

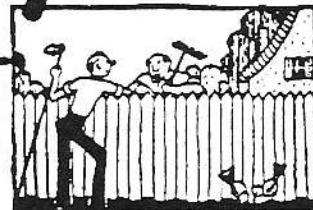


# The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

October 1998, Volume 56, Number 10



## October Dinner Meeting...

# Trees

The Basic Plant Of The Garden  
Guest Speaker: Don Selinger

Many of us lost trees during the storms and winds of the past spring and summer. If you haven't replaced them, come to the October meeting and learn from Don. He has been with Bailey Nursery for 25 years and knows horticulture and trees. Come and listen before you plant your next ultimate perennial, the tree. Some of the topics will be.

- Trees in general
- The Green Ash—its overuse and problems
- Why oaks are good for Minnesota
- A second look at Elms
- New trees to consider

## Added Attraction

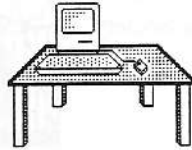
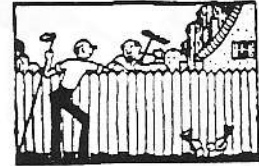
Big Pumpkin and Sunflower contest  
Bring your biggest and best

**Date:** Tuesday October 13, 1998  
**Place:** Lake Harriet United Methodist Church  
49th and Chowen Avenue South  
**Times:** Dinner: 6:30 PM Business: 7:00 PM  
Program: 7:30 PM  
**Cost:** \$7.50 if reserved in advance  
\$8.50 at the door if extra meals are available



### Note—Permanent Reservations are in Effect

The 1998 permanent reservation list will remain in effect for this meeting. Check your mailing label. If it has a "p" or "pp" (one or two reservations) you are on the permanent list. **If there is no "p" on your label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must notify Director Kay Wolfe by Friday, October 9, to be assured a place at dinner.** If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Kay by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the cost of your dinner. Kay can be reached at 922-0762. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person or send her an e-mail at [opperwolfe@worldnet.att.net](mailto:opperwolfe@worldnet.att.net). If you have reserved a dinner and on Monday or Tuesday you have an emergency where you find you can't attend, call Howard Berg. If the reservation can be sold to late comers or drop-ins, you will not be billed.



### The Editor's Desk

Chuck Carlson  
Managing Editor

I knew plants were important but I didn't realize how much they had changed the world until I read an article in *Garden Design*. Research for this list of ten plants that changed the world was done by Ellen Borker and Jack Kaplan, who are volunteers at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden.

#### Bamboo

Provided food, construction material, furniture, medicine and was used by Edison as one of the first filaments for the light bulb.

#### Cotton

A major clothing material. Cotton caused the need for slaves and ultimately resulted in the Civil War. This in turn gave us President Lincoln and freedom for the slaves.

#### Olive

Obviously olive oil is important as a food. But its export, particularly along the early trade routes, provided ideas which formed Western philosophy, politics, medicine and art. The oil was also used as a lubricant during the start of the industrial revolution

#### Papyrus

It was the forerunner of paper, and what would we do without paper? Paper enabled the creation of alphabets, recorded history and the spread of literacy. You could even go a step further and say the flood of paper in our offices created the need for the computer.

#### Pepper

This is pepper the spice. Early in  
*(continued on page 7)*

## Coming Attractions

**Tuesday, October 6 – 7:30 PM**  
Board of Directors meeting  
Mary Maynard's house

**Tuesday, October 13 – 6:30 PM**  
MGCM Dinner Meeting  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church  
49th & Chowen Avenue South

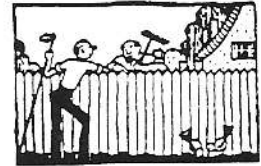
**Tuesday, November 3 – 7:30 PM**  
Board of Directors meeting  
Eldon Hugelen's house

**Tuesday, November 10 – 6:30 PM**  
MGCM Dinner Meeting  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church  
49th & Chowen Avenue South

**September 19 through December 13**  
Return to the Amazon  
85 Watercolors of Amazon Plants  
U of M Bell Museum

*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.

Managing Editor ..... Chuck Carlson  
Production Manager ... Andy Marlow  
Staff ..... Tim McCauley,  
Mary Maynard, Margaret Hibberd  
Howard Berg, and Bob Stepan.



# Mary's Meanderings

by Mary Maynard, President MGCM

Here it is—October already! The weather has been so warm recently that it's almost possible to believe that summer isn't over—until the sun sets before 7:30 p.m., and we're driving into the sun on the way to work in the morning.



Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

But it's been a great growing year, despite the hail that put big holes in the hostas and a little bit of a dry spell recently. I haven't had tomatoes and peppers like the ones we have now for several years. And the roses and perennials and grasses have been great this year. The

creeping charlie has also enjoyed a resurgence. For a while there, I thought I might have lost all my starter sets of creeping charlie, but by August it was clear that my fears were groundless.

So now it's time to get ready for a "La Niña" winter. Already, some of the flowers have bloomed themselves out and have found themselves on the compost pile. The mums and Japanese anemones and helenium's are signaling a close to the summer. But I'm still in denial — hoping against hope for another bloom or two from a tired annual; only stopping myself from deadheading the roses at the very last minute; telling myself that it couldn't be time to get the fall lawn fertilizer down.

But it is time, and before we know it we'll be out skulking around the neigh-

borhood, checking the neighbors' leaf bags, hoping to get the ones from the neighbors that don't own dogs. (There can be some nasty surprises at the bottom of dog-owners' leaf bags, and leaf shredders respond poorly to those kind of surprises.) Oh well.

Cochairing the Flower, Food and Foto Show was a learning experience for me. It gave me an even higher appreciation of all the work that Mel and Duane have done in previous years to make the show such a success. Margaret and I were very grateful for Mel's good notes and all the advice that Mel and Duane provided us with. (*Editors note: Some of us in MGCM have previously called the Flower, Food and Foto Show the Duane and Mel Show. Maybe if Mary and Margaret continue to chair it—we can call it the M & M show. Thanks for your work this year.*)

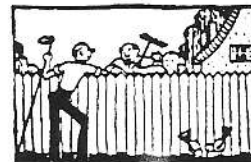
And wasn't our September program on birds interesting? I went right home and dumped out that old moldy seed from my thistle feeder! Now, I'm trying to distinguish all the small brown birds that I see at the feeders — I thought they were all sparrows until I bought that new Minnesota Birds book that our speakers brought to our meeting.

And I'm looking forward to our next program as well. Eldon has been coming up with a nice variety of programs this year. I have learned a lot and hope you have! See you at the October meeting.

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## Membership Renewal Due

November 1st is the deadline to pay your 1999 dues if you want make sure you get the January issue of the *Minnesota Horticulturist*.

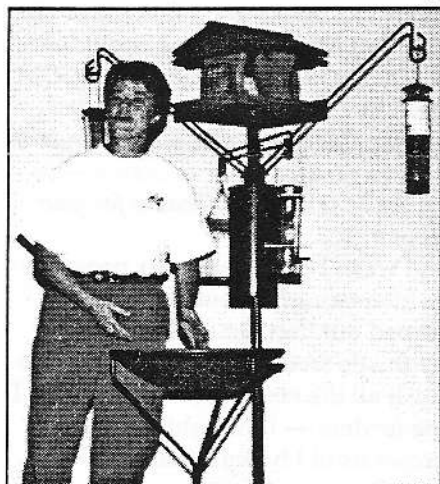


# September Program Report

by *Maurice Lindblom*

Dawn Graber and Ann Schmauss presented an interesting program about birds in the garden. They are the proprietors of Wild Birds Unlimited in St. Paul.

Birds do not come naturally to our homes and gardens in the city like they do to cabins or country homes. Gardeners



*Dawn Graber with some of her bird feeders. Photo by Lloyd Wittstock.*

must work at making their garden a place where birds can find the four things they need; food, water, nesting places and cover .

## Food

The best seed for birds is black oil sunflower seeds. Millet, chips of nuts, and Safflower seed are also good choices.

Beware of inexpensive bird seed since it contains grains such as wheat, oat, and milo. Song birds don't like these seeds, but cowbirds and house sparrows do. In addition, these are the seeds that will sprout if they fall on your lawn.

There are a lot of feeders on the market and the best ones are those that are easy to fill, easy to clean and have a large enough capacity. Squirrel resistance is also an important element to seek. Some feeders will guarantee that squirrels can't get to the seed. Special feeders are available for goldfinches that like Niger thistle

seed. Adding a suet feeder to your system, especially in the winter is important.

Don't forget that many flowers you grow may also provide food for birds. Sunflowers and Purple Coneflowers are eaten by many birds and the seed heads should be left on during the winter. Store your seed in a metal container with a locking lid. Don't keep a lot of it on hand since moth eggs (which are always in the seed) will start to hatch if it is stored too long or kept in a warm area.

