Show.

Bill Hull has asked me to remind members and their spouses that MGCM is an organization where members care about each other. If you know about a member that is ill or, heaven forbid, has passed on, please let Phil Peterson of the Sunshine Committee know about it. He'll make sure a card and a plant or flowers are sent, and maybe the member will even get a personal visit. If there's a death in our gardening family, please call the *Spray* editor, too (that's me). I can pass the word to all our members.

Coming Attractions

October 4 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board of Directors
Clyde Thompson's House

October 11 - 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South

October 22 - 9:00 a.m.
Fall Cleanup
MGCM Fragrance Garden

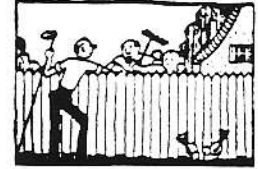
November 1 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board of Directors
Bob Voigt's House

November 8 - 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South

November 25
Wreath Making Party
Klier's Nursery
5901 Nicollet Avenue South

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



The President's Report

Clyde Thompson, President, MGCM

What's before the snow flies?

The roses put to bed

The perennials diagramed in their places and labeled

The annuals evaluated for performance

The bulbs for spring put into position

Don't forget lilies can go in last

Then very carefully cover your summer friends with the right stuff so they are as comfortable in their environment next winter as you are in your environment.

Mum's the word this year; the colors are strong and the season has been extended well beyond the norm. It was great to have a September speaker on mums right in the midst of the blooming season. Thanks to program chair Bob Voigt for great advance planning.

The Flower, Food and Foto Show never ceases to amaze me. The committee knows how to move all the pieces of the puzzle to have it come out in goodly fashion. Committee, take your well earned bow!

Let's all greet our new members!

When you attend the next meeting, decide who you will look up and find out what their gardening interests are. This has been a great year for expanding our membership roster and we all need to help the new people feel like they are a part of MGCM.

Community Garden Report

by Chuck Carlson

Chair, Community Garden Committee

Remember the Fragrance Garden clean-up on Saturday October 22 at 9:00 a.m.

Membership News

New Members:

Ryan A. Langseth
4101 Emerson Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55412
home phone: 529-3607

Fred C. Wust
4912 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409
home phone: 825-9426
business phone: 473-4216

Correction:

New member added in September issue is Donald M. Trocke (not Procke as printed)



Monthly Program Report

by Andy Marlow

Neil Anderson has been at the University of Minnesota for 11 years, most of that time spent working in the chrysanthemum breeding program at the U's St. Paul campus. He shared a great deal of the knowledge thus gained with MGCM members at the September dinner meeting.

The federally funded program, *Breeding and Genetics of Garden Flowers*, has been on going since the 1930s. Headquartered on the St. Paul campus, the program also conducts field trials at 6 locations around the state. The initial objective of the project was to breed a mum that would flower before a killing frost. That goal was not achieved until the 1960s. To date, the program has created 80+ named cultivars for introduction.

The latest introduction is *Rose Blush*, noted for the profusion of blossoms that start early in the growing season and continue up to the first freeze. The blossoms start out mauve in color, but change in shade as the flower ages, until it reaches a rosy glow. It is a spreading plant, about 15 inches high with an equal spread. *Rose Blush* was developed from a cross between *Minnqueen* and *Rosy Glow*, both developed by the U of M. Anderson said he expects it to surpass *Minngopher*, now the most widely grown U of M introduction, within a couple of growing seasons.

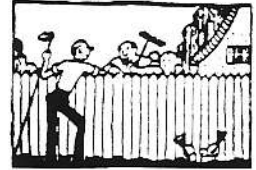
Mums fall into four basic color groups: pink/purple, white/cream, bronze/red and yellow/gold. The Univer-

sity has introduced cultivars in all four groups, including such well known varieties as *Lemonsota*, *Centerpiece*, *Minngopher*, *Minnqueen*, *Snowsota* and *Rosy Glow*.

Mums, including *Rose Blush*, have until now been propagated by root divisions. The plants you buy in the garden center are clones of the original plant selected from the breeding program. This insures uniformity both across years and throughout the growing range of the plant. A major goal of the breeding program, under the direction of Professor Peter Ascher, is to acquire the knowledge and technology to be able to market reliable F1 hybrid chrysanthemum seeds. That goal appears reachable. Seeds from the University of Minnesota have been sent to the All America selection committee for field trial next year. If they can be shown to have uniformity, bloom the first growing season and prove hardy enough to survive the winter uncovered, the seeds will likely appear in garden catalogs a few springs from now.

Anderson and his colleagues are also working on perfecting two unusual mum forms. One is a "shrub" mum that grows to 3 feet tall with a diameter of 8 feet from seed in one season. It appears hardier than other forms and has already been informally dubbed *MaxiMum*. The other is a cascading form that could be used in rock gardens and hanging baskets.

