

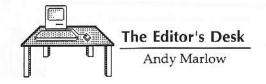
Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

December 1996, Volume 54, Number 11









The snow is already deep in my yard and gardening is over for the season.

I'm keeping some of my focus on outside by feeding the birds. I have to admit I am a bird feeding snob. I don't care to attract grackles, starlings and other "trash" birds. So I only feed for the limited palate of the songbirds I like—cardinals, chickadees, finches, juncos, woodpeckers, nut hatches and the like.

You can get by with one or two kinds of seed. I use the small black sunflower seeds, plus a bit of the more expensive safflower seed. The trash birds don't like the hard shells and stay away. Plus I put out some of the very expensive Nigerian thistle seed for the finches. I get both gold finches and purple finches, with a jaunty cap and breast of purplish-red.

Here are a couple of tips on bird seed. Buy from a seed store, not the supermarket. The seed is fresher, cheaper and available in larger quantities. I have a couple of large metal garbage cans to store it. Buy single seed types. The mixed seed attracts those less desirable birds. Never store seed in plastic containers, even in your garage. It takes a squirrel, chipmunk or mouse just a few hours to chew in.

I have given up the idea that I'll keep squirrels from getting at my feeders. Every time I devise a way to keep them out, they improvise a new way to get in. In my mind I have just allocated a certain percentage of the seed to the squirrels. I still try to minimize their consumption, but I don't feel nearly so bad when they break through my latest defense.

Don't forget to put out some suet for the insect eaters, too!



Tuesday, December 3 – 7:30 pm Board of Directors Maurice Lindblom's House

Tuesday, December 10 - 6:00 pm Holiday Party Lake Harriet United Methodist Church 49th & Chowen Ave. So.

> Tuesday, January 7 - 7:30 pm Board of Directors Bob Stepan's House

Tuesday, January 14 - 6:00 pm MGCM Dinner Meeting Lake Harriet United Methodist Church 49th & Chowen Ave. So.

> Tuesday, February 4 – 7:30 pm Board of Directors Maury Lindblom's House

Tuesday, February 11 – 6:00 pm MGCM Dinner Meeting Lake Harriet United Methodist Church 49th & Chowen Ave. So.

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, Sher Curry, Dale Fisher, Bill Hull, Bob Olson, Derrill Pankow and Merle Pulley





Tips and Snips

by Bob Stepan, President, MGCM

1996

Recap and Reflect

Hasn't this been a wonderful year for all of us to belong to the Men's garden Club of Minneapolis? We started off with a program on dried flower arrangement, including how to dry them, etc. We got all our seeds ordered after searching through various seed catalogs. We had a



Photo by Ted Olson Valentine's party with our sweethearts in February. Peter Olin brought us up to date about what's happening at the Arboretum. In march we again enjoyed the Dayton's-Bachman's Flower show

In April Fred Glasoe took us on a vicarious trip to Europe with his slides and talk on the spring gardens

of that continent while we waited patiently for the snow to melt and finished planting the rest of our seeds indoors. A new location for our Plant Sale and Auction proved to be a real success. At our June meeting we learned about cooking and different uses of herbs from the garden.

In July we had our biennial scholarship tour—you people really do have some beautiful gardens. Weren't the plant arrangements wonderful this year? At the August Flower, Food and Foto Show we "showed off" the prize materials of our labors. Also in August we toured Valleyfair and the more daring among us whizzed off on the rides they treated us to.

September's program provided knowledge of ornamental grasses that are hardy in our climate. In October we saw Noeremberg Gardens via slides. I haven't been there for a long time—something to

put on my list for 1997. I especially liked the Gardening by Computers demonstration that Andy Marlow presented to us in November. It boggles the mind all the things that are, and will be, available to us.

Now we are into December and my year as President is almost over. It's been an enjoyable time. What a privilege to work with such a great Board of Directors, each one of whom puts forth 100% each meeting. Thanks to the Club members who put on some of the programs for us this past year; to the different committees who worked so diligently and kept focused on the goals they set out to accomplish and also to the many members who helped in myriad ways.

We reached several milestones in 1996. We had the most successful plant auction in our history at an entirely new location. Our biennial tour was also our most successful in raising money for horticultural scholarships.

We capped the year by looking forward through our commitment to hosting the TGOA/MGCA national convention in 2003. Thank you all for your support!

