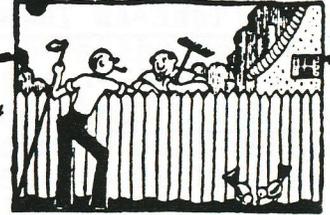




# The Garden Spray

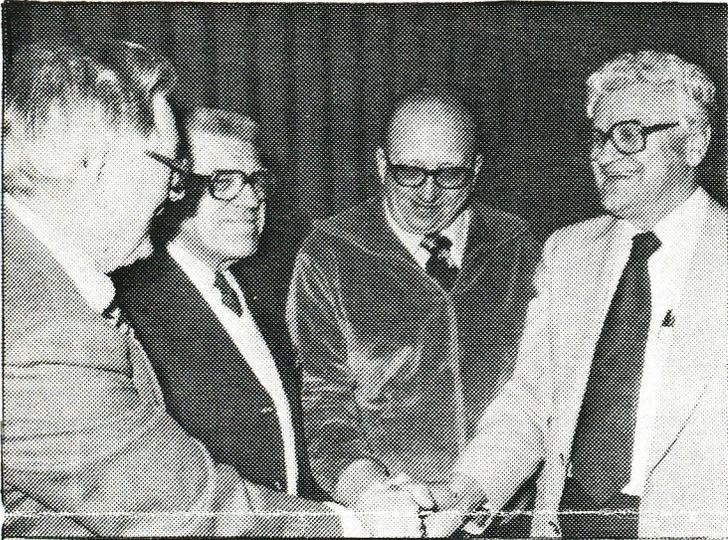
BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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



March 1980, Volume 37, Number 3

## THREE NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING



Three new members, Howard Berg, Lloyd Nerburn and Russell Smith were introduced at the February meeting. Dwight Stone, chairman of the Membership Committee, after lecturing them on the privileges and responsibilities attendant upon MGCM membership presented each with a copy of GARDEN LESSONS WE'VE LEARNED and welcomed them into the club.

Picture: Dwight Stone, left; Lloyd Nerburn, second from left; Howard Berg, center, and Russell Smith, right.

## SEEDING AND TRANSPLANTING DEMONSTRATION AT THE MGCM MARCH MEETING

TUESDAY MARCH 11th AT MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH  
(50th Street and Knox Avenue South)

Dinner 5:45 PM

Price \$3.75

Program 7:00 PM

Bring your Stokes catalogue to this meeting. This will be an opportunity for the novice gardener to become acquainted with the selecting of seeds, the sowing and growing of seeds under lights, transplanting and post transplanting care. Yours truly will head this one up.

LET'S LOOK AHEAD to the April meeting ----

For this one we have asked one of our members, Ray Marshall, to talk about shrubs and trees in the back border and foundation plantings. This, too, is aimed to acquaint the novice gardener about the purchasing, planting and care of this type of plant material.

Charlie King, Program Chairman

NOTICE TO TWIN CITY AREA MEMBERS: If a reservation card is attached to this issue of the SPRAY USE IT. If there is no card attached you are on the permanent reservation list and will be expected to pay for your meal unless you telephone Archie Caple (869-3437) to cancel out.

We had 4 visitors at our January meeting, 1 at our February meeting. Let's increase that number. Every visitor is mailed the next two issues of the SPRAY together with a reservation card.

## PLANT AUCTION

It does not just happen. YOU have to make it happen!

Start planning now. THINK! What can I grow that others will want? What do I have growing in my yard that I can spare or divide that someone will want? TAKE AN INVENTORY of sundry items you no longer use or need. Do they have value?

NOW IS THE TIME to start to plan for May 13. To have a successful auction we must have volume (number of items to sell), quality (something someone else will want) and price to attract the buyer.

This is not a committee job, it is a club project. WHAT CAN, WHAT WILL, YOU DO?

--Larry Corbett, Committee Chairman

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THE JANUARY PANEL ON GREENHOUSES (Archie Caple, Fred Glasoe, Chuck King, Jerry Shannon, Martin Rosin) HAD THIS TO SAY:

Either build a greenhouse for what you want to grow or choose to grow plants adapted to your greenhouse...In today's economy a pit greenhouse is to be recommended...Consider making your walk-in greenhouse a showplace to be seen from within the house....For adequate winter light a south or east exposure is best. (Deciduous trees for summer shade help.) If you must use a west or north exposure capitalize on reflected light.

