



The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society

April 1981, Volume 39, Number 4

JOIN US AT THE MGCM APRIL MEETING

TUESDAY APRIL 14th AT THE RICHFIELD AMERICAN LEGION CLUB
(6501 Portland Avenue South)

DINNER 6:00 PM

Price \$4.75

Program 7:00 PM

BOB CHURILLA will show SLIDES of MEMBERS' GARDENS
and

TED LE BOUTILLIER, also a fellow member, will talk on

ROSE CULTURE

Ted who started out with a half dozen roses fifteen years ago now has some 800. He is a member of the Royal Rose Society, of the American Rose Society, and has held many offices in the Minnesota Rose Society of which he is a past-president. He is a certified rose show judge and has been named outstanding rosarian of the area.

SEND YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK TO PHIL PETERSON BY RETURN MAIL.

(Remember--postage on cards has gone up, too.)

* * * * *

THERE'LL BE A SECOND MGCM MEETING IN APRIL

-- 10:30 AM ON ARBOR DAY, APRIL 24th, 1981 --

AT THE FORT SNELLING NATIONAL CEMETERY (7601 - 34th Ave. S.)

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis will plant a large, 2" or 3" caliper, tree to be known as the "Freedom Tree" honoring the Vietnam Veterans and the Iranian Hostages. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 A.M. All local TV stations have been alerted and we would appreciate a large turnout of club members.

Mark on your calendar this place--this date--this time:

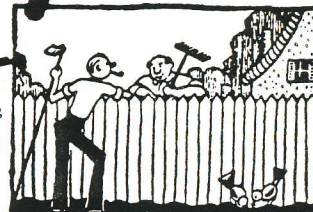
The Fort Snelling National Cemetery--April 24th--10:30 A.M.

Come and be on TV with us. Bring all members of the family.

--Ev. Haedecke

NOTICE: Rosters were handed out at the dinner at Dayton's. If you missed the dinner your roster is enclosed with this GARDEN SPRAY.

If you attended the dinner but failed to receive a roster contact Ed. Culbert.



1981 MGCM PLANT AUCTION PREVIEW

Date: Thursday, May 12, 1981

Place: Linden Hills Recreational Center
Xerxes Avenue South and West 43rd Street

Time: 5:15 P.M. - Country Store

6:15 P.M. - Chicken dinner catered by Delarias
Price: \$4.50 Cash

6:45 P.M. - Plant Auction

Plant Auction committee members are hard at work to make the 1981 auction a success. While some members are busy scouting around for the best selection of annuals, perennials, hanging baskets and patio plants, others are growing and transplanting annuals. Our generous commercial grower members are again donating to the sale top grade plant materials.

To make this a successful and enjoyable night, ALL OF US can participate in three ways:

1. Make sure to attend ourselves. The annual plant sale is our main source of income each year.
2. Donations of plant materials and gardening items to sell are needed for the Country Store. Do your perennials need dividing? Did you grow more seedlings than you can use? Please share by donating to the plant sale.
3. Most importantly, bring guests. Your guest will meet some great gardeners and find real bargains in choice plant materials. As a side benefit, we may gain some new members.

If you have any questions or ideas, call a member of the committee.

Bob Livingston
Plant Sale Chairman



RAY'S NATURE

Gardening, it seems to me, is one of the best ways of communicating with nature. It takes faith, knowledge and experience to take a small seed and know that it will turn into a beautiful flowering and fruiting plant. The beauty of watching the seed sprout from its first set of leaves to its final development is almost as great as watching the unfolding of a delicate flower.

Knowing when to seed is always the tricky part. For example, the novice gardener always tries to plant his tomato seeds too early. By planting time his tomato plants are all legs with a few leaves at the top. The trick is to seed around April 1 to the 15th for mid-May planting. A lesson which took me a long time to learn was to wait for the soil temperature to get high enough to set out tomatoes. I always set my plants out as soon as I felt frost wouldn't get them. Tomatoes do a lot better when planted after the soil temperature is up to 50 degrees. Cold season crops such as lettuce, cabbage, onions, radishes, broccoli and cauliflower will do all right early in the planting season. They can even withstand a little frost. But warm season crops are better off when planted after the soil temperature has had a chance to rise.

The period between planting and flowering can be exciting, too. My wife and I have a tradition of touring our "estate" before I leave for work each day. The tours begin in early spring and we check each planting to see what progress has been made from the day before. Or, often I'll show her what I've transplanted during those beautiful early dawn hours I share with my garden. When the plants are checked daily, sometimes they never seem to grow, but week by week they achieve their potential.