New Members

Myron G. Berg 1831 Alameda St. Roseville, MN 55113 Home Phone: 488-2356 **Business** phone: 633-6737

Bodo Richard Dumke 3300 S. Fremont Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55408 Home phone: 825-8167 Business phone: 844-7000



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Monthly Program Report

by Andy Marlow

I suppose it's pretentious to report on my own presentation at the November MGCM dinner meeting, so I'm not going to report on the whole thing. It was a "you should abeen there" presentation, as most of it was demonstration rather than talk. I did show the audience a number of World Wide Web sites on the Internet that have gardening information in them. Below you will find a few general categories of sites, some examples of each and my thoroughly biased comments about each one:

Personal Pages

My Home Page

http://members.aol.com/AJMarlow/ AJsPage.html

This is my own page with some information on hostas and pictures of hostas from my garden.

The Hosta Page

http://bingen.cs.csbsju.edu/~cmswinge/ hostas/hostas.html

Lots of good pictures of hostas from Roger Koopmans' garden. Maintained by Cory Swingen, a student at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN.

Extension Services

Minnesota Extension Service

http://www.mes.umn.edu Nice graphical layout lets you easily connect to information on gardening, horticulture and other MES topics. A searchable database includes the actual scripts from the Info-U telephone information service.

Illinois Cooperative Extension Service http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~robsond/ solutions/hort.html

A well organized collection of gardening information. Although Illinois is a warmer climate than our zone 4, most of the information is relevant to our area, too.

Garden Catalogues

W. Atlee Burpee Company http://garden.burpee.com/ Request your free catalogue from the Burpee home page, or order garden accessories directly from the site. Also has recipes for using garden produce and a database of gardening questions and answers.

Klehm Nursery

http://www.shout.net/~klehm/ homepage.html An actual catalogue online with photos of many of the perennials Klehm sells. Specializes in peonies, hosta, daylilies and woody perennials. You can browse through each category of plant material just like a paper catalogue.

Dutch Gardens

http://www.dutchgardens.nl/ Another catalogue, from the bulb grower Dutch Gardens in the Netherlands.

Plant Societies

American Rose Society

http://www.ars.org

A very thorough source of information about the ARS and roses. Includes many pictures of roses, but the pictures could be larger.

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Board Meeting Minutes

Mary Maynard, Secretary November 5, 1996

Present: Howard Berg, Bill Jepson, Maurice Lindblom, Mary Maynard, Henry Orfield, Bob Stepan, Bob Voigt, and Kay Wolfe. Not Present: Chuck Carlson.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Stepan at 7:39 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of October meeting approved on motion by Bob V., second by Kay.

Treasurer's Report: Monthly report was approved as presented on motion by Bob V., second by Henry. The Board decided to collect all various memorial donations into a single pool, rather than tracking them separately. Motion to approve by Mary, second by Maury.

Vice President's Report: Holiday Party in December, Master Gardener Panel, presentation of awards, induction of new board in January.

Old Business

Fragrance Garden: Committee members met after fall cleanup on October 26. There appears to be a general consensus that we should move our community garden. One possibility is a trial garden for the Perennial Plant Association. Mary Lehrman (Minneapolis Park Board) has designated a site near the Lake Harriet Rock Garden and Rose Garden. If Perennial Plant Association makes a decision, this could be a nice opportunity for us: a lot of traffic and visibility. It would also be the first PPA test garden in the nation.

Another alternative could be the gardens around the Longfellow House (renovated house near the Falls). Park Board has an extensive garden plan for this area, may not be ready to go until Fall of 1997.

Bill J. will check out the title to land at the Fragrance Garden.

Nominating Committee: Bob Voigt presented the proposed slate of candidates for 1997: Past President - Bob Stepan; President - Maury Lindblom; Vice President - Mary Maynard; Secretary - Walt Muehlegger; Treasurer - Howard Berg; Directors - Chuck Benson, Chuck Carlson, Bill Jepson, Kay Wolfe. The Board approved this slate on motion by Maury, second by Bob Voigt.

New Business

1997 Budget: Howard presented the proposed 1997 budget, which was approved on motion by Maury, second by Henry. (Budget is published on page 8 of this issue of the *Spray*.)

Meal Costs: Our caterer has requested an increase of \$.25 per meal and \$5.00 for serving help. Food prices and wages are going up and she wants to provide a quality product. Increase was approved on motion by Maury, second by Henry.

New Members: Membership applications from Bodo Richard Dumke and Myron G. Berg were approved on motion by Maury, seconded by Bob V.

