

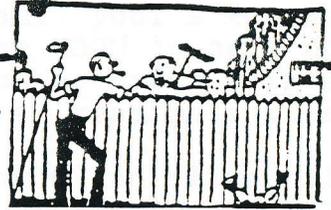


# The Garden Spray

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

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

December 1988 Volume 46 Number 12



## Christmas



THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 -- LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
(49th Street and Chowen Avenue South)

Social Half-Hour 6:00 Dinner 6:30

By reservation only at \$12.00 each. Wives, guests invited.

THE RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 --  
Get your reservation, together with your check to Duane  
Reynolds, 7116 - 39th Ave. N., New Hope, MN 55427  
immediately.

YOUR ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO

A memorial service for Michael Denesuk will be held 3 P.M. Sunday December 4 at First Congregational church 8th Avenue and 5th Street S. E. Minneapolis.

Denesuk a long time member of the Minnesota Orchestra's string section and also of MGCM moved to Mitchell a tiny village in Iowa when he retired. He died there on November 10 a few days short of his 73rd birthday. The mailing address is Route 1, Box 82, Osage IA 50461.

Vic Lowrie has moved to Watertown, South Dakota to be near his son John. His new address is 225 - 17th St. S. E., Watertown, SD 57201.

A note from Stan Crist -- "My wife and I plan to take off for the south land about December 1st and return about April 1st. Our address will be 710 W. McNeese #31, Lake Charles LA 70605. Our phone - (318) 477-2217. If your travels should take you anywhere in this vicinity, we would be pleased to hear from you."

At the November MGCM we elected the following officers for 1989.

President -- Duane Johnson	Vice-President -- Kent Petterson		
Secretary -- Gene Ackland	Treasurer -- Joe Stenger		
Directors -- Howard Berg	Greg Smith	Merle Pulley	Bob Smith
Past President -- Duane Reynolds			

CULLED FROM NOVEMBER MGCM BOARD MINUTES

Planning for the Christmas party at Lake Harriet church is complete. Members are encouraged to bring gifts to place under the tree. Set-up will be done the day before the party and any interested volunteers should speak to Howard Berg, Duane Reynolds, or Bob Churilla.

The Minneapolis Society for the Blind is interested in working closer with us and would like to plan more involvement in the Fragrance Garden next year during their 75th anniversary. MSB recommended that we continue to get community support for the garden as well as support of other blind members of the community who are not active at MSB. MSB has expressed its interest in sharing resources/skills in making the garden more accessible to blind people.

Rick Bonlender reported that slides of the Fragrance Garden will represent Minnesota as a part of a national slide show on community gardens. The slide show is available for rental throughout the US from the American Community Gardening Association.

The Lake Harriet United Methodist church has requested that MGCM plant tulips as we have done in the past now that the construction has been completed. An ad hoc group will be organized to plant tulips.

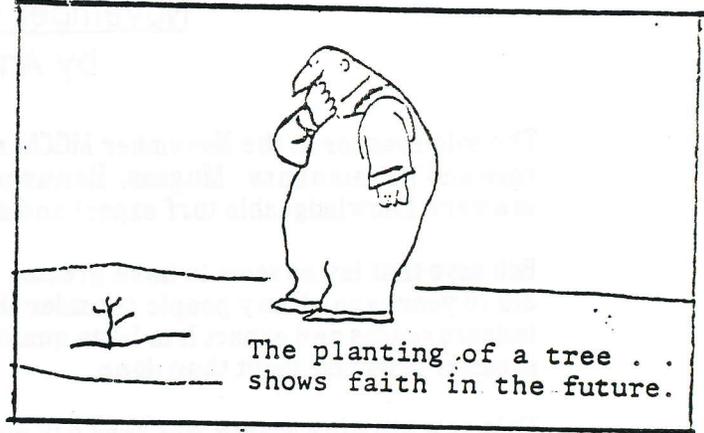
The Board brainstormed the names of wives of MGCM members and other women horticulturalists and then volunteered to phone them to inquire if they are interested in MGCM membership.

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--Raccoons are a major source of rabies and rabid raccoons are more likely to come in contact with people or domestic animals than are skunks and bats.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis began in 1942. 1989 will mark the 47th year and I suspect will be similar to all the rest in that; some members will not renew, we will add a few new recruits, some members will decrease their involvement and others will increase theirs. Hopefully, in the ebb and flow, for every hour of volunteer time lost, we can recruit an hour.



But what if we don't?

We need to remember the "club" is only a vehicle for our talents. It is our responsibility to become active; find that area that appeals to us or one we want to learn about and say "yes".

