

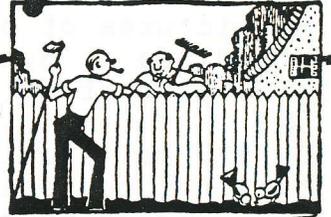


# The Garden Spray

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

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

February 1987, Volume 44, Number 2



## OUR FEBRUARY SPEAKER IS LISTED IN GUINNESS!

The Guinness Book of World Records lists him as  
GROWING THE LARGEST INDOOR PLANT

Our SPEAKER on February 10th, DAN CARLSON, is a plant breeder at the University of Minnesota. He travels throughout the world consulting on plant growth and development. He recently set records for high yields of Inca grain and soybeans. At our meeting he will tell us how we can improve our yields in 1987.

Don't Miss TUESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 10th, 1987

at LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Chowen Avenue South at 49th Street

DINNER 6:00 P.M.

PRICE \$6.00

GET YOUR RESERVATION TO RICK BONLENDER AT ONCE

## NEEDED: DATA and PICTURES RE THE FRAGRANCE GARDEN'S BEGINNING

Nate Siegel is gathering material for a history of the garden. The director of the Society for the Blind is interested. It could be publicity for the 1988 MGCA convention. It could be presented to each new member. Most likely a goodly number of our current members aren't aware of the time, effort and money which went into the garden in 1970, 1971 and 1972.

If you had a hand in securing the space from the Highway Department, in getting the Park Board to agree to accept title if we maintained it, in raising money for the project, in placing the timbers for the original raised beds, or in any other way SPEAK UP. Contact Nate. Tell, write or deliver material to him RIGHT NOW while you are thinking about it. Dig up those old pictures. They are of interest, too.

## THE JANUARY MEETING IN RETROSPECT

Dr. Kent Crosley, our January speaker, was a fellow medical student with our president Dr. Robert Olson. His major horticultural interest is peonies. We realized that the moment we arrived for Dr. Crosley had come early and had spread out on a long table across the back of the room information about the peony society and information about, catalogs from and pictures of operations over the years by famed Minnesota growers and hybridists A. B. Franklin of Minneapolis, A. M. Brand of Faribault and E. H. Lins of Cologne.

In 1980 Dr. Crosley bought several thousand of A. M. Brand's peonies when the final corporate owner of the business sold the remainder of the Brand farm. These he set out, despite the quack grass infestation which worried his 90 year old farmer/helper, on land purchased south of Faribault. (There still is some quack after seven years Crosley admits.)

With the aid of slides showing peonies and slide charts developing his theme Crosley told us: The peony is a long lived herbaceous plant so before planting choose your site carefully. Prepare it well remembering that the peony needs full sun and good drainage (but not sand). If the eyes on the roots are planted over two inches below the surface flowering is unlikely. Instead eyes form along the root. A fall planted root may or may not bear a small flower the first spring.

A peony seed may take as much as two years to germinate. Plants then take four or five years to first flower. The first flower is not apt to be representative. The second year flower will be better.

The tree peony has a wide range of colors and is somewhat shade tolerant but won't grow as tall as claimed. Crosley's never grew taller than eighteen inches and froze out despite covering so aren't for Minnesota. Henry Halvorson disputed this saying that for twenty years he has had a row of four foot tall tree peonies along his drive. He overwinters them under a blanker of leaves held within chickenwire fencing.

Peonies can be forced into bloom in March or April if planted--in a biodegradable pot--in January. Plant the pot in the garden later remembering that the two inch depth rule still holds true.

Wood ashes said to do a lot for flower formation are not used by the speaker. He finds bonemeal more convenient. If he needs to spray he uses a benlate-captan mix--(One tablespoon benlate, two tablespoons captan, one gallon water.)

Crosley also gave two bits of warning advice. 1) Don't trust the catalog pictures of peonies to be true indicators of the color. Color may vary from year to year, season to season depending upon the soil, the weather, etc. 2) The catalog price bears watching e.g. One peony listed at \$62.50 by Wayside Gardens can be purchased from local sources for \$15.00.

Finally, there are very few fragrant red peonies since fragrance hasn't been pursued much by breeders in the past fifteen years. The new Itoh hybrids are regaining some of it.

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Dwight Stone came up with a new one when he gave out Carrot and Spade Club awards. He asked all who had not sponsored a new member to rise. Raising high a card bearing the words WHIP-US he announced, "I make you members of this club."



