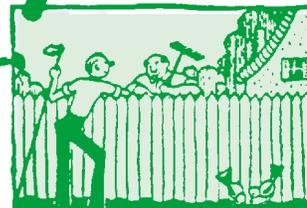




The Garden Spray



Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc

Affiliated with The Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

February 2002, Volume 60, Number 2

February 12 Dinner Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February, 12, 2001

Dinner: 6:30 PM; Business: 7:00 PM; Program: 7:30 PM.

Location: Lake Harriet United Methodist; 49th and Chowen Avenue South.

Cost: \$9.00 if reserved in advance, \$10.00 at the door if extra meals are available.

Reservations are necessary.

Call in your reservation if you are not on the permanent reservations list.

See page 11 for reservation and cancellation details.

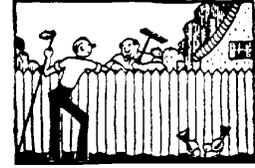
The Program for February 12

New and Fun Bedding Plant Introductions by Debbie Lonnee

For those of you who missed Ms. Lonnie's presentation last November now have a second chance for a great presentation. She was so well received when presenting New and Unusual Perennials she is getting a return engagement to show slides and discuss annuals. Debbie works for Bailey Nursery so should have some good insights into what is new. If you miss this presentation you may never have another chance. Not only that you will be able to decide on something new to grow in your garden this coming summer. In Debbie's words "The world of annuals is exploding with new introductions from around the world." So, Come one, Come all, to see those new & fun annual selections in the world of horticulture.

Future Club Events

March 19	Dinner & Program at church & Bus to Bachman Field's Flower Show	September 10	Dinner meeting & Joan Bethiaume on Mr. Wirth and the Park System
April 9	Dinner Meeting & Veronica Malone on Herbs	October 8	Dinner Meeting, Program is Roberta Sladky Director of Como Conseritory
April 10-13	National Convention at Tucson	October 12	60th Anniversary Luncheon at the Arboretum
May 7	Plant Sale & Auction	November 12	Dinner meeting & Susan Davis Price on Minnesota gardening history
June 11	Dinner Meeting & Dave Bedford on Apple Breeding	November 29	Wreath making at Klier's
July	Biennial Tour		
August 11	Members Garden Tour		
August 17-18	Food Flower & Foto Show		
	-----December 3----Holiday Party-----		



Editorial Enticements

By Mary Maynard

I have given up my editorial column to Mary for this month. I hope others will take her lead and express their opinions. Chuck Carlson, Editor

I'd like to take a few minutes to expound upon the rewards of writing for the Spray. There is, of course, the thrill of being associated with an award-winning publication like the Spray. And the intrinsic satisfaction you get when, every once in a while, a phrase turns out to be just perfect.

Oh, and that little thing about sharing knowledge and experience. But, I think the main thing that I like about writing articles for the Spray is that one can go on and on about some subject or the other without worrying about the social requirements of person-to-person discourse. In a two-way conversation, it's rude to dominate the interchange to the point that nobody else can get a word in. And, if we happen to be particularly boring on some topic, the number of people willing to listen to us tails off quickly.

However, when writing, you don't have to share the microphone, and you can drone on forever, counting on your editor to do some judicious pruning to make your article more readable. If you're lucky and come across an interesting topic, you can get the undivided attention of many members all the way to the end of your article. And, if you are even more boring than usual and people stop reading your article halfway through — you'll never know! It's not nearly so embarrassing to have readers stop part way through your article as it is to have people fall asleep while talking to you in person. Fortunately, Minnesota Gardeners are far too nice to tell you that they hated your article. They might go so far as to admit they hadn't read it — "yet", but they assure you that they're still planning a

reading session. It's best to not press them on this.

So, if you're a little reluctant to take the microphone in person, or if you find yourself getting drowned out by the extroverts around you, pick up a pencil (or a keyboard), and do some writing. You will get the undivided attention of some of the best gardeners around!

Plant from Afganastan

By Eldon Hugelen

If there can be anything positive about war, it does turn my thinking to a part of the world I don't know well.

