

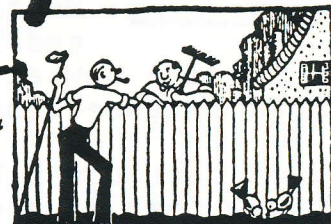


The Garden Spray

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

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

April 1986, Volume 44, Number 4



OUR NEXT MGCM MEETING IS ON THE REGULAR DATE
which is

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 8th, 1986

And, Again, Will Be In

THE LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BASEMENT
(Chowen Avenue South at West 49th Street)

DINNER: 6 PM COST: \$5.00 PROGRAM: 7 PM

Our SPEAKER, fellow member DR. LEON SNYDER, will tell us about the recent trip which he led to Australia and New Zealand. Dr. Snyder's knowledge in the field of horticulture and his skills as a speaker promise us a delightful evening. An added enhancement will be the opportunity to see his slides taken on the trip.

RETURN YOUR RESERVATION CARD TO DUANE REYNOLDS AT ONCE!!

* * * * *

COMING MAY 13th OUR ANNUAL COUNTRY STORE and AUCTION

Look over your stuff under lights. You always have too much. Set some of it aside for the country store. If you have anything else saleable at the country store plan to bring that, too.

--Dave Johnson, chairman

PRAISE WELL DESERVED: On the night of February 18 Chet Groger presented the beautiful slide show "We Find God in our Gardens", with perfectly synchronized music, even to the "dew on the roses". The ladies in the audience were so grateful to be included in the very special Garden Club evening. Chet did a fantastic job of presentation. The show is a beautiful and touching memorial to Sherm Pinkham whose dream it was and toward which he worked so diligently for fulfillment and which is now being perpetuated through the capable hands of Chet Groger. The Lake Minnetonka Men's Garden Club extends heartfelt gratitude to our fellow gardener who provided such a memorable evening for all of us.

—Gardening in Minnetonka

NEW MEMBERS

(Add these names to your Directory)

Christianson, Rudy A. 926-1718
5220 Logan Ave. S.
Mpls., MN 55419

Hanson, Thomas C, 881-0172
11022 Russell Circle
Bloomington, MN 55431

Every Member Sponsors A New Member
Every Member Sponsors A New Member



BIG BOB'S CORNER

Something new is happening in the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Duane Reynolds will be heading up a committee to take part in Horticulture Awareness Week the weekend of May 17th & 18th. This committee will be setting up a booth at Bandana Square Shopping Center. They will be selling Plants and Things to help make the 1988 convention a big hit. If you have a few extra plants, or some craft work that you do, bring them/it to Bandana Square on the 17th.

What? You don't know where Bandana Square is? Well it is located in Energy Park in the Midway area of St. Paul, just off Snelling Avenue across from the State Fair Grounds. You may know it as the old baseball field of St. Paul or the Railroad Yards. This would be an excellent time for you to get out and see this outstanding shopping center put on a show of excellence in horticulture.

Mike Michele, Chairman of the M.G.C.A. Seed Trial Committee was kind enough to send me 160 packets of seed. These seeds were distributed at the dinner meeting held in conjunction with the Dayton-Bachman Flower Show. Along with them went a form for each of you to complete and return to me at the proper time. The seeds that you received are trial seeds furnished by Burpee, Earl May, Park, Bodger, Stokes, Ball, Thompson and Morgan, Twilley, Asgrow, and Harris-Moran. So remember to save the form and mail it to me at the proper time.

April is the month that we are all waiting for. The rose growers will remove the leaf-cover and have their bushes standing upright by April 15th. The vegetable growers will start to work the soil so that they can get their cold weather crops in. (Their beets, lettuce, peas, spinach, etc. Many of us will be out in the garden uncovering our plants, working the soil, pruning, fertilizing, spraying and starting a new lawn or repairing the old lawn. Whatever it is, April is a busy month for the gardener.

I would like to call your attention to a few of the Activities that the Club will be having during the month of May. The first item is the AUCTION/PLANT SALE on May 13th. Remember to bring plants for the Farmers Market. And, Bring lots of money for the Auction. Our second item for May is Horticulture Awareness Week, May 17th and 18th. We will need plants and things to sell at the booth in Bandana Square. The third and most important is the Garage Sale that we will be putting on. Watch the SPRAY for the time and place. Bring lots of stuff to sell.

TIP OF THE MONTH

For those of you that drink herbal tea, don't throw away the bag. Soak it in a jar of water over night. Then water your plants with this tea water. Note: Regular tea isn't good for this because it contains caffeine and tannic acid. Also, save the water in which you boil vegetables and feed it to your plants. The herbal-tea extract and the vegetable broth both are high in vitamins and minerals that are good for your plants.

