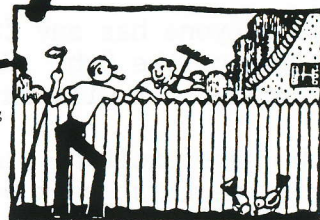




BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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



October 1988, Volume 46, Number 10

CONGRATULATIONS, BOB SAVORY, ON ELECTION TO HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Members present at the September meeting elected Robert P. Savory, a widely known professional grower of hostas, to honorary membership in MGCM. Savory who joined MGCM in 1949 becomes our sixth honorary member.

SECOND FALL MGCM MEETING

TUESDAY EVENING OCTOBER 11, 1988

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

DINNER 6:00 P.M. PRICE \$6.00

RUSH YOUR RESERVATIONS TO RICK BONLENDER

PROGRAM:

CELEBRATION OF OUR 1988 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Bill Hull will head a group of men to let us sit back and enjoy reflecting on a super convention. He will have a few surprises for us. (Maybe some also for the national directors when they next meet?)

Also, we will have slides of some of the gardens on the July convention tours. Participating in this phase will be Larry Cattron, Robert Olson, Duane Reynolds and Duane Johnson.

MINI-SESSION--HOSTAS

Aside from Robert Savory, Robert Olson has more interest in hostas than any of us. Those of us who have seen his garden know that he has many varieties and that his knowledge of hostas is extensive. Don't miss Bob's presentation.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Peter J. Olin
1958 Summer St.
Falcon Heights, MN. 55113

644-5586
443-2460

Dr. Olin is director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

FRAGRANCE GARDEN - 19th & ALDRICH

The final clean up day for the year will be October 8th, Saturday, at 9:00 A.M. Let's have a good turn out so the work can be completed by noon. We have ordered King Alfred Daffodils from the Hort. Society for planting this fall. We hope to plant the bulbs on October 8th.--Bring your bulb planters.

If anyone has any fragrant or perennial plants to add to the collection, please bring them on the 8th. Call Kent Petterson 332-1821 (home) or 489-1303 (work) if you are coming. It will save us a lot of time and we thank you.

We have exciting plans for 1989 and as Fred Glasoe says, "Your last week of the fall is the first week of the garden year for the following spring." (Thanks Fred, I hope I didn't goof it up too badly.) Here is some of what we have in mind. Please, let's have your thoughts and ideas.

- 1 - Mowing strips around the beds.
- 2 - Plantings/rings around trees to prevent "lawnmower" disease.
- 3 - Restoration of the lawn.
- 4 - Further work on designated perennial beds.
- 5 - Efforts to involve the Minneapolis Society for the Blind in use of the garden. Our members have been invited to teach or guide hearing impaired people in a horticultural class. They have a staff member who has tried growing plants from seed, but they don't have any grow lights or basic materials.
- 6 - Design a pre-recorded "talking tour" of the Fragrance Garden with land markers in the garden to follow. Talking Books have offered their assistance.
- 7 - Design and erect an entry sign to give the garden a public name, advertise our clubs association, etc.

The Board of Directors has voted to designate the Paved Path built last spring as the MGCM Memorial Path. It will be dedicated to those individuals who have donated money to the Fragrance Garden Memorial Fund. A suitable memorial marker will be designed this winter and installed next spring. Any thoughts on a ceremony?

-Kent Petterson, for the FIGS

MINNESOTA GREEN CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR WITH RECOGNITION AWARDS

Kent Petterson accepted on behalf of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis a Governor's Recognition Award at the 1988 Minnesota Green Gardening Celebration Day held Sunday, September 18, at the St. Luke's School in St. Paul.

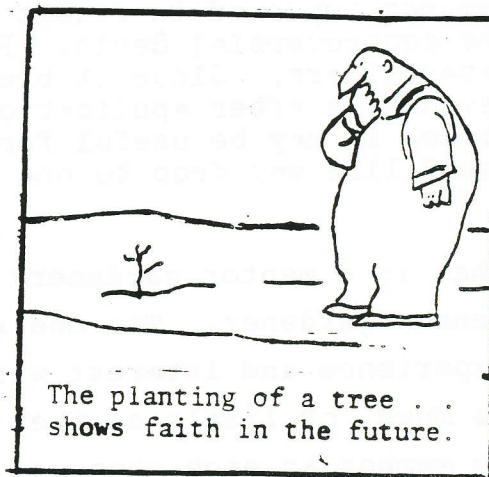
Among those in attendance were State Representative Ann Wynia St. Paul, Lee and Jerry Shannon, Phil Peterson, Chuck Levine and Rick Bonlender (Minnesota Green Coordinator) along with Dorothy Johnson Executive Director of the Minnesota Horticultural Society which is sponsoring the Minnesota Green program.

