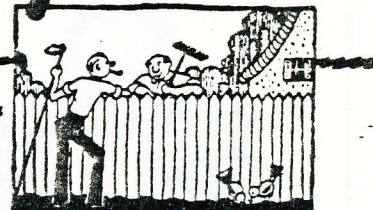




The Garden Spray

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

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



September 1984, Volume 42, Number 9

Forget the heat of summer.

Forget the summer doldrums.

Forget the garden chores left undone.

Forget, if you will, the autumn colors about to be;
Or, the winter's cold ahead.

But DON'T FORGET the Men's Garden Club's first fall meeting.

6:00 PM TUESDAY EVENING ~~SEPTEMBER 11th~~ at our usual meeting place,
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 49th Street & Chowen Avenue South.

If this is your first visit enter by the door from the parking lot, turn right and go downstairs to the dining room. George McCoullough, or his representative will be there to collect your \$5.00 for our usual tasty dinner.

After we've finished eating and socializing at the table president Russel Smith will have some words of wisdom for us and we'll greet guests. Then we'll settle down to hear the informational talk planned for us.

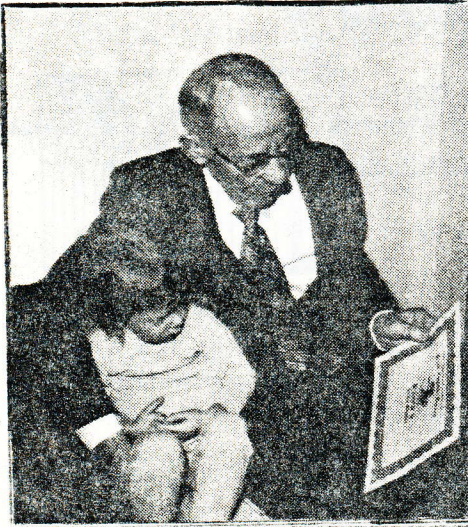
MERVIN EISEL, of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum staff will discuss "THE SHADY GARDEN".

Mr. Eisel, assistant professor and extension horticulturist well known to many of us, teaches an arboretum class on hostas--They revel in shade. He is also "in charge of keeping the plant inventory of the arboretum up to date so that they know what they've got", says Andy Marlow. And that isn't all he does. So, just BE THERE.

RESERVATION CARDS TO BOB CHURILLA BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, PLEASE.
Of course, if you don't want to eat come anyway--at 7:00.

NEW SOURCE OF OLD ROSES (from MGC Austin Gardener)

An excellent collection of more than 100 varieties of old roses has been assembled by the Antique Rose Emporium, a new Texas based mail order and wholesale nursery. By searching historical gardens, old cemeteries, and private collections throughout Texas and the Deep South, the Antique Rose Emporium can now offer the modern gardener the fragrance, color, ease of culture, and hardy, disease resistance of the beautiful old roses so popular in the past. The Antique Rose Emporium catalogue, forty information packed pages with more than 48 roses shown in full color, gives weekend gardeners, serious restoration enthusiasts and nurserymen all kinds of varietal descriptions and cultural tips. Orders are now being accepted for delivery of roses from late December 1984 to early March 1985. Catalogues may be ordered at \$2.00 each from C. Michael Shoup, Jr., The Antique Rose Emporium, Route 5, Box 143, Brenham, TX 77833.



1972 - Sharing Award 1974- Receiving Bronze Medal 1976 - Christmas Party

EVALD JOHNSON DIES

Twenty year member Evald Johnson died August 15th just four days before his 78th birthday. Funeral services were held at the Lutheran Church of the Triune God in Brooklyn Center. Neighbors and friends filled the church to overflowing--evidence of the esteem the community held for him.

Evald enjoyed gardening and the garden club. He demonstrated his interest by faithful attendance at club meetings. From the time he joined MGCM in 1964 he attended club meetings and functions with a regularity unsurpassed --never missing a single meeting for 13 consecutive years. Illness in the family finally broke the chain.

He served as club treasurer in the 1960's. He was awarded the Bronze Medal for services to MGCM in 1974. He served on many committees.

He demonstrated his skill and his interest in horticulture in his back yard which was on our tours several times. His vegetables and flowers were superb. He was particularly proud of the Dolgo crabapple tree on which he had successfully grafted several regular varieties of apples.

