

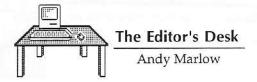
Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

December 1994, Volume 52, Number 12









I always enjoy looking through the pictures for each month in the Men's Garden Club calendar. The quality of the photographs amazes me. The photos, I know, have come from the cameras of other TGOA/MGCA members just like me. I might aspire to do as good a job as they do, but I'm not confident of my ability to fulfill my aspirations.

But, I am inspired by the January 1995 photograph by Richard Clapp of the Atlanta MGC. He has turned a pair of old boots, two small vinca plants and a large rock into a masterpiece. If he can do accomplish such a feat, surely I can take a photograph good enough to enter into either the Flower, Food and Foto Show contest or the TGOA/MGCA slide contest. Information about this year's slide contest is on page three of this issue of the *Spray*. Look for an inspiration, and then get busy with your camera.

Every year, it seems, there are a few members who question the necessity of paying dues to TGOA/MGCM. The slide contest and calendar are a couple of the reasons it's important to belong to the "National". For several more, see the article by Al Banner beginning on page 7. Just to show you this is not a new issue, that article was first reprinted in the October 1992 Spray.

If you haven't yet paid your 1995 dues, this will be your last issue of the *Spray*. I realize that's not such a big threat, but think of all the great activities and events you'll miss if you don't renew. Dig out the renewal form that came in November, or call Mel Anderson for a new one. Write a check and get it done!

Coming Attractions

December 6 - 6:00 p.m. MGCM Holiday Party Lake Harriet United Methodist Church 49th and Chowen Avenue South

> January 3 – 7:30 p.m. MGCM Board Meeting

January 10 – 6:30 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South

February 7 – 7:30 p.m. MGCM Board Meeting

February 14 – To be announced MGCM Dinner Meeting Lake Harriet United Methodist Church 49th and Chowen Avenue South

> March 7 – 7:30 p.m. MGCM Board Meeting

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members and friends. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

Editor......Andrew J. Marlow Staff......Ed Biren, Chuck Carlson, Dale Fisher, Carolyn Hayward, Mary Maynard, Derrill Pankow, Merle Pulley



The President's Report

Clyde Thompson, President, MGCM

Even as we put the final touches on the winter gardens, you can feel the build up toward the coming holiday season. Plans are being made as to which Grandma's house to go—or are we Grandma this year? So start the travel plans.

Looking in the nursery yards over the last few weeks revealed a fast change of colors. The many varieties of mums disappeared to be replaced by piles of orange pumpkins. Later came the bales of straw and hay—just about the same time as spruce boughs and short trees appear to green things up.

As I write, planning for the MGCM Holiday Party is in full swing. And it's a good thing, too! A dozen turkeys might be hard to catch, to say nothing of turkey carvers. Even before the party, there was a chance to make merry and make Christmas decorations courtesy of Howard Klier. And over at Bachman's, poinsettias get the once over for use as our table decorations (something we share with the White House, you know). Mary Maynard and her committee are to be commended for their fine work, along with the kitchen crew.

Other chores included putting the Fragrance Garden to bed, which was done by Chuck Carlson and crew on October 22nd. The Stevens House wild garden, designed by our friends at the Park Board to depict a garden of 1856 (as you would expect it to be in the days before nursery stock was widely available), also got some winter cover. Maybe you noticed on your

registration sheet that you can sign up for the Stevens House project committee next year. It's an interesting place and not much work. We, as a matter of fact, need a chairman for this group.

As my year as MGCM President winds down, I realize how many wonderful volunteers there are who step in and do the things necessary to make our club successful and interesting. I appreciate all of you for the many things you did that made this such a wonderful year.

TGOA/MGCA Slide Contest

- Deadline for entries is February 1, 1995
- Chuck Carlson has rules and entry forms
- many classes of competition
- entries may get their slides printed in the MGCA calendar
- winners receive a nice certificate
- try it; you may enjoy it!



