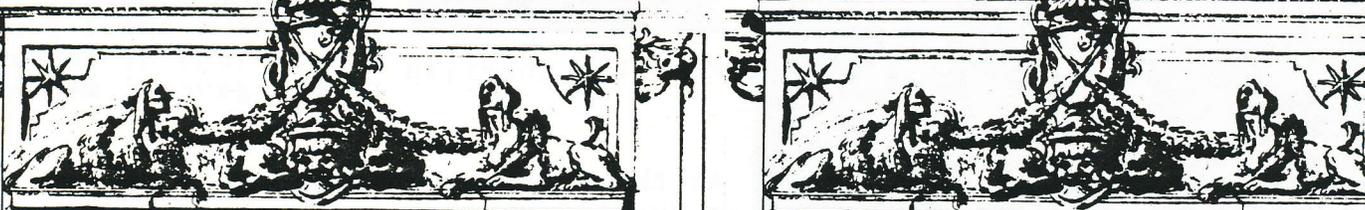




THE DAYTON — BACHMAN SHOW



Come! Join us at MGCM's March meeting, Tuesday March 24th at 6:00 P.M. in Dayton's 12th floor SKYROOM. Dinner \$11.50. Bring your wife and friends.

SPEAKER: RUTH BACHMAN
TOPIC: THE MAGIC OF THE THEATER

World renowned set designer DESMOND HEELEY has designed this year's Dayton-Bachman Flower Show. The show is a salute to the Guthrie and depicts the mystery, magic and merriment of the theatre.



One of the focal points of this year's show will be presentations by Ruth Bachman. Twice each day Ms. Bachman will guide the viewing public behind the curtain of the theatre into the inner world--The Magic of the Theatre.

On the 24th both Ruth and her husband Dale will share their knowledge and expertise both in the theatre and in the garden show.



RESERVATION(S) FOR MGCM MEETING 6 PM TUESDAY EVENING MARCH 24
Return this form by March 21 with your check payable to MGCM to
Duane Reynolds, 7116 39th Avenue North, New Hope, MN, 55427

I plan to attend. Reserve _____ place(s) for me (\$11.50 each)

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Signature _____

My Guest(s) will be _____



BACK: Berg, Proctor, Neby
FRONT: Stenger, R. Olson
Reynolds, Bonlender



Moehnke, Churilla

BOARD MEETING NOTES

This year the SPRAY through the courtesy of Secretary Rick Bonlender plans to print news about Board discussions of interest to the general membership.

At the February meeting:

- Question was raised about a \$33.00 fee for use of the Linden Hills park center for the auction. Lynhurst, the 1986 site, will be checked.
- After contacts with the Swedish Institute and Augsburg College it was decided to hold the 1987 Christmas party at Augsburg. Howard Berg told us at the February MGCM meeting the party

was scheduled for December 8th at Augsburg; but it would not be family style because the college did not have enough of the right dishes to serve that way.

- Possible changes in name tags were discussed.
- Discussion led to a suggestion that a past practice of mailing 3 free SPRAYS to visitors as a membership recruitment strategy be again tried. (The Editor is unaware of any such practice during his term, 1971 to date.)
- Authorized publication of the following:

ATTENTION: MGCM MEMBERS WHO ARE ALSO MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO MEMBERS

Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) provides a membership benefit of one free classified advertisement in their Minnesota Monthly members magazine. MGCM members with a MPR membership can help increase the visibility of our garden club and possibly recruit new talent for the club. I have been a MPR member for several years and I have never used this membership benefit. Let's pool our free ads together and have an open invitation to interested gardeners listed in each month of the Minnesota Monthly. I will do the work to set it up if you will donate your ad. Contact Rick Bonlender (729-5353) if you are interested.

CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP BUT NOT IN DIRECTORY

Johnson, Claus R.
6044 Chicago Ave.
Mpls., 55417

869-0692

Leming, Richard L.
5309 Hollywood Rd.
Edina, 55436

929-5317

NEW MEMBER

Renner, Frank L.
1614 Shidan Ave. N.
Mpls., 55411

529-1109

"Sonic Bloom" Fascinates Members at February Meeting

reported by Andy Marlow

One of Dan Carlson's achievements is enshrined in the Guinness Book of World Records, and if he has anything to say about it, this first entry will not be his last. Dan is credited with growing a "purple passion vine," normally about a foot and a half long houseplant, to a length of over 1300 feet. He grew this nearly quarter-mile-long specimen from ordinary cuttings in his Blaine, Minnesota, home using his own special growing technique called "sonic bloom." He spoke about what appears to be the remarkable success of this method to MGCM members at the Club's February 3 meeting.

