

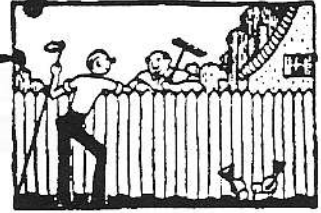


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

August 1996, Volume 54, Number 7



**Take a Break from
Summer Chores...
Take in the August
Doubleheader!**

Garden Tour at Valleyfair

August 6

Details on page 4

Flower Food and Foto Show

August 10 & 11

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Saturday

Entries begin at 7:00 am

Judging begins at 10:30 am

Show open to the public from 12:30 to 4:30 pm

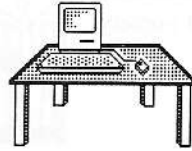
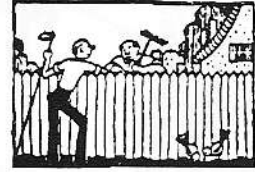
Sunday

Show open to the public from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Pick up entries and ribbons between 4:00 and 4:30 pm

Remember to bring plants that the club call sell to help pay for the Show.

Show rules and schedule were distributed with the July *Garden Spray*. Call Mel Anderson or Duane Johnson with any questions.



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

It's just a bit ironic that one of the smallest issues for the year of the *Garden Spray* is coming out in MGCM busiest month. Or should I say the month with our busiest week. Due to scheduling necessities, both the August member's tour and the Flower, Food and Foto Show fall during the same week. Get all your weeds pulled now, so you're free for these great activities!

The Biennial Tour was a rousing success financially and otherwise. We'll have a full report in next month's *Spray*. We had lots of visitors and gave out a large number of membership brochures and membership applications. We'll be reaping the benefits from this tour for months, maybe even years, to come.

I was a garden host, along with Henry Orfield and my son Philip, at Dave and Delores Johnson's garden for the Biennial Tour. Saturday was a fabulous day and the visitors were both impressed and impressive. They seemed to know a lot about gardening, but had a million questions anyway—each one patiently answered by one of the Johnson pair. Sunday we toured and saw the splendid work done by all the MGCM gardeners.

Another thing that impressed me was Henry Orfield's willingness to turn his expensive Nikon camera to Philip to take pictures of the visitors. Some of them came out quite well. Henry spent time showing Phil how to take photos of the flowers, using a macro lens, tripod and cable release. It has stimulated my son's interest in photography no end. It's this kind of concern for young people and the willingness to teach and mentor them that's one of the strengths of our club.

Coming Attractions

Tuesday, August 6 – 5:30 pm
Member's Garden Tour
Valleyfair Amusement Park
Shakopee, MN

Tuesday, August 13 – 7:30 pm
Board of Directors
Henry Orfield's House

Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 10 & 11
Flower, Food & Foto Show
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Chanhassen

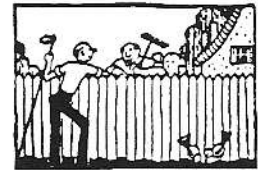
Tuesday, September 3 – 7:30 pm
Board of Directors
Kay Wolfe's House

Tuesday, September 10 – 6:30 pm
Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Ave. So.

Tuesday, October 1 – 7:30 pm
Board of Directors
Bob Voigt's House

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members and friends. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

Editor.....Andrew J. Marlow
Staff.....Ed Biren, Chuck Carlson, Sher Curry, Dale Fisher, Bill Hull, Bob Olson, Derrill Pankow and Merle Pulley



Tips and Snips

by Bob Stepan, President, MGCM

Hi everyone again. If you are like me, you probably wondering how our public tour turned out. I especially want to thank the Biennial Tour Committee for doing such a magnificent job. There were few, if any, flaws in the whole two days. The success of the tours will be measured not only in scholarships, but in the comments received at each of the gardens that were on display.

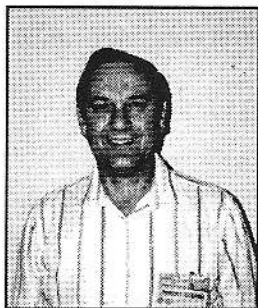


Photo by
Ted Olson

At this writing Treasurer Howard Berg and his wife, Ruth, were busy calculating the totals. Preliminary indications were in the neighborhood of a gross profit of around \$8,500. Somehow we have managed to increase the amount each year we have public tours. Thanks go not only to the Committee, but to those who offered their gardens up for public scrutiny and

to those members who served as garden monitors, sold tickets, helped with publicity and did the many small jobs necessary for a major event like this. And let's not forget to thank those who so graciously supplied all those positive comments.

Our Club is growing by leaps and bounds. Just a few years ago our Board of Directors was wondering if we could maintain a minimum membership of 100. Now we are moving closer to 150 members, and I wouldn't be surprised if, when our September meeting rolls around, we didn't surpass that number.

The Flower, Food and Foto Show is coming up on August 10 and 11 at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. That committee has also put in extra hours preparing for this event, so please attend and participate.

Remember that last year our immediate Past President took top honors and most of the ribbons in the vegetable division. I wonder if he has his strategy all planned for this year?

We also are going to Valleyfair on August 6th to see the gardens. Note that this is not our regular meeting night. Mark your calendar so you show up on the first Tuesday of the month, not the second. And get your reservation in to Kay Wolfe right away!

New Members

Richard Coldren
9895 East Lower 167th St.
Lakeville, MN 55044
Home phone: 435-6508

Ada Hegion
1104 21st Ave. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
home phone: 331-3266

Wayne Hergott
5629 Interlachen Circle
Edina, MN 55436
home phone: 927-8842

Kathy Julius
1008 Quebec Ave. North.
Golden Valley, MN 55427
home phone: 593-1686



Smell the flowers and ride the Wild Thing!

