

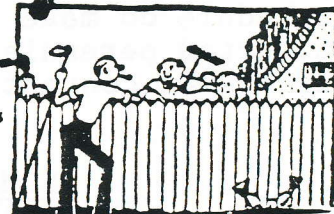


The Garden Spray

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

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

June 1987, Volume 45, Number 6



NEXT MGCM MEETING

TUESDAY EVENING JUNE 9th, 1987

LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHOWEN AVENUE SOUTH at 49th STREET

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

PROGRAM: HOW TO PREPARE PLANTS FOR SHOW
GET YOUR RESERVATIONS TO RICK BONLENDER AT ONCE

THE APRIL MEETING REVIEWED

We had a geography lesson on April 14. Shirley Mah Kooyman is a little woman with a big voice which carries well. She also is agile. She kept running back and forth from projector to screen to point out locations on the big map of Alaska. The foot high stage and semi-darkness were no deterrents.

Ms. Kooyman's objective on the trip described was to study Alaskan wild plants. This meant renting a car (\$300 per week) at Anchorage, driving to a likely spot, then backpacking "into the back country". At Mt. McKinley all campsites were taken so she "camped in the dirt. It was nippy".

The Alaskan scenery was much like that of our North Shore. The rocks looked very sharp--ideal for puncturing packs. We saw the Alaskan pipe-line snaking along, glaciers, a finger-like lake in clouds, a trapper's log cabin with sod roof, moist tundra and dry tundra. And despite Kooyman's disclaimer of interest in wild life there were pictures of caribou and Dall's sheep. In answer to questions: "If you are a fisherman Alaska is the place"...."Mosquitoes? Aagh!!"

The major part of the program was devoted to wild plants. Shown and described were crowberry, lingonberry, pine blueberry, Labrador tea, monkshood, two varieties of fireweed, Iceland poppy in several colors, Alpine harebell, pyrola in seed, Indian paintbrush, lupin, white burnet, windflower and liverwort.

MGCM'S COMMUNITY FRAGRANCE GARDEN
at 19th Street and Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis

By the time you get this issue of the GARDEN SPRAY our Fragrance Garden will be planted and waiting for your green thumbs and tender loving care. HELP IT GROW! We want our garden in tip top shape to show off our new perennials contributed by Nate Siegel. If you are not on the maintenance schedule do make a trip to see Nate's fine contribution--30 clematis plus assorted perennials. Nate you are really helping us get ready for the 1988 MGCA convention. Thanks so much.

--Duane Johnson (824-0295) Committee Chairman

SUMMER MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE - COMMUNITY GARDEN
(Find your name below. Put the date on your calendar.)

| | | | | | |
|-------|----|---|-------|----|----------------------------------|
| May | 31 | - | June | 6 | Russ Smith & Stan Crist |
| June | 7 | - | June | 13 | Duane Reynolds & David Kelley |
| June | 14 | - | June | 20 | Jeff Pearson & Andy Marlow |
| June | 21 | - | June | 27 | Herb Neby & Lloyd Wittstock |
| June | 28 | - | July | 4 | Vinton Bouslough & Glenn Bartsch |
| July | 5 | - | July | 11 | Chet Groger & Glenn Olson |
| July | 12 | - | July | 18 | Archie Caple & Al Miller |
| July | 19 | - | July | 25 | Leo Grebner & Russ Backes |
| July | 26 | - | Aug. | 1 | Joe Stenger & Carleton Nelson |
| Aug. | 2 | - | Aug. | 8 | Phil Peterson & Ed Culbert |
| Aug. | 9 | - | Aug. | 15 | Larry Bagge & Dwight Stone |
| Aug. | 16 | - | Aug. | 22 | Robert Roberg & Howard Berg |
| Aug. | 23 | - | Aug. | 29 | Bill Hanson & Richard Tepley |
| Aug. | 30 | - | Sept. | 5 | Dave Moehnke & John Weeks |
| Sept. | 6 | - | Sept. | 12 | Lloyd Nerburn & Jerry Shannon |
| Sept. | 13 | - | Sept. | 19 | Bob Olson & Rick Bonlender |
| Sept. | 20 | - | Sept. | 26 | Walter Gustafson & Charles Jonas |

OCTOBER 3 CLEAN UP

If you are not able to work on your week please contact one of the alternates below or change with someone on the schedule.