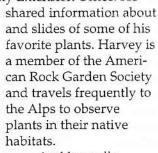


Monthly **Program** Report

by Andy Marlow

The November MGCM meeting began with an auction of tools donated to the club by the estate of longtime member Floyd Ashley, who passed away in August. The auction raised several hundred dollars. There is quite a lot of additional garden equipment which will be sold or auctioned next spring. Details will be in the January Spray.

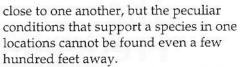
Alpine plants were the subject for Harvey Buchite, Extension Educator for the Anoka County Extension Office. He



And he really means habitats! As you travel up slope, you pass through several distinct

climate and terrain. The Alpine climate, found in the higher elevations, is characterized by a 50° f average annual temperature, 70-75 frost free days per year and excellent snow cover during the winter. It's no wonder plants found here do well in our climate! Harvey warns that some Alpine plants, particularly hairy ones, are subject to fungi attack when grown in our more humid conditions.

Harvey has found that very different plant communities are often located very



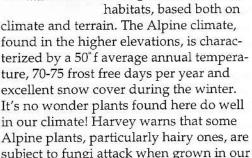
A couple of Harvey's favorites from the sub-Alpine climate region are Willow Gentian, Leopard's Bane and the wide variety of terrestrial orchids found there. Almost all flowers in this and other Alpine areas are perennials and cross pollinated.

Alpine pastures are home to Alpine Asters (commonly available from nurseries), Hens and Chicks, a variety of Campanulas and Dianthus, plus the Austrian national flower, Edelweiss. These and other Alpine plants grow in nutrient poor conditions and Harvey advises gardeners that too much fertilizer in the home rock garden will kill the plants.

After the tour up the mountain, Harvey offered some tips for the rock gardener. He says that diversity is very important to a rock garden. It should look natural, but not be dominated by one plant. Variety applies to elevation as well. A gardener might be limited by location, but some rise in elevation creates different micro climates, favoring variety in plant

Harvey suggests using some native plants, like the White Aster species, in rock gardens along side the exotics. He favors Columbine, which reproduces readily, and the almost as prolific dianthus group; Tiny Rubies being a favorite. Harvey thinks miniature dwarf bearded Irises look very much at home in a rock garden, and the wide variety of Primroses add bright color provided they have adequate snow cover in winter and shade in summer.

Harvey is an avid collector of seed. He propagates most of his Alpine plants from seed. He urges others to spend some time collecting and sowing perennial seed.





Proposed MGCM Budget

The following budget for 1995 was adopted by the MGCM Board of Directors at their meeting on November 1, 1994, and will be voted on by the membership at the January 1995 meeting.

Income

Dues	\$3,700
Meetings	\$4,200
Plant Auction	\$5,000
Tours	\$700
Holiday Party	\$1,800
Calendars	\$2,500
Interest	\$150
Raffles	\$100
Miscellaneous Income	\$100
Slide Shows	\$300
Flower, Food & Foto Show	\$100
TOTAL INCOME	\$18,650

Expenses

LAPCHIC	
TGOA/MGCA dues	\$1,350
MSHS dues	\$1,450
Garden Spray	\$1,300
Meetings	\$4,000
Plant Auction	\$2,600
Tours	\$700
Flower Show	\$650
Holiday Party	\$1,800
Directory	\$175
Sunshine	\$200
Honoraria	\$100
Awards	\$200
Arbor Day	\$250
Fragrance Garden	\$100
Convention delegate*	\$400
Donations	
Arboretum	\$350
MSHS	\$250
4H/Jr. Hort	\$100
People for Parks	\$100
Calendar	\$1,650

Community Service	\$100
Membership Campaign	\$50
Life Membership	\$150
Photography	\$50
Hall of Trees	\$50
Miscellaneous	\$450
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,650

*\$200 each for the National Director and the Past National President or any substitute(s) appointed by the MGCM Board of Directors to help defray attendance at the TGOA/MGCA Convention.

