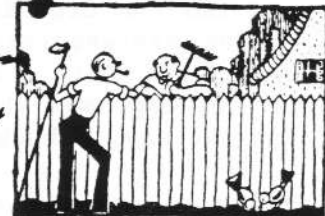




The Garden Spray

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

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



September 1991

Volume 49

Number 9

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Fall is in the air. Days have gotten shorter.
IT'S BACK TO LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
(49th Street at Chowen Avenue South)
At 6 PM on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th to hold our
regular dinner meeting at the usual \$6.50 price.

Standing reservations will again be in effect. All others GET YOUR RESERVATION CARDS
BACK TO ELDON HAGELEN AT ONCE.

PROGRAM

Mini-session preceding speaker--A 12 minute slide show on the history of the Minnesota Horticultural Society with a tape recorded message by MGCM's Andy Marlow.

SPEAKER: DOROTHY JOHNSON, Executive Director, the Minnesota State Horticultural Society.

TOPIC: THE INS AND OUTS OF SUMMER PLANTS.

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MGCM FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW AWARDS

Grand Champion: Dave Johnson - Free one year MGCM membership.

Albert R. Blackbourn Trophy
Flower Sweepstakes

Dave Johnson

Tom Foley Memorial Trophy
Vegetable Sweepstakes

Kent Petterson

Robert L. Smith Memorial Trophy
Best Showing First Time Exhibitor

Henry Orfield

National Awards 1991
Vegetable - Large Tomato
Flower - Zinnia

Phil Peterson
Lee Gilligan

25 members and 3 non-members brought their finest plant material to fill the show space at Riverplace. Included were 8 new member exhibitors.

The committee wishes to thank all those who participated or helped to make this year's show a success.

--Kent Petterson, chair

DEMOCRACY MAY RULE AT MGCA - BUT NOT YET

DOES ANYONE CARE?

Many of you may have assumed that democratic control of MGCA by the membership existed in the past. In reality, the Board of Directors made the rules, changed the rules and ran the organization. The only effective input for the membership was thru it's region representative. Our North Star Region representative for several years has been Russ Smith. Russ has faithfully served our region without compensation for any of his expenses which have been considerable. We don't say it often enough, but to Russ we say, "Thank You for all your service to MGCA on behalf of MGCM."

A new set of By-Laws were adopted by the Board of Directors of MGCA at the November 1990 Board Meeting in St. Louis. These By-Laws were reaffirmed at the Raleigh Convention Board Meeting with an implementation date of January 1, 1992. The new By-Laws have the following broad categories of change:

- 1 - Our headquarters organization will be dropping the name "MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA" and will now be called GARDENERS OF AMERICA, INC.
- 2 - A limited degree of democracy has been added to the new By-Laws giving individual members voting rights.
- 3 - GARDENERS OF AMERICA, INC. will be an individual member organization rather than a club organization as in the past. Clubs like ours will continue to bring their members to GARDENERS OF AMERICA as a club if they choose to continue as they have in the past.
- 4 - Our club will no longer send voting delegates to the national convention. Any individual who attends the convention will now have voting rights if he/she is a member. In our clubs case nothing changes because we don't send more people than we are allowed delegates.
- 5 - At some point, we as a club probably will be given the option of maintaining the status quo, or adopting and moving into a new operating subdivision of the parent corporation which may also be called GARDENERS OF AMERICA.

All of this is very confusing. As we found out at the convention, even the leadership has shown some confusion. If you would like to see a copy of the By-Laws, please check with Russ Smith or Kent Petterson. Russ would appreciate your comments and will bring them to the next Board Meeting.

The future of our club and of the national organization will hold many changes. Hopefully, we can make the changes in a productive manner that will be as painless as possible.

Kent Petterson
Club Delegate

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Eggplant was originated in India and later developed in China.