## Water

Natural water is of course the best, but many birdbaths are available. If possible the bath should be placed on the ground. Next best is a pedestal and a third choice would be a hanging bath. As birds fly they look down for water on the ground. Open water in the winter can be accomplished with a bird bath heater.

## Nesting places

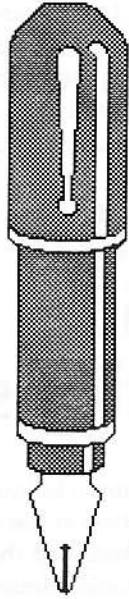
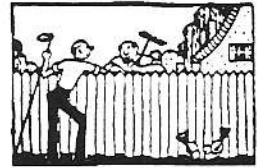
Leave bird houses out in the winter. The nest from summer should be cleaned out every year. Natural nesting places should be protected as much as possible from predators.

## Cover

Varying the height of cover is important. Try to include a lot of elements that birds like, such as vines, tubular flowers, grasses, fruits and grains.

One of the last things discussed was squirrel damage prevention. One of the best means is the use of a round baffle on the bird feeder pole. Keep in mind that squirrels can jump vertically five feet. Feeders should be at least ten feet away from a wall or trees. Further from tree limbs, since they can jump at least that far. Straight safflower seed can be used to discourage squirrels. They don't like it and neither do crows, and starlings.

Several handouts were distributed and two books were recommended: *Wild About Birds* and *Birds of Minnesota*.



## Board Meeting Minutes

Walt Muehlegger, Secretary

September 1, 1998

All officers and directors present.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports presented and approved.

Vice President's reported all programs through December are set.

Howard Berg reports the 1999 calendars have arrived.

Chuck Carlson would like members to share their experiences through articles in the *Spray*.

Kay Wolfe reports weeding was done at the perennial garden in August. The committee is working on getting more plants. The water system needs repair. We need more participation by club members and responsibilities nailed down.

Maury Lindblom reports that committee documentation is moving forward.

Survey results will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

It was reported that our 1998 tours were a success and planning for the 1999 tours are underway. A discussion was held on the next biennial tour in 2000 and the 2001 convention tours. Since they are so close together and since so many gardens will be needed, a great deal of planning will be necessary. A planning committee is being considered.

Next Board meeting Tuesday October 6 at Mary Maynard's home at 7:30 p.m.

## Flower Food and Flower Show Report

By Mary Maynard and Margaret Hibberd

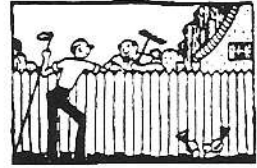
Once again, we had a very successful Flower, Food and Foto Show in August. We had 697 entries by 29 exhibitors in the Flower and Food sections, and we had 243 entries from 15 exhibitors in the Foto section.

As usual, the quality and variety of the exhibits was outstanding. Every year, we seem to hear from the judges that we have one of the best shows around. We thank all the exhibitors for making this another excellent year. We had a good crowd of people coming to see the show this year — even though the rain slowed things down on Saturday.

We believe everyone who enters a show is a winner, but some of us get special distinction! Here are the winners in the special categories:

- Best in Show: Jim Dzandzara\* — Collection of Five Pepper Plants in Separate Containers
- Best Flower: Dave and Delores Johnson — Rose 'First Prize'
- Best Vegetable: Jim Dzandzara\* — Pepper Plant in Container.
- National Flower (Cosmos): Duane Johnson
- National Vegetable (Squash): Lynette Uzzell
- Vegetable Sweepstakes: Bob Voigt
- Flower Sweepstakes: Dave and Delores Johnson
- Best First-Time Exhibitor: Lynette Uzzell

(continued on page 7)



Flower of the Month...

## Hibiscus

By Chuck Carlson

There were some gorgeous hibiscus on the summer MGCM tours and in our Flower, Food and Foto Show. This led to it being selected as Flower of the Month.

In Polynesia a woman who wears a red hibiscus flower behind her left ear is saying "I desire a lover" and if behind both ears "I have a lover but desire another". This is probably why it is called the flower of love.

Hibiscus can also be used in cooking; seeds in soups and stews and leaves in omelets. Some also claim it has medicinal properties.

Other names for this plant are rose mallow, swamp mallow, sea hollyhock, musk mallow, Malabar rose and Flower of an Hour. There are a number of species listed as half-hardy annuals but only two as perennials: *H. coccineus* (hardy to zone 6) and *H. Moschentos* (hardy to zone 5). It is likely that marginally hardy hybrids of *H. moschentos* are the ones sold in our area as garden plants.