The firsts are exciting, too. What tastes sweeter than the first tomato off the vine or what is prettier than the first fragrant rose? What was once a vision in the gardener's mind slowly matures into a reality for everyone to admire. Nature and the gardener make a great team, indeed. And, if by chance our work of art turns out to be not exactly what we had in mind, there is always next year and we will try again.

--Ray Marshall

GARDENING WITHIN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

By next August, Eskimos from the Alaskan town of Selawik will be tending crops such as oats, corn, and barley 30 miles north of the Arctic Circle. They will be taking part in a novel experiment that combines the interests of the local people, two Alaskan universities, and the Control Data Company.

Earlier experiments have shown that carrots, cabbages, and potatoes can be grown near the Arctic Circle during the 120-day growing season. Fields are chosen that face south and slope gently, from which are scraped the top four inches to remove ice, snow and undecomposed vegetation. The sun melts the permafrost, the water drains away, and the farmer is presented with virgin, disease-free soil to a depth of two feet.

--Digested from "New Scientist" by GREEN SPROUTS, Watchung Hills, N.J.

THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH MEETINGS REVIEWED

In February Michael Heger prefaced his talk on perennial plants for the shady area by telling how the decimation of the elms by Dutch elm disease had in 1979-80 forced the moving of the arboretum shade loving plant garden to the sugar maple area there being no other readily available site. The new garden has been divided into segments according to color and according to variety. He then discoursed on the various plants pictured on his very fine descriptive slides.

He gave considerable emphasis to hostas which, other than the spring wildflowers he listed, are probably the best plant for heavy shade. Recommended reading for all hosta growers was a small booklet "Hosta--The Aristocratic Plant for Shady Places" by Eunice V. Fisher. To obtain a copy send \$3.00 to Eunice Fisher, Room 220 Evergreen Manor, 1130 N. Westfield, Osh Kosh, Wisconsin, 54901.

The March meeting at Dayton's Sky Room started off with champagne. Whether that had any bearing or not we don't know but Phil Smith's delphinium seedlings brought \$5.00 a pack despite auctioneer Bob Livingston's efforts to cut off bidding at \$3.50.

Dale Bachman, with the aid of slides, showed us "what we go through" to put the annual Dayton-Bachman Flower Show together. He didn't say what it cost (plenty) other than that Bachmans handled the flower, shrub and tree part and Dayton's the "structural elements".

Detailed planning is done in the fall. Bulbs are started at that time. Much of the needed nursery stock is best found in wholesale nurseries on the west coast. This necessitates a buying trip from Oregon down to southern California the second week in January. In one case it meant driving through a series of cemeteries to reach the nursery. Chosen material is balled and burlapped then shipped to Minneapolis to be grown on until show time.

Wisconsin nurseries were scouted for the evergreens needed. Trees selected were cut and shipped to Minneapolis for fireproofing and treatment to prevent loss of needles.

The week before the show, peat, dirt, shrubs, flowers, everything is collected in Dayton's basement. The two nights before the show opens a crew works from 4 p.m. until midnight to get it all to the auditorium and set up. The only thing we could think of operating that efficiently and quickly was an old time tent circus unloading and setting up.

Dale Bachman's talk made us more appreciative of the show as, later, we strolled through it. It was stupendous! And, where did they get plans for the Viking ship wreckage? It tied in perfectly with "THE VIKINGS" the current exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

NEW MEMBERS

Leo J. Grebner 881-8187
10204 Parkview Circle
Bloomington, MN., 55431

Theodore L. Johnson 699-1725
1855 Saunders Ave.
St. Paul, MN., 55116

Richard Leming 929-5317
5309 Hollywood Road
Edina, MN., 55436

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

When Phil Smith took the presidency of MGCM in January 1970, he asked Carl Holst to find a club project. Carl thought a fragrance garden for the blind was a project which would interest our entire membership. With that in mind he met with Ed. Peterson, a member of the Minneapolis Society for the Blind. Together they thought a plot of land left vacant when the Highway Department built an access road to Highway 19 would be ideal. It was located at Aldrich Avenue South and 19th Street only two blocks from the Society's headquarters at Lyndale and Franklin. Our first task was to get the Highway Department to release title to the Park Board. The Park Board in turn gave our garden club the option to develop and maintain the garden.