This, the first of what will be an annual event, honored those individuals and groups who most exemplified the ideals of Minnesota Green--to "green up" urban space and strengthen community ties.

Minnesota Green began, in March 1988, as a project to increase the greening of communities and towns throughout the state. Through joint efforts of community groups, government agencies, and businesses several pieces of vacant urban land in Minneapolis and St. Paul have become pleasant neighborhood focal points. Minnesota Green plans to expand into Greater Minnesota in the next two years.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the gardening year comes to an end, we reflect on the triumphs and failures. The dahlia stock I bought from a grower in the southern states was a mistake - "never again". Thank goodness I went to the compost pile when I did. That little bit of mulch covered the ground and allowed the roots to grow during those hot dry days. I know it's hard for mother nature to discourage some of us. We keep trying over and over. There's one gardener in our club, when the racoons ate his plants, he told his neighbor he was really raising racoons. On the other hand, there are times when we become discouraged, feel like giving up and sometimes do give up.



During last months board meeting, Kent Petterson talked about "Mentor Gardeners". (See his article.)

Mentor Gardening, "A spark of fellowship that revolves around the garden." Did you know Harold Gulde grows championship dahlia blooms? That he is an expert on the small size dahlias. Did you also know he grows hibiscus? We all know Russ Smith has a hillside garden. He also rebuilt his own retaining walls after the flood of '87.

All of us have special interest and a great deal of practical information to share. Charles Jonas and Herb Neby taught me about container plants and how to winter them over. This means I won't have to buy as many miniature roses from Ted LeBoutillier next year! If you want to make yourself available to members who want guidance in an area, list your specialities and check the Mentor Gardening box.

This year we want to complete our membership renewal and have the directory printed in time for our January meeting. Dues are:

MGCA	\$15.00
MGCM	7.00
Hort Soc	10.00
	<u>\$32.00</u>

On the renewal sheet, check the areas you have knowledge to share with others and check if you would be a mentor.

HAPPY GARDENING!

The bacterial caterpillar-killer Bacillus thuringiensis has had its effectiveness improved in recent years, and its price is now competitive with the controversial Sevin. Further, Bt is safe for bees as it only affects caterpillars. Since it breaks down in sunlight it remains viable only for seven days after application. If stored in a cool (40 to 50° F.) dark place, it may be useful for three or more years; in a hot 90° garage its shelf life may drop to one month.

MENTOR GARDENER

What is a mentor gardener? Well, any MGCM member could be a mentor mentor gardener. The one requirement is to be willing to share your experience and interest with someone else. Members can participate as much, or little as they wish and all contacts should be made member to member as each chooses. Volunteer to help your fellow gardeners. Invite someone to your garden for a visit, or invite yourself to someone elses garden! If you don't have a garden, go help another member for a day. Work with him and learn with him. That's the essence of mentor gardening. Promote your gardening interest with others, especially our new members. Please sign up for mentor gardening with your membership renewal and your interests will be listed in the directory for 1989.

Kent.

Kent Petterson

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME _____	MGCM DUES	7.00
ADDRESS _____	Minn. Hort	
_____	Society dues	10.00
_____	MGCA dues	<u>15.00</u>
Home Phone _____		32.00
Business Phone _____		
Wife's Name _____	Send form with payment to:	



Hort. Society Life Member



MGCA LIFE Member

(Do not pay these if a life member)

Joe Stenger
5421 Girard Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minn 55419

Are you interested in being a mentor gardener? ☐ yes ☐ no

GARDENING INTEREST: Roses, Dahlias, Hosta, Gladiolus, Irises, Vegetable, Perennial flowers, annual flowers, marigolds, organic gardening, lawns, Composting, Shrubs, Fruits, Landscaping, Herbs, _____ Other.

SEPTEMBER MGCM MEETING REPORT

by Andy Marlow

BOB SMITH

MGCM member and vegetable gardener extraordinaire Bob Smith presented the mini-session at the September MGCM meeting. He began with a graphic demonstration of something we are all about to face -- falling leaves. He, in fact, dumped a bag of them on the meeting room floor. He said many people have negative thoughts about this annual phenomenon. To them, falling leaves mean cold weather ahead and the need to rake up the thousands of leaves that fall in a typical gardener's yard.