Dan has formed his own company -- Dan Carlson Scientific Enterprises -- to market "sonic bloom" to houseplant growers, small gardeners, orchardists and commercial farmers. In addition, he has been working with a number of groups concerned about world hunger in applying his method to plants that are particularly suited to semi-arid climates and poor soils, conditions that exist where many of the world's hungry people live.

Hunger and poverty, in fact, were what got him interested in plant breeding and nutrition. While serving in Korea in the U.S. military, Dan was struck by the desperate conditions faced by many of the poor, including subsistence farmers. When he returned from military service, he studied for his B.A. degree in plant breeding at the University of Minnesota. It was there, Dan recounted, that he discovered stimulants that made 3 out of 100 plants grow to 10 times their normal size. He knew this was a good first step, and he went on to research a method for using sound combined with a foliar spray of plant growth stimulants to grow plants many times larger than their normal size with regularity.

The spray is, according to Dan, organic and non-toxic. It contains 55 micro-nutrients and trace elements. It's a concentrate, 6 ounces of which are dissolved in 12 gallons of water. Naturally, a home gardener would be more likely to use 1/2 ounce in one gallon of water, but Dan showed video tapes and slides of his method being used on everything from houseplants to open pollinated corn to orange trees to alfalfa hay fields.

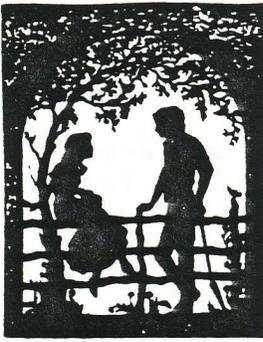
Though the spray is important, it would not produce nearly the same effect without the accompanying sounds. Dan bases the sounds of the calls of birds.

Although each bird is said to have a distinct call, almost all bird sounds fall within a narrow range of sound frequency. Dan uses specially built oscillators to create sounds in that same frequency range in the field. Since these same sounds would quickly drive anyone crazy inside a house, his home "sonic bloom" kit contains an audio tape with electronically recreated bird calls embedded in Indian ragas and European classical music. Dan says, for some reason as yet unknown, these sounds allow the plants to take up the nutrients in the spray much more efficiently than they could otherwise. He theorized that they encourage the stomata to open and take in the food, although he says both the top and bottom of leaves should be sprayed. The music is usually played at the time the plants are sprayed with the nutrients, but Dan said that playing the sounds early in the morning also allows the plants to take up the dew and increase both size and yield.

Dan showed many examples of how his methods is being used and how spectacular the results have been. He says "sonic bloom" has never failed on any plant. He says it consistently provides earlier maturity, greater yields, better taste, more nutrition and longer shelf life for the produce. He cited a 300% increase in yield for cauliflower in one test. He showed video tape of "sonic bloom" being used on a test orchard of citrus trees. Young Tree Decline (YTD) is killing 10% of citrus trees world wide, but it was eliminated in the test orchard. And, the orange trees could hardly hold all the fruit, which were growing inside the crown of the tree, as well as on the outside. At the San Juan Pueblo in New Mexico, plants are being grown from "ancient seed," open pollinated varieties well suited to semi-arid climates and marginal soils. "Sonic bloom" appears to make these varieties yield enough to be commercially viable, perhaps providing reliable subsistence and cash crops to Third World farmers. One plant of Indian Red Mandan corn, treated with "sonic bloom" as seed and growing plant, yielded 14 ears.

Dan's talk excited both the trusting and the skeptical in the MGCM audience. A few walked out right after his talk, but the 30 or so brochures he had with him disappeared in less than a minute. Dan Carlson Scientific Enterprises will treat whole fields for an entire season for \$50 an acre. Home-gardener-size kits of "sonic bloom" are relatively more expensive, \$30 and \$60 dollars. They contain the nutrient concentrate, an audio tape, a spray bottle and instructions.

Your author has obtained a sample kit of "sonic bloom" (from my life as a radio producer) and will be using it on a test group of vegetables in this year's garden from seed to mature fruit stage. If I can find the room, I'll group one group with no treatment, one with nutrients only, one with sound only and one with both nutrients and sound. It won't be strictly scientific, I'm sure, but I'll report on the results after the harvest.