In January 1971, (Dave Johnson by then president) Bachman's graciously made the services of G. W. Neihaus of their landscape department available to us. Mr. Neihaus drew up for us a garden plan that contained raised beds. He also supplied a detailed list of the materials and plantings required. The terrain was quite uneven and at the southeast corner the land was considerably lower than the rest of the plot. The Park Board undertook the grading and leveled the land except for the corner that was so low. We received a detailed cost figure, totaling \$5,330, from Mr. Neihaus. 785 cubic feet of soil was needed for the beds and to fill in the low area. 50 railroad ties would be required for the retaining wall and 250 ties for the planters. 66 varieties of trees and shrubs were called for.

Our next task was to raise the necessary money. Through the efforts of our members, particularly Dave Johnson and Art Johnson, we were able to raise a major portion from civic organizations and individual donors. We received contributions of plant materials from the Park Board and from the Arboretum. A sprinkling system was donated by a dealer. We had enough funds left to construct three or four park benches.

Dave Johnson leading the way our members supplied the muscle power to construct the beds, place the soil in proper places and plant all the plant material. At the request of the Society for the Blind the garden was to be called a Community Garden. So, on June 27, 1971, there was a formal presentation to the community and to the Society for the Blind.

For a few years the garden retained its initial beauty. However, vandalism started to take its toll. Our watering system was destroyed. The original sod became overgrown with weeds. By 1978 the timbers of the beds began to rot. This past year (1980) we started to revitalize the garden. A plan was presented by Ray Marshall, now (1981) president. The bed on the northeast side was lowered. A perennial bed was designed for that area and for the area along the fence on the 19th Street side. A list of perennials for our members to donate was compiled. Again the muscle men from our club leveled and prepared the beds for planting as designed. A considerable amount of plant material was received and planted. The varieties, however, were somewhat limited. Nevertheless, with the perennials received from members and the annuals contributed by the Park Board a very pleasing garden resulted.

I have been asked if the Society for the Blind is getting any value from the garden and have been assured that they are. And if any of you have been working at the garden when persons from the neighborhood have walked by and commented on how much our work is appreciated, you know our efforts are worthwhile.

(continued over)

In our Community Garden as in all gardens there is more to be done. Our grass is still overgrown with weeds. More perennials should be added. The problem with the timbers of the bed on the south side has to be resolved. All of this will require more work from all of our members. For the many years that our club has been in existence we have been involved in too few projects in which we have given of our services in a way that is of value to other members of the community. We may legitimately take pride in what we have accomplished, but that is not enough. We must continue to work together to again bring the garden to an area of beauty for all to enjoy.

--Nathan S. Siegel

ARE YOU PLANNING AHEAD?

August 22 and 23, 1981, Children's Class, Member's Class, Open Class, Grand Champion, Blackburn Award, and the Tom Foley Award. What do all these phrases have in common? Each and everyone has to do with the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis' 1981 Flower and Vegetable Show.

It is only 144 days until the Show at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and now is the time to begin thinking about and planning your garden around this great event. In order to have the maximum amount of entry material, as you make plans for the garden, keep in mind that the show schedule is divided into three sections; flowers, potted plants and hanging baskets, and vegetable entries. As you design your flower beds, think in terms of masses of color in segregated beds, using a wide variety of perennials and annuals. Study the various seed catalogs and pick the varieties to match your color scheme. Try to utilize as many different hybrid varieties as possible and do not hesitate to try some of the new introductions each year.

With the May issue of the SPRAY, you will receive a copy of the 1981 Show Schedule. Study this carefully, plan on planting some of the species that you do not presently have. This is a good idea for both flowers and vegetables. Purchase at the May Auction, material that will increase your number of Show entries.

Each year a National Award is given for a particular meritorious grown flower and vegetable variety. Plan on planting and entering some material in these categories.

After your garden is in, take care of it, follow a fertilizing and spraying schedule, and it will reward you not only aesthetically where it grows and blooms, but on the show table as well.

--Jerry Shannon

P.S. Our goal continues to be greater participation by members. In recent years we have had 25 to 30 member-exhibitors. This is a very small percentage of our membership. Couldn't we build it up to 50%? In your planning for this summer's garden let's also include exhibiting in the shows.

--Charles Proctor

Now is the time to be alert for men who ought to be members. You know a friendly invitation brings results. Watch for men out in the mud planting peas (or uncovering roses).

PLANT PROPAGATION FROM CUTTINGS, Installment 3

D. Cameron Smith, Minneapolis MGC

Handling Of Cuttings Before Sticking

Once severed from their stock plants cuttings undergo changes. They continue to live. This is hardly startling news but it means that stored food is consumed and waste products are produced. These activities are the life process called respiration. In this sense respiration is the consumption of food and oxygen and production of carbon dioxide, water and other materials while producing the energy required to conduct various life functions. As a rule-of-thumb we can expect the rate of respiration to double with every 18°F of temperature rise. Of course the longer cuttings are held in storage the more food they consume through respiration.