Bob encouraged us to have positive thoughts about falling leaves. First, there's their beauty, which we all enjoy. Then, there's the possibility of using all this valuable plant residue in the garden. Bob said he is glad his neighbors all have negative thoughts, because he collects the bagged leaves from 4 or 5 of their yards and makes thorough use of them.

Leaves are really the back bone of Bob's vegetable garden. He uses them year around; for winter cover, summer mulch and for plant nutrition and soil conditioning. He uses Ruth Stout's "work-free" vegetable garden ideas as a base, but has modified them for our harsher climate.

He has a regular program for using leaves to help temper the extremes of our climate. In the winter he uses raw leaves -- nice fluffy oak leaves -- as cover on things like grapes. He pinned the vines to the ground covered with soil. When the soil is frozen, he piles on the leaves. In the spring, he rakes off the leaves and uses them to mulch around his fruit trees. After he has let the garden soil warm up, some bagged leaves from the previous fall go back on to hold down soil temperature and conserve moisture.

Leaves are also Bob's main source of plant nutrition. He cautions that the carbon-nitrogen ration in them means that leaves must be broken down -- composted -- before they are put into the soil. They do, however, contain traces of all the essential elements plants need for growth. Bob says he has not used any additional nitrogen in his garden for years, but both heavy and light feeding plants thrive. He believes compost acts as a buffer, letting each plant take up the amount of nutrients it needs. He showed us slides to prove his point and says he has 30 years of records to rely upon. Last year, for instance, his Big Boy tomatoes were 12' tall and yielded an average of 35 pounds of fruit per plant, with little in the way of disease or blight.

Bob uses a prodigious amount of leaves on his 1 acre vegetable plot. In a typical year he will use 500 bags of leaves, the raking off an additional 4 or 5 heavily wooded suburban lots and about 20 tons of leaf compost from the county (which they used to deliver, but which he must now haul himself). He says there are other forms of plant residue available, such as hay, straw, etc., but that leaves are very versatile and they are available and usually free!

DOROTHY JOHNSON

Main speaker Dorothy Johnson is the (relatively) new Executive Director of the

Minnesota State Horticultural Society. She spoke about "Plants in Pots for the House," and addressed three major topics; bringing plants in from outside, checking plants left indoors, and plant growth factors related to indoor potted plants.

In fact, by now all the plants you have put outside for the summer should be in. A common mistake is to leave them out until the first frost is expected. Dorothy says days and nights begin to cool around the first part of September and plants become acclimated to that, then are thrust into the hot, dry indoor air. Bring in your plants before you turn on your furnace is a good general rule.

Except for special specimens, Dorothy no longer recommends people try to winter over geraniums. The old pump room was ideal for this, but who has a pump room nowadays? Most varieties are easily grown from seed, anyway, so it not worth the work. Other plants you want to preserve for next year can usually be done by cuttings. She cautions that you should choose only perfect plants for cutting and make short cuttings -- less than 4". Use a rooting box filled with vermiculite or sharp sand and don't mix plant varieties in a box. Keep pinching off new cuttings until you fill the box and you'll have enough plants for next growing season.

Dorothy recommends most plants moved out for the summer be sunk into the ground right in their pots. When you're ready to bring them in, wash them thoroughly for insects, including the underside of the leaves. Let the water wash through the pots to remove built-up salts. To get insects that don't wash off, she uses a sprayer with rubbing alcohol or Safer's insecticidal soap as a dip.

Plants left indoors over the summer tend to get neglected. Fall is a good time to take a look at them and give them care, if they need it. Give them a gentle washing with a hose or put them outside during a gentle rain. Prune them for shape and plant health. Start a regular care routine, and be sure to assess their light needs as natural light diminishes. Re-pot those that need it, and use the opportunity to do some propagating. Dorothy urges over-running the word with begonias, which are easy to grow and to propagate./

Finally, Dorothy says plant growth factors must be balanced according to the season. We all know that plants need light, soil, water, proper temperature and fertilization. Winter does affect the availability of natural light. If you manipulate the other growth factors in the same direction. In other words, in winter light conditions plants need less water, less fertilizer and lower temperatures to let them totally slow down. If you don't do that, Dorothy says, you end up with leggy or stringy plants that are more susceptible to insect damage and disease. Plants, also, need a temperature contrast between day and night, just as they get outdoors.