A small greenhouse is harder to heat or cool satisfactorily; the larger greenhouse has more flexibility...To keep heating costs down: Triple insulate all walls save windows...Provide shutters to cover the glass at night...Exhaust the clothes dryer into the greenhouse (provides humidity as well as heat)...Use a special moisture releasing cement for the floor...Utilize solar heat even at the cost of loss of some light.

Electric controls and heating would be THE thing IF; so plan to use something else. The panelists all use natural gas. Even so you must have some form of stand-by heat (e.g. kerosene stove) in case of emergency... Other warnings: An attached greenhouse is hard to fumigate...Figure the expansion rate of your plastic or glass windows. Expansion can give you problems galore.

GARNERED FROM THERESA MIESELER'S FEBRUARY TALK:

Herbs: Plants having roots, stems, leaves, flowers or seeds for cooking or medicinal use. To learn about them grow them...Cut at midday for major flavor or odor...When dry, rosemary is thrice potent...Plant French tarragon, not Russian...Golden marjoram will come back year after year. It makes a good ground cover. So does thyme...Lavendar is hardy but is very slow to come up in spring...Mint will take a good deal of shade...Soak parsley seed an hour in hot water. It then will sprout in three or four days.

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Why do gardeners garden?

Despite ups and downs in popularity, vegetable gardening has a hard core group of adherents, about 40 percent of the total household population. In hard times -- going all the way back to the Liberty, War and Victory Gardens -- more people garden for economic reasons. The three top reasons listed are: economics, the fun of it, better tasting food.



## FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

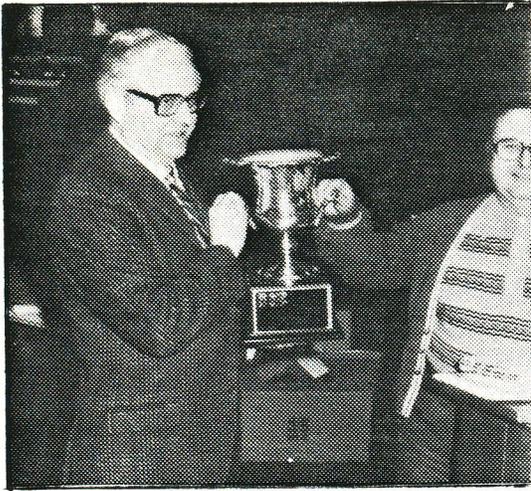
by  
Archie Caple

The seed catalogs by now have all been received and I hope, via my last little article on the seed catalog, a whole new venture has been opened to everyone. Once one gets the catalog and really studies it thru one finds there are more than just the "French Breakfast" radishes, "Grand Rapids" lettuce, "Straight-eight" cucumbers, "Big Boy" tomatoes, "Denver Half-long" carrots and the "Black Beauty" eggplant. Not that there's anything wrong with the above mentioned varieties but, the fact of the matter is, they are not by any means the only varieties that are available for planting. The same goes for the traditional purchases of your annual and perennial flowers; there are a whole lot more new varieties entering the market each year. These should be your challenge to change your ways - try something new and different. This, then, becomes the spice of life in gardening.

O.K., so now we have really gone off the deep end and come up with an entire new list of garden flowers and vegetables for 1980, a complete change of varieties from previous years. This, then, begins the planning stage for this year; a single step forward prior to the actual planting of the seed or the transplant. Within this planning period we evaluate our '79 crops with reference to fungus problems, bacteria and insects--if any were experienced. If no problems were encountered--fine --you are ahead of the game and are to be congratulated on your garden housekeeping practices.