Evald was friendly but not boisterously so. His deliberate manner of speech and his calm voice, seldom raised in argument, had a quieting effect on others. Yet he did not fail to make his convictions known.

He was considerate of others--Witness his concern for Bill Cowcill whom he brought to meetings time after time after Bill entered the Trevilla Nursing Home in Golden Valley.

We will miss Evald Johnson in MGCM.

Bill Cowcill's wife, Elsie, died in late July. When Evald Johnson heard about it he contacted members of the garden club with the information. Evald and Mrs. Johnson, Verner Carlson, Vera Snyder, Chet Groger, Thor Solem, Vic Lowrie and Ed Culbert attended the funeral and extended our sympathy to Bill.



TERRACE TALK

The month of August was blemished by the passing away of Evald Johnson, a fine and well respected 20 year member. We will all miss him.

The tour committee outdid itself with the August 12th tour. As intended, they had beautiful weather, good busses, beautiful gardens and a fine salad buffet. Many thanks to Robert L. Smith and the committee. Also many special thanks to the Van Vorsts and the Shannons who took care of all of the arrangements at the buffet at the Van Vorsts and to the Van Vorsts, Shannons, Le Boutilliers, Kings and Gulderts for allowing us to tour their

gardens. Also, not to forget thanks to the wives of the committee members who prepared the food.

The flower and vegetable show was excellent this year. It looked to me as if it went off without too many hitches, after a late start. Thanks to Phil Peterson and Charlie Proctor for taking over at the last minute and thanks to all of those who helped them. Those members who exhibited also deserve thanks. We wouldn't have a show without them. Too bad we have such a low percentage of the club represented. If a novice like me can exhibit and even win a blue ribbon or two then everone in the club should be able to join in.

Another subject, the board of directors is wrestling with a problem. A few of our members make reservations (or are on the permanent reservation list) and don't show up for the meetings or don't cancel before the meetings. The club policy is that if you make a reservation and don't cancel, you are obligated to pay. The club must pay the food suppliers for those meals ordered and it is unfair to the rest of the members of the club to make them absorb that cost. There are only a few offenders so this problem could be easily solved with a little extra effort and consideration on their part.

September starts our fall program of regular meetings, building up to the Christmas party. Lets get some new members and lets have a strong and actively participating club.

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

—Russ

BEE ATTRACTANTS FAIL: Researchers with the Dept. of Entomology at Washington State University did careful tests in large orchards with three commercial "bee attractants", called Beeline, Pollenaid-D plus geraniol, and anise oil which has also been reported to attract bees. They found that yields from the control sections of the orchard were just as good, in some cases better, than in the areas where the attractants were sprayed. During appropriate pollination times, they had persons walking around the trees, actually counting the bees; again, there were no more bees on the sprayed trees than on the control trees. The conclusion of the scientists was that none of these treatments was helpful.

--Green Fingers, Toledo Ohio MGC

CUCUMBERS
by Verner Carlson

Cucumbers should not be planted outdoors until apples, lilacs and peonies are in bloom. They like a sunny exposure that warms up quickly especially in the North. The seeds will rot in cold soil and seedlings may be killed by the slightest frost. It is desirable in Northern sections to plant seeds one inch deep and four inches apart under Hotkaps or plant protectors of plastic which are removed when the plants are well up.* A better method is to sow seeds in four inch peat pots 1/2" deep in a cold frame or under fluorescent lights with an automatic timer set for 16 hours of light exposure about three or four weeks before the last frost is likely to occur.

Care must be taken in setting cucumbers out not to disturb the root system as they do not stand transplanting as well as tomatoes and other plants. Slit pots and plant in well enriched soil with plenty of compost. Bacterial wilt is evidenced by discoloration and wilting of the lower leaves, but most of the vine crops seem to have this problem. I've always had a good crop in spite of leaf browning. Cucumbers do not like acid soil. Lime should be applied, preferably as agricultural ground limestone, if the soil is inclined to be acid.

