

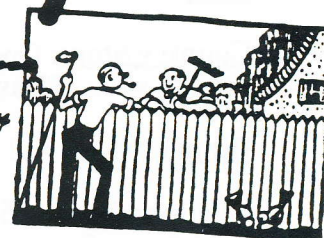


The Garden Spray

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

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

May 1989, Volume 47, Number 5



MGCM Plant Sale & Auction
May 9, 1989
Lynhurst Park Building

Make Your Plans Now

Members, Spouses and Guests Invited

ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, VEGETABLES,
SHRUBS, HANGING BASKETS, PATIO PLANTS,
FRUIT TREES AND VINES

(DETAILS INSIDE)

Plant Sale and Auction Details

Place: Lynhurst Community Center, 1345 West Minnehaha Parkway (50th Street at Humboldt Avenue South)

Country Store: Opens at 5:00 p.m. Donations of plant materials and gardening items to sell are needed for the country store. Please share by donating to the plant sale any extra seedlings or perennial divisions.

Dinner: Menu will be a surprise. Cost: same as last year, just \$6.50.

Auction: Starts at 6:45 sharp. Many top varieties requested by members. Good for sun and shade -- all growing conditions. Some rare items you'll have to bid for or watch leave with someone else. Be alert and have your number ready!

Guests: Mail in your card for your own reservation and add as many friends, relatives and any strangers who look like they might buy something. If you are on the permanent list, call Gene Ackland to let him know how many guests you are bringing. They'll have a great time and we might get a few new members.

OBITUARIES

Juel Shefland --

MGCM member Juel Shefland, a retired Minneapolis police officer and driving instructor, died on Sunday, April 2, of congestive heart failure. He was 81 years old.

Juel served as a policeman from 1940 until 1966, specializing in working with juvenile offenders and served as a juvenile authority to several civic organizations. He also operated his own driving school from the early 1940s until the mid-1970s. After his retirement, he was active with the Trust Topics Board, an affiliation of churches in South Minneapolis, and delivered Meals on Wheels.

Juel is survived by his wife, Loretta; daughters Nancy Moe of Minneapolis, and Sandra Germsheid of Le Sueur; son John Shefland of Bloomington; and nine grandchildren.

In addition to MGCM, he was active in St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Ark Masonic Lodge 176, the Minneapolis Retired Police Association and the Minneapolis Hiking Club. It was at the Hiking Club that Garden Spray editor Ed Culbert met Juel. Ed writes:

Juel joined the Minneapolis Municipal Hiking Club in the 1930s. He met his wife, Loretta, there. Both were made honorary members because of their long service to the Club. This was quite an honor, since the Club had only seven honorary members, counting Juel.

Juel was an avid cribbage player. The St. Luke's pastor who spoke at his funeral said Juel's first question when the pastor was being interviewed for the pastorate was, "Do you play cribbage?"

Until getting around even with the aid of a cane proved difficult Juel maintained a garden on land under an NSP powerline. He still worked on his tomatoes in his back yard, however.

Over 300 attended the visitation, according to the pastor. On Wednesday (April 5) the church was filled for Juel's funeral at St. Luke's, a testimony to his popularity and extensive contacts. Pallbearers were 6 police officers. 5 more came together in uniform and 4 squad cars led the funeral procession.

Gordon Newton --

Gordon Newton, retired vice-president of the packet seed department for Northrup-King, died April 7. He had been retired about 20 years after 47 years with Northrup-King. He was 85 years old.

Gordon had been a member of MGCM from 1975 until 1987, when his health forced him to drop his membership. He was also active in the Edina Rotary Club, the Lake Harriet Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Zuhrah Shrine Temple, Golden Valley Country Club, Interlachen Country Club and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

"Newt," as he was called, is credited with expanding N-K's seed packet operation to the West Coast, especially California. Bruce Johnstone, retired chief horticulturist for N-K, called him "probably...Northrup-King's best salesman they ever had."

He is survived by his wife, Ruth; daughters Marilyn Peterson and Beverly Gustafson, both of Edina; and two grandchildren. The family would like memorials to go to the American Heart association, the Association for Retarded Citizens or Courage Center.

Notes from the President...

(The following is written with the permission of Jack Kolb, our Club lawn person.)

