



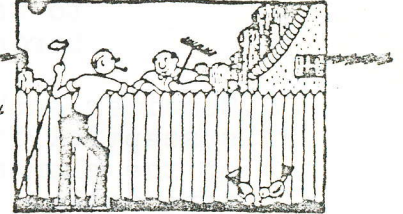
The Garden Spray

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

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

September

August 1983 Volume 41 Number 9



The first fall MEETING of the MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of MINNEAPOLIS will be held at 6:00 PM on TUESDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 13th at the LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (49th Street and Chowen Avenue South)

AND

Have we got a speaker! The hard to get

JAMES ("Jim") GILBERT, phenologist

Contributor of the NATURE'S CALENDAR page in the MINNESOTA HORTICULTURIST, WCCO nature reporter, Naturalist for the Hopkins Public Schools, Naturalist for the Hennepin County Park System's Carver Park.

His TOPIC: AUTUMN PHENOLOGICAL HAPPENINGS in the TWIN CITIES AREA

(Perhaps he'll even tell us what he and consulting meteorologist Bruce Watson predict will be the date for the first frost this fall.)

GET YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK TO BOB CHURILLA PROMPTLY!!

(If your name is Caple; Vern Carlson; Churilla; Culbert; Glasoe; Grebner; Groger; Carl Johnson; Jonas; Marlow; McCollough; Neby; Peter Perrine; Phil Peterson; Pinkham; Douglas, Gregory, Robert L. or Russell Smith; or Vixo you are on the permanent reservation list and didn't get a reservation card but if you don't show up and haven't cancelled your reservation you'll be held for the \$5.00 dinner charge.)

* * * * *

TWELVE GOOD MEN NEEDED

Recently one of our members had a serious heart attack and most of us didn't know of it until he was about to return to work. A few months ago one of our members died and most of us didn't know of it until after the funeral.

I've volunteered to President Chet to put together a telephone committee for such rare needs as those mentioned, providing I can get about twelve others to work with me, emphasizing that our ground rules will be: 1) we call only on rare occasions and 2) only at his personal request. We would not be used to make reservations for monthly meetings or for other mundane jobs; this group might more rightfully be called an emergency telephoning service. Chet's call would come to me. I'd call each of you and you would then call about ten members. You would not be expected to continue calling forever to an absentee member but to give it a good try.

Please help me on this. Give me a call if you can do so.

Bill Hull

926-1327

RESPONSE NEEDED FROM OVER ONE HUNDRED MEN --- THAT'S YOU.

All you need do to help others is to write a very few words and send them to me, answering this question:

What is the one perennial you would recommend to someone starting a perennial garden, bed or border? The one single "best" perennial?

Consider such factors as hardiness, length of blooming period, susceptibility to disease and pests, lack of problems ...all of the elements that make this particular plant desirable and dependable.

If it because of its unusual blue flower - because it has great appeal to most visitors - because it has a pleasant scent?

Please take a quick look at your garden. What perennials did you have this spring or summer that were such knockouts that you think they should be in other people's garden.

Then just fill in and mail this coupon:

To: Bill Hull, 6833 Creston Road, Edina, MN 55435

The perennial I'd recommend is: _____

because _____

Your name: _____

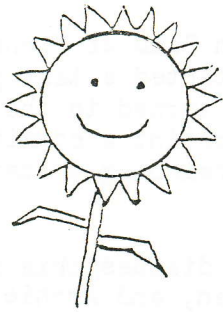
P.S. Please do it quickly and do it without discussing the subject with other MGCM members. Let's get a hundred or more answers so we can issue a good report. Please, fellows, let's go!

MORAL?

Methuselah ate what he found on his plate,
And never, as people do now,
Did he note the amount of the calorie count;
He ate it because it was chow.
He wasn't disturbed as at dinner he sat,
Devouring a roast or a pie,
To think it was lacking in granular fat
Or a couple of vitamins shy.
He carefully chewed each species of food,
Unmindful of troubles or fears
Less his health might be hurt by some fancy dessert--
AND HE LIVED OVER NINE HUNDRED YEARS.

