February Dinner Meeting



Hostas: Why Are They So Expensive and Why Do Those Hosta Nuts Pay That Much For Them?

Speaker: Dr. Bob Olson, MGCM member and President of the American Hosta Society

Bob will also show a 45 minute film from the AHS.

Plus...

A Propagation Workshop

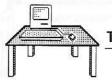
with MGCM member Dave Johnson

learn about taking cuttings from a mother plant and growing under lights.

Tuesday February 14, 1995 Lake Harriet United Methodist Church 4901 Chowen Avenue South 6:30 P.M.

The cost for this activity filled evening is just \$7.00 if you reserve dinner in advance. It costs \$8.00 without a reservation. The 1995 permanent reservation list is in effect for this meeting. If you don't find a reservation card with this copy of the *Spray*, you are on the permanent list. Please call Secretary Mary Maynard if you will not attend the January meeting. If you do have a reservation card with this issue, return it to Mary as soon as possible to reserve your place at dinner. You will have an additional opportunity to sign up for the 1995 permanent reservation list at the February meeting.





The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

It was inevitable but saddening to learn of the passing of Bob Savory. Among hosta growers, at least, he was one of the best known members of our club to people across the country. The 40 or so hostas he introduced are among the best around. A couple of summers ago I took a hosta census of my garden and looked up the growers in one of the catalogs. More than a third were introduced by Bob Savory. Maybe the number was influenced by the fact that I live near where Bob lived, but few were purchased from Savory Gardens and, none chosen just because they were locally grown. I chose them because they were beautiful plants and vigorous growers. In my personal life, those are Bob Savory's legacy.

You'll be learning a lot from Dr. Bob Olson this month. He's another nationally known hosta person as President of the American Hosta Society. Bob will be presenting the main part of our program at the February dinner meeting, plus he's written an engaging article about having his garden inspected for inclusion on an MGCM garden tour. It's on page 8.

Bob is also the editor of the Hosta Leaves, the newsletter of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society. If you have a chance to read a copy, I'm sure you'll enjoy it. It has a sense of humor and an "attitude" that I admire but don't quite know how to duplicate. I look forward to reading it once every quarter.

Finally, two of my favorite events of the winter are coming up in the next few weeks: the Winter Carnival Orchid Show and the Home and Garden Show. Details are in Coming Attractions to your right.

Coming Attractions

February 4 & 5 – 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Winter Carnival Orchid Show Orchid Society of Minnesota Como Park Conservatory

> February 7 – 7:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting Bob Voigt's House

February 14 – 6:30 p.m. MGCM Dinner Meeting Lake Harriet United Methodist Church 49th and Chowen Ave. So.

March 1 thru 5
Spring Home and Garden Show
Minneapolis Convention Center

March 7 – 7:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting Bob Stepan's House

March 21 – 6:00 p.m. Dayton's-Bachman's Flower Show Downtown Dayton's Nicollet Mall at Eighth

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





Cuttings

by Bob Voigt, President, MGCM

During the past several weeks we have received

17 tantalizing flower and vegetable catalogs that have produced more mixed feelings than ever before. This year's enticements are almost coffee table book quality. The photography draws me into the mesmerizing contents like sweet nectar attracts hummingbirds. The other side of the coin tells me that these beautiful products are the result of professional growers and marketers. I know I'm not in the same league.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel, however, that beckons me to try. Over the years I have gardened in many different directions. I guess I am as enamored of the process as of the product. The beautiful flowers and plants are a reward for a job well done. The effort put into planning and maintaining a garden does produce the same results for me.

This time of year affords all of us the opportunity to anticipate the future. While we have fond memories of past years' gardens, and forget how much time and effort they require, it's easy to be over committed for next summer.

In my first pass through the new catalogs, I circled favorites to try this year. Going back through the sources we usually order from still produced a list way beyond our time and capacity to plant and care for them. I'm sure you have experienced a similar frustration.

What to do? There's no easy answer! The past few years we have thrown caution to the winds and over indulged. We do have the space for more gardens. The things we plant seem to do exceedingly well. This past growing season we

harvested a variety of vegetables for almost a six month period. Our friendly flowers brought joy continually. We are trying to find a way to hold the line on no new borders within our garden area.

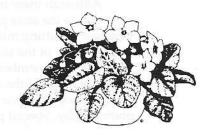
When asked what I specialize in, I generally answer "quantity". For the past 15 years my wife, Mavis, and I have focused on a 48 acre tree farm and emerging garden just south of Afton on the St. Croix River. The garden has a certain amount of maturity. We have continually opened new borders and added new challenges. It will never be a showplace in the truest sense, but it is our garden, and our commitment to growing things of beauty.