The blooms are large and showy, some as large as 10 inches across. The plant is very vigorous and has very nice, dense, large leaves. After three years it can grow to four feet across and equally high. In Minnesota (zone 4), it is a slow starter in the spring but once started it grows with reckless abandon.

The stocks are cut to the ground in the fall and the area covered with mulch. It is a sun loving plant but will take partial shade. It prefers a good moist soil. It can be propagated by seed, divisions or cuttings. Some varieties like Disco Belle and other *H. moschentos* hybrids will bloom the first year if started very early

inside. If starting from seeds, soak them for 24 hours before planting.

Hibiscus is a plant to try but remember they are marginally hardy in zone 4.

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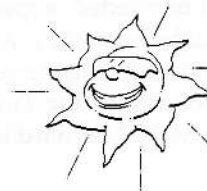
## 1999 All America Selections

The list is shown below but watch for more information at the meetings. The two Zinnias also received the AAS Gold Medal – the first Gold Medal in 12 years – for foliar disease tolerance and superior garden performance.

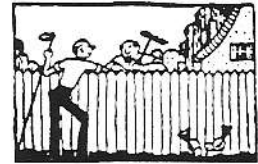
- Zinnia 'Profusion Orange'
- Zinnia 'Profusion Cherry'
- Begonia 'Pin-up Flame'
- Tritoma 'Flamenco'
- Marigold 'Bonanza Bolero'
- Osteospermum 'Passion Mix'
- Portulaca 'Sundial Peach'
- Verbena 'Quartz Burgundy'
- Squash 'Eight Ball'
- Pumpkin 'Wee-B-Little'
- Tomato 'Juliet'
- Watermelon 'New Queen'

---

## Let the Sun Shine



We wish the best and a speedy recovery to Lloyd Bachman, who is recuperating from knee surgery.



## Show Winners

(continued from page 5)

Congratulations to all the winners, and many thanks to members of the Flower, Food and Foto Show Committee who made this show a success. Once again, none of our exhibitors were “shut out” of the ribbon awards! We checked through notes for the past several years, and couldn’t find any exhibitor who failed to get noticed by the judges. This should give those who haven’t exhibited the impetus to show next year.

\* Note: Jim Dzandzara is not a member of MGCM—but we’re working on him! He brought beautiful things to our show, and we appreciate his participation very much.

(Editor’s notes: Some of our members did well at the State Fair shows also. So you see our training did them well. See last month’s *Spray* for the foto contest details.)

## Classifieds

### Wanted

Articles for the *Spray*. Send typed, Email or even handwritten articles to Chuck Carlson. Have computer will edit. Also remember those Share articles given out at the last meeting.

### Wanted

Your extra Cannas by Rae Ann Vandeputtee.

## Editor’s Column

(continued from page 2)

history it was even used as currency. But, the big thing it accomplished was to give rise to the exploration and colonization of the world. You might even say it led to the discovery of the Americas.

### Quinine

Once the only cure for malaria and thus the discovery of many tropical areas. Of course it provided tonic water for all those gin enthusiasts.

### Rubber

Its biggest effect was the boom in the auto industry. But there are many other uses ranging from erasers, rubber bands, hoses, and toys. What would we have used for military vehicles in WW I and WW II.

### Sugarcane

Of course, its biggest use is food, but sugar led Europeans to set up plantations and originate the use of the African slaves. You all know the results of slavery.

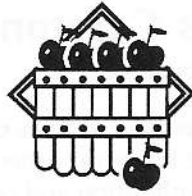
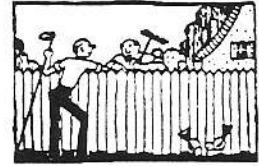
### Tea

Probably used extensively since 4 AD. Caused trade routes to be set up, particularly by the English and Dutch. Tea was subject to taxes in the American colonies resulting in the Boston Tea Party, the Revolutionary War, and American independence.

### Wheat

Food for the world. Rice is the only other grain that is worldwide in usage. One result was creating the “bread basket of the world”. The USA even used the trade in wheat to protest the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

I am sure other plants have affected the world and if you would like to make a case for any I would be glad to print it as an addition in future issues of the *Spray*.



# The Horticultural Research Center

By Stanley Crist

The Horticultural Research Center (HRC), now a part of the U of M Landscape Arboretum, is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. While the HRC, originally known as the Fruit Breeding Farm, dates its origin to 1908, a number of interesting events in Minnesota history prior to 1908 played an important role in the creation of the center.