If you read this before the first freeze, please accept Neil Anderson's invitation to visit the chrysanthemum trial fields on the St. Paul campus. They'll be a riot of color until a hard freeze deprives us of their beauty.



July Garden Tour Reviewed

by Merle Thomas Pulley
part two of two

Duane and Patti Reynolds

Banks of sedum, flocks of hens and chicks, oregonium, germander and saramentus flow from the Reynolds front yard. A distinctive feature of this front yard garden are a dozen or so varieties of hardy cacti. The cacti create visual interest with their muted colors and contrasting textures of spines and stems.

A maple provides cover for a hosta glade that includes numerous specimens, such as *Montana Aeromarginata*, *Birchwood Parky's Gold*, *Pearl Lake*, *Sun Power* and a large h. *nigescens*.

On the day I visited, Marty and Joane Anderson were greeting visitors. Marty's persistence resulted in the announcement of the tours by Rebecca Kolls on WCCO's news program. Thanks to Kolls, to Kathleen Lanpher of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and to Sharon Parker (new MGCM member) for the article in the July issue of the *Southwest Journal*. The tours benefited greatly from the invaluable publicity.

The back yard second-level deck is a great viewing stand. The deck provides shade for more hosta, ferns and maiden-hair with delicate branched fronds. Two raised beds displaying lilies and daylilies are nicely bordered with red salvia. The lily collection here includes *Golden Splendor*, *Indian Brave*, *Cherished Ark*, *First Love* and a rich, brilliant yellow *Dreamland* plus many others.

Also in the back yard are five large hexagonal raised beds, all edged with bright red salvia. One held twenty or so dahlia ready to burst into bloom. Another held a variety of annuals and vegetables. A lettuce, beet and carrot border looked

good enough to eat. The far border of the garden features a row of apple trees poised over more and more daylilies, lilies and hosta. The raised bed is set off by a border of marigolds.

Along the west fence, the Reynolds have planted rhubarb, squash and tempting tomatoes. Talk about a garden that has everything (but don't mention the hot tub, too many folks will want to, er... revisit!)

Carolyn and Keith Hayward

A long hedge of *Nepeta Mussini* in full bloom in front of the house raised the question "What is this?" from many visitors. Heather Hayward, the nine-year-old of the house, cheerfully responds "Catnip".

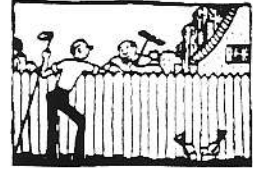
Large stands of lilies, coreopsis, rudbeckia, sedum, hollyhock, Centerpiece mums, liatris, monarda, astilbe and roses on the south border meander toward the pond on the east side of the garden.

An interesting arrangement of rectangular and triangular plots are home to beets, cabbage, broccoli, potatoes, squash, chives, rhubarb, green peppers, beans, carrots, onions, leaf lettuce and the ubiquitous zucchini. Snapdragons serve as edging.

The backyard garden features three formal rose beds, tastefully bordered in pink bronze-leaf begonias and electric blue lobelia. There are over 250 roses in these beds, including *Angel Face*, *Sweet Inspiration*, *Sexy Remy*, *Trumpeter*, *Show Biz*, *Mister Lincoln*, *Keepsake*, *Pink Peace*, *Tournament of Roses*, *Sweet Surrender*, *Breathless*, *Great Scott*, *Uncle Joe*, *Lady X*, *Folklore*, *Brite Lites*, *Love*, *Apricot Nectar*, *Helmut Schmidt*, *Coral Pink*, *First Edition*, *Midas Touch* and *Big Purple* (whew) to name just a few.

A nice selection of seldom seen perennials such as *Crambe Cordifolia*,

(continued on page 6)



Tour Review

(continued from page 5)

Compenella, Dictamnus Albus and Ligularia Stenochepala ('The Rocket' showing tall, yellow spires) inhabit the north border. This area also features daisies, alba, delphinium, astilbe, daylilies, a huge 'Sum and Substance' hosta and hydrangeas, with showy corymbose clusters of white flowers.

Dave and Deploras Johnson

This spectacular garden in Golden Valley can be approached from the west, north or east, and one would be hard pressed not to find a starting point that wasn't "just right". Or, you could take a clue from the owners and sit for a few minutes on the new hand-carved teak bench that was recently placed near the top of the slope on the southwest lawn. The bench is bordered with red geraniums and affords a fine view of the many gardened areas. These include a formal rose garden bordered with pink double begonia (*Lady Francis*) that they grow from cuttings. There are about 250 rose bushes here, all in excellent condition; too many to list, although the brilliant red "Show Biz" needs to be mentioned.