In my plant searching, I noticed Singleseed Juniper / *Juniperus squamata* is native to Afghanistan, Himalayas and western China. Many of us are growing the beautiful Blue Star Juniper which is a cultivar of the species. It forms a dwarf blue evergreen cushion and slowly grows to 3 foot round. And it is readily available at local nurseries. This cultivar was found in Holland, in about 1950, as a witch's broom from another cultivar 'Meyeri Juniper'.

Other forms of the *Juniperus squamata* have been selected in Europe. These forms are mostly mutations of 'Meyeri Juniper'. Other cultivars to look for are; *J. squamata* 'Blue Carpet' a low spreading blue-gray-green foliage, 8-12" by 4-5' wide and Holger Juniper / *J. squamata* 'Holger' a wide spreading juniper with bright creamy-yellow new foliage contrasting with older blue foliage, 2-3' by 3-4' wide.

The recent television pictures of Afghanistan don't bring to mind beautiful natural landscapes, but I'm sure there are. We know that they farm and work the land for their food for more years than I can put into an historical perspective. There may even be a Men's Garden Club there (the title may be outdated with the Taliban).



President's Column

MGCM President Warren Nordley

The date is October 12th and you'll want to be there. That's the date when we'll have our official recognition of our 60th anniversary with a luncheon at the Arboretum and it promises to be a fun-filled gala affair. You'll hear more details down the road but we're not about to divulge all the surprises ahead of time.

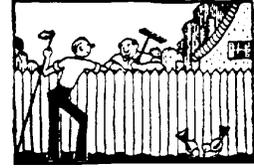
We're delighted to have received two volunteers to co-chair the July Biennial Tour. Andy Marlow and Howard Berg have stepped up to the plate and we would be hard-pressed to find two people more capable. This event is just a wonderful opportunity to gain exposure and to solicit new members and we intend to take full advantage of it. Now the only chairperson vacancy left to fill is that of the members tour in August. Although that position is important, the scope of responsibility is certainly less than that of the Biennial Tour. I'm confident we'll find the right person who wants to contribute.

A bit of nostalgia is most fitting for our anniversary and serves as a reminder of the rich heritage this club enjoys. Dave Johnson (Golden Valley) did a great job of telling what the world and the club was like in 1971. Fun and interesting to hear. Thanks for the memories, Dave. We also hope to hear other past presidents in the future

Now that Kay Wolfe, Bob Kean, Howard Berg and Bob Redman are TV stars (Channel 4, Dec. 22, the 6 PM news featuring the Perennial Garden), maybe we can get them to donate their autographs as a club fund-raiser.

Members, members, members - let's find them. The next club member to bring in a new member is going to get a standing ovation. They will because they deserve it - they're contributing to the strength of the club.

If you missed the January speaker, in my



opinion you missed a terrific presentation by Gary Anderson from the University. And if you enjoyed Debbie Lonnee from Bailey's in November (judging from all the very favorable comments - you did), then you'll want to catch her again in February when she presents new and unusual annuals. See you there.

Perennial Garden News

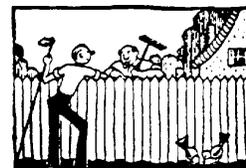
By Kay Wolfe

In a letter to the Park Board sent in September 2001, MGCM had requested that the garden be reduced in size, that the Park Board take full responsibility for watering the garden, and that herbicides be applied on a consistent schedule. On November 8 Mary Maguire Lerman of the Park Board met with Perennial Trial Garden committee members; Robert Kean, M.T. Pulley, Bob Redmond, Rodger Sefelt, and Kay Wolfe. Mary apologized for the Park Board's not watering the garden this past summer. The group decided to cut down the size of the garden. The Park Board will water and apply herbicides. Plant labels and signs for the garden will be installed. A new Park's foreman is being hired in January, and will oversee this project.

On November 22, MGCM members Nancy Bjerke, M.T. Pulley, and Kay Wolfe met with Mary Lerman and with Neil Anderson, Professor of Floriculture from the University of Minnesota. Neil wants to add 20-25 new species/cultivars every year to each Trial Garden. New sights in Zone 3, at gardens of master gardeners in Lutsen and Grand Marais will be added to the project. Neil has had numerous requests from nurseries and other sources to trial plants in the gardens. MGCM was also asked to record data for the perennial trial. The committee thinks this job should qualify for Master Gardener credit (not checked out). Any club members who are interested, please contact Kay Wolfe.