Your watering routine and watchfulness toward houseplants should intensify as you bring plants in. Make sure to adjust watering when the furnace comes on and TEST THE SOIL with your finger. Overwatering is every bit the problem that underwatering is. Some attention to your plants, a regular routine that varies with plant needs and a knowledge of plant growth factors will go a long way toward allowing you to bring summer into your house all winter.

Dear Fellow MGCA Member:

I read your article titled "MGCA died July 3, 1988 killed by vote of the National Directors".

I must say this was a cheap shot at a group of devoted and outstanding men. The directors, who voted on this delicate subject matter, consisted of regional directors, past presidents, who are also on the board of directors and the executive staff.

The MGCA regional directors are elected by the membership of the affiliated Men's Garden Clubs, within each region, and working with them I can only say, they have your interest in mind in the management of MGCA. The directors serve without any remuneration and use their own individual cash to attend the directors meetings as well as the national conference. The Past Presidents, who are also on the board have, in many cases served MGCA for over fifteen plus years so you can visualize what their outlay has been on behalf of every member of MGCA and the affiliated clubs. If you think that their decision was an easy one you have not followed this delicate question, which has been on the grates for the past several years and was turned down year after year until there was no other choice but to abide by the law relative to discrimination.

Now for your finger pointing at the Green Bay Club is not all correct because MGCA had a number of clubs, these past years, that were pushing for the same recognition and it was a matter of time before they would have acted. In fact, I understand there were clubs who had women in their organization and were serving as officers.

Why do the ladies want to join a man's organization is a question that I can't answer but why some of our clubs were pushing for admission of women I can comment on.

So many of the clubs are small clubs and when the circle of officers is exhausted the club finds itself in limbo. This is not only the problem of MGCA but other organizations have the same problem. The fact is that it was the men that started this back door entry so that they could develop larger local membership.

The problem of women taking greater action within clubs is our (MEN) fault. We sit around complacent as hell, invite the women to help in club chores at special meetings, work on programs etc and then we get on our high horse when the women feel they are entitled to be a full part of the club.

Did you know that when the movement of women getting into men's organizations began there were more men behind the movement than there were women.

Your item expressed concern that the ladies would, some day, take over, I agree because we men are sitting around complaining but when it comes to attend meetings or participate in club affairs we have many excuses. The Men's Garden Clubs Of America Convention is one good example of our complacency. Less than three percent of the total membership attend.

(continued over)

I attend many local MGC meetings and I go away with that beg question "Where Are The Men"? Oh the answers are many, "We have heard that program before" or "The ball game is on " etc etc etc.

Just imagine what a strong organization MGCA would be if we put real positive action into our clubs. If we followed the real concept of MGCA and that is teaching gardening to the youth, helping in horticultural therapy and helping in the beautification of our communities etc.

The name of Men's Garden Clubs Of America will remain Men's Garden Clubs Of America but it is up to each one of us to protect that name, inject strength into the organization by becoming a real participant in the programs, meetings and development of our local affiliated Men's Garden Club and The Men's Garden Clubs of America. Real partnership, Men's Garden Club of USA and The Men's Garden Clubs of America is the real key to growth and strength. Develop real leadership in each affiliated Men's Garden Club and together with The Men's Garden Clubs Of America build a strong organization not by complaining and not be criticism and not by complacency but by working together as a real team. We can and will be a strong Men's Garden Club even tho membership includes ladies.

Yours in gardening,

Larry Jaskowiak
Larry J. Jaskowiak
MGCA Pres. Elect.

THE EDITOR REPLIES: The title "MGCM DIED," etc. served its purpose. It drew attention. The SPRAY doesn't go to anyone in Arizona yet Mr. Jaskov (Green Valley, AZ) saw the editorial and it was reprinted in toto in the Houston (TX) YARDNER.

Jaskowiak says finger pointing at Green Bay is unwarranted because other clubs would in time have acted. Similarly? But if Green Bay claims it has money set aside and threatens legal action against MGCA who better deserves to be pointed at?

Only 3% of MGCA membership attending national conventions is a sign of complacency? Personally I think more of our MGCM members should attend the national conventions but I doubt that complacency has anything to do with their non-attendance. Vacation schedules, family interests, costs involved are more likely reasons. As Minnesotans we might even prefer to attend the Minnesota Horticultural Society's biennial conventions because of the far greater number of seminars all related to problems/interests of Minnesota gardeners.

MGCM, a large club, has in my 40 odd years of membership always been a strong organization. The Minnetonka club, a small club of long standing, appears to be equally strong. The kind of club Jaskowiak describes/decries might better disband. It no longer has a reason to exist anyway.