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

Bob Olson
President
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Since I became President of the Garden Club, life has changed around my house. Suddenly I started receiving more phone calls than my wife and daughters are getting. This is an unexpected bonus - in addition to newfound respect from my family (who apparently equate social standing to frequency of incoming phone calls). I've gotten to know a fair number of our members quite well. Gardeners tend to be very interesting fellows.

A couple of the most interesting characters are Ed Culbert and Russ Smith. At our last meeting, Ed gave a short but spirited testimonial to the excitement and intrigue one can find at some of the business sessions of the National Convention of the MGCA. Not many guys can make such topics sound interesting. The list of seminars and tours planned for this year's convention in Rockford, Illinois sound terrific. Ed tells me they are even better than the business meetings. As you know, Russ Smith is trying to organize a bus trip for the Minneapolis Club to Rockford. This would be the ideal way to attend the convention. The bus will be available to take you to the convention, drive you around at the convention, and then take you home again. Russ says he can do it for \$35.00 per person round trip with a full bus. Even at \$70.00 (for only a half-filled bus) it would be a remarkable bargain. Being able to visit with guys like Russ and Ed along the way would make it a memorable event even without the excitement of a National convention. If you are interested, call Russ Smith (phone: 375-1878) and learn more about it.

Bob Roberg, who joined the MGCM this year, told me he hopes to learn more about gardening through the club. One of the problems for him is he doesn't know who he can call on for specific questions. In past years we have signed up for "interest groups" in various areas (dahlias, roses, irises and even hostas) but to my knowledge, the groups never seem to meet or do anything. After conferring with some of the other board members, I didn't bother to circulate the sheets this year. I will at the next meeting at the church. Perhaps we will have it for those who would be willing to be a resource in specific areas for members who wish consultation. Any other ideas along this line would be welcome.

Another idea that has been mentioned again is the creation of a new membership Photo Directory. As most of you recall, this is a book of photos of the various individual members together with a very brief description of their backgrounds and gardening interest/expertise. The last one was prepared largely through the efforts of Archie Caple in 1978. Because of the cost and size of the job, it hasn't been kept current. Archie is looking into the feasibility of creating a new one. This would be an excellent way to quickly find an expert in a given area. It is also a good aid to learn the names and faces of the members as well as something about them. Most people have commented very favorably on the old Photo Directory. If the cost isn't prohibitive, Archie and I may be asking for volunteers to help work on such a project. Please contact me if you have some expertise or interest in this area.

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

SEVEN PAST PRESIDENTS HEAD UP CONVENTION

Plans for our 1988 MGCA Minneapolis convention are moving along. Most of the major slots are filled but a few still remain - and we are looking intensely for people to work on various committees.

The basic committee (Called "Executive Committee" for lack of a better term) consists of seven past presidents. Well, in another year one will be a past president. Here they are:

Past President Archie Caple is a Vice Chairman and supervises these committees:

- Decorations, Favors, Arrangements
- Meals
- Door Prizes & Souvenir Packets
- Electronic Bulletin Board and Emergencies

Past President Chet Groger is a Vice Chairman and supervises:

- Registration
- Hospitality Room
- Reception
- Finances

Past President Jerry Shannon is a Vice Chairman supervising:

- Marketing
- Printed Programs

Past President Russ Smith is also a Vice Chairman and directs:

- Tours
- Programs
- Women's Activities
- Rockford Bus
- Properties/Audio-Visuals, Signs and Accessories

Past President Dave Johnson is Treasurer.

Present President and Past President next year, Bob Olson, is Secretary.

Past President Bill Hull is General Chairman and says he just takes orders from the other guys.

The call is still out. Chairmen of some committees have already been named but these four Vice Chairmen and their Committee Chairman are anxiously looking for people to swell their ranks. If you have previously expressed interest in a certain committee, you will be contacted by the Chairman. Talk with any of these people if you see where you can help. We cannot rest on our laurels. Time is not that plentiful. We need to make some hard decisions within a few months. So - let's go.

Bill Hull

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER
- Ed Culbert

Former member E. T. Montgomery, 83, who helped MGCM incorporate died January 17. A Minneapolis STAR and TRIBUNE article, with picture, said of him:

In the early 1960's Montgomery was president of the Lafayette Club at Minnetonka Beach. He also was a former member of the vestry at St. Stephens, the American Law Institute, the Minneapolis Club and the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. His garden often was part of the garden club's shows. His other main hobby was art. "When he wasn't practicing law he truly loved working in his garden", his son said, "and he spent many hours at his art."