Cucumbers are monoecious as all male parts are in one flower, all female parts in another and every plant has both male and female flowers. The first 20 or 25 flowers a plant produces are male flowers and even later, the male flowers outnumber the female flowers by 20 to 1. The fruit comes from only female blooms and that is the reason we have so many blooms that fall off the vines before production starts. To insure production through the full bearing period pick regularly. If fruits are allowed to mature vines soon stop bearing.

Use a trellis or a fence which provides better light, easier disease control, cleaner fruit and easier picking. A good trellis can be made with two eight foot 2 x 4's with a cross bar on the top and bottom and covered with four foot wide chain link fencing. I drive two or three inch pipes into the ground to a depth of two feet and bolt the trellis to the pipes. If a fence is available, tie to the fence for additional support.

There are any number of varieties of cucumbers in all sizes, shapes and color. I prefer the original Burpless although I tried County Fair Burpless this year and have had a good crop.

*Richard Poffenbaugh of the Mansfield Ohio MGC suggests, "Plant seeds in a shallow furrow and cover them with a half-inch of medium-grade vermiculite. Keep the vermiculite moist. Seeds will germinate quickly and emerge with ease through the non-crusting vermiculite."

Among the 73 persons attending our August 12th tour were John Englund, Sr. and his wife, Elvera, who moved to Minneapolis in June after residing in Des Moines, Iowa for 78 years. Mr. Englund is a member of the Des Moines MGC. "But we like it here already," remarked Mrs. Englund.

Did you see the big picture in the August 15th Star and Tribune of the two boys in their 4H vegetable garden plot--a project led by MGCM member Joe Alfano?

JERRY OLSON'S NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 888-4655.

SUNDAY MGCM TOUR A REAL DELIGHT

reported by Andy Marlow

Beautiful sunshine, sparkling gardens and a buffet lunch were the major features of the Sunday afternoon tour taken by MGCM members and their guests on August 12. This reporter, in fact, ended up with a severe case of writer's cramp trying to make sufficiently detailed notes to prepare this report.

Our first stop was at the home of HAROLD GULDE, reportedly a prospective member of our club. His front yard is screened from the street by a hedge of rugosa roses and other shrubs. One rose bush still sported many nice, red blossoms. "Bin" variety fibrous-rooted begonias edged the shrub-dominated border in front of the house and An Ohio Buckeye and its fruit attracted considerable attention.

Gulde's backyard could be called a "little wonderland" of roses, daylillies, dahlias and tuberous begonias. Several beds of roses and daylillies climbed the slope at the far end of the yard, while dahlias were featured along the west side of the garage and the entire north side of the yard. The tuberous begonias occupied the shady north side of the garage. The highlight of the backyard, though, was a double row of potted and very vigorous hibiscus in the center of the picture. Mrs. Gulde noted that the hibiscus all spend the winter indoors under lights.

Another bed of dahlias along the driveway grabbed attention, too. "Dr. Arnett," a dinner plate size cactus red; "Edna C.," a pale yellow; and "April Dawn," a lilac and white bi-color, were among the most spectacular.

CHUCK KING'S Bloomington home has been on MGCM tours before, when King was a member of the club. A border bed of pink and white geraniums, blue salvia and King's favorite Dusty Miller stretches across the front of the house.

The north side of the driveway is packed solid with mums, which were just beginning to show a little color on the buds. The south side of the drive features a shady lattice shelter for hanging baskets and pots of impatiens, tuberous begonias and ferns, including an outstanding Rabbit's Foot fern. Chuck's fiberglass greenhouse stands nearby, filled with succulents on one side and gloxina on the other.

Out the backdoor of the greenhouse is the compost pile and the vegetable garden. A huge row of parsnips looked nearly ready to pull. Chinese Burpless cucumbers hung in large numbers from a section of chain link fence set at a 45 degree angle. Perennial beds adjoined the vegetable garden. Rudbeckia was in full bloom there, along with monarda, clematis, pampas grass and more blue salvia.

Chuck has hibiscus transplanted to the soil, as well as a dozen potted plants with as many different color blossoms. he says he feeds the potted ones once a week while they're outdoors to keep the blossoms coming.

While Chuck grows something of just about every variety, MGCM member TED LeBOUITIER is a specialist in roses. He says he has cut down from about 900 to only around 500 standard and tree roses. All are in raised beds in his ordinary size backyard. A bed that formerly held more roses has been planted with shrubs and trimmed with pea gravel.

