

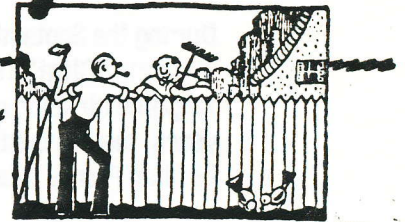


The Garden Spray

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

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

October 1986, Volume 44, Number 10



NEXT MGCM MEETING

TUESDAY EVENING OCTOBER 14th, 1986

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

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

GET YOUR RESERVATIONS TO DUANE REYNOLDS AT ONCE

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Program, Tuesday, October 14, 1986

"THE IMPORTANCE OF GARDENING"

Speaker: Glenn H. Ray

Glenn Ray, a long time member of the Men's Garden Club, is the Executive Secretary of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Mr. Ray has been an avid gardener all of his life and has broad interests in horticulture. He regularly grows a wide variety of flowers and vegetables in the skillfully designed garden at his home in Minnetonka.

He began his career as a language (Russian) and Social Studies teacher in the Minneapolis School System, but eventually came to spend all of his time with his first love - gardening. For the past 12 years he has been full time with the Horticultural Society.

Mr. Ray is a skilled photographer whose pictures appear regularly in The Minnesota Horticulturist. He will show a selected portion of his superb collection of slides to illustrate points in his talk.

Touring with Orrin "Clint" Turnquist at September MCGM Meeting

reported by Andy Marlow

During the September MCGM meeting, members were transported by word and slide to the Far East by Orrin "Clint" Turnquist, professor emeritus of horticulture at the University of Minnesota and longtime director of the University's vegetable trials program. Clint has traveled widely over the years, most recently leading tours to Australia and New Zealand and paying a visit to Japan for the Bedding Plants International Exposition.

New Zealand is made up of two major islands -- North and South Islands -- with a land area about the size of California. Clint reported the population as "three million people and 70 million sheep." But the best thing about New Zealand is that almost any horticultural crop can be grown there, as the islands have all kinds of climates.

Clint's tour visited in October, the southern hemisphere's springtime. He said he was very impressed by the beautiful roses and the stoutness of their stems and buds. Many of the cultivars of roses and other plants were brought by the colonizers and there's a distinct British influence on gardening. Among the English features were extensive "greenswards" for, among other things, bowling on the green.

The kiwi fruit was not imported England, however, and is one of the country's most important crops. It's also called the Chinese Gooseberry and is quite healthful, containing more vitamin C than citrus. Listeners were surprised to learn kiwi grows on vines strung on trellises, much like grapes. Unlike grapes, each plant has distinct sex and the males must be pruned out to a specified ratio when the plants reach maturity at about seven years. Clint showed a slide of one hardy 50 year old plant, but said the highest yielding potential comes from about seven to 15 years. A typical grove is 1-1/2 to 2 acres in size. All kiwi once came from New Zealand, but now growers in California and South Carolina are fighting for a share of the domestic market here.

The Japanese are enthusiastic gardeners and are especially interested in growing unusual chrysanthemums. Clint shared a slide of what appeared to be an entire bed of mums, but a second shot from beneath the plant revealed the literally hundreds of blossoms growing from just one stem. An entire flower show in Osaka was devoted to mums, with the plants trained (somewhat like bonsai) to colorful and elaborate spikes and other shapes.

During his trip to Japan, Clint visited the Takii Seed Company, largest in the world, which was celebrating its 150th anniversary. It's also one of the most active in introducing new varieties. They've been responsible for more than 100 flower introductions and some 300 vegetables. They've produced many All-America winners and are, according to Clint, "in the vanguard of plant development" in the world. Slides of the Takii trial gardens showed perfectly maintained beds, completely weed free. Even the vegetables were arranged and planted with aesthetics a prime consideration.

The Japanese are quite fond of flowering kale, which they call "happy plant." Many different varieties are grown and some of them are scheduled to show up in the States soon. Although there are few Christians in Japan, Christmas and Christmas-type plants are important there. Poinsettias and what's called "Christmas pine" (really a fir) are the chief plants for the season. Clint showed a picture of a new variety of poinsettia featuring white leaves with a blush of pink down the center.

Gentians and pansies are also quite popular, but boulders seem to be in the highest demand. Many traditional gardens have no blossom color at all, but consist of highly pruned shrubs, rocks, water and statuary. Clint said large rocks are very rare in this geographically small nation and some "rock nurseries" sell big ones for several thousand dollars each.



BIG BOB'S CORNER

Here it is. Yes! those of you that attended the September 9th meeting have received your RAFFLE tickets. We are going to raffle off over \$800.00 in prizes, and you, a friend, or relative might win one of the outstanding prizes.