Alternates: Donal O'Donnell (926-7159)
James Tuff (881-0830) Dale Durst (922-6658)
Chuck Benson (944-1083) Charlie Proctor (893-1878)

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAINTENANCE CREW

- It looks as though with the dry spring the garden will need frequent watering. Bring spray nozzle and sprinkler. The grass will need watering as the Society For The Blind does not water but does mow. The hose is at the garden (Southwest corner, rose area).
- Make contact with your partner so the garden stays moist and weed free.
- Bring your own tools (hoe, rake, shovel, etc.)
- Bring a plastic bag for weeds and other debris. Leave bags by the entrance--or take them home if that is possible.

* * * * *

Honorary member Otto S. Nelson has sold his home on Girard Avenue South. Minnie and he have moved into the Augustana Home. Their new address (no phone yet) is:

Otto S. Nelson
1020 East 17th Street, Apt. 334
Minneapolis, MN 55404



"TELL THEM TO WAIT - I'M BUSY GARDENING"

Bob Olson
President
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

I received a letter from the President of the Men's Garden Club of America stating that it was his intention to introduce a resolution to substantially raise the annual dues. He will introduce this resolution at the National Convention this July. He felt that in all fairness this should be a thought out decision of all the members of the Men's Garden Club of America. He did not want to have this a surprise subject at the business meeting nor did he want anyone to think it was being rail-roaded through.

The yearly dues would be increased from \$10.00 to \$20.00. Although this is a substantial increase, it was his opinion that it is necessary if a balanced annual budget is to be achieved. It is possible that this year's expenditures will exceed revenues. The outlook for next year is even less bright.

Over 40% of the dues is spent on the publication of the magazine, The Gardener. It is the intention of the President and National Board of Directors to provide a very high quality publication together with programs which will be available to all clubs and members. Attempts to make the magazine self supporting have been unsuccessful. It is difficult to sell advertising to a journal with 9,000 to 10,000 readers who are scattered over the entire United States.

The National President has asked that each group discuss this subject among themselves and come to a consensus. The delegates to the National Convention should then be apprised of the club's wishes and instructed how they should vote on this issue. As you can see, it is a subject of some importance. It will mean an increase of our club's dues from \$25.00 to \$35.00 each year. This may cause some of our members to let their membership drop. On the other hand, we are all anxious to support any necessary projects and actions of the National group.

Please discuss this amongst yourselves and contact me, a member of the Board of Directors, or Russ Smith, our National Representative, to get more information about this subject. We will discuss this further at the June meeting. Anyone who wishes a xerox copy of the letter and information I received from the National President should get in touch with me.

* * * * *

On a lighter note, I would like to thank everyone involved with the Annual Plant Sale for their efforts. The Carleton Nelson Family performed in their usual peerless fashion. Dave Johnson and his crew ran the auction with gusto and a dramatic flare. The finances have yet to be determined but the initial report is quite favorable. There were many willing hands to help clean up after the function and everyone was on his way home by 9:45. Thanks again to everyone who helped.

It is not enough for the gardner to love flowers; he must also hate weeds.