Unfortunately, there are periods when complacency sets in or not enough effort is spent in developing the new members. When that occurs, the committees become small and rather than experience enjoyment, we begin to dread the work.

The best committee, is one where we have a combination of experienced and inexperienced members. Then knowledge and work are shared. The tasks are fullfilling and all involved experience both personal satisfaction and the fellowship of shared involvement.

I see my personal involvement as an obligation. For 47 years men have kept alive an organization which has become very important to me. The club is not important because of the Auction, Flower Show, Tours or Christmas Party, but because of the members and fellowship that is experienced through involvement and action.

I feel obligated to do what I can to insure the club will continue into the future. And to remember, I'm not responsible for the future, just for today.

Happy Gardening

## November Meeting Report

by Andy Marlow

The solo speaker at the November MGCM meeting was Bob Mugaas talking about lawn care and maintenance. Mugaas, Hennepin County Extension Agent for the past decade, is a very knowledgeable turf expert and an accomplished amateur rosarian.

Bob says that lawns seem to have greater importance for the homeowner now than they did 10 years ago. Many people consider their lawns an outdoor extension of their indoors spaces and expect it to have quality equal to their living room carpet. Often that is easier dreamed about than done.

This past growing season was very dry and hot. That turned upside down, says Bob, many of our notions about where we can grow successful lawns. The sunny areas where turf grass usually grows thick and green were burned to a crisp by mid-summer, while shady areas that are normally a problem yielded some of the only grass to stay green all season.

Bob admits that some experts miscalculated when they said early in the drought that lawns would recover from a dry dormancy. Many will not and the Extension Service is rethinking its ideas about watering bans. It turns out it is okay to stress grass a bit, but not too much. In some sunny areas, soil temperatures exceeded 130 degrees. Turf cannot withstand that without huge amounts of water. Even dormant grass needs water under those circumstances.

The old rule of thumb of one inch of water per week is still pretty good, but must be modified for different soil types and for the severity of dry spells. Make sure you get an adequate amount on the lawn by measuring at several points in the sprinkler pattern with collections cans. Bob recommends coffee cans, but I find tuna and cat food cans ideal. When they get full, you have about the right amount. Sandy soils need more water and clay soils less. Grass growing on all types of soil benefit from deep and infrequent irrigation. That forces the roots to go deep for moisture and protects them from the overheated soil.

Blue-gray, charcoal colored grass and foot prints that won't go away are signs of stress from lack of moisture. Watch for them and water -- or, if you are going to let the grass plants go dormant, harden it off. The tips of the leaves are the oldest part of the grass. If they die, it's okay. You do want to preserve the crowns, however, as this is where the new blades will emerge when the plant revives. If the crown dies, the lawn goes with it.

Damaged lawns will require replacement or overseeding next spring. Bob reports that he has seen good success with the new grass overseeding machines. They have tines that dig a slit trench in the lawn, then a seed wheel (like the old grain drills on the farm) inserts grass seed at regular intervals. Running the overseeder over the lawn twice at right angles can give you a new looking lawn in a hurry. These machines are only in the hands of lawn services at the moment and the process is fairly expensive. It should become more common, and perhaps less expensive, as time goes by.

Early spring and late summer/early fall are still the best times for planting new grass. There are a number of new seed varieties to choose from in putting together a mix for the unique environment of your lawn. Bob mentioned that the perennial rye grasses have improved considerably in the last few years and more varieties of all kinds of grasses are coming to market all the time. Check with the Extension Service or your local nursery about new introductions.

Bob did spend considerable time talking about fertilization and weed control for lawns. These are topics that have been covered many times in these pages and for which Extension bulletins are available. Since the editor has allotted this article but one page, I'm leaving it up to you, gentle reader, to ferret out this information on your own.

## COMMUNITY FRAGRANCE GARDEN

(19th and Aldrich)

Planning has begun for 1989. On Nov. 29th Duane Reynolds, Phil Peterson and Kent Petterson met with representatives of the Minneapolis Society for the Blind. A number of items were discussed in an effort to improve the garden for use by the visually impaired. Efforts over the coming months will be focused on improving communication between MGCM and the Society, increased participation of the Society in implimentation of improvements, and a general outline of goals and objectives for the future. We would hope that other members would wish to participate in this process and request that ideas or comments be directed to one of the above members. The continued support and participation of all members is encouraged. More information will follow. Incidentally, the Society will be celebrating it's 75th Aniversary in 1989.