Those members that were not at the meeting will be receiving their fair share of raffle tickets by mail. The obvious key to success of this fund raiser will be enthusiastic participation. The prizes that are to be given away in this raffle will not take a lot of salesmanship to sell the tickets. All it takes is an earnest effort on your part and that of every one in the Club.

Remember, you have almost 3 full months to talk up and promote this raffle. Please do your share! Contact me your President, Bob Churilla, or Dave Moehnke for additional tickets. Turn in your sold tickets to either of us or to George McCollough. The raffle will be held at the Christmas Party December 9th. Come to the party and take home one of the outstanding prizes.

Where has the summer gone? The plants are way past their peak and for some of us this ends the gardening season. For those of us that like early blooms in the spring, now is the time to plant tulips, crocus, daffodils and an excellent time to replant peonies and many other varieties of flowers.

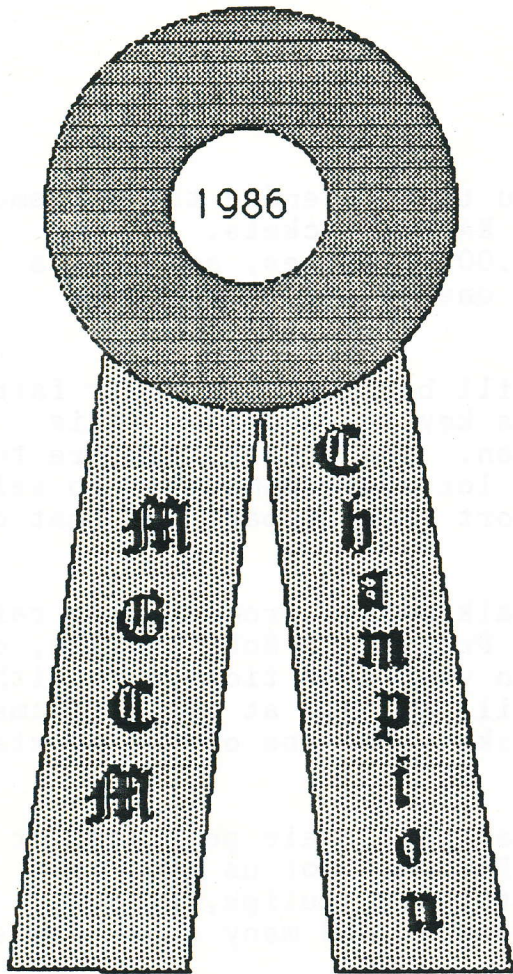
Although we say that our gardening is over, there is still a lot of work to be done in the garden. We should be mulching our flower beds with hay, straw or oak leaves. Remember, do not pack the mulch too tight because this will cut off the flow of air and provide little insulation. You may say that it is too early to put down mulch. Yes, this is true; but, if you start early you will be able to divide many of your perennials, do some pruning, tie up your rose bushes and get them ready for Minnesota tip method of protection. Think about it and do it.

Our District Director Russ Smith's term of office is up in December. Russ is willing to continue as director, but would like to know if there is someone in the club that may be interested in the job. The job does take up some time. You have to attend the director's meetings, attend the National, etc. It is the feeling of your President that Mr. Smith has been doing an excellent job as director and my suggestion would be to vote him back in. Nomination and election will take place at the October meeting.

Thanks to Bill Hull we were updated on the 1988 Convention at the September meeting. We also learned that he is going to share his responsibilities with 4 Vice Chairmen: Archie Caple, Chet Groger, Jerry Shannon and Russ Smith. Bob Olson is to be Secretary and Dave Johnson Treasurer.

HINTS OF THE MONTH:

1. Good Selling: Let it be you that takes home a recognition trophy for being one of the top salesmen in your club.
2. A Treat for the Birds: Cover pine cones with hardened bacon grease or other type of fat. Roll in bird seed or bread crumbs. Hang from a tree branch or tuck into bushes.
3. Do you have a heated bird bath or just a bird bath? Drop a few colored marbles into it. This helps to attract the birds.