"TELL THEM TO WAIT - I'M BUSY GARDENING"

Bob Olson  
President  
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Elsewhere in this issue of "The Spray" is a list of the various club groups or committees together with a description of their activities. This year's chairman is listed with each group. The chairmen are all veterans and top-notch people. They are very nice fellows to work with and will welcome your interest in being a member of their group. Contact them and find out more about what they are doing and how you might fit in.

A few committees can always use an extra pair of hands, particularly ones like the Spring Plant Sale where there is an immense amount of effort required on one specific day. Dave Johnson will appreciate an extra pair of hands to help set up before the auction or clean up afterwards. Even if you could only help out that evening he would gratefully accept the help. (Perhaps we can get him home before midnight for once).

If you can't assist the day of the Spring Sale, there is always the Flower and Vegetable Show and the Christmas Party. These are labor intensive short term commitments and provide a painless way to get to know almost everyone.

Andy Marlowe's group at the Flower and Vegetable Show have a wonderful time bustling around in frenetic fashion. The morning of the show they assist the new entrants and orchestrate the marvelous displays. It's a terrific way to learn the tricks that show veterans like Jerry Shannon and Vern Carlson use to turn some fairly pedestrian blooms into blue ribbon winning displays.

You could be a clerk for the show judges. They say this is a unique chance to find out what judges look for in display plant material and what they discount. The show is held at the Arboretum and it's invariably been on a splendid day. Last year while waiting for the judges' awards, several of us were able to tour the grounds on the Arboretum's new tram system. Stan Crist was our tour guide and he was excellent! Just visiting the show in the Arboretum is a fine week-end outing.

Larry Cattron's photography group is just finishing a project - preparing a slide show to help with the campaign to increase attendance at the '88 National Convention. Larry is 82 now and still very active, but he says he wants to get others involved with him in leadership positions if the group is to take on new responsibilities. Larry and I would like to see our club events covered regularly by the Photography Committee, particularly the Dayton-Bachman Flower Show, the Flower and Vegetable Show, the Tours and the Christmas Party. If we get just one or two aggressive young guys this will be possible. Larry is even interested in looking at videotaping some activities. He is a dynamic man.

The Fragrance Garden won an award from the City of Minneapolis for helping to make the city a more beautiful place. The garden is situated at 19th and Aldrich. Duane Johnson is going to organize its planting and maintenance this year.

The men who planted last year are still recounting that hilarious event - where

(over)

Bob Churilla was lost in the underbrush for much of the afternoon. Bob has been losing weight and says he will be able to slither around into corners even better this year.

Once summer begins, tending the Fragrance Garden requires only an hour or two at most each week. Here's a place where you and a friend can contribute at your own pace. If you sign up alone, Duane can find you a "buddy" to share the week with - you'll make a new friend.

These are places where a man can be of help, have a good time and make the world a more beautiful place - and it's all free.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1987  
 --To be voted upon at the February 10, 1987 meeting--

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	
Dues	\$ 2,900.00	Dues to MGCA	\$ 1,100.00
Monthly Meetings	3,700.00	Dues to MN. HORT. Soc.	950.00
Spring Plant Auction	3,900.00	Spray Expenses	1,000.00
Tours	725.00	Monthly Meetings	3,600.00
Christmas Party	2,000.00	Spring Plant Auction	2,200.00
Calendar Receipts	1,650.00	Tours	650.00
Interest Income	550.00	Flower & Vegetable Show	250.00
Gardening Lessons Books	25.00	Christmas Party	2,200.00
Gardeners	25.00	Directory Expense	100.00
Miscellaneous Income	25.00	Memorials	25.00
Total	\$15,500.00	Remembrances	75.00
		Honorariums	50.00
		Arbor Day	250.00
		Awards and Trophies	150.00
		Life Membership	
		(Out-going President)	100.00
		National Convention	
		Delegates	600.00
		Arboretum Project	350.00
		MN. HORT. Bldg. Fund	150.00
		MGCA BLDG. Maintenance	
		Fund (New)	100.00
		Calendar Costs	1,200.00
		Bank Charges	100.00
		Miscellaneous Expenses	100.00
		Board Designated	
		Convention Outlay	200.00
		Total	\$15,500.00

NOTE: As of January 1, 1987 a separate bank account with Dave Johnson as treasurer has been set up for our 1988 national MGCA convention. Subsidy, raffle and other money raised toward convention related expenses is now part of that account and does not appear above.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

Don't ask. I didn't like it either. That dismal front page of our January issue was supposed to have a lively border. Unfortunately the original rather intricate design was overprinted on yellow and the whole thing Xeroxed in mourning. After several tries the printer said, "If the border comes out O.K. you won't see the print". We had to be able to read the meeting notice.