I hope you enjoy the catalogs as much as we do. And I hope your planning brings as much pleasure to you. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those catalog producers what help us emotionally to get through the winter. At least it's a time to rest up and regenerate for next summer.

Happy gardening!

New Member

Penney Petersen 319 Fifth Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55414 Home phone: 378-2900







Monthly Program Report

by Derrill M. Pankow

The weather outside may have been dreadful; but those MGCM members who drove through the chilling fog and freezing drizzle to attend the January 10 dinner meeting were treated to the riotous splendor of summer delights. Chuck Carlson presented the appreciative audience with one of five available slide presentations. This one featured winning photo entries from contests sponsored by The Gardeners of America and the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

The five slide presentations are currently being used throughout the community as a fundraising vehicle and as an advertisement of MGCM. Chuck indicated that the slide presentations were seen by twelve different community groups in 1995 and that three booking have been made so far for 1995.

The 140 slides are arranged in ten different categories: an assortment of past All America selections; major winners of 1992-94 photo contests sponsored by TGOA and MGCM; annuals; perennials; vegetables and fruit; bulbous flowers; scenes, gardens and mixed plantings; trees; wild flowers; miscellaneous plants; and, finally, roses.

Although there is no accompanying narration to the slide presentation, a variety of uplifting music enhances the visual beauty of the show.

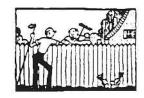
The nine members whose slides comprise much of the show deserve special recognition for their outstanding photography. Special plaudits go to Chuck Carlson, Eldon Hugelen, Bill Jepson, Henry Orfield, Russ Smith, Clyde Thompson, Mavis Voigt, Lloyd Wittstock and Kay Wolfe.

Since the magnificent slide presentation is an MGCM fund raiser and an excellent public relations vehicle, any member who knows a civic group which might wish to have the presentation shown at a gathering should contact Chuck Carlson for specific arrangements.

Correction

Elizabeth Johnson was awarded the Robert L. Smith Trophy at the MGCM Holiday Party for the best showing by a first time exhibitor in the 1994 Flower, Food and Foto Show. The wrong member was given credit for this accomplishment in the January issue of *The Garden Spray*.







Board Meeting Minutes

by Mary Maynard Secretary, MGCM

Tuesday, January 3, 1995 Present: Mel Anderson, Howard Berg, Chuck Carlson, Bill Jepson, Mary Maynard, Henry Orfield, Clyde Thompson, Bob Voigt, Kay Wolfe Not present: Bob Stepan Bob Voigt called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Past President's observations

Clyde noted that 1994 was a good year for the club, with progress in membership, and a high level of enthusiasm which will carry us into 1995. Clyde looks for continuing connections with other gardening organizations in the community—like the Arboretum, MSHS, other garden clubs, etc. 1994 was a great year to be president of the club, and he is looking forward to another good year in 1995.

President's message

Bob V. welcomed new members of the board: Howard Berg, Bill Jepson, Henry Orfield, Kay Wolfe.

Secretary's report

The minutes of the December board meeting were approved. Motion by Clyde, second by Kay.

Treasurer's report

The year-end treasurer's report was approved. Motion by Clyde, second by Chuck. Bob Voigt expressed appreciation for all of Mel's work as treasurer over the past four years. Mel will continue to work with Howard during a transition period.

Vice President's report

Bob V. presented the report for Bob S. January meeting — Stump the experts (as publicized in *Spray*). February — Bob Olson on Hostas (main part of program) plus Dave Johnson on some aspect of plant growing or propagation (10-15 minutes). March — Dayton's/Bachman's Flower show — date TBD. April — Poisonous plants by someone from Hennepin County Medical Center (tentative). May — plant auction.

Other business Honorary membership

Dwight Stone has declined the Honorary Member nomination, citing personal reasons. Honorary members cannot make up more than ten percent of the total MGCM membership according to the bylaws. Right now, we have only six honorary members, and we could have as many as eleven.

The bylaws also state that only one honorary member can be selected each year, and that honorary membership is voted on at the annual meeting of the membership in January. Since Dwight Stone has declined the nomination, current bylaws would not allow adding another honorary member until January of 1996.

The Board approved a motion by Mary, seconded by Bob V., that we propose amending Article 1, Section 2 of the bylaws to allow for nomination of more than one honorary member per year, and that nominations can be voted on at any regular members meeting (not just January meeting).

