

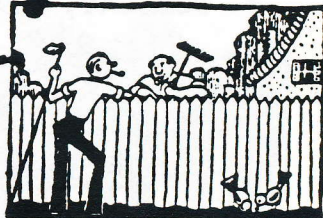


The Garden Spray

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

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

DECEMBER 1985, Volume 43, Number 12!



MERRY MERRY MERRY
Christmas



REMEMBER DUES are DUE

IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER

THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
- Continuing our fine traditions at our regular location -

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1985 -- LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
(49th Street and Chowen Avenue South)

Social Half-Hour 6:15 Dinner 6:45

By reservation only at \$9.50 each. Wives, guests invited.

HURRY, THE RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 --
so get your reservation, together with your check, in the mail im-
mediately to George McCollough, 8812 Tretbaugh Drive, Bloomington,
MN 55431. Use the coupon found in the November SPRAY.

PUT A BOX IN THE BASEMENT - OR MAYBE IN A SPARE GUEST ROOM

Do yourself a favor and prepare for our MGC Minneapolis GARDEN/GARAGE
SALE next spring by starting to collect items now!

Sometime next spring (Russ Smith is working on details right now) we are
going to have a Garage/Garden Sale to raise money for your registration
at the 1988 MGCA Convention here in Minneapolis. Many of you have heard
of the Special Fund we are setting up; we just raised the first \$50 for
it by raffling off some items at our October meeting. This money will
be used to help you register for the 1988 convention, so you and your
mate can attend at a special rate. Details of how the money saved will
be applied is part of Russ's assignment to report to the convention
committee soon.

But, in the meantime, all winter long, keep a sharp eye open for those
items you can spare. Put them in the box or even drop a memo note there-
in to remind you of that item you can spare.

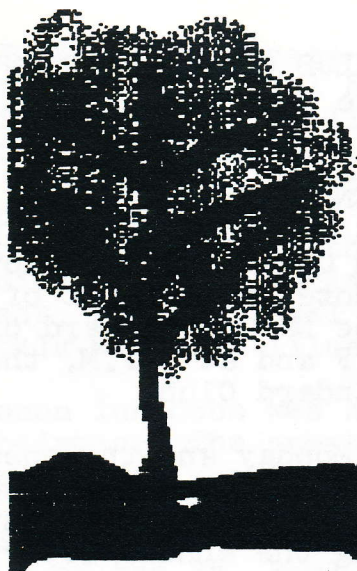
I must remember to place therein a gorgeous bronze eagle I no longer
need, a one-pound package of house plant fertilizer, a nice fan-shaped
trellis someone can use, a section of plastic fencing which makes a good
horizontal trellis--oh, all these things which are good but which I
don't need or use anymore.

Will you do the same? Place your GARDEN/GARAGE SALE box somewhere at a
convenient spot...then fill it up. (We will need several thousand
dollars so let's really fill up the boxes.)

--Bill Hull, Convention General Chairman

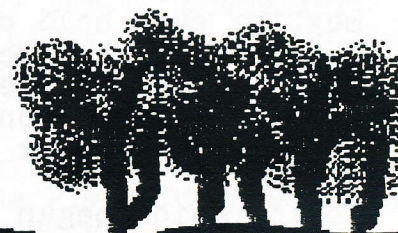
CORNELL GARDEN BOOKLETS (Recommended in THE GREENHORN, Mansfield, Ohio)
Order from: Distribution Center C, 7 Research Park, Cornell Univ.,
Ithaca, NY 14850. Make check payable to Cornell University. Include
catalog number.

IB 123	\$1.25	- Gardening with Herbs	IB 96	20¢	- The Compost Pile
IB 101	\$2.00	- The Home Vegetable Garden	NC 129	\$1.50	- Mushrooms
IB 135	\$1.00	- Growing African Violets	IB 163	\$1.50	- Rat & Mouse Control
IB 104	\$1.00	- Common Poisonous Plants	IB 159	\$3.00	- Rock Gardens
	E 894	10¢	- Culture of Garden Chrysanthemums		
	IB 20	75¢	- Garden Flowers from Seed		



FROM THE WEED PATCH....

by Andy Marlow



Elsewhere in this issue of the Garden Spray you'll find a coupon to send in, along with your check, as your reservation for the annual MGCM Christmas Party. Please make sure they arrive at George McCollough's on time (no later than Friday, November 29th). Because we must order turkeys, etc., well before the event, we just cannot accomodate late-comers. It promises to be a fine event, complete with a performance of the Swedish Lucia ceremony that was so favorably received two years ago. Reserve now and don't run the risk of being too late!

Also, now is the time to think about contributing a doorprize to the party. If you have some small gardening or houseplant materials, or gardening books, wrap them in seasonal paper and bring them to the church on the night of the party. Each couple always goes home with a beautiful Bachman's poinsettia, but winning a doorprize is an added pleasure. Russ Smith suggests you might also ask your company if they would donate a doorprize or two. They're often glad to help out a fine civic-minded group such as MGCM.