## Committees of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

### Arbor Day Committee

Chairman - Jerry Shannon

This committee has won National awards for their activities on Arbor Day. In the past they have planted crabapple trees at the area North of Lake Harriet which was devastated by the tornado. Most recently they have been planting trees and shrubs selected by Mary Lehrman of the Park Board. Approximately \$250.00 of club funds is given to the Park Board and Ms. Lehrman is able to get a fine price on badly needed plant material which will fit in with their overall plan to beautify the park system.

### Auditing Committee

Chairman - Frank Vixo

Frank and his hard working group provide an annual audit of the increasingly complex financial records of the club which are maintained by the treasurer. Frank would like volunteers with some background in this area who do not go to Florida for the entire winter.

### Calendar Committee

Chairman - Chet Groger

This is a prime fund raising activity for the club. Chet Groger was instrumental in organizing the initial printing and production of calendars nationwide. He is still extremely active in their production and distribution. A few hard working, dedicated individuals make a big difference in this activity.

### Christmas Party Committee

Chairman - Howard Berg

The Christmas Party is the club's annual gala event. It is a grand finale for the year. Because of the increasing attendance at this event, over 200 this year, more individuals are required to do all the work. Howard and Dave Moehnke will do most of the preliminary work, but will need the assistance of people who can donate a day's effort towards the last minute arrangements and setting up which is required the first week in December. I am told that the members of this particular committee have numerous fun-filled meetings throughout the year planning this grand finale.

### Community (Fragrance) Garden Committee

Chairman - Duane Johnson

Vice Chairman - Phil Peterson

This group organizes the planting and maintenance of the garden area at 19th and Aldrich. This is a vacant parcel of land close to the freeway by the bottleneck. It was recently cited for an award for beautifying our city. In the Spring, the committee members work for a week-end getting the garden area planted. Later throughout the summer they weed, water and maintain the garden on a rotation basis.

### Flower/Vegetable Show Committee

Chairman - Andy Marlowe

This show held annually at the Arboretum is a chance for friendly and spirited competition among the club members. It is also a chance to attract new members to the club and to show off to the public at large. Almost all of the persons who enter do so again in ensuing years. This committee also requires a large amount of help on one day; that is, the morning of the show a large effort is required to set up for the show and to organize the displays. Likewise, a clean-up party is needed at the end. Between times, clerks assist the judges in evaluating the individual entrants and club members man the information desk outside the free exhibition.

### Garden Spray Committee

Chairman - Ed Culbert

This committee writes, edits, publishes and distributes the monthly bulletin of the club.

### Historian

Chairman - Bill Hull

This group maintains the records of the events, activities and functions.

### Hospitality Committee

Co-Chairmen - Burt Deane and Dave Moehnke

This committee welcomes the new members to our meetings. They issue and collect the name tags. They will currently be working on various means to make it easier for new members to feel comfortable in club activities.

### Photography Committee

Chairman - Larry Cattron

This group currently is preparing a project to advertise our club at the National level. The purpose of this is to increase attendance at the 1988 convention to be held in Minneapolis. It is hoped that in the coming year that the Photography Committee will be able to take on new projects such as having a committee member cover our special events and meetings.

### Spring Plant Auction Committee

Chairman - Dave Johnson

This is the main source of raising funds for the club each year. An auction is held at a Park Board facility each spring. A catered meal is served usually by Carleton Nelson and his incredibly industrious family. Many club members buy all of their bedding plant materials here. It is also a chance to obtain some prize perennials. A large amount of work is required to set up on the day of the sale and to clean up afterwards. This is a group which works hard but has a wonderful time.

### Raffle Committee

Chairman - Herb Neby

The Raffle Committee finds appropriate plant materials and other garden items to present for a raffle or auction at each club meeting.

### Sunshine Committee

Chairman - Verner Carlson

The Sunshine Committee keeps in touch with all members who are hospitalized or ill. They send appropriate get-well cards signed by club members.

### Membership Committee

Chairman - Dwight Stone

The Membership Committee helps to introduce, host and recruit new members for the club. They have been very successful in recent years and obtained 20 new members last year.