Bob and Mary will work on exact wording of proposed change. The proposal will be announced at the January meeting, published in February *Spray*, and voted on by members at the February meeting.

(continued on page 7)





Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

I have previously written articles which directly or indirectly alluded to plant names. Both the scientific and common names were used so I thought I would give you a quiz on some of the flowers and herbs we all use. See if you can match them.

- 1. SAINTPAULA, ionatha
- 2. OCIMUM
- 3. IMPATIENS, wallereana
- 4. ALCEA, rosea
- 5. LAURUS, nobils
- 6. IPOMOEA
- 7. ALSTROEMERIA
- 8. STREPTOCARPUS
- 9. DIGITALIS, purpurea
- 10. ESCHSCHOLZIA, californica
- 11. EUPHORIBA, pulcherrima
- 12. EUPHORIBA, marginata
- 13. LATHYRUS, odoratus
- 14. MIMULUS
- 15. PELARGONIUM
- 16. PHYSALIS, alkekengi
- 17. PULSATILLA, vulgaris
- 18. SYRINGA
- 19. PLATYCODON
- 20. SEMPERVIVUM
- 21. TAGETES
- 22. VINCA
- 23. TRADESCANTA, andersoniana
- 24 TROPAEOLUM, majus
- 25. DICENTRA
- a. Basil
- b. Cape Primrose
- c. Morning Glory
- d. Poppy
- e. Hollyhock

- f. African Violet
- g. Poinsettia
- h. Sweet Pea
- i. Peruvian Lily
- j. Monkey Flower
- k. Busy Lizzy or Snapweed
- l. Snow on the Mountain
- m. Foxglove
- n. Bay
- p. Pasque Flower
- q. Houseleek or Hen & Chicks
- r. periwinkel
- s Spiderwort
- t. Lilac
- u. Nasturtium
- v. Geranium
- w. Balloon Flower
- x. Chinese Lanteran, Bladder Cherry or Cape Gooseberry
- y. Marigold
- z. Bleeding Heart

The Tip

Here are a few clues.
ionatha—violet flowered
purpuraceus—purple
pulcherrimus—very handsome
marginatus—margined
odoratus—odorous, fragrant
nobilis—noble, famous
laurel wreath /poets laurel
californica—originated in California
tropaeolum—shield-like leaves
tropaeolin—orange dyes

Answers below.

Z97	n 1 2	235	22r	717
P02	M61	181	d_{ZI}	x91
VSI	141	481	ISL	311
POI	ш6	98	ĪΖ	59
ug	₽₽	3K	29	JΙ

Answers for quiz



Jottings

At the January MGCM meeting, members approved the 1995 budget as published in the December *Spray*. They also voted to continue starting monthly dinner meetings at 6:30 p.m.

Bill Hull presented just one Green Thumb award at the January meeting. The Green Thumb goes to members with perfect attendance for the previous calendar year. Chuck Carlson was the honoree. Russ Smith broke a string of 12 consecutive years of perfect attendance in 1994.



This month's meeting happens to fall on Valentine's Day. Even though there are no special Valentine's plans for the meeting, spouses and other guests are always welcome. Just list them on your reservation reply card or call Mary Maynard with the name if you are on the permanent reservation list.

Chuck Carlson, Chair of the Fragrance Garden Committee, announces that a Community/Fragrance Garden Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. before the February 14 dinner meeting. Handouts, sign-ups and questions are the topics. If you can't be there at 6:00 p.m., Chuck will also be available after the meeting.

Chuck also notes that Fred Glasoe's writing has made it to a national news service. Fred article on soilless potting mixes, originally published in the *Minnesota Horticulturist*, received a half page write-up by the Horticultural News Service's *Avant Gardener* 1995 issue.

Board Minutes

(continued from page 5)

Committee assignments

Almost all committee chairs have been set. The main exception is the chairmanship of the Calendar Committee, vacated by Howard Berg's election to the elite post of Treasurer.

Bob V. is working on designating a Committee Liaison from the Board for each committee whose chair is not a Board member. (Example: Kay Wolfe is Committee Liaison for the Membership/Publicity Committee, and Mary Maynard is Committee Liaison for the Holiday Party Committee.) This is new for this year.

Floyd Ashley Memorial

Money is still coming in from the disposal of Floyd's bequest. The final items will be auctioned off at the January meeting. Bob V., Clyde and Bob S. will make a recommendation on disposition of the money generated by the bequest. A couple possibilities are a brick in Floyd's name at the Center for Northern Gardening or a contribution to the Anderson Library at the Arboretum.