Did you pick up your 1989 MGCA calendar? Do you need extra copies? See Howard Berg at the November meeting. The price is \$2.00 per calendar.

Every Member Sponsors A New Member

GLEANINGS

(Starred ** all from The GREENHORN, Mansfield Ohio MGC)

**NEW PUBLICATION FOR HOME VEGETABLE GARDENERS - "IDENTIFYING DISEASES OF VEGETABLES"

The Univ. of Delaware Coop. Ext. Service is offering a 61-page book with over 300 full color photographs for quick identification of vegetable diseases. The easy-to-understand text describes major diseases and distinctive symptoms. It is arranged alphabetically. Cost per copy is \$8.00 postage paid. Make checks payable to Univ. of Delaware. Mail check to: Mail Room, Townsend Hall, Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE 197-1303.

**GARDENING UPDATES----

---A new strain of the bacteria, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), called M-One will likely be available to home gardeners next spring. This will please those who have battled Colorado potato beetles without much success in the past since M-One has provided 90% protection against the pest in field trials. The new Bt strain doesn't effect any other living thing.

---The survival rate of tender bulbs, corms and tubers is enhanced when sprayed with anti-transpirants before placing in storage for winter. Products such as Wilt-Pruf have been found to have many uses. When sprayed onto roses and zinnias, anti-transpirants reduced the incidence of powdery mildew. Give this product a try and see for yourself.

Burpee has a good 3 page bulletin on Forcing Bulbs Indoors. Briefed excerpts: All spring-flowering bulbs should be potted up in late September or early October. Forcing will take about 12 weeks for the early-blooming bulbs (e.g., crocus and early daffodils), and about 16 weeks for the later bulbs (e.g., tulips).

Bulb pans--clay or plastic pots half as high as they are wide--are ideal for forcing. Plant as many bulbs as the pot will hold, leaving 1/2" of space between the bulbs and around the edge.

Place a piece of broken clay pot over the drainage hole, and add a shallow layer of gravel or pebbles. Half-fill the pot with 2 parts of rich garden soil mixed with 1 part sand or peat moss. Set the bulbs on the soil with the tops just below the rim of the pot; do not press the bulbs into the soil. Add more soil until only the tips of the bulbs are visible.

Water the pot thoroughly, either from the top or by immersing. Store immediately in a cool, dark place for the first stage of the forcing process. If necessary, cover your potted bulbs to keep them dark during this period. Keep the soil barely damp; water only when soil is approaching dryness.

After 8 to 12 weeks of cold temperatures, the bulbs should have a good root mass. When top sprouts are 2" or 3" high, move the bulbs into a warmer location and start forcing bloom by bringing the pots to a bright, cool (55-65° F.) room out of direct sunlight. Water frequently: feed weekly with a half-strength solution of houseplant fertilizer. Turn the pots every day. When foliage and buds are well-developed, move the pots to a bright, sunny window.

After flowering, cut off the flower stems, and move the pots into full sunlight until foliage fully matures and then withers. Store the bulbs, still in their pots, in a cool, dry place until early fall, when they can be planted in the garden.

by Andy Marlow, Show Chairman

Some 17 members of MGCM entered specimens in the 1988 Flower and Vegetable Show August 20 and 21 at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The quality of the exhibits was very high and included an unusually large number of fine potted and hanging plants. Perhaps that reflected the growing conditions encountered by annual flowers and vegetables during this rainless summer. The judges from the Federated Garden Clubs were very impressed with the exhibits and were less critical of men's abilities to properly display plant materials.

Familiar names will be engraved onto the Blackburn and Foley trophies this year. Jerry Shannon was the winner of the sweepstakes award in the flower section. His well grown and well staged clematis was also selected as Best-in-Show. On the vegetable side, perennial winner Bob Smith swept both the sweepstakes and Best in Show awards. His Thornfree blackberries, in fact, won the Best in Show award for the second year in a row. The National Award ribbons went to two people who have not won major awards before. The vegetable award went to Merle Pulley for his green beans and the flower award to Andy Marlow for his red Floral Carpet snapdragons. There were no novice exhibitors this year, so the Robert L. Smith trophy will not be awarded.

Special thanks go to Duane Reynolds, Dale Durst, Mel Anderson, Nick Haddad, and Merle Pulley of the Show committee, to our 17 exhibitors and to the judges recruited for us by Elaine Gilhausen. Remember, it's not too early to start planning for next year's Show.

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

Return to
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