2003 National Convention: Russ Smith delivered our request to host the MGCA/GOA National Convention in the year 2003. Duane Reynolds has graciously agreed to serve as Chair of the convention committee.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 on motion by Kay, second by Mary





by Chuck Carlson

This month I came up with two separate items related at least a little to the season; some background on Santa Claus and information on a plant we all use.

There is no doubt that Santa is extremely popular; not only with children but with grown-ups who remember their past brushes with the Claus. It's easy to say that the possibility of getting toys and other presents is the reason for his popularity, but that wasn't always so. Some might say he doesn't exist, but that's not so either. There was a person who was so known for his extreme generosity that he became a legend. This man was born in a town called Patara in 280 A.D. He

was devoted to God. His parents died when he was quite young and, from that time, he devoted his life to the service of God and the people in his community. He died in 314 A.D. after many good deeds. One story has it that he gave a bar of gold to a poor man with three unmarried daughters so they would have a dowry and could get married. He begged for the poor and provided many needed gifts to them. After his death he was sainted and became Saint Nicholas.

But our Santa Claus didn't really come into being until the Dutch started celebrating his birthday on December 5th. They left their shoes by the fireplace and awoke in the morning to find them filled with goodies. Some people think that Santa is not a good thing, but he can be a real positive if we remember "The reason for the Season".

Now for the second part. This doesn't have any thing to do with the season other than just about all of us use it for our holiday gatherings. I came across some facts on the subject matter and I would like to see if you could guess what it is without peeking. It belongs to the same plant family as parsley, caraway, anise, fennel and carrots. Ancient Greek winners of sporting events were awarded some of this. A wild variety is called smallage. The average yearly consumption of this in the US is 8 pounds per person. The crunch when eaten raw is caused by exploding air filled cells. It is claimed to be the only negative calorie food—since we expend more calories chewing it than we get from digesting it. It's a good source of fiber and some vitamins. Yes, it is Celery.

The word celery comes from the French word *celrie* meaning "quick acting". This refers to its supposed medicinal values. According to *The Herb Book* by John Lust, it has a number of uses, including as an appetizer, a diuretic, to treat dropsy and gout, and as a flatulence suppressant.

Celery can be grown in Minnesota but must be started inside 8 to 10 weeks before the last frost. It can be planted outside when the night temperatures are consistently above 40 degrees.

I remember when celery was always white and in my opinion, it tasted better. If you want to grow some of the white stalks, all you have to do is cover the stalks with cans or put boards on each side of a row. With only the leaves showing, the darkness will do the blanching. Why not try to grow some next year. You probably could get first place in the Flower, Food and Foto show.

I will leave you with this thought: you know your getting older when you feel your corns more than your oats.



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In memoriam: Vi Powell

MGCM member Vi Powell died quite suddenly on November 16. She was the wife of member Don Powell. A memorial service was held November 21 at Joyce United Methodist Church in Minneapolis which was attended by several MGCM members.

Violet was born March 5, 1917, in Palmers, MN, a railroad junction between Duluth and Two Harbors. She grew up and graduated from high school in Ely. She worked as a secretary for General Motors for 37 years before retiring in 1983.

She and Don had both been married and widowed before they met through their church about 15 years ago. They were married in April 1995.

Don said he and Vi had a wonderful marriage, sharing many of the same interests. She joined MGCM earlier this year and became an enthusiastic assistant to the chair of the Calendar sales committee—Don Powell. "She really enjoyed being in the garden club," Don said, "and especially loved the garden tours."

MGCM AWARDS

by Kay Wolfe, Director

At the annual MGCM Holiday party we will be giving out awards and trophies to honor club members. Last year, my first year serving on the Board as a Director, I asked fellow board members about the history of these awards, after whom were they named, what do the various awards represent? Not many current Board members knew the answers so we consulted Bill Hull, our Historian. What follows is his history.

This year at the Holiday party only three awards will be given. They are The Lehman Gardens Trophy, The President's Cup, and The Bronze Medal. The rest will be awarded at the January club meeting.

The Lehman Gardens Trophy

On this cup appear the words "The Lehman Gardens Trophy to be presented annually to a member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis for the best garden on the tour(s)". This award is given to the gardener with the best garden on our summer tour. Tour committee members pick the winner. The trophy contains a clock, still working, above which appears the club logo.

The trophy is named after Edgar C. "Dick" Lehman, a prominent growerhybridizer from Faribault known for his chrysanthemums. His daughter, Kak, is the wife of current MGCM member Roger Koopmans.