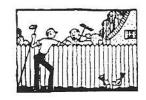
New Members

Dr. Russell B. Corey 5443 Sanibel Drive Minnetonka, MN 55343 Home phone: 938-5900

Delores Johnson 220 Cutacross Road Golden Valley, MN 55422 Home Phone: 544-0111

Jim Nichols 7801 Bush Lake Drive Bloomington, MN 55438 Home Phone: 946-8904 Business Phone:829-0938

Janet Smith 1610 Holdridge Terrace Wayzata, MN 55391 Home Phone: 475-1878 Business Phone:545-4404





by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

Here are some of the new plant varieties for 1995. They were extracted from the National Garden Bureau's *Today's Garden:*

NEW FLOWERS FOR 1995

Begonia 'Victory': A fibrous begonia, 4 colors; pink, rose, scarlet and white. Good for sun or shade. 8" to 10" tall with green foliage and a neat habit.

Dianthus 'Floral Lace': It has large flowers (1 to 1-1/2") with lacy serrated edges. Colors are purple, crimson, violet picotee and rose. Has the habit of 'Telstar' and 'Princess'. Grows to 8-10 inches. Sounds a lot like 'Superbus'.

Dianthus 'Duke': A mixture of bright reds and burgundies and is very early to flower.

Geranium 'Glamour Series': Flowers early with 4" flower heads. It has zoned foliage and colors of scarlet, rosepink, light salmon and white.

Gomphrena, globosa 'Bicolor Rose': Rose with a white center, 20' tall and blooms profusely. Another variety of gomphrena was a hit at the Community Garden.

Impatiens 'Deco Tri Color': Large flowers of pink, rose and violet

Impatiens 'Peach Swirl': It has large salmon-toned picotee flowers and joins 'Pink Swirl' (my favorite) & 'Coral Swirl'.

Lisianthus 'Tiara Series': It is a semi dwarf in pink and purple. It also has a good ground branching habit.

Lobelia, speciosa 'Fan Scarlet': 24 inches tall with 1 1/4" flowers that bloom over a 3 month period.

Marigold 'All Season Discovery': Large yellow and orange blooms. Bob Stepan had some wonderful marigolds that he called Discovery. I don't know if these are the same or not, but they should be worth a try.

Salvia 'Sizzler Purple': A new color addition to the series.

Vinca 'Passion': This has a deep orchid-purple flower with a yellow center that grows to at least 2 inches. Flowers earlier than Tropicanas.

NEW VEGETABLES FOR 1995

Broccoli 'Superior Hybrid': A midseason variety that grows upright with deeply domed heads.

Lettuce 'Ultra Green': A leaf lettuce with crisp and juicy leaves.

Pepper 'Apple': A sweet pepper with a distinctive taste of fresh apples.

Pepper 'Pimiento Elite': Extremely prolific with 3-1/2" oval fruit that turns bright red when mature. Matures in 85 days and is sweeter than the "Bells".

Squash 'Payday': A golden zucchini. Tomato 'Super Tasty': A semi bushy plant with 7 to 9 ounce fruits that mature in 70 days.

Tomato 'Super Boy Hybrid 785': Impressive yields of medium sized fruit. Excellent for salsa. VFFNAS disease resistance.

Cucumber 'Big Burpless': Large. bitter free, burp free fruits that retain their quality. Matures in 55 days and is resistant to powdery mildew, mosaic virus and scab.

The Tip

Watch for these in the catalogs. They may not be available at retail seed suppliers but look for them as bedding plants at garden centers or wholesale seed suppliers. I can supply the seed company listed for any of the varieties.



Where Does That \$15.00 Go?