NOTES FROM THE MAY 5 MGCM DIRECTORS MEETING

- The per meal calculations for the Dayton/Bachman flower show meeting did not include enough for the gratuity. The balance from the April meal was enough to cover the unexpected extra cost of the Dayton's meal. Rick Bonlender has tulip and crocus bulbs from the show to be planted in the Fragrance Garden.
- All plants for the auction will be purchased on consignment and will be returned if not sold.
- The flea market will be held at Bob Churilla's. Rick Bonlender will print fliers and signs and also try to get an announcement in the papers. Plants not sold at the Farmers Market will be sold at the Flea Market.
- An ad hoc committee was formed to investigate the possibility of purchasing bulk gardening items to be sold for a small profit at the membership meetings. Committee members include Rick Bonlender, Russ Smith, and Bob Churilla.
- Former club member Reuben Magrum died. Phil Peterson and Ed Culbert attended the funeral. Bob Olson sent a card from the club. Reuben's son Jerry is a club member and is active on the Fragrance Garden committee.
- Nate Siegel has signed a contract with Bachmans to plant clematis along the fence of the Fragrance Garden.
- NATIONAL DUES: MGCA is considering doubling dues to \$20 and instituting direct billing procedures. In addition there is a big push to increase the magazine advertising revenue in order to make the magazine more self sustaining. Each club has been asked to find an ad sales volunteer. The club will receive 15% of the revenue it raises. Give your feedback to the board and MGCA delegates. The issue will be brought up for discussion at the June membership meeting. We will poll members on their final decision. The board will direct the MGCA delegates on how to vote on the issue at the convention.

Russ Smith reported that there was generally a negative opinion among the directors regarding doubling the dues. They realize the need to increase dues but felt it may be too high an increase. It was felt that the increase should be an incremental increase over a longer period of time. If the membership fee is doubled then a lifetime membership at \$100 is an attractive deal.

* * * * *

THE AUCTION: I had some notes on the going prices at the auction but they have disappeared. Not lost is memory of the leafy courtyard chosen for the Farmers' Market nor of the accordionist who played and sang for us there. Those who sat at tables there had an idyllic spot. Somehow it brought to mind the biergarten of the little Gasthaus in the Taunus forest where, in August 1932, I sat listening to Hitler rant over the radio. But I couldn't tarry in reverie I had to go inside where the auction was going on. Still, the Lynnhurst courtyard were it big enough would be a fine site for the auction. We'd lack the beer, but what a relief it would be to hear Dwight Stone instead of a Hitler.

- E.C.C.

Kale is the leafy vegetable with the highest calcium content.

EACH OF US MUST PLAN FOR JULY 1988...

This is a personal letter to every guy in our club who will be needed a year from now for the 1988 convention here.

Boy, we are so pleased that some of you are already working toward this meeting. But you must also plan to attend for one of the best times of your life at one of the best prices.

We mean it. I've been to MGCA conventions since 1956 and haven't missed many of them, except during some seriously ill years. They are the most fun events of my life - and could be of yours too.

Although we have big committees of men working on the convention, we already need more. Donal O'Donnell is working on decorations and favors, along with L. Cattron, D. Grande, F. Glascoe, W. Gustafson and J. Saustgen. Duane Reynolds heads up meals along with S. Crist, A. Grande, D. Johnson, K. Olson and D. Stone. Bob Churilla is working on door prizes, along with D. Moehnke. Ray Weisberg heads up an Information Center along with F. Ashley, V. Bouslough and G. Ackland.

We want to pull out all stops so we can entertain some of the other best gardeners of the country. As a host and a registrant, you'll help them tour as many as 20 of our gardens, maybe one being your own, help them visit the famed Neurenberg gardens on the edge of Lake Minnetonka; you'll help take them to our internationally famous Minnesota Landscape Arboretum which was originated by the MGC of Minneapolis. You'll spend Fourth of July evening at an exclusive spot overlooking the Mississippi river while a giant fireworks display is set off, riding everywhere in queenly air conditioned buses.

You'll get all the good food you want to eat; you'll honor guests with our famed PARADE OF TURKEY CARVERS on the banquet night; if you want to be one of the carvers, start planning for it right now.

You'll be there when decisions are made re. running MGCA. As a Delegate from our club (be sure your secretary certifies you), you can vote on everything and, furthermore, your personal expenses are deductible. Did you catch that word - deductible?

Furthermore, your wife's room cost is absolutely free. Did you catch that word free? That's because our famed Hyatt-Regency hotel allowed us 1984 prices and your \$62 is a room price, for two double beds - not a person price. Double occupancy is the same price as single occupancy. Now, all you have to do is to register her from her "household" money and you can bring her along inexpensively. At those prices, she may even let you come. For that kind of money you can take the little lady to a three day holiday right here in town.