See also page 7 for more perennial garden news.

Love Those Trees



Last Month

By Chuck Carlson

Buying & Planting Trees

Our program in January was given by Gary Johnson, Associate Professor of Urban & Community Forestry at the University of Minnesota. In 1992, when he came to Minnesota, one of his cohorts told him you can throw a stone and probably hit a "Johnson" but if you miss you will hit a Green Ash. By the way the Green Ash is the most common tree planted in Minnesota followed by the Red Maple and The Sugar Maple.

The program he presented, was titled *Anyone Can Plant a Tree*. He started showing slides of dead trees, blown over trees, trees with dead branches, trees with pale green leaves, and trees with malformed canopies. This was to bring across the point that ANY-ONE can plant a tree but most are planted incorrectly.

Gary has been in the tree business for 25 years as a professional. He always liked trees and even at 13 years of age he started his own tree farm in his mother's vegetable garden. He said the best part was that they all grew and the worst part was that they all grew, because eventually they took over the vegetable garden. After a while most had to be removed but even today there is one large Cottonwood still presenting the neighborhood with a cotton storm every spring.

Tree planting has not been based on research but rather by practice. In the past or even today the practice is usually not correct. In a research project in Northfield where many trees were dead or dying, they proved (as I remember) that 75 percent were planted incorrectly by setting them too deep. The roots should be very close to ground level. A major problem occurs when the tree is planted too deep. What occurs is that the roots encircle the stem and eventually restricts the flow of nutrients to the upper part of the tree. This gradually stresses the tree and finally the tree

will succumb. Another thing that happens, when the roots girdle and constrict the stem, is to cause a narrowing of the stem and resulting in a weak area which can break in high winds. One should also note that the failures occur 12 to 20 years after planting.

Further investigations found that many balled and burlaped (B&B) or potted trees, that are sold, have their roots anywhere from 4 to 10 inches below the top of the soil. Thus if you were to use the practice of planting these trees at the same level as they were growing in the nursery, you will be planting them too deep.

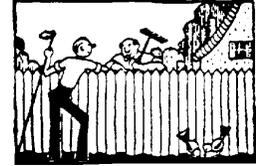
Here is what I remember from Gary's suggestions that a person could do when buying a tree to assure success.

- Test each B&B or potted tree for root position. This can be done with a wire probe. If the roots are covered with 4 inches or more of soil, don't buy it.
- For potted trees, pull the tree out of the pot (with seller's permission) to view the roots. If they show evidence of major encirclement, don't buy. If it is just starting to show encirclement, one can cut the root ball from top to bottom in three places.
- Buy bare root plants. This will allow you to see what you are getting. It is believed that after 3 to 5 years they will catch up with B&B's and potted ones.
- If you get a B&B or a potted tree that the roots are too deep (1 to 4 inches), plant the tree at a level so the roots are near ground level and then remove the dirt from around the stem.

Other things Gary suggested one can do when planting a tree to assure success are as follows:

- Size the hole width depending on the soil type. In very loose soil just a bit wider than the root structure is suggested but to five times the diameter in very hard clay.
- Cut and remove all twine or wires used on B&B trees.

(Continue on page 9)



Board Meeting Summary



Ellyn Hosch Secretary

Meeting Date: 2 January 2002

All board members present except that Howard Berg represented Dave Johnson.

President's Report

Warren gave a brief State of the Club address and focused on the primary objective of the club this year is to grow membership. There are a number of opportunities this year to recruit and retain members, including the 60th Anniversary events & the web page. Board members were encouraged to talk to all members and get their input on what we can do to enhance the club experience for all members. A number of suggestions were made which will be further discussed.

Vice President's Report

Nancy Bjerke reviewed the speakers she has confirmed for this year.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

The reports were given and approved.

Membership Secretary's Report

As of January 2, 2002, 113 members have paid dues. This compares to 129 members last year.