### Tour Committee

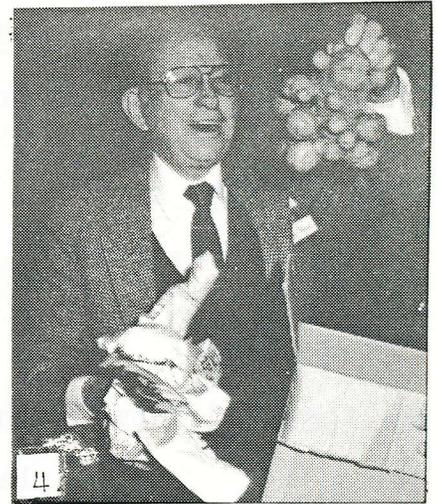
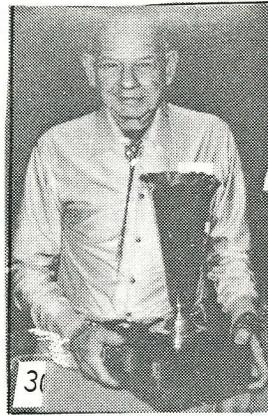
Co-Chairman - Duane Reynolds and Russ Smith

The Tour Committee selects gardens for the summer tours. They make it a point to visit most of the gardens in a selected area. They make arrangements for transportation and meals associated with the evening tour for men and the afternoon tour for men and women.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: If you didn't sign up for a committee at the January meeting check the list on pages 5 and 6, sign your name and return it to Dr. Olson--or just send a note listing your choice.

FLOWER-VEGETABLE AWARDS 1987



1) Jerry Shannon wins Blackburn Trophy for flowers.  
 Bob Smith (2) and Vern Carlson (3) share Foley Cup.  
 4) Phil Peterson bought a potato??

1987 MGCA CONVENTION UPDATE

Russ Smith reported we could secure a bus to the June 13-16 MGCA convention in Rockford for \$30 per person round trip if 30 persons went. The official registration form will be in the February MGCA Newsletter. Price is \$140.00 if in by March 15, or \$55.00 for a single day, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday. The cost goes to \$160.00 for the full fee after March 15.

Convention Seminar Topics & Presenters



- Iris/Daylily Propagation  
Steve Varner, Hybridizer & Judge
- Evaluation/Selection of Landscape Plants  
Dr. Edward Hasselhaus, U of Wisc.
- Landscape Shrubs, Plants & Trees  
Tony Tyznich, Morton Arboretum
- Trees & Shrubs for Different Environments  
Dr. George Ware, Morton Arboretum
- Perennial Propagation by Tissue Culture  
Mark Zilis, Plant Propagator
- Japanese Flower Arrangement  
Aiko Wortman, Florist
- Herbaceous Perennials, Bulbs, Herbs  
Diane Norland, U. of Ill.
- Turfs--J. C. Fech, U of Ill.
- Migratory Bird Banding  
Lee Johnson, Burpee Museum
- Small Fruit Production  
Dr. Malcolm Dara, U of Wisc.
- Science, How We Can Use It In Our Gardens  
or Photoperiodism--Dr. David Heller

Dave Moehnke is downright persuasive--or is it threatening? Anyway, after Dave got through, the outfit which supplied our barely done Christmas party turkey refunded the purchase price to the club.

Fred Glasoe says he is giving up trying to garden in Minneapolis while spending summer at the lake. The subsoil and debris left atop Fred's garden by the builder who reconstructed his house helped Fred make his decision.

MORE 1986 AWARDS WERE PRESENTED

Bill Hull presented Green Thumb awards for perfect attendance at meetings to:

FOR ONE YEAR

Vinton Bouslough  
Bob Churilla  
Ed Culbert  
Ted Olson

FOR TWO YEARS

Charlie Proctor  
Russ Smith

FOR THREE YEARS

Andy Marlow  
Duane Reynolds  
Bob Olson

He then led them in the customary pledge:

I pledge my life to the spade  
As long as I can spade in the shade  
With a mind that is clean  
And a thumb that is green.  
Yes, that's the life that I crave.

CLUB GARDEN EFFORTS RECOGNIZED

CUE issued a certificate of appreciation to MGCM for it's Community (Fragrance) Garden project.

The city of Excelsior passed a resolution commending the Lake Minnetonka MGC for it's flower gardens at city entrances.

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



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To