What's all the fuss about lawn stress? People are calling the "U" and other places to get a quick solution to their barren lawns. I have a simple solution: dig up your lawn and plant a garden! Do you realize the average lawn area, planted as a vegetable garden, would yield about \$2000.00 in profit? Think about what this would do for the world problem of starvation.

My thoughts were prompted by an article by Rich Barber of Denver, Colorado. His article is part of a book, Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise and Other Imponderables by David Feldman.

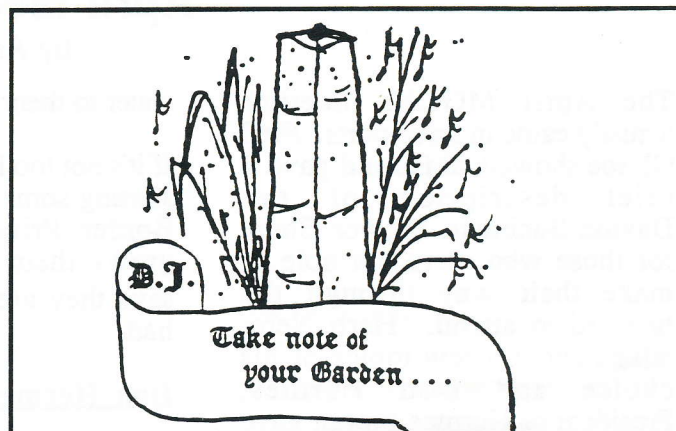
Well then, why do we have 25-30 million acres in grass? It may be related to more than just an inexpensive ground cover.

Dr. John Falk, associated with the Smithsonian Institution, speculates that humankind's desire for the savannah terrain is genetically related, rather than a pure aesthetic choice. He and John Balling, in a cross cultural study, found that people consistently picked the savannah terrain as their first choice, even if they had never seen a savannah.

Psychologists have also made speculations on people's need for lawns and gardens. It is a way of taming and domesticating nature, and marking territory, just as animals mark their space. Dr Falk says that "People create extensions of themselves. When people create lawns as an extension of themselves, they see a violation of their lawns as a violation of their space."

Historically lawns have existed for a few thousand years. The Chinese had them 5000 years ago. The Mayans and Aztecs were lawn enthusiasts. In the Middle Ages, grass was used as a way of protecting one from his enemies. With cattle roaming around the outside of the castle, the grass would be short so the enemy could be quickly spotted.

Europe adopted lawns as a symbol of prestige. Kings had lawns. If the King has one, I can raise my status with others by growing grass. Just think, I, too, could play all those "uppity" lawn games like croquet, bowl and tennis!



It is easy to see that America, being founded mostly by Europeans, would adopt the lawn as its terrain of choice.

So, when you are mowing your lawn this summer, think about exercising the need to protect your space.

Continuing the musical theme of this year...

The word for the month is scherzo. Be lively and gay as you get those plants in the ground. Do it with a rapid rhythm. The ground has thawed. The plants started in February or March are ready to be planted. The lawn needs raking. The weeds rear their ugly heads. So, if one doesn't do it a lively fashion, you're dead in the water.

May Person of the Month...

This person joined the Club in 1965. He is a Past President. His work on last year's MGCA Convention is well known. His beautiful yard has won him the Lehman Trophy for best garden on the summer tours twice. I've always found him willing to share his horticultural knowledge with me and others. This year he is on the Tour Committee and is again chairman of the Plant Auction Committee. It is a pleasure to recognize Dave Johnson as May MGCM Person of the Month

A final note:

I was very impressed by the enthusiasm demonstrated by Club members in April and pleased by the way people related to Club activities and shared information with one another. We're off to a very good start!

April Meeting Report

by Andy Marlow

The April MGCM meeting actually came in three parts. Fred Glasoe showed slides and gave a brief description of the Dayton-Bachman Flower Show for those who were not able to make their way through the blizzard to attend. Herb Neby talked about a few topics of his choice and Don Hermes, President of Hermes Floral, gave a fascinating talk about his family's indoor flower growing operation near Becker, Minnesota.