Other Committee Reports

Lynda Carlson gave the 60th Anniversary Committee report. A luncheon at the Arboretum has been scheduled for October 12th, and many other ideas are in the works. The logo for the 60th Anniversary is in the January Spray. Starting with the January meeting, past presidents will be asked to speak briefly about club highlights from their time as president.

New Business

The budget approval by the club mem-

bership will be voted on at the January meeting.

Carole Ann Brekke volunteered to take dinner reservations for 2002.

At the January meeting, we will ask for volunteers for table set-up the day of our monthly meetings.

At a future Board meeting, the current memorial guidelines will be reviewed.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on February 5th at the home of Lynda Carlson.

MGCM's Master Gardeners

By Lynda Carlson

On Sunday, January 13, 2002, the Hennepin County Master Gardener program held its annual awards and recognition luncheon at International Market Square in Minneapolis.

Some of our club's own Master Gardeners received special recognition. Certificates were awarded to Nancy Bjerke for 200 volunteer hours, Lee Gilligan as Master Gardener Emeritus, Duane Reynolds for his 4 years as chair and president of the Advisory Committee and Lynda Carlson for 25 hours of service at garden center plant information clinics. Additionally, Nancy Bjerke received the Golden Apple award for over 200 hours of youth outreach activities.

MGCM was also well-represented on the Hennepin County Master Gardener service roster. Archie Caple and Stan Crist both have served 25 years; Russ Smith, 16 years; Duane Reynolds, 14 years; Mel Anderson and Duane Johnson, 13 years; Lee Gilligan, 12 years; Marilyn Brummer, 10 years; Nancy Bjerke, Lynda Carlson and Aija Vijums, 4 years and Bob Stepan, 3 years.



Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

Well, they're piling up. The seed and plant catalogs give us something to do during those long, dark winter evenings in January and February. Last year, I had a great time with three of my favorite plant catalogs: Plant Delights (fabulous and funny catalog, excellent specimens); Singing Springs Nursery (very nice catalog, more tender plants, annuals and good-sized plants), both in North Carolina and Avant Gardens (extensive catalog of unusual annuals and perennials, nice prices, smaller plants) in Massachusetts. All three of these nurseries seem to provide good value for the money, and I have never had any problems dealing with them.

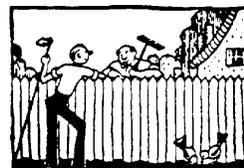
Here are some of the plants I tried last year. My checkbook is still recovering, but it was worth it overall.

Out of all of these things I tried, here are the ones that are definite keepers that I can recommend with enthusiasm:

- Canna 'Cleopatra' (especially if the price comes down)
- *Talinum paniculatum* 'Variegata' (variegated Jewels of Opar)
- *Abutilon pictum* 'Gold Dust' (recommended with reservations)
- *Centaurea gymnocarpa* 'Colchester White'
- *Centranthum camporum* (Mexican bachelors button).
- *Coleus* 'Watercolor'
- *Salvia patens* 'Guanajuato'

.Other plants I tried that are in the questionable category are:

- *Tanacetum vulgare* 'Isla Gold'
- *Veronica prostrata* 'Buttercup'
- *Duranta erecta* 'Gold Edge'
- *Sedum* 'Purple Emperor'



- *Callirhoe mdigitata*
- *Justaica carnea*
- *Salvia guarantica* 'Black & Blue'
- *Thymus* 'Archers Gold'.

Then there are those plants that are in the won't try again category.

- *Breyniasticha* 'Rosea Picta'
- *Salvia involucrata* 'Bethellii'

The following are details on the recommended plants.

From Plant Delights:

Canna 'Cleopatra'. (Picture at end of article) This was fabulous in my garden last year. And the plant from Plant Delights was HUGE! (Which is a good thing, because I think I paid \$20 or \$25 for it — don't tell Phil!) It's an average-height canna, green leaves with big blocks of purple. (See photo.) Stunning. Worth digging and storing the tuber. If I have good tuber survival, I MIGHT have one or two at the sale this spring. If I can part with them.