Flower and Vegetable Show Report

26 members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis entered 424 exhibits in the 1986 Flower and Vegetable Show, held August 16 and 17 at the U of M Landscape Arboretum. The number of exhibitors was up by three from last year, while the number of exhibits was down slightly. Exhibitors who had specimens selected for the Court of Honor were: in vegetables, Vern Carlson, Kent Petterson, Jerry Shannon and Bob Smith; and in flowers, Harold Gulde, Henry Halvorson, Bob Heiberg, Dave Johnson, Jerry Shannon and Leon Snyder. Major award winners were:

Vegetables:

National Award (carrots) - Kent Petterson
Best in Show (tomatoes) - Vern Carlson
Sweepstakes (tie) - Vern Carlson & Bob Smith

Flowers:

National Award (t. begonia) - Dave Johnson
Best in Show (staghorn fern) - Jerry Shannon
Sweepstakes - Jerry Shannon

The Robert L. Smith Trophy for best showing by a first time exhibitor goes to Kent Petterson.

MINNEAPOLIS CHURCH ON NATIONAL REGISTRY

After you attend the Rockford convention next June, plan to be with us in Minneapolis in July 1988.

We are happy to announce that the Sunday night (July 3, 1988) memorial service will be held in a very unique church just one block away from your hotel. It is Wesley United Methodist and is the oldest Methodist church west of the Mississippi. It's a beautiful old sandstone building with a gorgeous stained glass dome in the sanctuary. Furthermore it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of Interior. Well maintained, it is nearly a century old, has lovely hardwood seats and we will be welcomed by the staff. The pastor said "We like to share our beautiful old church. We want it to be used." You'll like having a service in this lovely old edifice - just a short walk from your hotel.

Bill Hull

"Fine for the flowers
The lovely showers,"
Is pretty reading,
But, oh, the weeding! -- Franklin Pierce Adams

TRIBUTES TO FORMER MGCM DIRECTOR

Albert I. Nelson, age 89, an MGCM director in the 1960's died September 12. An extensive article appeared in the Minneapolis Star and Tribune on September 14. At the funeral September 15 "Jerry" Olson gave a touching tribute. Excerpts from his talk follow.

"Albert had many friends in every group or club of which he was a member. In the Minnesota Rose Society he was affectionately called the "Dear Professor". I was privileged to have him as my mentor and teacher in rose growing.

It is no wonder that he had lots of friends for he was a gentle, kind and considerate person who was most generous. He gave of himself to help others and always furnished plants for auctions and sales. In his neighborhood instead of giving candy on Halloween Albert usually bought crates of oranges, boxes of apples and loads of bananas which he gave to each child.

....(He) had a marvelous sense of humor as well as a keen, sharp wit. In every club Albert belonged to you could find him among the real workers. He was an excellent teacher; but most of all he possessed the rare quality of being a good listener.

Albert loved Nature in all its forms--plants, flowers, birds--hunting and fishing. One of his greatest joys in life was to teach his young nephew, "Chuck", how to hunt and fish.....

....Albert started gardening seriously in the early 20's and had a very diversified interest. He raised glads, irises, dahlias and many perennials; but his real love was the rose. He joined the Minnesota Rose Society in 1938 and soon became the foremost expert in the field.

His studies on roses were published in the newspaper, the American Rose Society Annual, the Minnesota Horticulturist and the Minnesota Rose Society Bulletin.

Albert was the M.R.S. "Rose Grower Extraordinary". He helped anybody and everybody who wanted his help. He was an American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian and was awarded the A.R.S. Silver Honor Medal for distinguished service to the rose in the North Central District.

For years he put on One-Man Rose Shows at the Farmers and Mechanics Bank and at the Rose Growers' Day at the University of Minnesota Farm Campus. In 1953 and 1962 he played an important part in both American Rose Society National Rose Shows and Conventions held in Minneapolis.

Albert became frustrated with the winter losses of rose plants each year. He heard about the system used by raspberry growers and decided to apply the same method to roses. From his testing and tipping of the rose plants evolved what is known today as the Minnesota Tip method of winter protection of roses. This successful method for winter protection was a real boon for rose growers in the northern area....

....In later years Albert was an honorary member of both the Minnesota Rose Society and the North Star Rose Society. He was a Federated Garden Club judge, a member of Flora Lore and of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club which awarded him the Bronze Medal for distinguished service to the club.....

....(He) also assumed the duties as rosarian for the Veteran's Rose (over)

Garden on the Capital Approach in St. Paul. By 1962 he had the garden in spectacular shape for a National Rose Tour in that year...

Albert always loved dogs. First there was Ballow, a German Shepherd, then a neighborhood mongrel called Skipper. Skipper barked at Al's back door for wieners. However, these wieners had to be cut up and fried in butter for this special friend. His last favorite was Knanook, an Alaskan husky. Where ever Al went she was at his side and usually kept his feet toasty warm.

....When many...are shunted away to a nursing home....Albert was blessed with loving care by Chuck Nelson and his wife DeLores (Al's nephew and niece). They did everything humanly possible to make his last years pleasant. Al often told....me that he "never had it so good."