Our group started the garden tour from the driveway by two large clumps of River Birch. Lofty stands of double begonia (*Gladiator Red*) are trimmed with Dusty Miller and edged with bright blue lobelia and ageratum. Several neatly manicured Mugho Pines are spaced far enough apart to accommodate waves of impatiens planted in between. Then there are coleus, herbs of the mint family, forty-two varieties in seventy-eight pots.

In this area of the property there is a potpourri of flowers, fruits and vegetables which the Johnsons make look like art, which of course it is. Begonia, hosta, lettuce, lupine, raspberries, impatiens,

cabbage, pots on stands, peppers, pansies, beans and huge masses of tuberous begonia (pinks, yellows, whites, orange, reds) intermix. The medley continues with mums, malva, trellised purple clematis, nicotiana, rudbeckia, purple coneflower and more tuberous begonia. Nearly all of the annuals grown here are started from seen under lights.

The area in front of the house is perfectly manicured. The shrubbery is composed of upright Welch Juniper, Scandia Juniper, low Calgary Carpet Junipers, Pygmy Red Barberry and Taunton Japanese Yew. Tropical mandevilla (not winter hardy) grown here during the warm months adds color, as do the fifty or so *Tango* red geraniums serving as a border.

On the north of the house is a wonderful flowing, terraced rock garden full of vincá, rose impatiens, lilies, lysiansis, begonia and three varieties of sedum, clustering and cascading down the rocks. Three Fraser Furs provide the shade.

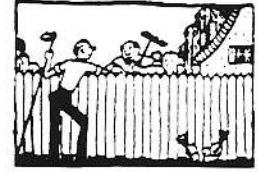
Under the back deck is a colorful assortment of "Antonelli" tuberous begonia. The patio area displays potted plants, including many of the Johnsons' award winning coleus. These huge 5-6 foot wonders include *Lime Frill*, *Gilda*, *The Chief*, *Big Red* and *Florida Sun*.

Carleton and Beth Nelson

The city of Bloomington should install signs on West 90th Street near the Nelson's place that read "Slow Traffic - Garden Ahead". Brake lights glare as drivers slow down or pull over to get a better look at the gardens and thousands of marigolds and other plants growing here.

The impressive 95 foot border garden on the east features a front row of low yellow marigolds, a taller gold

(continued on page 7)



Flower, Food and Foto Show: Growing, Growing, Showing

by Mel Anderson, Ch-Chair, Flower, Food and Foto Show Committee

The 1994 MGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show was held August 20 and 21 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The show was a marked success and showed great improvement over some past years. The Co-Chairmen wish to thank the Committee and the exhibitors whose work and exhibits made the show such a success. We ask for any ideas and suggestions that will help make the Flower, Food and Foto Show an even greater success in 1995. Here are some highlights from this year's Show:

Flowers and Food

Entries

We had 25 exhibitors compared to 22 in 1993 and 15 in 1992. That's a 67% increase in two years.

These exhibitors entered a total of 535 exhibits to be judged, an increase of 95 over 1993.

Awards

352 ribbons were awarded. In 1993, 294 ribbons were earned.

The National Award winner in flowers (petunia) was Henry Orfield with *Double Islands* - rose and white. 15 exhibits competed for this ribbon. The National Award winner in vegetables (beet) was Duane Johnson with *Harris Warrior*. Duane triumphed over 7 other exhibitors.

Henry Orfield won the Flower Sweepstakes Award, with Eldon Hugelen finishing second and Dave Johnson third. The Vegetable Sweepstakes Award was captured by Kent Petterson, with Bob Voigt in second place and Chuck Carlson

in third. The best first-time exhibitor was Elizabeth Johnson.

The Championship Flower was a floribunda rose, *Show Biz*, grown by Henry Orfield. The Reserve Champion was Harold Gulde with a miniature ball dahlia named *Down Lam Royal*.

The Championship Vegetable was *America Big Beef* tomato grown by Dave Johnson. The Reserve Champion was Kent Petterson with an herb collection.

The Best of Show award went to Henry Orfield for *Show Biz*.

Foto

123 print and 85 slides were entered in this year's show, compared to 80 prints and 47 slides in 1993. This represents a 79% increase in just one year.

Clyde Thompson won the print award with "The Bridge." Henry Orfield had the best slide with a shot of *Stella d'Oro*. Henry also took home the Best of Show trophy.

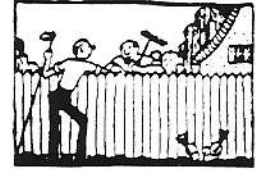
Tour Review

(continued from page 6)

marigold, hosta, even taller marigolds and a "fence" of canna lilies. There are four raised beds with masses of marigolds; large yellow doubles; low dark blood-red; pansy-like yellow and orange; and more tall double yellows.

Carleton is well-known for the many varieties of marigolds he grows. Around January 20th he plants 4-5000 marigold seeds. In the spring about 3000 of these are

(continued on page 9)



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

Overheard at the Flower Food & Foto show.