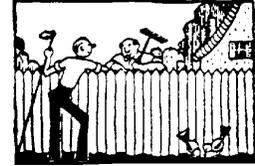
From Singing Springs Nursery:

Talinum paniculatum 'Variegata' (variegated Jewels of Opar). Annual. David McKeen brought seedlings of the regular Jewels of Opar to the auction last year, and I LOVED them! An old-fashioned plant that has stood the test of time, and I can't wait to get more this year. This plant was a variegated form, which had the same tiny flowers and "jewel" seedheads, but the leaves were slightly more fleshy and had a white margin. It was an attention-getter in the garden. The only thing that disappointed me was that the edges of the leaves burned out a little bit, and they didn't show as well at FFF as I'd have liked them to. I'm hoping these will still be in Singing Springs' catalog this year, because I want these again for sure!

From Avant Gardens:

Abutilon pictum 'Gold Dust'. This "parlormaple" has nice green leaves mottled with gold spots. Pretty salmon-colored flowers are almost an afterthought. The specimen from Avant Gardens was not big,

(Continued on page 9)



Club News

Plants for the Sale

Start thinking about what plants you would like to have at the plant sale and auction. Then, tell Doug Whitney, chair of the Plant Auction Committee

Directory Changes

Inside Front Cover---

The date for Wreaths at Kliers should be November 29.

Page 6 Plant Auction Committee---

The following people should be removed; Barbara Berosik, Duane Broderson, Chuck Cutter, Wayne Engleman and George McCollough since they are no longer members.

Page 13

E. Hamilton's email ending should be .com not .net

Page 15

Add a fax number to Jack Kobe's data. List it as, Fax # 651-454-5218

Sunshine Committee

We send "thinking about you" greetings to Lee Gilligan, Harold Gulde, Bob Churilla, Ted Olson and Jack Kobe. Also our good wishes are sent to those we don't know about. Everybody should keep Phil Peterson informed about health conditions of yourself or other members. We would like to inform our members, help where possible and offer some prayers for recovery.

Perennial Garden Update

By Kay Wolfe

In December wood chips were spread on the back area of the garden by the Park board and teenage worker groups. Herbicides were also applied. On December 22, the Perennial Garden committee members worked at the

garden cutting down the dead perennials. Mary Lerman thought this was such an unusual seasonal event, that she made an announcement to the press titled "Gardeners Who Won't give Up." A WCCO television cameraman stopped by, and pictures were taken of Howard Berg, Chuck Carlson, Bob Redmond, Maurie Lindblom, Robert Kean, and Kay Wolfe for the 6 PM news. A spot on the news was realized. Now that working in the garden brings such publicity, we expect all MGCM members will be clamoring to help our committee this year! The committee will be meeting through the winter months to make plans for the spring planting season.

Anyone wanting to recommend perennials to be tried in the gardens, contact Kay Wolfe. We need 20 plants and a source where they can be obtained.

Editors note: They took pictures of all of us but only those that were photogenic made the TV spot. Kay also had a speaking part and made sure she mentioned the Men's Garden Club.

Tour Committee Chairs

We now have co-chairs for the Biennial tours, Howard Berg & Andy Marlow.

But-----

A chair for the August members tour is still needed. Please volunteer and tell Warren Nordley. He will be most appreciative.

Also-----

The Biennial tour committee states they will be needing 8-10 gardens for the tour. Please start thinking about having yours featured. They hope to have emphasis on 60 years of MGCM history portrayed either in the gardens or in the advertising.

Food Flower & Foto

The committee has selected the National Flower and Vegetable for the next show in August. It is the petunia and the pepper. To be eligible for the special awards, they must be displayed as a cut flower and/or a fruit of the vegetable as directed by the show's schedule. No potted plants will be judged for this award but will be in other categories.



Delphiniums

By Phil Smith

Some Thoughts on Delphiniums

These striking and showy perennials, often referred to as "Queen of the Border," have been a favorite of mine since I was a boy gardener in Indiana. I really got interested in them when joining the MGCM at age 23 and meeting P.W. Young who urged me to join The Delphinium Society headquartered in England.

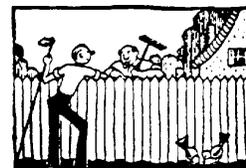
I served for several years as a U.S. Vice-President of the Society, until I retired from my law practice and no longer had a secretary. Upon retirement, I moved to Montana for the summer and Florida for the winter, and "delphs" do not do very well at either location. I grow several in Montana but not too well, and will try them in Florida as annuals.