Garden Tour to Valleyfair

by Kay Wolfe, Tour Committee Chair

The August MGCM Member's Tour will be a trip to Valleyfair to tour their gardens. Valleyfair received the 1995 MGCM Industrial Landscaping Award for their beautiful grounds. Scott McKenzie, head of Landscape Design, will tell us about designing and developing the gardens, and about the role landscaping plays in the overall look and feel of the park.

The MGCM Industrial Landscaping Award is given each year to a commercial or industrial concern that makes outstanding use of landscaping and plantings at their place of business. Plants are an essential part of the Valleyfair experience, not just an "add on", thus making Valleyfair an ideal recipient of the award. We chose the first week of August for our tour as the plantings would be at their peak.

Date: Tuesday August 6

Time: Tent reserved for 5:30 pm.

Dinner served at 6:30: Southern fried chicken, hot dogs/buns, potato salad, cole slaw, beverage.

Program and walking tour of the grounds after dinner

Note: Come prepared for lots of walking! They have 90 acres!

Cost: Dinner: \$7.00 per person

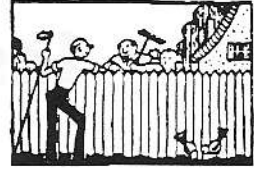
Parking : \$5.00 per car – car pool with other members!

Free admission to the amusement park after our tour. Park is open until 10:00 pm. and there are concerts, the Imax theater and fireworks.

Directions: Valleyfair is located in Shakopee on State Highway 101
9 miles west of the intersection of I-35W and State Highway 13
3 miles east of downtown Shakopee
2-3 miles west of County Road 18 and State Highway 13

Enter Valleyfair and pay for parking at the pay booth. Go straight ahead (do not turn into the parking lot on the left) to the north parking lot. The turn left and go down by the Picnic Cove where there are grass and picnic shelters. MGCM is assigned to Pavilion #6—the one with the white tent.

The permanent reservation list is not in effect for this meeting. To reserve a dinner and tour, phone Kay Wolfe at 922-0762 and leave a message. Or send an e-mail to ECEQ99A@prodigy.com. Final count for reservations must be turned in by noon on July 31. Please get your reservation in as soon as possible.



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

An article entitled "A Grand Herbarium" in the July–August *Minnesota Volunteer* was the trigger for this month's Chestnut. The article contained quite a few interesting facts but also spoke of plant identification.

Plant identification is something gardeners need to know about. It probably began with the first gardener. The apple has been identified as the fruit that led to human kind's fall but now scholars believe it was an apricot. If they would have used Linnaeus' scientific method, we would have known it was a *prunus* not a *malus*.

The U of M Herbarium's library has some 830,000 dried plant specimens from around the world—and they are receiving new ones every day. One treasure is a Minnesota/Dakota prairie plant collection gathered by botanist Charles Geger in 1893. Another specimen is a Minnesota trout lily discovered in 1870.

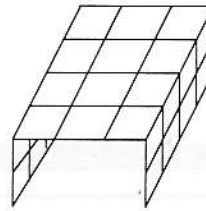
The herbarium has also been used to solve deaths and crimes. A murder was solved and the death of some horses was traced to maple leaves with frost wilt. The herbarium is used by many researchers, ecologists, veterinarians, homicide detectives, poison control staff and paleobotanists. We have a valuable asset right here in the state.

Our club has many who are well versed in plant identification. Two that come to mind are Jerry Shannon and Eldon Hugelen. Whether they be mentor gardeners, master gardeners, or amateurs like myself, just about any club member would be willing to help. If club members

can't help, then you just may have to research it at the U of M's herbarium.

Every year I say next year I will stake some of my plants before they get too tall and start falling over. But it happened again this year. I have some penstemon, veronica and foxglove that all need to be staked. It would be nice to plan ahead rather than react. Maybe this year I will make a list of plants needing help and make some items to help combat the problem. Here are some examples:

- For plants like Foxglove that need only a single stake, use a single chain link fence wire. It's curved bends are ideal.



- For plants like Veronica which have multiple stems, make a box out of cement reinforcing screen (see left. Hog wire could also be used. Make

the wire tall enough to support the plants but low enough so it will be hidden by the plants as they grow through the screen.

- Plants like squash or melons can be kept off the ground with a screen shaped like an arbor arch. Let the plants grow through so the fruit rests on top. Stake the ends to keep the screen curved.

- Single stakes can be made from pussy willows providing you cut them to the ground every spring. Cutting them to the ground generates nice straight 5 foot stakes in one year.

How about a few conundrums? Why do you find what you are looking for the last place you look? How come wrong telephone numbers are never busy? Why do weeds growing next to your plants look like the plant?

I have come to the conclusion that I am not afraid to die but I just don't want to be there when it happens.

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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Bob Stepan
7717 Riverdale Dr., Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Vice-President: Maurice Lindblom
5219 Malibu Drive, Edina, MN 55436

Secretary: Mary J. Maynard
4375 Dart Ave. So., St. Louis Park, MN 55424

Treasurer: Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305

Past President: Bob Voigt
4934 Aldrich Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55409

DIRECTORS:

Chuck Carlson
1001 Hackman Circle, Fridley, MN 55432

Bill Jepson
13207 Henning Circle, Prior Lake, MN 55372

Henry Orfield
6124 York Ave. So, Edina, MN 55410

Kay Wolfe
2740 Florida Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55426

Return to:

The Garden Spray

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Andrew J. Marlow, Editor

10700 Minnetonka Boulevard

Hopkins, MN 55305-4404

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