If we were to take a hundred leafy cuttings and pack them into an unventilated plastic bag they would start to heat just as if they were fresh grass clippings, compost or silage. This heating speeds respiration. A cutting held at 40°F. has a low rate of respiration. At 58° it would be twice as fast, four times as fast at 76°, at 94° eight times as fast and sixteen times faster than 40° at 112°F. High respiration rates causing loss of stored food unnecessarily take energy required for rooting of cuttings. It is desirable to keep cuttings cool even if they are held for only for short times.

While respiration produces small quantities of water, larger quantities of water can be lost through leaves and young stems. The amount of such water losses (known as transpiration) is related to temperature, humidity, air flow and time. We must keep the cutting turgid (not wilted) by minimizing transpirational water losses. Low temperature, high humidity, modest air flow around them and short storage times will minimize water losses.

At this point you might be tempted to plunge your cuttings into cold water. Don't! Free water may spread disease organisms which are often present on even the healthiest looking cuttings. More important, plants held under water receive almost no oxygen and cannot dispose of ethylene and other toxic wastes. Depriving plant parts of gas exchange for more than an hour can be damaging or fatal to them.

We now can plan to handle cuttings for best rooting:

- collect and promptly cool without giving them temperature change shocks,
- maintain them in a moist, fresh atmosphere,
- do not hold them longer than really necessary.

Weather, plant development and production schedules can force commercial nurserymen to hold unrooted cuttings for months. Even tender material like geranium can be held with extreme care being given to details. Extra precautions include treating cuttings with antibiotics, to combat bacterial rot, and fungicides. Within the last five years storage in low pressure/low temperature chambers has proven a practical way to remove toxic products of respiration while lowering respiration rates.

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE STARTING EARLY

"The past thirty years tell an interesting story about the activities and achievements of the Men's Garden Club of Houston. Its annual Spring and Fall Flower Shows are the talk of the town. It held a successful Camellia Show which attracted visitors from all over Texas and Louisiana. It participated in two national flower shows and co-sponsored a number of flower shows with the City of Houston, the Houston Chamber of Commerce, local garden clubs, florists and nurserymen. It actively supported movements to help preserve the beauty of the Buffalo Bayou banks, the Big Thicket, the Grand Canyon of Colorado and the Redwood Trees of California. Members of the Men's Garden Club of Houston were the first to promote the idea of an Arboretum and took out a charter for the Houston Botanical Garden. Arboretum which was reorganized under the new name Memorial Park Arboretum. Our Club engaged in a variety of projects such as landscaping the Chapel grounds of the Burnett-Bayland Home for little homeless girls, the furnishing of plants and bulbs to the Veterans Hospital for their grounds and flowers for their patients."

--The YARDNER, Houston Texas MGC November 1980

As a weed species, man destroys what competes with him and his agriculture and his livestock, his fowls and sheep and cattle. And in new country too many people have the frontier notion, which was once mine, that anything which moves is a legitimate target. Any carnivore, large or small, is commonly thought of as the enemy, and its extermination is held to be virtuous.

--Wallace Stegner

- 8 -

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417



* * * * *

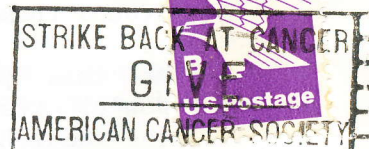
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: RAYMOND D. MARSHALL
6809 Balsam Lane N., Maple Grove, 55369
Vice President: DONAL O'DONNELL
5605 Melody Lake Dr., Edina, 55436
Secretary: JEROLD R. SHANNON
1847 Eleanor Ave., St. Paul, 55116
Treasurer: GEORGE H. MCCOLLOUGH
8812 Tretbough Dr., Bloomington, 55431
Past President: ARCHIE CAPLE
7221 - 15 Ave. S., Richfield, 55423
Director: KENT CANINE
7209 Thomas Ave. S., Richfield, 55423
Director: CHET H. GROGER
6836 Creston Road, Edina 55435
Director: GARY J. MAGRUM
9532 Oakland Ave. S., Bloomington, 55420
Director: PHILIP M. PETERSON
6529 Knox Ave. S., Richfield 55423



FIRST CLASS



To

William H. Hull
6833 Creston Road
Edina, MN 55435

**MORE FUN IN '81
AUSTIN**