"The Garden Gate", Corvallis, Ore.
(author not listed)

JUST AMONG US GARDENERS



September is a month comparable to June, with moderate temperatures and the beginning of a new season. The phrase "What is so rare as a day in June" can easily be changed to read "September". There is an anticipation of the fall months in Minnesota for everyone. For the gardener, however, it can mean the fall harvest, the garden mums, the late-blooming annuals and the satisfaction felt after a good gardening season.

Each year, the Men's Garden Clubs of America names the week in which September 26 falls as Men's Garden Club Week. On that date in 1932, the Men's Garden Clubs of America was founded.

During that week, affiliated clubs are asked to publicize their activities and let the community know of the contributions made by a group of gardeners in that community. This year, Men's Garden Club Week will be September 25 to October 1, celebrating the 51st Anniversary of MGCA. We will attempt to obtain some publicity through news articles in one or more of our local newspapers. We will also try to obtain publicity for the judging of the Big Pumpkin and Giant Sunflower contest in our Youth Gardening program.

We can use more ideas of how to let the world know about our club and our activities. If you have some ideas, let us know of them. We aren't out to become the largest club in the country, but we would like to think that gardeners in the area know about us and can contact us if they wish.

A reminder might be in order concerning new members during the last quarter of the year. Any member joining on October 1st or later will have his dues applied to the entire following year. This has the effect of making the fall months bonus months added to the following year. During those bonus months, new members will receive the Garden Spray but will not receive the MGCA Gardener or the Horticulturist until January. With this in mind, September is a good time to bring a gardening friend to a meeting. Our guest speaker will cover a subject of interest to everyone and the meeting should serve as a good introduction of our club to prospective members.

I am grateful to the Flower and Vegetable Show Committee, headed by Bob Smith, for their hard work and systematic production of another good show. Two of the committee members, Dale Durst and Dave Johnson, were recovering from hospitalization and could help only in an advisory capacity. They are both making good recovery and will be active soon. Fred Glasoe, a member of the committee, was also "banged up" in an auto accident but is slowly getting back to normal. Even without these key men, the committee did a good job and they are to be commended. It was another good finish to a good gardening year.

-Chet Groger

ELEPHANT STEW - from THE GREENHORN - MGC Mansfield, Ohio

One medium size elephant
Two rabbits (optional)

Salt and pepper to taste
Brown gravy

1. Cut elephant into bite-sized pieces.
2. Add salt and pepper and brown gravy to cover.
3. Cook over kerosene fire at 465° for about 4 weeks.
4. Makes 3,800 servings. If more guests are expected, the rabbits can be added. Do this, however, only in an emergency, as most people do not like hare in their stew!

Every Member Sponsors A New Member

A HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM

(A condensed version of an article by Dr. Leon C. Snyder in the May 1976 Horticulturist covering the early participation of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis)

The idea for the Arboretum started with a group in the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. This group, interested in unusual trees and shrubs, had started a test planting in a member's back yard. Frustrated by lack of space, the men turned to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and requested that the Society appoint a committee to explore the possibility of acquiring land for the purpose of developing a statewide Arboretum.

An ad hoc committee of Society members met on January 28, 1955, to discuss this request. Members of the committee included Leon C. Snyder, temporary chairman, and Archie Flack of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. It was agreed to request that the Society appoint an Arboretum committee with Archie Flack as chairman. This was done at a Society Executive Board Meeting on March 3, 1955. Besides Archie Flack as chairman, the committee included P. W. Young as secretary, G. Victor Lowrie and Curtis Rice, all members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. The committee was authorized to proceed with the promotion of the project, including the solicitation of funds.

The Arboretum Committee held monthly meetings to discuss a suitable location and it was finally agreed that a site near the University of Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm (now the Horticultural Research Center) would be desirable. In the winter of 1956, Dr. Berens, who owned land near the Fruit Breeding Farm, agreed to sell 160 acres for the purpose of developing an arboretum. An option was taken on the 160 acres in June, 1956, with money provided by Mrs. Grace B. Dayton. A fund drive was started to raise the \$35,000 necessary to complete the purchase of the land and by November, 1956, \$7,137 had been raised. Several meetings were held with the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club to acquaint them with the need for money and by the following summer they raised the \$35,000 needed for the purchase. When this good news became generally known, money for development started to come in.