The trophy was first awarded in 1962 to Otto Nelson, and in recent years has been won by Bob Olson in 1990, Bob Stepan in 1991, Henry Orfield in 1992, Carolyn Hayward in 1993, Clyde Thompson in 1994, and currently is held by Eldon Hugelen.

The President's Cup

On the cup is engraved: "The President's Cup, Presented to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis in memory of Dr. Joseph T. Cohen, by his nieces and nephews". Joe Cohen, a dentist, had been a charter member of the club and was an esteemed member. The cup is awarded annually, starting in 1965, when it was first presented to T. C. "Tom" Krumm. The original intention of the cup was to

(continued on page 9)

MGCM Proposed Budget for 1997

INCOME	OC Budent	0	D 105
	<u>96 Budget</u>	<u>9 mo. Actual</u>	Proposed 97
Dues	\$4,500.00	\$441.00	\$5000.00
Meetings	5,000.00	4,730.00	5,430.00
Plant Auction	5,100.00	6,639.45	5,150.00
Club Tours	700.00		1,400.00
Biennial Garden Tour		8,845.00	
Tour Scholarship (from CD)	3,000.00		
Holiday Party	2,000.00	56.00	2,000.00
Calendars	3,330.00	1,238.00	3,300.00
Interest	500.00	19.23	250.00
Raffles	200.00	225.00	200.00
Miscellaneous Income			
Slide Shows	300.00	354.50	250.00
Flower, Food & Foto	300.00	247.00	300.00
Total Income	\$25,030.00	\$23,886.42	\$23,380.00
Expenses	96 Budget	<u>9 mo. actual</u>	Proposed 97
TGOA/MGCM dues	\$1,450.00	\$1,595.00	\$1,450.00
MSHS dues	1,450.00	76.00	1,670.00
Garden Spray	1,300.00	862.10	1,300.00
Meetings	5,000.00	4,448.04	5,250.00
Plant Auction	3,000.00	4,054.29	3,000.00
Tours	700.00	1,400.00	5,000.00
Biennial Garden Tour	700.00	2,435.37	
Flower, Food & Foto Show	850.00	788.32	700.00
Holiday Party	2,000.00	23.39	2,000.00
Directory	200.00	162.41	2,000.00
Sunshine	200.00	23.63	
Honoraria	100.00	100.00	200.00
Awards			200.00
	200.00	75.49	200.00
Fragrance Garden	850.00	113.85	750.00
Convention Delegates	400.00	400.00	400.00
Donations	400.00	400.00	400.00
Arboretum	400.00	400.00	400.00
MSHS	400.00	400.00	400.00
Calendars	1,800.00	1,577.40	1,800.00
Membership Campaign	100.00	91.06	100.00
Life Membership	150.00		150.00
Miscellaneous	200.00	121213 (212)	100.00
Basement Rent	400.00	301.25	450.00
Slide Show	100.00	50.25	160.00
Scholarships	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,00.00
Office Supplies	300.00	187.26	300.00
Service Charge	50.00	39.15	50.00
Honorary Members	80.00	103.00	80.00
Photography	100.00		70.00
Insurance		287.00	300.00
Arbor Day	250.00	250.00	300.00
Floyd Ashley Memorial		51.20	
Total	\$25,030.00	\$21,895.46	\$26,380.00
	Scholar	ship from CD	
Total Expenses			\$23,380.00

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Regional Director's report... MGCM to Host National in 2003

The Board of Directors of the Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America met in Santa Rose, CA, on November 1 and 2. The meetings were well attended. Finances appear to be sound for the budget for the coming year. The newly elected officers, elected at the



time of the annual convention, were sworn in at the Director's banquet.

> The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis was awarded the annual convention for the year 2003 as requested. The timing should allow adequate time to prepare. Duane Reynolds has agreed to chair the event. Thanks, Duane!

The other item, other than routine business, affecting MGCM was the question of the North Star Region. North Star does not meet the minimum requirement to be a region. It looks as if it will be merged with the Mid America region in 1998. My term as director expires in 1998 and I will be able to serve out my term.

Interestingly enough, the combined regions will have enough members to qualify for two regional directors. Thus MGCM will likely be able to continue to provide a director.

The remainder of the meeting was spent in wine tasting and tours. A good time was had by all.

Awards

(continued from page 7)

honor the non-officer who had rendered the greatest service to the President over the past year, but recently a number of officers have been awarded the cup The current cup holder is Treasurer Howard Berg.