For those of us with certain crops came certain disease and insect problems --the root maggots after the radishes, onions, and other root crops; septoria blight on the tomatoes along with blossom end rot; cabbage loopers on the cabbages and cauliflower; mildew on the lilacs and cucumbers; slugs everywhere and anywhere, the ground being conducive to the critters; cutworms after the new transplants; aster yellow on the carrots; scab on the potatoes; spotted and striped cucumber beetles after the squash, cukes and melons; not to forget apple blister rust here and there; root-rot on the bulb plants; verticillium wilt, hollyhock rust, mosaic virus, leaf spot, botrytis and phytophthora blights, powdery mildew--just to name a few of the problem areas with the flowers; corn borers in the corn occasioned also by squirrels, groundhogs, and raccoons; and, of course, lots of bees on all the flower and vegetable blossoms. Some of the problems can be controlled thru the purchase of disease-resistant seeds. Others are in your favor and want to be encouraged. Again, it goes hand-in-hand with the planning stage for 1980.

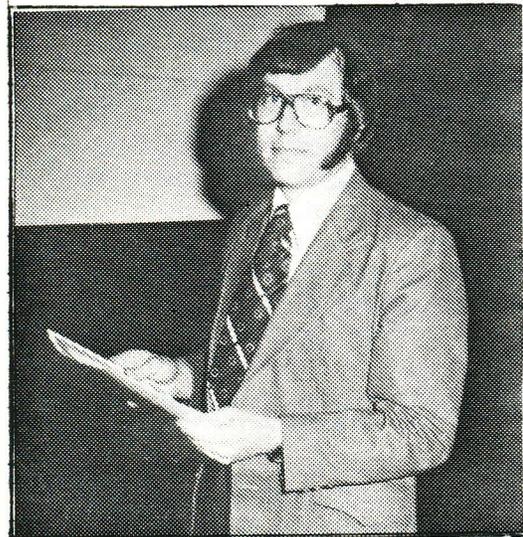
By looking at your last year's (1979) planting charts you're aware of your problem areas of disease and insect infestation on certain crops. Additional controlling factors to be considered are: The changing of watering habits--water plants in the early morning hours to assure foliage drying; weed control around the garden area; spacing between plants for good air movement; use of seed that has been hot water treated. To further aid in the prevention of another year of the same (???) crop problems, probably the most important, rotate your crops. Move your plantings to alternate areas. This procedure followed for two consecutive years will usually clear up your infectious areas by simply removing the host to some of these entrenched infections and insects. In short, let them  
(continued over)



Chet Groger accepts  
President's Cup



Clarence Knoblauch  
receives Lehman Trophy  
from Fred Glasoe



Marlin Rosin holds Green  
Thumb certificate for four  
years perfect attendance

-COMPOST PIT, continued-

look and do the work for survival material live off. Don't keep making the mistake of planting in the same location each year and have your crops completely taken over and destroyed.

The seeds and plantings having been chosen and selected and the area for the actual growing determined slowly completes the 1980 planning. Time is still in your favor for additional experimentation. For some it will be a new undertaking; with others it's about as routine as getting out of bed each morning. I'm now talking about seed propagation of slow maturing flowers and vegetables, those plantings that usually require a trip to the local nursery to purchase. Buying a plant that has been started and only requires transplanting takes the fun out of gardening. Here it's what is made available to you to purchase, the same selected few varieties of either vegetables or flowering plants. Seldom, if at all, do you find all the interesting varieties you noted once you took to studying your seed catalogs. But there is a very simple solution to this problem--grow your own!! We all have available to us the means to accomplish this task.

Take your last issue of the "GARDENER" (Jan. - Feb. 1980). On pages 10, 11 it spells it all out very simply, how to grow and propagate seeds indoors. Expense can be practically nil. Extra lighting helps but is not absolutely necessary to be successful. Your home windows can do the job well. Take a chance, give it a try; you'll find it both challenging and rewarding. If you fail in your attempts you still have the nursery to fall back on for your planting materials. Better yet, make your purchases at the May Plant Auction. The whole point being: you made an effort to try something different, to do some additional gardening experimenting. You'll find it fun and another active and productive way to wait for the coming of Spring without becoming bored to death waiting for the actual outdoor gardening activities.

I leave you with this thought:

There is no sadder or more frequent obituary on the pages of time than,  
"We have always done it this way."

Food gardening is not the only gardening activity showing heightened interest in 1979. Other types of gardening were up too, and may reflect a national mood of being less consumptive in leisure activities. Inflation and energy costs may be responsible for a renewed interest in inexpensive, productive, and close-to-home spare time activities.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MPLS.