The original land and \$40,000 to start development was turned over to the University of Minnesota by G. Victor Lowrie, 1958 President of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, on February 6, 1958. Development of a gravel road and some plantings were started that summer. 1959 marked the start of actual work on the Arboretum with a master plan by a landscape architect and with a new entrance gate. From that point on, continuing contributions allowed the growth and development of the Arboretum to its present size.

In 1970, Dr. Leon Snyder stepped down as head of the Department of Horticultural Science at the University of Minnesota to become full-time director of the Arboretum on April 1. The Arboretum membership office was moved from the office of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society on the St. Paul campus to the Arboretum in 1970 and an Arboretum Foundation with a Board of Trustees was also founded that year.

(This abbreviated article is meant to complement the award of a Silver Anniversary Trowel to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis for their part in helping to start the Arboretum. It was presented at the Silver Anniversary Picnic at the Arboretum on May 13, 1983.)

-Chet Sjogren

THE FIRST ROSE SOCIETY

The first rose society was founded in Arras, France in 1778. So far as is known, none of the members grew roses. They met one day a year, composed a poem honoring the rose, drank some wine, read the poem to the other members and then went home promising to meet again the following year. The society was known as Les Rosati. It broke up fifteen years later. Nearly one hundred years went by and it was revived about 1890 and endured until 1914. During the last revival roses and not poems were the main theme.

ALBERT WILSON ON PRUNING FRUIT TREES

As reported by Carl and Agnes Jonsson from the MGCA Tucson convention

The fruits are the most regularly pruned of all trees. They are pruned according to selected patterns to give maximum amount of sunlight and air. Most fruit trees in urban gardens should have trunks or boles not over 20 inches in height; that is, the distance from the crown (where the trunk meets the roots) to the first fork of the main branches (called scaffold) should not be over 20 inches. The main scaffolds should be 2, 3 or 4 in number and branch off at different levels or heights. Few trees should be pruned higher than 12 feet and few under 9 feet, in fact 10 feet height is found adequate. Scaffold branches should extend upward and outward for at least 6 feet before breaking out into framework limbs.

Framework limbs (the more or less horizontal, short, thick branches, which give rise to and support the fruit wood) should extend upward not more than 4 feet. Scaffold limbs should angle away from the trunk, at 30 to 45 degree angles and should terminate in a profusion of framework branches. The framework carries the fruit load which should be inside the foliage. Fruit, thus, is more protected from the ravages of weather and birds, and helps in spraying, thinning and harvesting.

Fruit bearing trees have buds. The buds are terminal or lateral according to whether they break out at the end of a branch or at the side. And there are two kinds of buds according to shape--pointed or rounded fat. The pointed ones are coated for protection in winter with slender scales; in the spring these scales will rain down to the ground making their contribution of humus, and the bud will burst out in leaves. The other kind are fat and rounded and their scales likewise will contribute to humus in the spring. The bud, however, if it is what we call simple, as in apricot and peach bursts out into a flower. But what is called mixed, as in pear and apple, will burst out into a cluster of both flowers and leaves.

What do terminal and lateral buds do? They can be either pointed or fat. If the bud is pointed and terminal, it carries growth, it lengthens the branch. The lateral makes a side extension: it is what fills a tree up into a maze of sticks. If it is fat, the terminal bud bursts into flowers or flowers and leaves. The lateral bud does likewise. These fat terminal buds produce both the flowers and fruit; they grow into spurs.

As you look over your apple tree, you will see each spur zigzags. This is because the flower bud and leaf bud come in pairs and the leaf bud which carries the stem is pushed over so that it comes off at an angle. You'll understand so long as the flower and fruit itself are developing, usually terminally in the apple and pear, they monopolize the energy and everything else has to get out of the way.

SEPTORIA LEAF SPOT ON TOMATOES produces small lesions about 1/8 inch in diameter. Immature lesions are uniformly gray while mature lesions develop light centers. Numerous lesions give the foliage a freckled appearance. The foliage may also become chlorotic or yellowed. The fungus overwinters on infected plant debris--therefore, fall clean-up is very important in reducing disease levels. Maneb and Zineb are the two chemicals labeled for control - but at this time control is probably doubtful.