(Editor's Note: Every year some members question the need to pay \$15 for membership in The Gardeners of America, Inc./Men's Garden Clubs of America. The following was written by Al Banner for the Horti-bull, the newsletter of the Men's Garden Club of San Antonio, Texas)

It must be like the universal plague. Seems everyone is asking, "What do I get for my \$15 a year dues to Men's Garden Clubs of America?" While some things are not so readily apparent, I would like to suggest a few points that I think are relevant—so elementary that they are often overlooked or taken for granted. But first we must understand that the Gardeners of America, Inc./ Men's Garden Clubs of America is a membership participation organization. You can't sit on your hands

and wait to be enter-

tained. You have to

become involved to enjoy the benefits and privileges of membership to the fullest. After you are involved, then ask again, "What do I get by belonging to TGOA, Inc./MGCA?" Some positive benefits and membership privileges are:

a. The prestige of belonging to a powerful voice that can be raised for conservation and environmental measures, via a national government forum.

b. Nationwide projects such as Youth Gardening and Gardening from the Heart programs. Horticultural therapy for youth or adults who are disadvantaged. Help upcoming citizens learn the values of gardening. Excellent dividends for Clubs and Advisors. Sponsor "Youth Gardens," "Big Sunflower Contests," et al.

c. National Awards, Opportunity for nationwide recognition for outstanding service to horticulture at all levels. Who can put a dollar value on how Joe Doaks of Podunk Garden Club in Outback States feels when he is named the Best Volunteer in teaching our kids to garden and love our beautiful environment and how he helps it along?

d. Scholarships, TGOA, Inc./MGCA offers annual scholarships

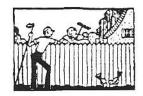
to advance excellence in horticulture.
Each club can sponsor qualified, deserving candidates. Some of your club members' kids are deserving.

e. Regional
meetings, discussion of
business, workshops, local
problem seminars, pracetices, solution, and develop-

ment. Get to know your neighbors in gardening and how they do it. Great fellowship and friendships develop.

f. Annual national gardening convention. Discuss business, problems, new developments in plants, gardening and ecology, plus tours of outstanding gardens at different places in our great big beautiful country. Always a well rounded program of workshops, seminars, tours and informative lectures by recognized people in the horticultural field. The most rewarding benefit will be the fraternity which establishes lifelong friendships

(continued on page 8)



15 Dollars

(continued from page 7)

with gardeners from all over the country—they're just like us—put their pants on one leg at a time.

g. Photo slide contests, both regional and nationwide. Enter your slides and gain regional and national recognition. Winning slides become our national calendar art, magazine covers and parts of programs available to all affiliated clubs on request. As near as our TGOA, Inc./MGCA home office in Johnston, IA, a phone call away.

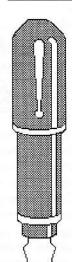
h. The Gardener magazine and the Newsletter. Much improved of late, these "house organs" bring news about your friends in horticulture. Read them and see what's there for you and about you. And you're encouraged to submit articles from your club.

- i. Judging. TGOA/MGCA offers a judging school manual for schools to train new judges and to standardize the criteria for conduct of all flower and vegetable shows. Certified judges, all graduates of our judging schools, supply the highest standards of judging according to the national judging manual. Everyone competes on the same field using the same standards.
- j. Exchange programs. Exchange seeds and plants with fellow gardeners from all over the country.
- k. Environmental issues. Research and promote ways for gardeners to contribute to safeguarding and improving our environment through eco-gardening. This may involve water conservation, soil improvement through ecology-safe materials, recycling decomposable gardening and household wastes, preservation of endangered plants, the use of natural control of weeds and pests, and providing wildlife refuges through the use

of plants.

l. New home gardener course. This is a program of study to develop the home gardener to become more proficient and knowledgeable.

m. Membership. This is a nonprofit membership organization, enrolling individuals, business firms and organizations as members. It is a member participation organization. You need to become involved to enjoy the benefits and privileges. Every member should be placed on some committee or work project. Your annual dues are used to make these features available. Demand and use all these features to get your money's worth. Participate—it's yours. But you gotta ask! And your regional and national officers are there to see that you get it, in full.



Board Notes

At their November meeting, the MGCM Board of Directors:

- heard a progress report by Treasurer Mel Anderson on 1995 registrations and complimented Mel on his effort.
- decided to award Scott Endress the remaining \$333 on his 1993 MGCM Scholarship which the University of Minnesota returned to the Club because Scott was doing

an internship spring quarter.