Herb Neby

Herb maintains that he likes to grow "strange stuff." He's collected and grown many strange plants over the years. Among the things he's picked up were two weeping mulberries, one of which looked great and the other awful. The awful one, of course, survived longest. But, since they are not hardy this far north, even that one is succumbing to our winters.

Herb is very fond of amaranthus, which has the "prettiest flowers" in Herb's judgement, a kaleidoscope of red and yellow. They thrive on neglect, requiring little in the way of water, fertilizer, or rich soil. They will, however, die rapidly if their roots are disturbed. Amaranthus blooms late in the season and is also called the "summer poinsettia."

Herb loves houseplants. He counted one day and has 100 in a single room, about 3-400 in the house during winter, including 20 trees. Most get kicked outside in summer. Herb says he's been asked to join the "mall-walkers" to get exercise, but explained that it takes all day to water plants and he gets plenty of exercise hauling

water to them.

If it's not too late, he recommends starting some Park's Princess and Border Princess dahlias. He grows them in containers and says they are the best he's ever had.

Don Hermes

Don has more houseplants than Herb, only because Hermes Floral has an indoor flower growing range at the Sherco power plant operated by NSP at Becker, Minnesota. They have about 3 acres of roses and more than an acre of other flowering plants growing in greenhouses heated with waste water from the power plant.

The year around operation was started in 1975 as an experiment by NSP, the Environmental Protection Agency and the University of Minnesota. It has since lost its experimental character and has grown from the original one acre enclosure. Heating costs are, of course, the major factor in growing plants in greenhouses during Minnesota winters. Don estimates it costs \$.60-.70 a square foot to heat their greenhouses compared to \$1.25 a square foot for conventional heating methods.

They grow mostly roses because there is a good market for them. They grow the plants in wire enclosures as high as a man can reach. They are rooted right in the ground, a very sandy soil topped with loam and peat. The sandy soil keeps drainage problems to a minimum, but does require a bit more out of the automatic watering system. They cut about 2-1/2 million stems each year from 150,000 rose bushes.

Heat and water are not the only determinants of rose growing, however. Light plays a major role, too. During the winter months it takes about 8 weeks to grow a rose to picking size. In the summer it takes half as long. That, Don says, explains why roses are so expensive at Valentines, especially since 50% of the roses sold in Minnesota are locally grown. They are lucky if they can sell roses for \$.25-.30 a stem in the summer. The same blossom costs, wholesale, \$1.25 in February.

In the 1980s consumers have been demanding more exotic blossoms, so Hermes has added a number of other flowers to their roses, including astilmeria, freesias, anemones and Enchantment Lilies. All have been strictly imports in the past, from California and from Europe. Now many are home grown. All can be found under cover at Hermes Becker operation.

FOR SALE

Louise Carlson, widow of late MGCM member Verner Carlson, wants to sell Verner's small greenhouse. She doesn't use it and would like to find someone who would use it. It is mounted on a wooden base and would have to be taken apart. It has a few broken panes of glass, but otherwise is in good shape.

She has no price in mind and seeks an offer. Anyone who is interested is invited to inspect the greenhouse at 5613 26th Avenue South, Minneapolis. The telephone number is 729-7796, but no appointment is necessary.

Test Your Soil Before Planting: Here's Why It's Important

by Kent Petterson

Have you had your soil tested recently? In past years we didn't feel too concerned about our vegetable garden or flower garden. Recent lessons have illustrated the importance of testing to good cultural practices in the garden.

1) PH significantly high or alkaline (approximately 8.0+) may adversely affect the effectiveness of pre-emergents used for weed control.

2) Daffodils in some areas of Minneapolis failed to grow last spring because of high PH. "Daffodils in the Park" lost significant beds of Daffodils due to PH above normal.

3) Heavy watering the last two years has been responsible in part for raised PH in many local gardens. Ours has gone up two tenths from 7.6 to 7.8 in two years with no application of lime or bone meal.

Optimum PH 6.0 to 7.0 can be obtained by the addition of lime if your soil is acidic. Add elemental sulphur or iron sulfate if your PH is too high. Mary Lerman has prepared an information sheet with the assistance of Carl Rosen of the U of M regarding procedures to lower your PH. Please contact Kent Petterson if you wish a copy.