Seriously consider attending the MGCA convention in Albany, New York, July 19-22. Registration forms will be found in the March-April GARDENER. Both hotel and registration costs are lower than in 1985. Registration by June 1 saves \$25. Check air fare for 30 days advance-purchase rates.

WHAT DOES YOUR MGCM MEMBERSHIP MEAN?

"Hey, Moonface, you couldn't have even gotten into this club 20 years ago." So kidded an old timer to a new member recently - and we hope everyone knew it was in fun.

It was difficult to be admitted to our club many years ago because there were limited memberships and each potential new member had to pass a garden exam. A committee visited the garden and discussed gardening with the potential member in order to assure his continuing interest. After all, with a waiting list of members, the old timers didn't want a valued opening to go to someone not too serious.

Our club had been formed after an invitational dinner at the Minneapolis Athletic club on May 18, 1942. Invitees were told the club would start with thirty members, which was probably a hopeful figure. The formation dinner went well and on July 13 the first scheduled meeting was held at the rose garden at 42nd and Dupont. Seventeen members had paid dues by that date. Among them were Herb Kahlert and George Luxton, of whom even our newer members should have heard.

When the charter application was made to the Men's Garden Clubs of America on September 10, 1942, there were sixty charter members. Of course all are gone now. Thus we were officially chartered on October 1, 1942; so we just recently observed our 43rd birthday.

By November 1942 the first issue of "The Garden Spray" was published, the first Christmas dinner was held that December, at the Minneapolis Athletic club. They ate, with their ladies, in the main dining room, where meals were "at prices ranging from 85 cents up."

With a limit of sixty members (Remember that original sixty on the charter?) things went along well, there usually being a waiting list of potential members. I don't really know why they didn't expand but suspect it related to limited space at dinner time.

This continued until the pressure of new members caused Archie Flack to move, at the annual board meeting in January, 1944, that the membership of the club be limited to seventy and ten associate members. Notice the word "associate" because this had nothing to do with professional members - a later category. This motion carried 25 to 8.

Then came the game of scorekeeping. The first printed roster was in 1945 and showed four "Commercial Memberships" - not "members" because they were company memberships. They were for Henry Bachman, Harry Baker, W. H. Boffording, and Chris Mosberg.

During the war we had these categories: Members, Commercial Memberships, and Members in the Armed Forces.

By 1951 we were strongly feeling the crunch of new members wanting to join and many of us well remember when we established the Associate Member category into which we urged poor-attenders to be placed, to make room for more active people in the regular category. This trend continued until we had 16 Associates in 1955, 21 Professionals and 75 Actives. Obviously, we were still violating our 'top on Actives.

By 1960, the year I was president, we were forced into facing facts. At the very first board meeting, January 1960, action was taken to change the constitution to give professional members the right to vote. In effect, this eliminated the Professional category and, indeed, we were all intermingled on the 1961 roster, under president Les Johnson.

From then on professional members were entitled to vote and eventually to hold office. By the same token we had to face the problems caused by limited membership.

Eventually the limited membership idea was dropped. I don't remember exactly when and it isn't worth reading years of old SPRAYS to find the answer. In any event, in 1980, president Archie Caple appointed a constitution revision committee consisting of Bud Christenson, Ed Culbert, Chet Groger, Fred Glasoe, Charlie Proctor, Cameron Smith, Archie Caple, and Bill Hull, chairman.

Among the changes this committee incorporated in the revised constitution and by-laws was that "the number of active members in the club shall not be limited." Although this had been practiced for some time, it was now made legal when the total membership unanimously adopted the revised constitution June 10, 1980.

You may be interested to know that our club operated under its original constitution and by-laws until August 9, 1966, when that constitution was replaced by Articles of Incorporation under provisions of the Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation Act. Incorporation was under the name "MGC Minneapolis Convention, Inc." to provide the vehicle for the organization and operation of the MGCA convention we were hosting in Minneapolis in July, 1967. These articles were subsequently revised changing the name back to "Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.", its present name, on June 10, 1969. The members listed on these articles of incorporation were Bob Smith, Dwight Stone, Bill Hull and Charlie Proctor, all still active in the club.

What does it all mean to you? As an older member, it means you have the responsibility of helping the new members, of passing along the expertise you learned from those who have gone ahead, of those who let you in the club in the first place. As a newer member, it means you have the responsibility of valuing your membership in the club, of contributing to its future. We all, each of us, have a duty to promote gardening and to remember those great fellows who initiated our club those many, many years ago.