When living in Minnesota, I grew a few hundred each year from seed and shared with other members of the club. My experience is that the seeds germinate well if a few rules are followed. Use a sterile seeding medium, such as soil, sand and fine peat moss sterilized in the oven, covered with about 1/4 inch of milled sphagnum moss, which is also used to cover the seed about 1/4 inch. After sowing, cover the flat or pot with a sheet of glass or plastic (to keep moist) and several layers of newspaper to keep totally dark. Place in a cool place (60-65 degrees is best) and look for germination in about 10 days. As soon as the seedlings begin to appear, place in the greenhouse or under lights. Prick out to pots when the first true leaves appear. Seed sown around February first in Minnesota will produce a



Delphinium at Clemens Garden

Photo by Chuck



single spike of bloom around the first of August, giving you a look at the colors and form. I prefer to select the shorter ones since they are not so difficult to stake. A good true blue is nice to have but rather rare since the florets are often tinted with shades of purple.

A few cultural tips are important. Plant them about 3 feet apart in a well prepared soil (double digging is good). They have deep roots and are heavy feeders. After this first year, thin the shoots to only three. Older plants may carry five stems nicely but one must be ruthless in thinning. Do so when the stems emerge 2-3 inches by cutting the smaller ones - do not pull.

Staking is important. You may use strong bamboo stakes placed in a triangle around each plant and tie raffia or twine around the stakes about every foot as the plants grow. Some growers use 3/8 steel rebar rod for stakes. Do not tie the stems to the stakes since you want them to move with the wind inside the "basket" formed by the

stakes and twine.

After the main flower stalk has faded, cut just below the bottom florets and then enjoy the lateral shoots which also are nice for arrangements. After flowering cut the stalks high (just below the flowered laterals) and leave them until fall cleanup. If you cut the stems low, it will tend to encourage a second flowering in the autumn and the plant will not be hardened off and likely will not survive the winter. You may use a little cover for the winter, but I found that the stalks cut about 6 inches above the ground will catch some leaves from surrounding trees and provide enough cover.

In England, delphs are sold as named varieties produced from cuttings, which is nice since plants grown from seed generally

(Continued on page 11)



Last Month Continued

(Continued from page 4)

- If baskets are used on B&B's, remove as much of it as possible after putting the tree in the hole. This also goes for the burlap. It may or may not be treated for rot protection but, in either case, remove as much as possible.
- Don't stake trees with wire, string or rope around the limbs or stem. Use a leather or cloth sling and remove at the start of the next growing season.
- Water 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water for each inch of stem diameter per watering.
- Mulch around the tree but don't make it too thick and don't let it touch the stem.
- Paint or tree wrap does little to help bark splitting. It has been found that 1/4 inch hardware cloth helps for rabbits and mice and surprisingly reduces trunk splitting.
- Don't neglect the trees in late summer or early fall so they will go into winter healthy. This is because spring is the most stressful season for trees.

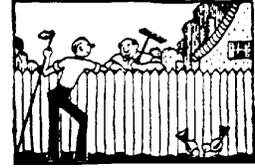
All in all a most informing, enjoyable and well presented program. If you were not there, you missed a good program.

Confessions Continued

(Continued from page 6)

but it grew well in a container. It is now in the basement waiting for summer. Does anyone know how to propagate these? This was the first time I'd tried Abutilons, and I got a winner.

Centaurea gymnocarpa 'Colchester White'. Annual. This was spectacular in my garden. It's like a Dusty Miller on steroids. One small plant grew to 2x2 feet clump of near-white foliage, which stayed vigorous and growing until it snowed. I took some cuttings, which have been extremely slow to get established, but this is a winner, as far as I'm concerned. I will definitely have this in the garden next year, one way or another!



Centranthum camporum (Mexican bachelors button). (Picture below) Annual. This is another winner. This thing grew about two feet across, and bloomed its head off with purplish thistle-like flowers all summer. I'd never heard of this before, but it's a definite keeper, unless we learn that it seeds invasively. I saved some seed and will try to get it to germinate. But, I'll have this in the garden one way or the other!