Dale Durst's wife, Lorraine, died Tuesday September 16. Though she had been ill for some time she continued to be active and had even flown to Florida with Dale this summer. We extend our sympathy to Dale and his family

Mike Zins in the Arboretum Bulletin tells us you can "harvest fall crops of apples, pears, squashes, melons, and pumpkins until they are done bearing or until hard frosts arrive. Cole crops such as cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts, and cauliflower produce until mid-November or later. Carrots, beets, turnips, and other root crops thrive until the ground freezes. Fall-bearing raspberries can be harvested until a hard frost, after which you may prune off the top or fruiting part of the plant. Next summer the remainder of the cane will branch and fruit to complete its cycle. Tender grapes should be harvested and then pruned in late October. Laying them down and covering them for the winter provides protection.

"The fall planting season begins in late August and extends into early November. This is the best time to plant lilacs, evergreens and other trees and shrubs without interrupting their normal growth and development. Early fall planting allows the root system to establish itself before the ground freezes.

"Plants that are container grown, balled and burlapped, or moved with a tree spade are most successfully transplanted in fall. Plant them at the same depth at which they were growing in the nursery. Water thoroughly and as needed until freeze up.

Although many late summer- and fall-flowering plants are best transplanted in the spring, rhubarb, certain perennials, and bulbs can be planted in fall. Plant hyacinths, crocus, and hardy narcissus as soon as available. Unlike tulips, which can be planted later, these bulbs require more time to root properly before winter."

WE WELCOME AS NEW MEMBERS

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Robert A. Heiberg
4510 Wooddale Ave.
Edina, MN 55424

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483-9867

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS

Many MGCA units hold "corn roasts" or "corn boils" in the summer. What is a corn roast? Is it the same as a corn boil? Was the corn-on-the-cob the Green Giant people used to feed members of the Minneapolis Municipal Hiking Club at the city park in Montgomery, Minnesota some years ago a corn boil? -- Big burlap bags of corn (husks, silk and all) were cooked in the company's big steam vats.

Maybe a corn boil is some kind of soup, I'd guess so from the "Corn Boil Report for 1986" found in the Compost Pile bulletin of the Rockford Illinois club. "I would like to thank all the people who worked to make our Corn Boil a Great Success. We got together at two o'clock on Wed. afternoon, and after five and half hours we had cleaned 45 dozen ears of corn, sliced 30 lbs. of tomatoes, chopped 5 lbs. of onions, and served 177 people."

Not many MGCA units hold dinner meetings. A number have coffee and cookies or cake at meetings. I've seen no mention of the more logical coffee and doughnuts nor whether the food comes before, during or after the program or the business meeting. Usually the club's bulletin names the member who is to supply the "coffee and" for the following meeting or series of meetings. I can safely report that MGCM is not the only club with members who fail to read their bulletin for one MGCA club bulletin reported that a member failed to bring the scheduled refreshments so the group had to go without.

From Green Sprouts, MGC Watchung Hills, N.J.

"The club made a \$200 award to Wendy Thomas of Warren, a graduating honors student at W.H.R.H.S., for her past achievements, and in furtherance of her continuing education, in the natural sciences.

August 24: The ancient tradition of visiting members' gardens was resurrected this year. Proudly (and justly so) exhibiting the results of their efforts were: Dick Houghton, Sid Beinfest, and Jonathan Jeans. A cavalcade of cars carried members and spouses to view various anti-weed labor-saving ideas, from Dick's attractive outdoor potted floral garden to Sid's masterful use of vertical growth of vegetables over paper-mulched beds. The tasting of goodies at each stop, ended with an assortment of cheese and beverages at Jonathan's.

The Nite-Crawler, MGC Spokane, WA reports on Youth Contests:

The Men's Garden Club of Spokane offers awards for the 3 sunflower heads measuring largest in diameter (bracts of the flower not included) and for the largest pumpkins by weight in the Youth Garden Department.

The Club will sponsor a pumpkin carving contest Sept. 13. Competition will take place in the Agriculture Building. Pumpkins can be carved any time between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and will be judged immediately following the contest. Competition will be divided into three age groups.

Contestants will be given no special admission privileges. They may furnish their own pumpkin and carving equipment if they wish. However, pumpkins and paring knives will be available at the Fairgrounds. The Fair will not be held responsible for any accident that might arise during the contest.



**Every Member Sponsors A New Member
Every Member Sponsors A New Member**

MGCA CONVENTIONS AHEAD--PLAN TO WORK ON--ATTEND,
Minneapolis, Minnesota July 3, 4, 5, 6, 1988



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