Food, Flower, Foto Show date

There has been some discussion on changing the timing of the Food, Flower and Foto Show — perhaps to allow for display of flowers that bloom earlier in the season. The Board decided to defer to the Food, Flower and Foto Committee on this issue.

New Members

Two new members were approved: wCarol Hull and Dave W. Johnson of Minneapolis.

Adjourn

On motion by Mary, seconded by Chuck, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

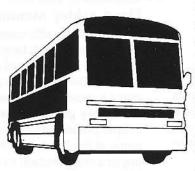


They're Coming to My Yard!

by Bob Olson

Most people who garden just enjoy growing the plants. Coming home at night, they get great satisfaction from walking around to see what has happened since they were there last and from "talking to the flowers." We are really pleased when something does well—particularly if it is something hard to grow.

One of the extra enjoyments comes



showing a friend this success and sharing the pride of accomplish-

ment with him or her. This, too, is very rewarding and satisfying, and is one of the reasons we join gardening clubs—to learn from each other and to share these small victories, and small failures.

But, have you ever had a formal garden tour come to your place? This is very different. You go through a series of emotions not unlike the "grieving process." Only in this case they are: disbelief, terror, enthusiasm, anxiety and finally elation (in some cases followed by an exhaustion-induced letdown).

Initially, of course, there is disbelief that you actually agreed to have a bus load of people come to see your garden, having succumbed to the dulcet tones and honey covered words of a tour committee chairman. Then, as reality sinks in, there is

the terror—thinking of all those accomplished gardeners actually coming to inspect your garden. Next, enthusiasm as you realize this is an opportunity to make long-neglected changes and complete half-done projects. Then, a little anxiety as you wonder how you will get it all done in time (more anxiety when the tour bus is late after you've moved heaven and earth and alienated a few family members to get it ready in time). And, briefly there is elation—as they come and praise your by now quite acceptable garden. Finally, a depression—when you realize you went through all this for a half-hour visit to your yard. But believe it or not, it's all worth it.

I'll never forget the first time my garden was on a garden tour. Was I näive! The Smith brothers from MGCM came by unannounced on a Sunday afternoon (I was a rookie member at the time). They looked around quickly and said offhandedly, "We're going to put you on next month's tour."

After a longer look around Robert Smith said, "I think it will be a only brief stop, but you better have some refreshments. They'll have plenty of time for them" (the Smith brothers were brutally frank).

Of course, I agreed to everything. They were so matter-of-fact about it and they made it seem a *fait accompli*. There didn't seem to be anything else one could do. As they were leaving I asked them, "Doesn't anyone ever turn you down?"

"Not likely," they replied. And then they were gone.

(continued on page 10)



Bob Savory Died January 21

MGCM Honorary Member and internationally known hosta breeder Bob Savory died of complications from lung disease on January 21 after a long illness. He was 77 years old. Bob is survived by wife Arlene Savory, son Dennis and daughter Polly Mae Suchy. Arlene and Dennis have been operating Savory's Gardens for about the last 10 years due to Bob's health problems.

Bob had been a member of MGCM since 1949. He had not been very active in Club affairs in recent years, but was very active in earlier years. Hostas donated by Savory to the annual MGCM plant sale and auction continued to be the focus of extremely

Savory founded Savory's Gardens in Edina shortly after he returned from service in World War II. He began on 10 acres of

competitive bidding.

what was then farm land on Whiting Avenue in Edina near the intersection of what are now highways 62 and 100. Initially he sold annuals and orchids. He had become interested in the latter during his Navy service as a pharmacist's mate in the South Pacific.

As air transportation of flowers lowered the cost of orchids and cut flowers, Bob shifted to hostas. His interest in hosta went back to his youth. At age 6 his mother gave him a small plant of h. 'Lancifolia' and showed him how to divide it into many more plants. He was hooked.

In the 1950's, he began to select and hybridize hostas, eventually registering

more than 40 named cultivars. Several of them are still among the most popular varieties grown. H. 'Golden Tiara", h. 'Lemon Lime', h. 'Black Hills', h. 'Edina Centennial', h. 'Golden Scepter' and others are found in hosta catalogs and hosta gardens across the nation.

This past summer, Bob was given the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award, presented to a member of AHS in recognition of "outstanding contributions

to the genus Hosta, or to the

Society, or both." The award recipient is then allowed to select a hosta to receive the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Hosta Award. Bob chose h. 'Golden Tiara'. 'Golden Tiara' is a medium size variegated sport selected and nurtured by Bob. Like all Savory introductions, it is a very

vigorous grower.