Coleus 'Watercolor'. (Picture Below) I tried a bunch of coleus last year, and I think this is my favorite of all of them. Vigorous grower with an impressionistic blush of pink and gold. Hoping my propagation efforts over the winter allow me to bring some to the sale but I'm definitely keeping a lot of them for myself.

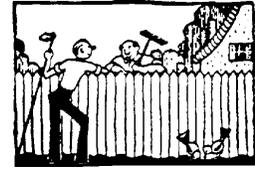
Salvia patens 'Guanajuato'. Annual in Zone 4. This gentian sage was one of the stars in my garden last year. It grew to about 3 feet tall, with a lot of open, airy branches, and produced huge (for a salvia -- about 1 inch long) claw-shaped flowers of clear blue. I read somewhere that the tubers can be dug and stored like dahlias, but I have my doubts, since the whole thing dried up overnight when I dug it. I also saved some seed and will try to start it. One way or the other, I'm going to have this plant! I highly recommend it.

Avant Gardens	Plant Delights Nursery
710 High Hill Road	9241 Sauls Road
Dartmouth, MA 02747	Raleigh, NC 27603
www.avantgardensne.com	www.plantdel.com

Singing Springs Nursery
 8802 Wilkerson Road
 Cedar Grove, NC 27231
nightair@mindspring.com



Coleus 'Watercolor' Centranthum camporum Canna 'Cleopatra'



60th Anniversary Musings

By Howard Berg-Historian
(Clips from past newsletters)

60 YEARS AGO -- FEBRUARY, 1942

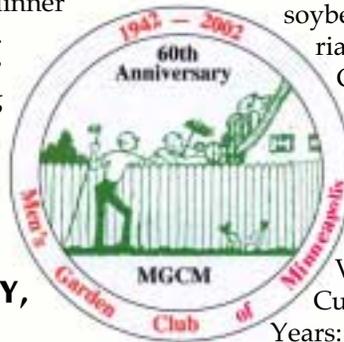
There was no newsletter information or history from February 1942.

50 YEARS AGO -- FEBRUARY, 1952

February 12, 1952, the dinner meeting was at the Hasty Tasty. The speaker was Mr. T. H. Wier of the University Fruit Breeding Farm and the subject was "The Vest Pocket Orchard".--- Mr. Ed. Culbert was chairman of the program Committee.-- Four new members were welcomed

25 YEARS AGO-FEBRUARY, 1977

The, February 8, 1977, meeting was at Mount Olivet Church at 5:45 PM and at a cost of \$3.00. The program, *Gloxinia and the Gesneriaceae*, was given by Mel Sather of the St. Paul Men's Garden Club. -- The last meeting seventy one loyal club members came out in the worst miserable subzero weather that Minnesota has put out since 1912. Dr. Leon Snyder was speaking on the arboretum tour to Japan and the Far East. Three other club members were along to see Tokyo, Hong Kong Bangkok. -- Pine in a pot is an Oriental art of Bonsai Culture (growing miniature trees in pots is becoming very popular in this country. -- Questions and Comments. Should you save your own seed for use next year? NO, as they would produce inferior plants since some have crossed with other plants. If you save seeds or buy extra, store them in a tightly closed jar in the refrigerator is a good storage practice.-If you have ice and snow on your shrubs and trees, do not break or clean it



off since branches will break.- Stan Crist grew a variety of broccoli, "Premier". It produced a beautiful large central stalk. This plant withstood heat that other plant in the Cole family will not tolerate.

15 YEARS AGO -- FEBRUARY, 1987

The February 10, 1987 meeting was at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church. Dinner was at 6 P.M. at a price of \$6.00. Our February speaker was listed in Guinness Book of World Records as growing the largest indoor plant. He is Dan Carlson, a plant breeder, at the University of Minnesota. He set records for high yields of Inca grain and soybeans --Nate Siegel gathered material for a history of the Fragrance Garden. The garden won an award from the City of Minneapolis for helping to make the city a more beautiful place. -- Bill Hull presented Green Thumb Awards for perfect attendance. For One Year: Vinton Bouslough, Bob Churilla, Ed Culbert, and Ted Olson. For Two Years: Charlie Proctor, and Russ Smith.