Heard while looking at the Dahlias:
"Those are really big and beautiful."

From a lady looking at the white beets: "Is that a turnip?"

"What is that beauty? A Salpiglossis? What a name!" Maybe the entrant should also have written *Painted Tongue* on the entry form.

"Look, a yellow impatiens."

"Those are enormous! How do they get them that big?" They were looking at Dave & Delores Johnson's patio pots of coleus.

"That's a really nice coleus." The subject was Churilla's potted *Christmas Cheer*.

"Look at those beans!" They were the multicolored beans grown by the Voigts called *Tongues of Fire*.

"Those hibiscus are so large one could spray them with aluminum paint and use them for dish antennas."

I noticed that extra long stops were made at the roses. I also noticed that the design class took an upward swing in

both quality and quantity.

The photos also were great. The judges said to tell all that the quality was really improved. Maybe it was because of our new exhibitors; Lloyd Wittstock, Mavis Voigt, Kay Wolfe, Bill Jepson & Marion Carlson. Of course, Henry Orfield provided his usual sterling photos.

Congratulations to all who took part in the show. It was top notch.

1995 All America Selections

The selections have been announced and this year only three cultivars were approved. They were all flowers. *Celebrity Chiffon Morn* is a F1 floribunda petunia. It's a soft pastel pink with many 2-1/2 inch single flowers. *Purple Wave* is also a F1 petunia. This selection is a new class of petunia growing only 4 to 6 inches high but spreading 2 to 4 feet. A good drought resistant plant with 2 inch single blooms. The third on the list is a Rudbeckia, hirta called *Indian Summer*. It has huge 6 to 9 inch blooms ranging from single to double. The plants are 3 to 4 feet high and do not need staking. They say even novice gardeners can grow this one.

These will be available in the spring only as plants, so don't look for the seeds.

The Tip

Grow, show and photograph
Those horticultural gems.
So many can see and appreciate
What you can germinate.

Its a poor excuse for a poem but the thought is there. See you next month.

Floyd Ashley, Dick Tepley Remembered

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis lost one of its long time members when Floyd Ashley died on August 18. Floyd had been a member of the MGCM since 1958 and had served on numerous committees, most recently the Flower and Vegetable Show.

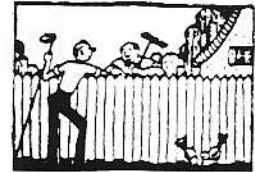
Floyd and his wife Elsie lived at 7500 York Avenue South in Edina, having moved from their home in Minnetonka several years ago. Until his retirement in 1974, Floyd was Treasurer of the Nash Finch Company, one of the country's largest food wholesalers and distributors. He served on the Nash Finch Board of Directors until 1985.

Born in Jackson, MN, Floyd graduated from high school at Fairmont, MN. He attended the University of Minnesota for two years before joining the Nash Finch Company at age 19.

Floyd was an elder at Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina and also held a number of positions at Lyndale Congregational United Church of Christ in Minneapolis. He was active in the Minnesota Council of the United Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Elsie. A memorial service was held on August 23 at Christ Presbyterian Church.

Former MGCM member Richard "Dick" Tepley died earlier this summer. Dick was an MGCM member from 1982-1989.



Tour Review

(continued from page 7)

transplanted into his gardens and the rest are given away.

Yet, we were truly awed by the vast collection of dahlias here. The 528 different dahlia are breathtaking. Many of these dahlias are numbered and many named; *Blushing Bride*, *Mr. Larry*, *Camano Melon*, *April Dawn* and *Candy Corn*. Every color seems to appear in this dahlia field—purple, yellow, burgundy, salmon, white, peach, red, coral, dusty mauve, orange, lavender, melon and more. Many were six feet or taller. A six footer called *Irene's Pride* has a butter-yellow ray-type flower head the size of a bowling ball. *Cameo Peach* is a five foot tall bi-color. *Nita* is variegated with a flower that measures 12 inches across. My favorite was a mid-sized, velvety, burgundy-black dahlia affectionately called #12947.

The field of dahlia melts into vegetable/flower plots growing 30 tomato plants in cages, pole beans, peppers, carrots, two 25 foot rows of zinnia, two beds of four foot tall rudbeckia, white and purple phlox, daylilies, peonies, gladioli, false indigo (showing fat black seed pods) and monarda, edged with white cleome and a pink-red bi-color cleome.

A Japanese tree lilac is surrounded by a bed of roses and bordered with red and white fibrous begonia. Between the greenhouse and "little garage" there is a trellis which provides shade for 50 or so hanging baskets of impatiens. Large cacti summer here, too, as do racks of tuberous begonia.

The picture of Carleton and Beth Nelson's gardens also includes hundreds of tiny toads, jumping in all directions. And, the last impression, the front yard flag pole towering above a small circular bed of, well, marigolds.

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