Bob was a charter member of the American Hosta Society in 1968 and served 20 years as an officer and director. He was also President of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society.

A memorial service celebrating Bob's life was held January 25 at Normandale Lutheran Church in Edina. About a dozen MGCM members, including President Bob Voigt, were in attendance.



My Yard

(continued from page 8)

Only later did I realize what I had agreed to. There was *no way* my place would be good enough for a garden tour stop. I would die of embarrassment. Maybe in a couple of years...but not now. Everything was so small, and there were all those weeds, and on and on....

Attempting to escape this box, the next day I phoned Russell Smith saying, "You know after looking it over, there are just too many weeds and with me working full time I don't see how I'm going to have time to get the place in shape."

"You may have to take some time off work." Click!—As he ended the phone



connection (the Smiths are quite succinct and wily adversaries).

In the end I arose

each day at the crack of dawn to pull weeds until I even got to the minuscule ones in the mosquito infested no-man's-land behind the neighbor's garage (I was certain they would poke around everywhere). I borrowed potted plants from the man across the street and bought a passel of large hothouse-grown (and premium priced) annuals from a landscaper—shamelessly plunked them into the ground as if I had grown them from seed. There was no depth to which I would not sink.

Finally the morning before they came I cracked, and in disgust cried out, "I don't care if they like it, despise it or spit into the wind—I'm not doing any-

thing more!" (I have since learned that this, too, is a common reaction as the day draws near).

Well, I was even more stressed out when they finally came (the busses always run late on garden tours and traditionally the garden host uses this time to shout at his spouse, small children and various and sundry animals and pets). But, when they arrived all was fine. People go on garden tours to have a good time. They've prepared themselves for it, they expect it—and you're going to have to go some to keep them from it. They move relentlessly around your yard until they find something to admire—then they will praise it in the most laudatory tones, because that's what they came for. In this case they wanted to find some beautiful plants to admire, and they were not disappointed.

Unfortunately, they admired the wonderful annuals (I smiled weakly and felt certain that they must suspect they were store-bought), the nicely edged lawn (my wife did that) and even the new (and very small) tissue culture hostas from Klehm's mail order nursery. At least I had personally selected and planted the tiny hostas. But when it was all over I was pleased, because they seemed so genuinely happy see my place. I was even more proud when Bob Smith said obliquely, "It's changed from when we saw it last [ten days ago]...we should have given you another ten minutes." (From the Smith Brothers indirect understatement is the highest form of praise).

After this rewarding (I guess) but harrowing experience, I conspired to join the infamous Smiths on the Garden Tour Selection Committee and help choose *other* people's gardens to be on tour (the Smith

(continued on page 11)

Proposed Bylaw Amendment NOTICE OF BYLAW CHANGE:

At the February MGCM meeting, members will be asked to voted on a change in the bylaws. At present the Club is allowed to select only one person per year as an honorary member, although up to ten percent of the membership can be honorary members. Also, nominees for honorary membership must be voted on by the membership at the MGCM Annual Meeting in January. The changes being proposed by the Board of Directors would allow more than one honorary member to be selected each year and would allow the membership to vote at any membership meeting. The following text would replace the wording of the current Article 1, Section 2, Paragraph 2 of the MGCM Bylaws:

The Board will consider all recommendations and, if they are deemed acceptable, the Board will present them at any meeting of the membership for ratification. If total honorary memberships reach ten percent of the total membership, no additional honorary memberships shall be presented to the Board.

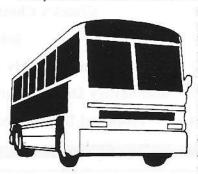


My Yard

(continued from page 8)

Brothers and I never chose our own—we were "far too modest and it wouldn't be seemly," as Russell used to say).

There are many lessons to be learned here. The first is there are a lot of cagey tour committee chairs around. Second, everyone seems to have had the dread/



elation reaction to having been included on a garden tour. And third, it almost always works out

to be a positive experience. The latter case is particularly true because it makes you "finish your garden".

But when the buses finally come everything is okay. The garden tourers stream out of the coaches (buses with bathrooms are called coaches I learned) looking so vibrant and happy that they just aren't threatening anymore. And so many are your friends who are so clearly eager to see your garden and are looking for good things to find. It will be one of the memorable days in your life—you'll never forget the experience.



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