Committee's 1980: Purpose/Chairman/Volunteers

Garden Tours: To select gardens for summer tours; visit ahead of time the gardens to be toured; to make arrangements for transportation and all special requirements for the tour.

Plant Auction: To plan, solicit and obtain plants and materials; select the site, and stage the auction as a fund raising activity for club projects and obligations.

Christmas Party:

To plan and make all arrangements for the club's annual gayla event - the grand finale of the year - the Christmas Party.

Sunshine Committee:

To keep in touch with members who are hospitalized or ill - send appropriate get well cards signed by members - sending of plants/flowers as directed - to use hospitality calling committee for emergency notifications.

Auditing Committee:

To annual auditing all records of the club - guide record keeping procedure to Treasurer - give annual club audit.

Flower/Vegetable Show Committee:

To plan, promote, supervise, and make all necessary arrangements for the clubs annual flower/vegetable show.

Community (Fragrance) Garden Committee:

To plan and organize planting, rework (as authorized) projects and maintenance of the garden area and to supervise actual work of planting and maintenance - to maintain photographic exhibits of committee activities.

Buddy/Membership Committee:

To assist new members in attendance at the meetings, introduction, (hosting). To assist club board to gain and contain membership - promote the club and all its activities.

Committee's 1980: (Cont'd)

Hospitality Committee:

To greet new and old members at each club meeting - making everyone welcomed - to issue and collect name tags - special handling of guests - assist treasurer in collection and tallies of dinners and other monies issuance of meal tickets, maintain reservations/attendance roster - to offer/arrange assistance in the form of transportation of members with those problems - coordination functions with the Buddy/Membership Committee - maintain telephone committee for emergencies and special events as directed by the club board.

Trophies/Awards Committee:

To monitor and account for all trophies/awards issued by the club - to establish criteria for awards/trophies - all engraving and to make presentations at the appropriate event and/or at designated trophy/award meetings.

Photography Committee:

To plan, promote and solicit progressional photos of members flower and vegetable gardens, landscape projects, decks/patio, and other gardening interests, to include club projects and special tours as to have available for presentation to club membership in the course of monthly scheduled meetings.

Publicity/Information Committee:

To promote in the form of advertising via radio, newspaper, TV, and other announcements all club activities and functions to promote horticulture activities of the MGCM.

Historian:

To write, maintain records of all events, activities, functions of the Mens Garden Club of Mpls., to include community activities, functions, and events worthy of recording.

Nominating Committee:

Composed of the present club President and the past five club Presidents who will solicit and select from within the club membership individuals to fill the offices of President, Vice President (program Chairman) Secretary, Treasurer, and two (2) Directors. Every attempt will be made to upgrade the current member of the board and add one Director.

## THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY: SOURCE OF GRASS SEEDS

by Laurence W. Corbett

We think of Oregon as a land of fruit--pears, apples and plums; of grain; and of fisheries. We have read of the Oregon Trail. If you have followed it at all in Idaho and Wyoming you wonder how anyone ever made it to Oregon. Eastern Oregon is much like Idaho--sage brush and semi-desert. But the land is rich, all you need is water. When you cross the Cascade Range you are in a different world, great trees, lush growth and the valley of the Willamette. Today the Willamette valley is the home of Oregon's vegetable industry including their famous Blue Lake beans.

The soils of the Willamette valley are very complex. Some are excellent. Some are very poor. It is difficult to distinguish. There are large tracts of land that are very compact, poorly drained, low in fertility. Locally they are called rye-grass lands. These are the areas that produce annual and perennial rye-grass, the base of many lawn grass mixtures.

In the harvest of this seed the straw is left on the field often several inches thick. If the straw molds and decays it promotes diseases in the plants causing crown rot and other problems that ruin the crop of seed. The old method was to burn the straw. At night one could see many fields aglow, the smoke hanging in heavy clouds. Since we have never found an economic use for the straw. I do not know what the final answer will be for the environmentalists have stepped in and now a state law prohibits the burning.