For Three Years: Andy Marlow, Duane Reynolds, and Dr. Bob Olson. He then led them in the customary pledge:

I pledge my life to the spade
As long as I can spade in the shade
With a mind that is clean
And a thumb that is green
Yes, that's the life that I crave.

10 YEARS AGO -- FEBRUARY, 1992

The February dinner meeting was held on February 11, 1992, at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church. Program was on "Selection, Culture, Care, Harvesting and Showing Vegetables" by Kent Petterson and Mel Anderson. -- This was the year of the "Super Bowl Game" here in Minneapolis.-- The club decided to match MGCM member contributions to the fund drive for the Minnesota State Horticultural Society's new home. A limit of \$5,000.00 was established. The plans are to have this by their 125th Anniversary.

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60th Musings Continued

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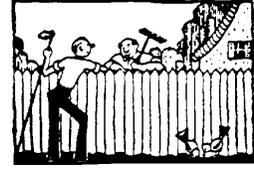
5 YEARS AGO -- FEBRUARY, 1997

The February 11 1997 dinner meeting was at 6:30 P.M., at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church at a Cost \$7.00. The program by our own Dr. Robert Olson, president of the American Hosta Society, was on his Hosta Hunting Trip to Japan. His trip took him in to the wilds of the mountains of Central Honshu and remote Islands of Japanese Inland Sea. It was to find "GIBOSHI" the name of Hosta in Japan. (He did find some to bring back.) --In Maury Lindbloom's column he writes, "It has been said, that variety is the spice of life, but does your garden need more "spice." Some times we gain inspiration when we see something that attracts our attention in another garden." He did and tried English daisies that was seen at Dayton's- Bachman's Flower Show and they did quite well. Next year he would like to start some Leopard's Bane, which he saw blooming in Norway. -- Charlie Proctor, the fourth oldest member moves to Indiana. Larry Corbett (1946), Lloyd Bachman (1950), and Bill Hull (1952), have been members longer than Charlie who joined in 1956. -- Clyde Thompson, our past MGCM president, was quoted in the spring 1997 issue of "Garden Ideas and Outdoor Living magazine. His article entitled "Still Growing After All These Years, which chronicled the history of garden clubs.

Dinner Meeting Reservation Policy

Call Carole Ann Brekke to make your reservation or to adjust the permanent list. Check your mailing label. If it has a "p" or "pp" (one or two reservations) you are on the permanent list. If there is no "p" on your mailing label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must notify Carole Ann by the Friday before the dinner meeting to be assured a place at dinner. For you people getting the newsletter via email, check the message on the email to determine if you are on the permanent list.

If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Carole Ann by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the cost of your dinner. Carole Ann can be reached at 952-435-6029. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her via the phone or send her an email at [numsix24@usfamily.net] If you have reserved a dinner and on Monday or Tuesday you have an emergency where you find you can't attend, call Treasurer Dave Johnson. If the reservation can be sold to late-comers or drop-ins, you will not be billed.



Delphiniums Continued

(Continued from page 8)

vary from the parents. Taking cuttings is tricky but can be done. The problem is that the cuttings need a cool partially shady place to root, and in Minnesota the spring is usually short and hot weather arrives early. I found that cuttings could be rooted in water in glass jars placed in a sunny window. I took the cuttings when about 4 inches high and the cut must be made where the shoot joins the crown. The Delphinium Society has some excellent booklets on making cuttings and other aspects of delphinium culture. The Society is also the best source for seeds, since most of the plants and seed available in the U. S. are not worth the effort.

To join The Delphinium Society or for information, write to Mrs. Shirley Bassett, "Summerfield" - Church Road; Biddestone, Chippenham; Wiltshire, England SN14 7DP; UK. One needs to send fees by check payable only in British pounds. I find it easier to obtain currency in British pounds from a U.S. bank or travel agency and simply send airmail. I have never had any problem in doing so and this avoids the bank fees for obtaining a check or draft in pounds.

Directories have been sent. If you were missed, copies will be available at the next dinner meeting or call Chuck Carlson.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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