. Our Ladies committee consists of women like Carol Hull and Barbara Culbert who have been to dozens of MGCA conventions.

(over)

This group of live wire gals are talking about such things as a super tour of the cities by air-conditioned bus, perhaps a walking tour to downtown Minneapolis, about two blocks away, a special speaker so some can just sit and listen. We're also going to need cars and drivers to take some to places they may want to go. We'll give them as many options as they may want - high points in the city by private car. Of course, when once registered, they (or your wife) can attend any of the scheduled events with the men too.

Want to be a counselor for those who want to fish or to travel around the state by car or RV? We'll need help to direct them for a pre or post convention vacation. What if they want to go up north to pull fish from the cold northern lakes? Stay around the cities and swim in our many in-town lakes? Stay and attend the Guthrie, see a baseball game, go to the racetrack. See the Minnesota Zoo, the Como Conservatory, Japanese Gardens. We'll need knowledgeable people just to talk to them about these things. Will you?

We are promising them that we have guys working their tails off to show them a good time and to work for MGCA's progress. Won't you help us do it? Speak up to any of the committee leaders - some mentioned herein and more to come.

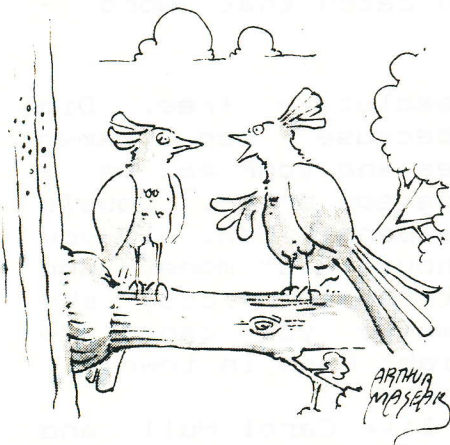
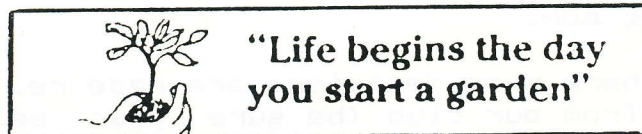
And most of all, tell your wife and your boss that you're going to need some July 1988 time for an inexpensive vacation.

Bill Hull

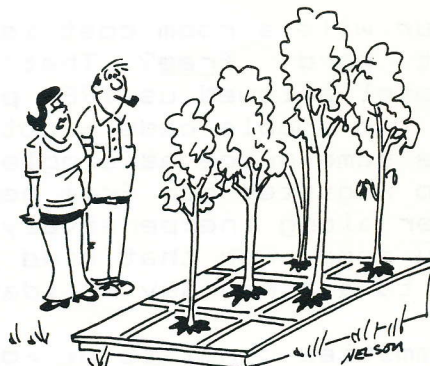
1988 Convention Chairman

The best way to get real enjoyment out of the garden is to put on a wide straw hat, dress in thin loose-fitting clothes, hold a little trowel in one hand and a cool drink in the other, and tell the man where to dig.

--Charles Barr



"It's nice of them to give us seeds. I just wish they wouldn't bury them in the ground and pour water on them first."



"I think you definitely left them in the coldframe too long."



"That's my garden. A thing of beauty and a job forever."

THE (PLANT) DOCTOR'S ADVICE
by Chuck Levine

CARE OF HANGING PLANTERS

Hanging baskets are usually made of plastic or ceramic. Select planters that are not only attractive but also those which have holes in the bottom for drainage. Attractive containers will encourage you to take your plants indoors when frost threatens this fall. Many of our outdoor "basket" plants such as asparagus ferns, wax begonias, fuchsias, ivies, geraniums, impatiens and even cascading petunias can be carried over indoors in a sunny window.