New member Charles Levine volunteered to serve on the SPRAY committee. We are putting him to work right away. Who wouldn't? He is a member of the Garden Writers of America. He has written plant information specials and fact sheets for the Chicago Botanical Garden. Currently he is at the Agri-Business Vocational Center of the Minneapolis Public Schools (4717 Dowling St. S.) Look for his articles under the heading THE PLANT DOCTOR'S ADVICE.



Bill Hull's article on page 6 alerts you to the fact that the 1988 MGCA Convention in Minneapolis is just around the corner and that your help is needed--urgently needed.

We have a lot of good ideas and have garnered a few more from the folks in Rockford. Hotels are signed up. Several other plans are almost finalized. Every month from now on look for Minneapolis publicity in THE GARDENER and in the bi-monthly letter from headquarters in Iowa.

One of the best bits of publicity can be your presence at the convention in Rockford, Illinois July 13-16. Plan to attend at least one day but, preferably, for the entire convention. Take advantage of the \$140 early registration fee. But hurry! You will have only a few days after this SPRAY reaches you to get your money in.

Another editor said it. I didn't but it applies equally to MGCM. For a club to be active and vigorous it takes more than just names on the membership list--we need members who are willing to participate in club activities! How about it?

(continued p. 8)

THE PLANT DOCTOR'S ADVICE
by Chuck Levine

Forcing Branches

As springtime draws nearer, many of us get rather impatient for springtime flowers. One way to kind of "hurry things along" is to force branches to bloom indoors. While many of us have unknowingly forced pussy willows by placing them in water, we can intentionally force branches of many flowering woody plants to bloom in our homes.

Forcing branches to bloom indoors is actually quite simple. The first thing, of course, is to select your plant material. In addition to the many flowering shrubs such as forsythia, cherries and pussy willows, many of our larger trees like maples, elms and oaks, have small, but very lovely flowers.

Begin by selecting branches which are well supplied with an abundance of plump little buds. Cut them on a nice sunny day, at two to three foot lengths. Don't be indiscriminate in your cutting as many a tree has been permanently disfigured by the careless pruner!

Once cut, the actual forcing procedure is rather simple. Bring the stems indoors, cut the ends of the branches at a slant and peel the bark back about an inch, then pound or crush the ends of the stems with a hammer. Place the branches in a cool brightly lit room, away from direct sun and heat vents. Change the water often and add a 1/2 teaspoon of liquid bleach or a few pieces of charcoal to keep the water from spoiling. Most branches should bloom within two weeks.

MORE DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

Several years ago I met a fellow extolling the virtues of a vegetable sponge. "Just the thing for your wife." So I bought one. My wife relegated it to the basement where it still remains on my workbench. A recent column by Bob Critchfield in the Spokane MGC's NITE CRAWLER reminds me that I really should get around to trying it.

"For those that want to grow something different and really want to get something out of it try growing loofa. Loofa is a land sponge that grows inside a vining gourd. It likes to grow on a trellis. Do not let the loofa lie on the ground as it will spoil. The sponge touted as a skin conditioner is sought after by the discriminating bather and let's face it. It is an all around sponge for every chore. Loofas area tendrils climbing vine and as a rule grow up to 15 feet but can reach 25 feet. They love sun so let them work for you as a shade screen as the foliage is pretty. Planting time is as soon as the soil warms up and danger of frost is past. Soak seed 72 hours, plant 1/2 inch deep and space 1 foot apart in well drained soil containing lots of compost. Allow fruits to mature on the vine until they turn brown and then pick and store in a cool place. After they are dry soak loofas in a bucket of water for 1/2 hour. Peel off the outside shell and hang up to dry again. After they dry again cut open and shake out the seeds. Cut up into desired pieces. Soak in a solution of liquid bleach using one part of bleach to nine of water. This will make you a nice white sponge. P.S. You better grow extras as your wife will claim most of them."

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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.
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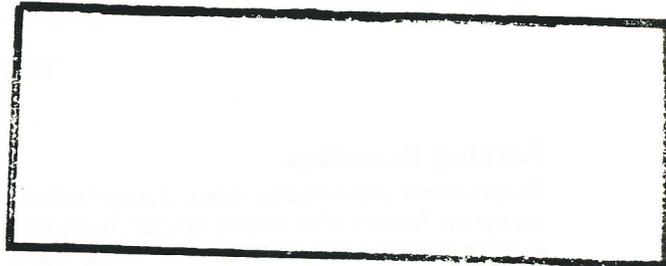
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FIRST CLASS

To



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