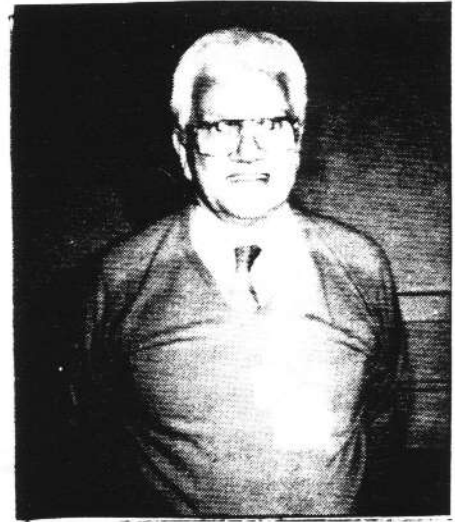
The radish is a widely eaten vegetable in China where many varieties have been developed.

Chinese cabbage and mustard are products of China and Japan and have only recently been popular in the West.

Cabbage got its start in Southern Europe but was perfected farther north.

MGCM PRESIDENTS: RUSSELL C. SMITH, 1984

Russ Smith, MGCM's 42nd president runs his own business, RUSSELL SMITH ASSOCIATES, INC., Specialists in Real Estate. His appraisal services alone would keep him, his son Greg and his wife Janet hopping. But that isn't enough for our genial Russ. Let him tell you about how he got into gardening and about his range of other activities.



Russ Smith

"I was born in Princeton, MN on February 14, 1923 in a Blizzard. I did no serious gardening until about 1931 or 1932. My first real experience was selling volunteer moss roses from a beautiful bed in our front yard for 5 cents per dozen. I posted a "Moss Roses for Sale" sign at the curb and business was pretty good. As I recall, I gave about 3 dozen plants for each nickel and I still felt rich and had plenty of moss roses at the end of the season for my own use.

That same summer I found some plants in the vacant lot across the street and thought it would look good as a vine on our house so I dug it up, with my hands as I recall, and transplanted it in the area where we were growing the moss roses, against the house. Later that day, my mother advised me that I had not transplanted Wood Vine as I thought but rather Poison Ivy. I immediately untransplanted it. Interestingly enough, I did not get any poison ivy reaction.

In the summer of 1932, my mother and I planted a vegetable garden. I hand watered it but with the combination of the sand and the drought everything had dried up by mid-summer--no harvest at all.

The next lasting impression I have was when I was a junior or senior in high school after we had moved to Milaca. We had a new garden--full of quack grass. At that time Roundup had not been heard of so the quack grass was pulled by hand. It didn't take me long to tire of hand pulling, so I cheated--I didn't worry about getting the root, even though I knew I should--I only worried about getting the top growth so I could get done earlier and my mother wouldn't know the different, I thought--she did though.

After high school I "immediately" went into the military and after that to college. In my last year of college, with the help of my father and friends we built a house for Janet and myself along with Phillip our new son. The first summer in our new home I planted a garden--about 10' x 15'. The next summer it was expanded and the expansion continued each year to about 75' x 50' by the time we moved in 1957 to our present home at 1610 Holdridge Terrace in Wayzata.

At our Wayzata home, the terrain was not conducive to gardening except by creating a terraced area immediately to the rear of the house. That terracing took 50 tons of rock. The front yard was lawn and the remainder of the yard at the rear of the terracing was planted with shrubbery and Dolgo crab apple trees.

I could not resist having at least a small vegetable garden so in year 2 at the new house a vegetable garden about 10' x 15' was planted. In year 3 the expansion program again started. Now the 22,000 sq. ft. lot is 50% or more in gardens about equally vegetables and flowers. The terracing has been expanded with timbers. The vegetable gardens cover the entire rear of the lot which is now all in terraced raised beds.

(over)

In my "spare time" I attend events or do volunteer work in Men's Garden Clubs of America, Minneapolis and Lake Minnetonka; the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the Minnesota Orchid Society, the Minnesota Hemerocallis Society, the Hennepin County Master Gardener Program and the Hobby Greenhouse Growers--all of which are gardening groups to which I belong.