Bill Hull
Historian

VEGETABLE GARDENING

by George and Mary Stewart in The Yardner, Houston, Texas MGC

GROW YOUR OWN - Despite the hard work and frustration, raising your own vegetables is so rewarding it is worth the effort. Picking luscious tomatoes, crisply pungent peppers and delicious fresh beans is among a long list of gardening delights, but it does take some planning and preparation.

LOCATION - Full sun is not a must, but all flowering and fruiting plants require at least a half day's sun. Leafy vegetables can do with less. Good drainage is vital. In back yard gardens, raised beds are ideal. Make them no more than four feet across if accessible from both sides; less if next to a fence or building. Keep the soil contained with treated timbers or concrete blocks. If the beds are not raised, have a ditch so that adequate drainage can be maintained.

SOIL - Unless the soil is already loose and rich, (which is highly unlikely) dig or till well to break it up and create it, incorporating into it a good two inches of organic material and two pounds of 12-24-12 fertilizer per 100 square feet. If the soil is tight, add five pounds of agricultural gypsum per 100 square feet. Soil should be crumbly and fall apart after being squeezed into a ball. Roots can easily penetrate a soil of this consistency and so can air, water, and dissolved nutrients.

SEEDS - Use the best seed available. Don't waste time on seed that have less than optimum germination. Although rack seed can be reliable, to have the widest choice, it's better to turn to seed catalogs. They are a delight and usually free but, the illustrations and descriptions are so enticing, it CAN prove expensive. Do read the descriptions and note the characteristics of the different varieties as to growth habits and days until harvest. Hybrid seed usually produce more vigorous plants. With squash and other cucurbits, check to see if they are predominantly female blooms, as these are the only ones that produce fruits....

STARTING SEEDLINGS - Don't plant too deep! Three times the diameter of the seed is about right. Cover with loose composted peat moss or fine sand and keep moist, but not drenched, especially with small seeds. A mister attachment on a garden hose is splendid. On a hot day it may require three or four mistings. Remember that until the roots can reach the subsurface moisture, you'll have to supply the water if nature doesn't. Many vegetable seedlings are more easily monitored in seed flats. Have the seeding mix uniformly moist, smooth it and mark into rows with a short piece of stick. The tendency is to plant too thickly, especially if seed are plentiful. Stifle that impulse and space them evenly half inch apart. Cover lightly and pat them firm. Mist with a solution of Benamyl to prevent damping off, and cover the flat with plastic wrap. Condensation will form inside the plastic. As soon as the seed start sprouting, remove the covering, but continue to monitor for even moisture.

As soon as the true leaves appear (1 or 2 pair) transplant to individual containers, using a pencil to loosen the seedling, and lift by a leaf with a gentle touch to keep from damaging plant tissue. The stems are the lifeline of the plant and a squeeze could mean the end. To keep plants growing at a steady clip, use 1/4 to 1/2 strength liquid fertilizer for watering every two or three days, with regular watering as needed in between. The brassica family (cabbage, cauliflower, etc.) can tolerate this strength of plant food well, but it is easy to overdose tomatoes, peppers, etc., so always feed these on the short side. (over)

TRANSPLANT to garden or larger container before the plants get leggy. If cutworms are a threat, make a collar of a bit of foil and put half in the ground and half out. Cutworms usually attack at the soil line. When transplanting to the garden, do it late in the evening or on a cloudy, misty day, and as an added protection against excess heat and wind dehydration, cover with inverted styrofoam cups with the bottom sliced off. Leave for a few days.

MULCHING - Mulch is the gardener's best friend. If you haven't already incorporated organic matter into the soil, between the rows is a great place to use it. Our simplified method of mulching is to line the middles between the rows with about 8 thicknesses of newspapers (wet if necessary to keep from blowing) and cover with 4" or more of leaves, grass clippings or pine straw. Add nitrogen to speed up decomposition--at least 2# between two 50' rows. This mulching conserves moisture, cuts down on weeds and is tilled in for the next crop. An added bonus is that you always have a dry place to walk.

FERTILIZATION - Side dress after they have become established, again when producing.

WHY DON'T MORE MGCM MEMBERS ATTEND MGCA conventions? It offers an opportunity to see another part of the country and, if one drives, to see other gardens en route. But the location is not the whole convention. There are workshops and general sessions, entertainment and business meetings, banquets and after-hours exchanges, as well as the tours. All of these are unforgettable. Besides and by no means least important is the need to promote Minneapolis for 1988. QUESTION: Have you sent slides to Jerry Shannon for possible use in promoting 1988?



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