• approved the draft 1995 budget to be voted on by the membership at the

(continued on page 9)









Recent Activities: Flower, Food and Foto Show in August (left), Fragrance Garden clean up in October (above) and auctioning Floyd Ashley's garden tools at the November meeting. Photos courtesy MGCM Photography Committee.

Board Notes

(continued from page 8)

January meeting (see page 5).

- approved the membership application of Russell B. Corey (sponsor: Mel Anderson).
- decided not to participate in the 1994 Hall of Trees at the Arboretum.

At the November **Membership** meeting, the following officers and directors were elected for a one year term in 1995:

President—Bob Voigt
Vice President—Bob Stepan
Secretary—Mary Maynard
Treasurer—Howard Berg
Past President—Clyde Thompson
Director—Chuck Carlson
Director—Bill Jepson
Director—Henry Orfield
Director—Kay Wolfe

At their December meeting, the MGCM Board of Directors:

• learned that 1995 membership will

be approximately 114 members to start the year.

- received \$228.50 from the auction of the late Floyd Ashley's garden tools at the November membership meeting.
- suggested a committee be appointed to develop a suitable memorial to Floyd Ashley.
- agreed the January dinner meeting would start at 6:30 p.m., but that the membership would then be asked to vote for either the 6:30 or a 6:00 start time.
- approved the applications for membership of Jim Nichols (sponsor: Russ Smith), Janet Smith (sponsor: Russ Smith), and Delores Johnson (sponsor: Dave Johnson).
- decided to recommend to the membership that Dwight Stone be made an honorary member.
- asked the Flower, Food and Foto Show committee to consider changing the date of the Show to the end of July or later in August.



A Foolproof Method of **Rapidly Propagating Hostas**

by Henry A. Ross

(Ed. Note: Last month local hosta grower Axel Troedsson wrote about his problems propagating hostas and the great secret he had acquired from Henry Ross. Here's Ross' stody reprinted from The Hosta Journal)

About 25 years ago I decided to add a collection of hostas to the displays here at the Gardenview Horticultural Park. Over the years, as the varieties were acquired, I quickly discovered that many of the choicest varieties just simply refused to multiply. They would either sit there as a one-crown plant for years, or they would form one massive crown with a few weak little side shoots. H. tokudama Aureanebulosa is notorious for this, as is the very new 'Sea Octopus.' My latest seedling to be registered is a massive golden-leafed montana-type which starts out early in the season as a beautiful yellow and stays that color throughout the entire growing season. It has been named 'Solar Flare' and I hope to introduce it in 1984 or 1985. It also is a very slow multiplier although even a one-crown plant will make a massive specimen.

For some years I have been developing and have now perfected a method of propagating hostas. It is foolproof and has proven to be extremely successful. Although it works with all hostas, it is particularly useful with those varieties which multiply very, very slowly and especially so with the very new and scarce varieties which—because of their slow propagation—are very expensive, making it possible for only as very few to be able to afford them.

In the past few years I have "shared"

this method with individuals as a means of obtaining "starts" of varieties which I wanted but could not afford for the collections here at Gardenview. It has now reached the point where it has become obvious that it is not fair to others to have knowledge of this method confined to only a privileged few. So I am now sharing it with all of the members of the American Hosta Society. Hopefully, this will make it possible for those having superior new varieties which propagate very slowly to be able to increase them much more rapidly. This will make them available to more people than would otherwise be able to get them.

My technique can be performed at anytime during the growing season, from the time when the plant is fully developed (early June?) up to the time that the plant goes dormant in the fall. The earlier in the year that it is done, the stronger the resulting crowns will be the following year. I have performed the operation on single-crown plants of H. tokudama Aureonebulosa and had them come up the next spring with 10 to 12 crowns instead of one.