What a slave we become to our favorite hobby!!"

* * * * *

THE RIVER GLEN EXPERIENCE

by Chuck Carlson



About 15 of us attended the tour of Ron Wienholt's River Glen Gardens on the 15th of June. For those of us who took the tour it was an experience. The garden is located in the vicinity of Little Sauk which according to Ron is a meeting place of the conifers of northern Minnesota, the hardwoods of the southeast and the prairie of the southwestern parts of the state. The specific area Ron chose some 35 years ago is also a mixture of these areas and the plants of these areas. But, it doesn't stop there since plants from around the world have also been transplanted to this garden.

Various garden situations abound. Some have been created and some are extensions of those natural to the area. These range from wetlands, pools, springs and creek settings to Ron's created gardens. These creations run the gamut from the usual to the unusual, such as an acid garden, an alpine garden, a wild rose garden, a number of perennial gardens and a Japanese garden. All of this plus forests of conifers and hardwoods, the prairie and a number of semi-hardy potted specimens which he winters over in a root cellar dug into a spring-laden bank.

The time of the season we were there allowed us to view more blooms of our state flower than any of us had seen in one place. If I remember correctly, this garden is contained in about 75 acres. Remembering the names of all the specimens is an impossibility since they must number in the hundreds and maybe into four figures.

If there is another chance to see this magnificent setting, don't miss it. Not only is Ron a first class gardener, a collector and a horticulturalist but he is a fount of knowledge which he can interestingly relate to those who visit. I hope you have come to the opinion that all who attended were impressed. I believe you would be also.

E-Z PEST CONTROL

from the San Antonio M G C bulletin

Garden pests can be controlled with a cheap, nontoxic, homemade insecticide, says the US Agricultural Department. The recipe was developed after entomologists in the Agricultural research Service's lab in Phoenix AZ found that a spray of soybean oil protected cotton from aphids and whiteflies. They say home gardeners should mix one tablespoon of dishwashing detergent with one cup of cooking oil. When pests strike, mix one to two and a half teaspoons of the detergent-oil mix with each cup of water. The detergent causes the oil to emulsify in the water. It can be sprayed on plants every ten days with a pump sprayer, the researchers suggest. Besides aphids and whiteflies, this mixture works against spider mites and army worms. It's been used successfully on eggplants, carrots, celery, watermelon, pepper and cucumbers, but tends to burn the leaves of squash, cauliflower, and red cabbage. Thirty cents worth of the homemade stuff is effective as a dollar's worth of the store-bought stuff.



Grow With Us

Hats off to Kent Petterson and the Flower and Vegetable Show committee for doing a fine job on the show last month. The presentation looked very professional and filled up a beautiful storefront location at Riverplace, overlooking the Mississippi River and the downtown Minneapolis skyline. Almost thirty MGCN members participated in the show and displayed hundreds of specimens of award-winning flowers and vegetables. Again, thanks for the fine job to Kent who even found the time to win most of the vegetable awards and to put together an excellent educational display.

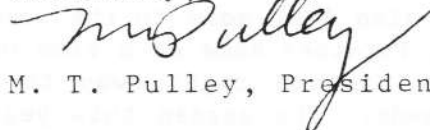
We now move into the fall season with our regular meetings and programs at the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church. You now have at least 3 opportunities to bring in items to sell, auction or raffle as a fundraiser for the club's 50th Anniversary celebration. So bring in your goodies, from African violets to zucchini (limit one pick-up load per member on the zucchini please) and help your club raise funds for next year's programs and the BIG BASH on October 1st, 1992.

Speaking of next year and the 50th, if you have any special projects or ideas you want to see implemented, there is still time to call Chairman Bill Hull to run it by the 50th Anniversary Committee for consideration. How about volunteering to organize a "Biggest Pumpkin" contest and give away a nice cash award at the Pumpkin Bowl next fall in Anoka? Use your imagination and DO SOMETHING.