SLUGS: Fred W. Born of the Libertyville-Mundelein Illinois Club finally found a way to solve his slug problem. He mixes 4 parts water to 1 part of liquid household ammonia (by volume) in his sprayer. Then about 1 or 2 hours after sundown he sprays the water-ammonia mixture in a fine mist up and down the strawberry rows and the slugs "fiz up" and dissolve. The mixture does not harm the foliage and will also work on other crops.

JULY 24 TOUR REPORTED BY ANDY MARLOW

The July 24 tour took place on one of the few bearable days in a string of hot and humid weather. The delightful gardens on the tour served only to heighten our sense of enjoyment.

After what seemed a short bus ride, MGCM members and their guests arrived at the ROGER KOOPMANS residence in Faribault. Roger boarded our bus to share some background on his gardening efforts, pointing out that he and his wife had built their house 32 years ago. He said the work of the years was now reaching maturity and the gardens were undergoing a transition to plants that would better tolerate the shade.

Alighting from the bus, we were greeted by a cheerful "WELCOME" spelled out in daisy blooms inserted in the lawn. At a near-by table, the Koopmans were busily distributing root beer floats to all takers.

Rounding the corner of the garage on the way to the back yard, we encountered curving beds on either side of the informal path. Hostas of all sizes and colors formed the background for displays of fibrous rooted begonias and other shade-loving plants. Among the more spectacular hostas were the gigantic Montana and Helen Field Fisher varieties. The walk led to a palapa (thatch-roofed sunshade) just outside the back door and overlooking the magnificence of the back yard.

The focal point of the back yard is a fountain, situated in deep center, flanked by three Colorado Blue, blue Spruce. I emphasize blue because they are the bluest I have ever seen. Trees and fountain were surrounded by a semi-circular bed of both green and red leafed pink begonias.

On either side of the centerpiece and extending back into the lot were rows of marigolds, salvia, snapdragons and zinnias. Farther back still were neatly staked vegetables and a piece of fencing set at a 45 degree angle as a trellis for cucumbers and melons. I was told by another touring gardener that there was actually a weed growing near one of the tomato plants, but its presence eluded my own sharp eyes. Most of the credit for the immaculate care goes to Mrs. Koopmans as Roger has been busy with business matters much of the summer.

Two other highlights worthy of special mention: the day lily bed on the east side of the lawn with nearly a hundred plants in full bloom; and the North Star cherry tree from which Mrs. Koopmans had reportedly already picked some 10,000 fruits and from which she was offering free samples to all takers.

The DICK SCHERER garden on Cliff Road in Eagan must be experienced. I had seen several pictures of his place and enjoyed a full picture spread in the Minneapolis Star and Tribune Sunday magazine. None of this prepared me for the sheer expanse of the project.

I had not visited Scherer's before, but my editor informed me that nearly the entire multi-acre garden had been completely redone since the last MGCM tour stopped there 4 years ago. The emphasis then was on petunias, but this time there was nary a petunia in view.

We stepped off the bus facing what seemed like a quarter acre of bright red salvia. On the other side of the bus a terraced border began with alyssum, ascended to balsam in the middle section and was capped with orange lilies by the dozen. Lilies and daylilies were features throughout the grounds, along with annuals such as zinnias and flowering tobacco.

(Continued page 7)

JULY 24 continued

A new pond circled with pink shrub roses was a notable addition. A rose border in the rear of the property was carefully contained by an edging of horizontal utility poles. Within these constraints flourished 200 to 300 roses, all planted this year and last.

I've just managed to hit the highest of the highlights of this garden. There is simply too much to take in during one short visit and, frankly, I was too busy looking to make many notes. Dick welcomes visitors at nearly any time. Go see for yourself.