Another feature of the valley is the contrast of seasons: one rainy, one very dry. Summer is the dry season. This is excellent for seed harvest but sometimes the rains start too early. When they do the streams and rivers rise and the nice dry fields become lakes. In the summer you look at a crop and remark, "What a nice crop and field". Your field man says, "Yes, but you should have seen the water last winter". Then he points to a tree and says, "It was up to here" (about four feet above your head). One year Northrup-King did not get a crop of crookneck squash out in time and we had squash hanging in trees all the way to Portland.

A few miles east of Salem is the town of Silverton. It lies in gentle, rolling hills. The soil is quite red. It looks good and is quite rich. I was told that most of the settlers in this area went broke. They planted crops that were choked out by grass. No one could control the grass. Years later someone tried some of this grass seed out East. It was wonderful! It was bent grass. A use was found for it in lawns, in golf courses. Once a market was established many of the remaining farmers became very wealthy. The Silverton, Oregon area was for many years the center of bent grass seed production.

We still seem to rate lawn care and indoor gardening ahead of outdoor gardening. In 1979, 56% of American households surveyed listed lawn/yard care as their form of gardening activity, 45% listed indoor houseplants; 42% listed vegetable gardening; 38% listed flower gardening; 32% listed fruit/berry gardening.

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The fact is, we are ourselves weed species, and we bring other weed species with us wherever we go. Only our capacity to be occasionally foresighted saves us from being totally destructive to our natural environment.

--Wallace Stegner

MGCM 1980 BUDGET (Adopted 2/12/80)

INCOME

Dues (110 Members) . . . . .	\$2,750
Plant Auction . . . . .	1,200
Ticket Sales:	
Meals, 8 regular mtgs . . . . .	1,950
Tours . . . . .	1,500
Christmas Party . . . . .	1,800
Interest on Savings . . . . .	350
Other . . . . .	200
Total Income:	<u>\$9,750</u>

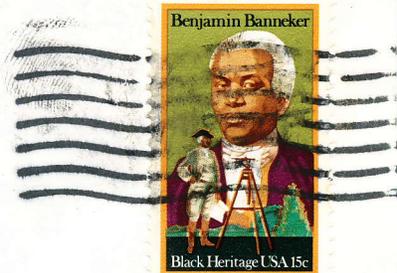
EXPENSES

Membership Dues to MGCA . . . . .	\$1,100
Minn. Horticulture Society . . . . .	600
Meals - Dinner Meetings . . . . .	1,690
Garden Spray . . . . .	1,050
Plant Auction . . . . .	300
Tours . . . . .	1,500
Christmas Party . . . . .	1,800
Others:	
Monthly Plant Auctions/Sales . . . . .	150
Flower & Vegetable Show . . . . .	200
Arboretum Project . . . . .	350
Remembrances . . . . .	100
Awards & Trophies . . . . .	100
Nat'l Convention Delegation . . . . .	200
Honorarium (programs) . . . . .	100
MGCA Life Membership, President . . . . .	100
Directory . . . . .	100
Miscellaneous . . . . .	250
Total Expenses:	<u>\$9,750</u>

ST. LOUIS CONVENTION  
MAY 25-28

"Hugo Carlson, has provided us with some practical information regarding travel to the St. Louis convention.... The mileage from Minneapolis is 557.... Rates by plane are: - Coach fare, round trip, \$174; Super Saver - buy your tickets 7 days in advance RT \$148.00; Group of 10 people flying together--\$139.00 RT." The above came by way of Stan Christ and GARDENING IN MINNETONKA. Let's get together with the Minnetonka MGC on this.

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



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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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- Secretary: JEROLD R. SHANNON  
1847 Eleanor Ave., St. Paul, 55116
- Treasurer: GEORGE H. MCCOLLOUGH  
8812 Tretbough Dr., Bloomington, 55431
- Past President: ROBERT GAGE  
16145 Hillcrest La., Eden Prairie, 55344
- Director: RAYMOND D. MARSHALL  
6809 Balsam Lane N., Maple Grove, 55369
- Director: RICHARD D. STEHLY  
5500 Fremont Ave. S., Mpls., 55419

FIRST CLASS

To

William H. Hull  
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**St. Louis 1980**