By the way, how are your recruitment efforts going? Don't forget, we need you to talk it up out there to bring in some new members.

Finally, if you are interested in yet another Flower and Garden Show, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota are sponsoring -- Fall Palette, 1991 - 9th Annual Arboretum Flower and Garden Show at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Snyder Building, Sept. 14, 1-4:30 and Sept. 15, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. See you there.

Cordially,



M. T. Pulley, President

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

by Ed Culbert

We have come full circle. It's time to quit. It's time for someone else to take over as the cycle starts again. We quote from the September 1970 GARDEN SPRAY, Bill Hull editor:

This year the national contest by MGCA broke the contestants into four categories, determined by the process of reproduction used. Our category was Category 4, which the chairman described as "Photo-Offset, printed -- the 'fancy' publications." Anyway, we received first place... THE GARDEN SPRAY has been similarly honored for many years and in 1968 received a special award for "Best Club Bulletin in 1968."

At the 1990 MGCA convention in Des Moines the GARDEN SPRAY was named the "Outstanding Club Bulletin" for 1989 the first time such a designation had been made since 1968--21 years. But as Don Dowling then club bulletin evaluator chair feared the "top bulletin" idea didn't swing. So now we are back to where we were in 1970--categories. Three this time instead of four and based on club size instead of type of reproduction. The cycle is complete. It is time to start again.

At age 50 the SPRAY must change. First, the masthead. Beginning in 1992 our affiliation no longer will be with the Men's Garden Clubs of America (Name change). Will our club name be changed, also? Then, typed format must give way to something akin to that of our 1991 Flower and Vegetable Show announcement.

We must also find a print process which will produce at reasonable cost quality pictures like those of the 1970's when NSP did the printing. New high speed Xerox presses produce smears.--Hand fed ones came out better.--SPRAY style and content must be updated. This is the era of PROMOTION. At age 92 (in October) it's a bit late to start a new cycle. It's time for another--to start again.

* * * * *

The new MGCA life membership fee now in effect and based on age doesn't make sense to me. Under 40 years--\$250.00; 41 to 60 years--\$200.00; 61 years and over \$150.00). This money supposedly is invested and will draw interest into infinity. Dues may/will some day go up but in the long run the interest will eventually have covered a members dues though he live to the age of Methuselah. One buys life membership either to avoid annual payments or to gamble he'll come out ahead. The seller always has both purposes in mind. MGCA is loading the dice!

* * * * *

Weather patterns have gone awry. Pennsylvania and thereabouts are parched. New Mexico is green. Albuquerque and Santa Fe have rain almost nightly. California is arid. We have about the greenest summer ever. As for Houston Texas, Cotton Lynch writing in the July YARDNER reports:

Rain and more rain. At this time however we haven't had any rain for three days, but through June (six months) we have had 50.3 inches. This is more rain than we had all last year. For most of the eighteen years that I have kept records, the rainfall for the first six months has been less than one half this amount. Unable to keep the trunk of the plants covered with sevin dust due to the rain, the squash borers did get in. However, apparently due to all the rain, the plants lived until mid June. Lost a lot of tomatoes due to the skin splitting then rotting caused by too much rain. Also lost some to the worms as the rains kept washing away the insecticides. ... Potatoes came at a time when we had some heavy rains. Had to dig them out of the mud right away to keep them from rotting. The best crop of them all--weeds. The garden this year produced more weeds than ever before. At least, didn't have to do any watering.