The events really go back to 1853 when a pioneer by the name of Peter Gideon came to Minnesota from Illinois. He had been told it was impossible to grow any fruit in Minnesota since the climate was far too harsh. Gideon, however, was not about to accept this as fact, and brought with him 350 apple trees as well as apple seeds.

He planted them on the shores of Lake Minnetonka where Excelsior is now located. After 10 years, all the trees he had planted had died except for a crab seedling. An ordinary man would probably have given up at this point, but Gideon possessed enormous perseverance, as well as certain eccentricities.

Gideon was down to his last \$8.00, which a more conventional man might have spent for the winter clothes he needed so badly, but being directed by an invisible being, Gideon instead sent the money to a man in Maine for apple seeds and scions.

Gideon crossed his remaining crab seedling with the seeds and scions he received from Maine and eventually produced the very first good apples to be grown in Minnesota.

The very best of the apples he produced he named after his wife whose

name was Wealthy. While many other apples have been developed since that time and long forgotten, it is significant that the Wealthy is still being grown today. It is unexcelled for baking and sauce, but has a very short storage life.

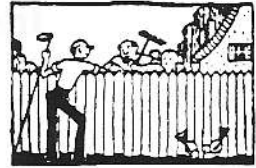
In 1878 Gideon was appointed superintendent of the first State Experimental Fruit Farm. He held the position until 1889, at which time the farm was sold and no further fruit breeding was carried on until the purchase of land for the present HRC in 1907. In 1965 the Minnesota Historical Society erected a plaque in Excelsior to recognize Gideon's accomplishments.

In 1907 money from the sale of the first Experimental Fruit Farm was used to purchase 80 acres of land for the new University Fruit Breeding Farm. Professor Haralson was appointed superintendent of the new Fruit Breeding Farm. The Haralson, probably the best known Minnesota apple, was named in his honor.

In 1967 the name of the research center was changed to the Horticultural Research Center. In 1985 the center became a part of the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Originally the HRC devoted all its efforts to apples. Over the years its mission has been expanded, so now work is carried on with other fruits as well, including strawberries, raspberries, cherries, plums and grapes. Since its beginning, 82 fruit varieties have been introduced, including 23 varieties of apples. The latest apple to be introduced by the HRC is the Honeycrisp, probably

*(continued on page 9)*





## Raspberry Patch

*(Editors note: Last month only part of the following poem was printed and didn't make much sense. I apologize. MGCM member Merle T. Pulley sent it in. I take it he wrote it since it does have an MT flavor.)*

Raspberries poised in blood red clusters of five  
Their plump juiciness bending prickly canes  
A plastic ice cream pail, suspended with silk neckwear  
hangs from my neck as I go in.

The first few berries thud into the bucket  
Then others fall silently on a crimson cushion  
Nibbling birds share the patch with nectar sucking ants, ravenous mosquitoes and lime-green humpbacked worms.

Romancing raspberries, hidden beneath leaves,  
Twist me, bend me and drop me to my knees  
A raspberry whispers, "This gatherer is no different from the primeval hunter"  
But I ask you, is not this hand less hairy?

Raspberries decide which ones are mouth-popped,  
which ones freshen a Scholarship Sundae and which of them end up in a jam, slathered on a cozy muffin...

By then their canes are brown and brittle in the glazed garden  
And the raspberry spirit has slipped below the frost line.

M. Thomas Pulley ©1998 ClipNpaste

## A Little Gossip

By Flavus Baptisia

Two of our members just got married, Patty Lee and Lloyd Weber. And member Rich Van Sickle and wife Anne had their first child on August 5th. Congratulations to both couples!

Remember last month my column read "Guess who is called "Shorty" ? Lynette Uzzell" It was reduced because a space limitation and didn't make much sense. What really precipitated this was when Lynette and her garden were featured on TV on WCCO's "Out and About" she let it out that she was sometimes called Shorty.

Who was on Channel 11 telling the world about the Arboretum's Sensory Garden? It was our illustrious member and the Arboretum's leader, Peter Olin. He did a fine job as a TV personality.

I also heard Channel 11 had a spot about gardening after strokes. It showed our Duane Reynolds gardening (giving directions to Patti).

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## HRC

*(continued from page 8)*

the best variety ever introduced by the center.

It takes about 30 years after a cross is made before an apple is ready to be introduced, so we are now benefiting from the work of past generations and future generations will benefit by the crosses now being made. As you enter the HRC, there is a demonstration area on the right where the public is invited, without charge, to view some of the work currently carried on at the HRC.

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A Little Gossip

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# The Garden Spray

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