Most containers placed outdoors will need to be watered every day, especially if growing in a sunny or windy location. When you do water, be sure to use tepid water and give your plants a thorough soaking until water drips from the drainage hole. Plants are best watered early in the day so that all excess moisture has evaporated from the foliage by nightfall. This is one of the precautions that you can take to prevent foliar plant diseases.

Well-established plants should be fed every two weeks with an all-purpose water soluble fertilizer such as a 10-10-10 or a 5-10-10 as is used on most houseplants. Micro-nutrient deficiencies can be prevented by alternating your feedings with an organic fertilizer such as fish emulsion or liquid seaweed. Always fertilize on moist soil. Using fertilizer on dry soil can burn sensitive plant roots. If all this fertilizing sounds like too much effort there is a "lazy person's" alternative. A slow release pelleted fertilizer such as Osmacote (14-14-14) can be mixed with the soil according to label directions. Although more expensive, its advantage is that one application can last as long as three months.

If you still haven't potted any hanging plants there is still plenty of time. A good all-purpose light weight, soilless mix can be made using the following recipe: 1 part peat moss, 1 part perlite, 1 part vermiculite and 2 Tbsp. dolomitic lime per 12" pot. This soilless mix is great for most houseplants as well. I hope this information will help make your gardening efforts a continuing success!

THE DUES INCREASE ISSUE -- An Editorial

Dr. Olson as MGCM president, wanted to remain neutral in presenting the MGCA dues increase proposal. Tim Smith, president of the Kent Ohio MGC, was irate. "I will make sure all 14 of our delegates are heard." Your editor, too, has questions. e.g. Won't direct billing for dues invite individual members to drop out of MGCA? Local clubs are unlikely to police membership or to expel those who ignore the MGCA bill.

Isn't trying to sell advertising in THE GARDENER like soliciting ads for P.T.A. napkins--just asking for a hand-out?

What other "services" other than direct billing are being dreamed up? In many an organization added "services"--which few want or use--go with increases in dues.

How many MGCM officers or directors have read or made use of the current material?

Finally, why have there been large overdrafts? Given an operating budget one should stick to it. Anticipated income, likewise, should be realistic not merely hoped for. If, then, income decreases, budgeted expenditures must be cut promptly.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER
by Ed Culbert

The American Society of Landscape Architects cites 26 landscape feature trends which, they say, are "IN". Nineteen are out of my province; but I am all for #1 Men's Garden Clubs, #3 Native plants, #4 Home-made mulches, #9 Wildflower meadows, #14 Street trees, #18 Ground covers (especially creeping Charlie and moneywort) and #19 Composting. If you are interested Hammocks are #1 on the "OUT" list, Azalea gardens #6, Mowed lawns #9, Railroad ties #16, Turf grass #18, Bagging leaves #19, Sprinklers #24 and Riding mowers #26.

A recent mail brought me advertising from a realtor, a Gary Perrault. One sheet addressed "Dear Gardening Friends" introduces him as "a new member of the Ramsey County Garden Club" and says, "My interest in gardening began several years ago while attending the University of Minnesota. In fact, my interest in plants, form and color, and the plant sciences led me to major in Landscaping Horticulture. And, after completing the program, I continued on to finish a second major in Plant Pathology.

"Now as a realtor while I help buyers and sellers with their real estate transactions, I frequently offer suggestions on landscape design. Having worked several years in landscape design and construction I have seen some very interesting yards."

The reverse side of the sheet is devoted to ORNAMENTAL GRASSES (10 lines), and SOILS--WHAT ARE THEY? (34 lines). It ends COME AND VISIT MY PERENNIAL GARDENS (at) 2229 N. Margaret St., N. St. Paul, MN. There is a sketch showing how to get there.

Another issue of Perrault's letter contains "Reminder Notes on pruning and on Tree Wrap".

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
5315 Portland Avenue
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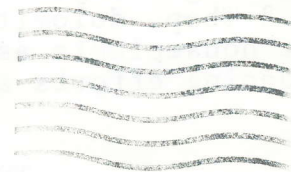
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