Our tour concluded at JACK KOLB'S with a delightful repast and an opportunity to sit down at tables on the lawn and talk about the wonders we had seen. It was a festive atmosphere in a beautiful setting next to Lone Oak Church in Eagan. Jack's carefully maintained Minnesota farmhouse is surrounded by a border of junipers, Anthony Waterer spirea and geraniums. Across the driveway from the house is a cute triangular border garden with many annuals and perennials, set off by vigorous multi-colored petunias.

ED CULBERT REPORTS ON THE JULY 12 EVENING TOUR

The Minneapolis environs are beautiful in the setting sun. With the sun we raced against darkness. If it wasn't a stalemate we'd have to say darkness won just as we left Carl Holst's garden. Shade provided semi-darkness much of the time anyway. Consequently we saw a lot of hostas. We also saw some of "that weed" *campanula rapunculoides* (I looked it up in Rickett.) which Morris Lifson loved and regularly brought to the auction as "*campanula glomerata*".

BOB OLSON had *impatiens* along the fence and a long border of hostas--each variety labeled. In a colorful bed/border some ten feet wide, and elsewhere, were white fibrous rooted begonias, red *salvia*, *impatiens*, *Gloriosa* daisies, globe thistle interspersed here and there with *chrysanthemums* destined to produce color this fall. There were fruit trees in the lawn and a small space in the sun beside the house was utilized for tomatoes, snow peas and peppers.

BURTON DEANE had more vegetables than Bob. Within a fenced off area were beans, parsnips, two varieties of lettuce, carrots, squash, cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes. He had beautiful roses; a circle of *impatiens*; and along or on the fence *helianthus*, tiny snapdragons, balsams, verbenas, clematis, Bishops-weed. We missed seeing Betty who is usually in the garden to greet us.

VIC LOWRIE is really out in the woods so he had hostas galore--hostas with leaves like over-sized footballs, hostas in bloom under the evergreens. There were lilies under the trees in the background. In front of the house a timbered raised bed displayed tuberous begonias implanted in crushed rock. In the deep shade to the rear were huge red baneberries, variegated dogwood, moss covered sod--and MOSQUITOES!

DONAL O'DONNELL hasn't quite as much shade as Vic so he had wild roses beside his entry gate, and long row of hostas down and around to the rear of the house, a specimen *amelanchier*? *viburnum*? --? (my ball point pen skipped) stood back of the hosta. The rear of the house faced upon a little pond on which the reflections were so entrancing that I failed to keep up with my note taking. I did, however, see the potted geraniums on the terrace and the monarda and the yellow day-lilies in the ferns alongside the steps down to the garden area.

(over)

JULY 12 continued

Upon our arrival BILL FULL handed us a sheet telling about the things in his garden while Carol dispensed lemonade. What Bill didn't mention was his bergenia (I thought it to be flowering cabbage.), his pink lythrum, the double Gloriosa, the white petunias caged á la Archie Flack in his flower bed and the smart red geraniums in his window box. The neighbor's display of potentilla caught my eye, too.

CHET GROGER just across Creston Road had pink monarda, garnet astilbe, daisies, dahlias, chrysanthemums and masses of lilies. He had caged strawberries and a whole seed rack of vegetables--carrots, onions, lettuce, Brussels sprouts, beets, parsnips, peas, cucumbers, broccoli, bush beans, pole beans, tomatoes, rhubarb--growing luxuriently with no room for weeds in between. How does he harvest without trampling something down?

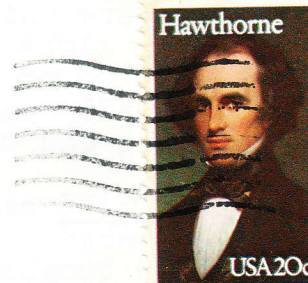
Dusk descended as we arrived at CARL HOLST'S. He, as expected, had a superb rose garden with his miniature roses arranged around a bird bath. The only asters I saw all evening were in a border row behind petunias and in front of hemerocallis. I was still wondering about the five foot stems on those daylilies when the tour ended.

* * * * *

1984 CONVENTION - The 1984 MGCA convention will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Mobile, Alabama, April 1st, 1984. Details will be forthcoming. Plan to go.

...START PLANNING...NOW...WE'LL SEE YOU IN MOBILE...WITH THE AZALEAS...

Return to
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