The roses that Ted has left are still enough to take one's breath away. Nate Siegel commented that "every bush seems to be perfect." Many photographs were snapped of a particularly stunning tree form of the floribunda "Europeana," with its big red flower complex aglow right on a corner of the garden. The warm summer sun promoted the fragrance from this and the other blossoms, so that it was hard to tell if the visual or olfactory sense was enjoying itself more.

Ted has cut back on the standard roses to concentrate on miniatures, and dosen't count the 4000 or so mini's when telling you how many roses he has. Many of the mini's are for sale from his double wide greenhouse and attached lattice-work lean-to. A big bed of miniatures does grace the side entry into the back yard. The long raised bed is edged in railroad ties (Ted is a railroad man, after all) and is bordered in front with mounds of fibrous begonias.

Entering member JERRY SHANNON'S yard is like taking a stroll on a putting green. His lawn is closely trimmed bent grass, the same as that found on the greens at the local country club. Following the sidewalk along the ivy covered west side of the brick house, you finally emerge in the backyard, the sheer size of which is impressive. Though their house sits on a standard size St. Paul city lot, they've managed to acquire most of the center of the block and have made it a visual treat for all their neighbors.

Beds of perennials and annuals undulate along both sides of the yard. A magnificent display of single and double gloriosa daisies sparkled in the bright sun. Several giant blooms of cock's comb celosia provided just some of the red color in the garden. The vegetables are hidden behind the floral display on the east side, with just the bean tower peeking over the tops of blooming plants.

Last year, Jerry and wife Lee bought the house on their west and divided the lot. They then sold the house and have installed a beautiful new garden on the property they kept. It was designed by MGCM member Roger Koopman. It's a bit more formal, with an arched trellis entry and a circular center divided into quadrants. The divisions are planted with roses, pink and red geraniums and petunias. The border of the new garden features snapdragons, zinnias and nicotiana, backed with half a dozen chain link trellis to support the clematis just getting established.

When we arrived at the STAN VAN VORST home, this reporter asked Stan what he would write about if he were doing this article. He pointed to the huge red impatiens in their boxes surrounding the front door. But asked for the variety, Stan replied "Ask Dorice. I never know the names of anything." Names or not, the Van Vorst garden makes a stunning impression.

The yard is entered along the side of the house where Stan and Dorice have built a latticed structure that shelters their work area. It continues on to cover a comfortable sitting spot, where shelves contain large pots of tuberous begonia and other shade loving plants. The New Guinea impatiens in pots drew one's eye immediately.

In the back, it's a huge weeping willow that draw's the eye. The tree is perhaps 50 feet high and nearly as large in diameter. The Van Vorsts have created a very pleasant shade garden under the willow. Hostas and ajuga provide much of the plant material. Two of the hosta varieties, Kabitan (bright yellow) and Golden Tiara (gold with green edges), were standouts. Though the willow is large, the rest of the yard is large enough to keep the tree in reasonable perspective. It's bordered with raised beds, filled with perennials and a few annuals.

It was in this setting the the Sunday tour concluded. Tables and chairs were set and a salad lunch served. The tour committee and the Van Vorsts and Shannons provided food and refreshments for all.



Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.
CLUB OFFICERS:

- President:** Russell C. Smith
1610 Holdridge Terrace, Wayzata 55391
- Vice-President:** Andrew Marlow
10700 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka 55343
- Secretary:** Michael Denesuk
910 21st Ave. S. E., Minneapolis 55414
- Treasurer:** George H. McCollough
8812 Tretbough Dr., Bloomington 55431
- Past-President:** Chet H. Groger
6836 Creston Road, Edina 55435

DIRECTORS:

- Robert G. Churilla
3725 Lincoln St. N. E., Columbia Hts. 55421
- Dale Durst
6108 Oaklawn Ave., Edina 55424
- Robert L. Smith
4215 Kentucky Ave. N., Crystal 55428
- Stanley P. Van Vorst
2210 Edgecumbe Rd., St. Paul 55116



FIRST CLASS MAIL

To

MR. HOWARD H. BERG
10107 LAKEVIEW DRIVE
MINNETONKA, MN 55343