NOTICE

The following members should be sure to be at the May Auction meeting to pick up their Garden Mums ordered from Dooley Gardens. Please arrive early so plants can be paid for and distributed before the meeting.

Joe Stenger, Herb Neby, Russ Smith, Dave Moennke, Charles Jonas, Phil Peterson, Bob Livingston, Duane Johnson, Walt Schmidt, John Mondati, Len Brenny, Fred Glasoe, Lee Gilligan, Bob Churilla, Henry Halverson, Sid Nystrom.

MGCA OFFERS MAJOR NEW AWARD

(from the April 1989 MGCM Newsletter)

MGCA proudly announces a new "national" award to a member who has performed both long-term horticultural service to their residential community and long-term service to MGCA on a national level. That is service to both groups over a long period of time.

The new award, to be known as the Bill Hull Memorial Cup is possible through special funds which have been made available. As President Larry Jaskoviak has said, "I believe this will reach to the rank and file member who year after year devotes time to promoting and participating in horticultural excellence in their community ... a member who also

The rotating award will be a cup presented once annually, retained by the recipient, who must be legally responsible for returning it in time to be engraved for the next year's winner. In exchange, and attractive, but less pretentious, plaque certifying the winner will be supplied.

Nominations for this new award should be directed to Awards Chairman, P.O. Box 241, Johnson, IA 50131, by May 30, 1989.

The award is named for Past President, William H. Hull, who was the youngest president of MGCA, initiated the Big Pumpkin contest, was chairman of the site selection committee for the MGCA office building in Johnson, Iowa, received MGCA's Silver Medal and was general chairman for the 1988 Minneapolis Convention. He is the MGCA Historian and has remained very active in the organization.

Fragrance Garden Report

by Kent Petterson

The Fragrance Garden Committee met on Thursday April 13th to discuss plans for this years garden. We had an excellent turnout, with lively discussion of plantings, work items etc. The following members were in attendance - Doug Madsen, Phil Peterson, Merle Pulley, Bob Churilla, John Groos, Duane Reynolds, Reed Sonstegard, Kent Petterson, Ger Rothen & Bob Redmond.

Groups or individuals were set up to target areas of work such as soil tilling, lawn, memorial installation, maintenance list, refreshments etc. It was decided to proceed with tilling, cleanup and general maintenance on

Saturday April 29th. Planting day for annuals will be May 20th, 8:00 A.M. Saturday. Everyone that can, should turn out so the work can be quickly completed.

The following significant items were discussed:

A) Certain areas of the lawn need attention. Doug Madsen will be assisting with seeding/sodding suggestions.

B) The raised bed on the south side has become heavily shaded by the Amur Maples. In an effort to provide more sun to the raised bed the Amur Maple will be thinned, with every other tree removed. Fragrant herbs will be

planted in the new sun areas.

C) Bob Churilla will be working on arrangements for a concrete or stone (preferred) foundation for mounting for the Memorial.

D) Reed Sonstegard and Ger Rothen will be calling members for sign up on the Summer Maintenance schedule. Please call them if you have a particular week you can work. If they call you, try to work out a time you can help.

E) Doug Madsen, a certified applicator, will work with Bob Churilla to give the garden an application of Preen or similar product to cut down on weeding.

F) If you have a truck and can haul plants on May 19th, please call Kent Petterson at 332-1821.

Remember: the National Award Flower and Vegetable for the MGCM Flower and Vegetable Show in August are the hosta leaf and the cucumber. Keep this in mind when planting your garden. You could win a very impressive ribbon.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC. CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Duane A. Johnson
1226 W. 53rd St., Minneapolis 55419

Vice-President: Kent R. Petterson
908 E. River Terrace, Minneapolis, 55414

Secretary: Gene M Ackland
4830 Pilgrim Ln. N., Plymouth, 55442

Treasurer: Joseph L Stenger
5421 Girard Ave. S., Minneapolis 55419

Past President: Duane A. Reynolds
7116 39th Ave. N., New Hope, 55427

Directors:

Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka, 55343

Merle T. Pulley
3852 Pleasant Ave. S., Minneapolis, 55409

Gregory Smith
9715 29th Ave. N., Plymouth, 55441

Robert E. Smith
3210 Chase Dr., Minnetonka, 55343