Now that I have you sitting there with your tongue hanging our, we can get to the nitty-gritty. Preferably working with a single crown plant carefully dig the soil away from the base of the plant so as to expose the plant's base, see accompanying illustration. With a very sharp knife (it can be a pocket knife, grapefruit knife, fleshing knife, of any other kind of a long thin, sharp, knife), stick the knife through the stem of the plant starting about an inch or two above

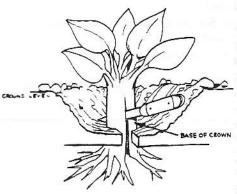
(continued on page 11)



Propagation

(continued from page 10)

the basal plate. Then cut straight sown through the base and into the roots. If the stem is very slender, one cut is all you will be able to manage. But with a thick stem, it is possible to make two, three or even four cuts as shown at the bottom of the illustration. After performing the operation, tuck the soil back around the plant and leave it alone, except for fertilizing a few times and keeping the



plant well watered. You have, in this way, actually divided the plant into several sections, without disturbing it in any way so there is virtually no shock. The worst that can happen is that there may be a slight yellowing of

one or two leaves.

Since the foliage has not been cut and does not realize that it is now feeding several pieces of plant instead of just one, it continues to function and send food down to the stem pieces. The divided crown will immediately begin initiating new growth buds which will break into growth the following spring. If you perform the operation early in the year, the buds will be big and fat and the resultant crowns will be of a good size the next spring. If you perform the operation late in the season, the resulting buds will not be as large the next year when they begin to grow. The following year when the plant begins to grow, fertilize it heavily and keep it watered as needed. The plant will develop from two to 10 or more crowns, depending on the number

of cuts that you made. Toward the end of the season dig up the plant, separate into individual crowns, and replant. The next year, the procedure can be repeated all over again—only this time you will have several plants to play with instead of just

This technique can be used with newly purchased plants by making the cuts before planting them. However, since the plants are bare-root, it will be a bit more of a shock than performing the operation on a vigorously growing plant which does not even realize what has happened. The technique can also be used on multi-crown plants, although I feel that it is better to use single crown plants. This is because it is not only easier but also gives the resulting new crowns access to more food and space than they would have in an already crowded clump. I believe it would be better to dig up the clump early in the spring as it is starting to grow, and divide it into single crown plants and replant the crowns. Then give the single crowns a month to so of growth before "operating" on them.

For the home gardener and the small nurseryman, the technique is vastly more simplified than tissue culture. It does not require any expensive equipment or special skill, to say nothing of the need for sterile conditions and expensive technicians. A similar technique is used to propagate amaryllis, daffodils and hyacinths. And it can, in all probability, be applied to all kinds of bulbs and perennials as will. Get out your trusty knife, sharpen it up, and get to work. Happy propagation—especially to those who have varieties which the rest of us cannot afford to buy. Let's flood the world with the divisions of these "treasures" so

that we can all enjoy them.

Inside:

Editor's Column	Page 2/	
Events Calenda		
President's Column	Page 3/	
TGOA/MGCA Slide Contes		
November Meeting Repor	Page 4/	
Proposed 1995 Budge	Page 5/	
New Members		
Chuck's Chestnut	Page 6/	
Where Does That \$15 Go	Page 7/	
Board Notes	Page 8/	
Activity Photos	Page 9/	
A Foolproof Method for	Page 10/	
Propagating Hosta		

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Clyde Thompson 4429 Dunham Drive, Edina, MN 55435 Vice-President: Bob Voigt 4934 Aldrich Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55409 Secretary: Eldon Hugelen 7473 W. 142nd St.., Apple Valley, MN 55124 Treasurer: Melvin C. Anderson 5701 35th Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55417 Past President: Lee Gilligan 6506 W. Broadway, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

DIRECTORS:

Charles J. Carlson 1001 Hackman Circle, Fridley, MN 55432 Mary J. Maynard 4375 Dart Ave. So., St. Louis Park, MN 55424 Donald A. Powell 346 13th Ave. No., Hopkins, MN 55343 Robert Stepan 7717 Riverdale Dr., Brooklyn Center, MN 55444

Return to:

The Garden Spray

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc. Andrew J. Marlow, Editor 10700 Minnetonka Boulevard Hopkins, MN 55305-4404

FORWARDING AND RETURN
POSTAGE GUARANTEED,
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

First Class Mail