The Bronze Medal

This medal is struck and authorized for the local club to use by The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America, Inc. The TGOA/MGCA office describes it as "the highest award for service authorized for a local club by the national organization". Although each club is permitted to offer two each year, our local club long ago opted to bestow only one annually.

It is awarded to the MGCM member who is most deserving of public recognition for his/her long term contributions to the club. The medal winner is selected by a committee consisting of the five previous medal recipients. The medal itself comes from the MGCA office at Johnson, Iowa.

Records show the first MGCM Bronze Medal was awarded to Harold Kaufmann in 1948. Recent medal recipients have been Russ Smith in 1990, Duane Reynolds in 1991, Phil Peterson in 1992, Andy Marlow in 1993, Mel Anderson in 1994 and Howard Berg in 1995.



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Thank Yous

Thanks!

I send my thanks to the club for the beautiful plant I received when I was in the hospital. Also thanks to all who sent greetings and get well cards. It helped to pass the time. Things are going much better now and I hope to see you all at the Holiday party.

Chuck Carlson

Thank you for supporting the Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS) through your recent contribution. Your support is an acknowledgment that the services and information from MSHS are important resources to you as a Northern Gardener.

Your donation will help to complete the purchase of the Society's headquarters building, the Center for Northern Gardening. Opened in 1993, the Center has met the goal of creating a place for MSHS members to identify as the Society's home; space for member services needs and staff offices now meets the organization's needs.

You are welcome to visit, to see where the new patio will be built, and perhaps attend a gardening class or use the library.

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society has not provided any goods or services in whole or partial consideration of the above contribution.

Your support is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dorothy B. Johnson

p. s. Your outstanding support helps MSHS in so may ways—and is very much appreciated.

(continued next column)

Please convey the thanks of the Arboretum staff to the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis for their generous contribution of \$400 to the Arboretum. We must raise \$2.7 million per year to keep the Arboretum and its programs going and those funds come from people like the Men's Garden Club. It is you who are committed to keeping this wonderful horticultural resource for the people of Minnesota, and it is you who will allow us to continue to be Minnesota's garden.

Thanks to all of the club members who worked to raise the funds to keep the Arboretum moving forward.

> Sincerely, Peter J. Olin Director

Greenhouse with a Capital "G"

by Bill Hull

If you are anywhere Rochester, go into town to visit the very interesting greenhouse at the Kahler Hotel, adjoining the main building of the Mayo Clinic.

I mention this specifically to you as a gardener, whether you already have a greenhouse of your own, or are considering one, or often at the end of a gardening day would like to go sit in the greenhouse and have a long cold draft.

Yes, this is a Greenhouse with a capital "G". It is a spa-like area complete with many potted green plants and some flowers. It features all the popcorn you

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November Meeting Report

(continued from page 4)

The Friends of Daylilies

http://www.primenet.com/~tjfehr/ daylily.html

Very comprehensive site. Includes information about joining the American Hemerocallis Society, of which The Friends of Daylilies is a subgroup.

General Gardening Sites Gardening.com

http://gardening.com From the folks at Books That Work (publishers). Includes many links, what's new in gardening magazines and a search machine to find plants that fit your needs. The links have all been visited and are fully, and candidly, reviewed.

Garden Net

http://trine.com/GardenNet/ Another interesting garden site with lots of links to other pages. Includes *The Ardent Gardener*, a weekly online magazine that offers "tips, pointers and reviews for the seriously nutty gardener."

Greenhouse

(continued from page 10)

can eat, lots of fine large hamburgers and truly good fries, some Mexican entrees, etc., etc.

The *piece de resistance* is that each booth has a beautiful table, the top of which has been covered with at least fifty front covers of Northrup King seed packets, both flowers and veggies, either embedded in plastic or covered with glass. They are very handsome and colorful, and a welcome salute to our fine local seed people.

It's not that this is something new. I was first aware of this unique spot about three years ago, but it's a refreshing change from the usual hotel food and drink atmosphere. And, believe me, after several days at that famous clinic it's a welcome respite.

Then, top it off with a night in a good hotel like the Kahler, if you can get in.

This could also be a fine weekend getaway, maybe as a treat for your mate!

Plenty of 1997 TGOA/MGCA calendars are still available. They make nice holiday gifts for friends or business associates. The price is still just \$4. Call Don Powell at 925-6208 to reserve your calendars today!

'97 Calendars still

available

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