Kent Petterson  
for the Figs

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Mary McGuire Lerman, with the Minneapolis Parks Board and contributor of annual bedding plants for our Fragrance Garden, has had a very busy fall. The "Daffodils in the Parks" program has been busy planting bulbs through out the city. (see The Horticulturist of April '88) No less than 16 new naturalized plantings have been completed. Keep your eyes open for areas along Minnehaha Creek, Nakomis Parkway, East and West River Parkways, St. Anthony, Webber and Whittier Parks. Did you know that a donation of money by you or your neighborhood group could get a planting on public property in your neighborhood? And it is not necessarily limited to Minneapolis. Mary Lerman also received a donation of 10,000 Daylillies from Busse Gardens that have been planted this fall. Any support we, as individuals or a club, could give to her efforts would be returned many times in terms of improvement of our parks and public spaces.

An open house for the new Park and Recreation Board Headquarters at 38th Street and Colfax Ave. So. was held Nov. 13. All park offices including Mary Lerman's have been combined in a new facility. Their phone number is 348-4448.

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### 1989 MEETING PROGRAMS

One of the responsibilities of your new Vice President elect for '89 is programming for the meetings. After the outstanding presenters brought to us by Duane Johnson in '88, we are working hard to do the same next year. We have felt the mini sessions were a great success and intend to continue with member presentations. If you know of a good speaker or have a particular topic of interest, please let us know.

Kent Petterson  
A Gardener  
and Vice President Elect

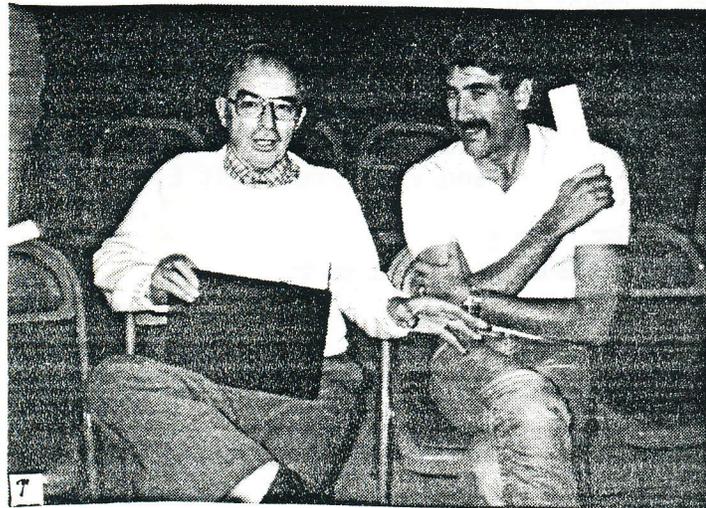
**R E M E M B E R!**  
**... DUES EXPIRE DECEMBER 31st ...**  
**RENEW N O W!**

FLASH C. F. "Knobby" Knoblauch died November 17. An obituary article will appear in the January SPRAY.

NOVEMBER TENTH

A DAY FOR  
OLD FRIENDS  
TO REMINISCE

TO EXCHANGE  
EXPERIENCES WITH  
NEWER MEMBERS





"A GARDENER'S GUIDE TO THE BIG THREE: INSECTS, DISEASES AND WEEDS"

Almost \$1 billion was spent on insect control in 1986, most on pesticides and herbicides. It's 1988, and Rodale's Garden Insect, Disease and Weed Identification Guide by Miranda Smith and Anna Carr comes to the rescue. (Rodale Press, August 29, 1988, \$15.95 Paperback) This is an ideally handy reference for the gardener confronted by garden insects, diseases or weeds.

The easy-to-find format reveals over 200 common insects, diseases and weeds that plague gardens, with full descriptions, ranges, life cycles, crops affected and controls for each. This invaluable field reference insures quick identification of the worst pests and their damage, along with every plant disease, 100 full-color photographs and accurately detailed illustrations. --From THE YARDNER, Mansfield Ohio MGC

ONCE AGAIN THE CAUTION ON HOLIDAY PLANTS

Plants are known to be poisonous because humans or animals have become ill following ingestion of or skin contact with these plants. The following holiday plants are considered poisonous. Some portions of these plants may actually be edible, while other parts may cause illness. Therefore, if your child comes in contact with any of the following, call the Hennepin Poison Center at 347-3141 for further instructions. The center provides 24-hour service and will tell you if any treatment is necessary.

- Amaryllis
- Azalea
- Castor Bean
- Christmas Cactus
- Christmas Rose
- Crown of Thorns
- English Ivy
- Holly
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Mistletoe
- Poinsettia
- Rhododendron

Return to  
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, Inc.  
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**FIRST CLASS**

To

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