MORE GARDEN TOURS WAY BACK WHEN

August 12, 1952...Dinner was served by the club caterer in Bob Bryant's extensive garden on Highway 101 near Hopkins. The whole afternoon could have been spent with enjoyment in the Bryant orchid house and in viewing his fine display of dahlias and delphiniums. From (there we) proceeded to Excelsior to the home of Harold Wright where we viewed some of the results of foliar feeding. Leaving Wrights we came back to Highway 101 and to Hank Elieff's very extensive glad plantings. Not all of Hank's fancy glads were in bloom but those that were paid us for the trip. As darkness threatened the tour continued on to Bellegrave and the homes of Bill Brooks and Doc Stillman where we saw another interesting greenhouse and some very fine flowers and vegetables expertly cared for.

July 14, 1953 Our first garden tour of the season started with a catered dinner in Chet Harkin's on 17th Avenue South. After looking over our host's very fine little garden we proceeded to Al Nelson's home where we viewed his fine rose display as well as a cleverly laid out vegetable plot. At Otto Erickson's we were greeted (with) a view of what is probably the most perfectly kept little yard most of us had ever seen. Not a weed in sight nor a blade of grass out of place and with everything about the place giving evidence of the loving care from both Otto and his charming wife.

As a fitting climax the tour was ended in Glen Cerney's private nursery. It was generally agreed that the daylight hours were all too short to do justice to Glen's extensive plantings of both the common and the more rare varieties of perennials. He apparently delights in trying out the new and unusual with the result that his garden is a small experiment station and intensely interesting to all plant lovers.

July 13, 1954 The first garden tour of the season began with a dinner on DuFourd's back terrace. An excellent choice as it gave Rene an opportunity to demonstrate his culinary art and do a bit of bragging about his garden. On leaving DuFourd's we visited first Tom Krumm's hilltop display of future dahlias and blooming annuals and then proceeded to Herb Kahlert's place to enjoy his iris and his welcoming smile. Leaving Herb's we crossed the street to see Andy Nyberg's cloth houses and his sweet peas and dahlias. Following a stop at the Otto Erickson's garden gem we concluded the tour at Glen Cerney's well diversified garden on the East side.

July 12, 1955 Arnold Brastad's spacious yard was the dinner setting...with chef Bill Swain and Cooke~~s~~ DuFourd and Titus preparing and serving a most delicious broiled chicken meal. Up the creek a few blocks was our second stop where Al Blackburn demonstrated his new riding mower and showed us how he raises begonias and fuchsias in his glass covered pavillion. At Archie Flack's we saw how he managed to have a fine show of color throughout the growing season. The last stop was at Harold Kaufmann's to view his beautiful petunia terrace which he will convert into a mum fancier's dream later in the fall.

August 9, 1955 The August tour was planned to start in Joe Witmer's back yard, but the weatherman refused to cooperate and after some spirited telephoning we ended up some sixty strong in the Mt. Olivet Church Sunday School Annex. Bill Swain and his gang moved in and served us another of the fine feeds and George Titus engineered a bull session enjoyed by all.

SOURCE: History of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

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Water cools the plant the way sweating cools you. As water evaporates from the leaf, it takes heat energy with it. Leaf temperature drops, maintaining a temperature favorable for food manufacture. Water is the major constituent of plants--making up 75-90% of the weight.

You Would Have Liked HERB KAHL

Herbert Kahlert was one of our outstanding MGC Mpls past presidents, serving in the very early years and living at 124 W. Diamond Lake Road, with his wife, where he truly loved his many beautiful iris.

He was a true leader in our club and excellent president thereof.

Herb was an originator, a man of ideas. His active brain kept us doing many new things. I only wish I could renumerate the activities we do today because he started them.

He was also greatly appreciated nationally in MGCA. He was volunteer secretary of MGCA for some time and later became our national president, the first from Minneapolis. He was known for his finesse when handling ticklish situations, such as occurred at the 1956 convention in St. Louis when word arrived that the national secretary had an heart attack at home and died during the convention.

Of course I liked Herb Kahlert because it was he who first nominated me as a national director, at that same St. Louis convention, indicating he hoped I would eventually take the mantle he would pass along to someone else that year-end. He was a very fine man. You would have liked him.

Bill Hull, MGCM Historian

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