One last reminder! **Klier's Nursery** will host their traditional wreath-making party on Friday, November 29, starting at about 6:30 p.m. They'll have refreshments and holiday snacks, plus materials for you to buy at reasonable prices. You should bring a few dollars, a pair of pliers, some wirecutters and a friend or two.

Finally, I want to say what a pleasure it has been serving as MGCM president for 1985. You members, and especially the Board of Directors, have made it more fun than work. Everyone in the Club has contributed to meeting the two goals the Board set at the beginning of the year -- adding a new member a month and increasing participation in the Flower and Vegetable Show. Here's a heartfelt "thank you" from your president.

Chapter 8 of THE HISTORY OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS recite the club activities for 1949. Included was the following report on the 1949 MGCA Convention:

August 21 to 25, 1949. FOURTEENTH MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA NATIONAL CONVENTION. What turned out to be the largest and most successful annual meeting ever held by MGCA was held in the Twin Cities on the above dates. The headquarters were set up at the Nicollet Hotel where most of the activities took place. On Sunday, August 21, the National Board of Directors held a pre-convention assembly in Parlor F and at 5 P.M. they were the guests of Jack Cohen for dinner at the Standard Club.

Registration began on the mezzanine at 8 A.M. Monday and the opening session was held in the grand ballroom starting at 10 A.M. with President Joe M. Johnson in the chair to welcome the members and many guests present. The business meeting was used mostly for giving the annual reports of the president, secretary and treasurer, and the making of announcements. At noon a luncheon was served in the Minnesota Terrace with several of our own wives and daughters acting as hostesses. At 1 P.M. the group was entertained by the Dorothy Lewis Ice Circus.

Starting at 1:40, busses and private cars took the entire group on a tour of the University of Minnesota campus and then on to the First National Bank of St. Paul and Schuneman's Store to view the Minnesota Gladiolus show and the Minnesota Garden Flower Society annual show.

At 4 P.M. the crowd left for a tour of St. Paul gardens and arrived at Lee's Highland Village Inn at 6:30 for dinner. After the meal those still able to travel were returned to the Nicollet by way of a moonlight auto trip through some of our beautiful parks.

Tuesday's meetings began with a breakfast in Parlor F for the Club Testers and Editors, and at 9 A.M. the delegates went to the Junior Ballroom for a short business meeting with Joe Johnson presiding. Dr. R. M. Carleton speaking on "Looking Ahead in Horticulture" opened the program, and was followed by Bruce Krasberg with "A Young Man's Fancy - in Gardening." A panel discussion, The Plant Testing Program, led by Jesse Strauss and Gene Pfister, completed the morning's program.

The noon luncheon with Bill Swain as chairman and John Brandt as speaker was held in the Terrace. The subject of the talk was "Working Together", and the speaker made his usual happy impression on those present. The ladies had their own program this morning with a 9 o'clock tour through the Ann Pillsbury kitchens and then a style show and luncheon at Dayton's. They returned to the hotel in time to join the men for the afternoon tour of Lake Minnetonka gardens which got under way at 2 P.M.

Transportation for this tour was furnished largely by members of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club using private cars. The trip covered many of the beauty spots around the lake, as well as the Northrup King Trial Gardens and a most delightful ride through the hills and valleys of the district and ended at the Automobile Country Club where a fine dinner was served amid ideal surroundings. Several of our visitors with whom the writer has had contact since the convention have been most complimentary in speaking of this trip. They insist it was the outstanding event of the entire meeting.

Wednesday's events started with a breakfast at the Nicollet Hotel for club presidents and secretaries, after which the entire delegation was
(concluded on page 5)

CONVENTION - from page 4

taken to the St. Paul Hotel where a 9:30 business session was opened by President Johnson, followed by speaking program lasting until noon. Fleeta Brownnell Woodruffe opened the talks with "Something New Every Day" and was followed by our own Kim Andrews with a Talk on "New Trends in Rose Hybridization" with colored slides. The morning session was brought to a close with a highly technical paper by Sam L. Emsweller, principal horticulturist for the U. S. Department of Agriculture on the subject "Floricultural Research with Particular Emphasis on Lilies". His talk was also illustrated with slides.

The noon luncheon was held in the St. Paul Hotel with Joe Micko acting as chairman. The speaker was Harry R. O'Brien (The Plain Dirt Gardener) whose subject was "Garden Club Service to the Community".

The ladies at the convention were entertained on arrival at the auditorium of the St. Paul Dispatch-Pioneer Press building by a very witty talk by Harry O'Brien on "Idle Thoughts of a Dirt Gardener", after which they went shopping. At noon they gathered for lunch at the Women's City Club with Mrs. Joe Micko acting as chairman. Fleeta Woodruffe was their speaker and chose for her topic "From Eden to Minneapolis", (your writer would have edited that title some for use in St. Paul!) Following this luncheon, the ladies rejoined the men at 1:45 for a tour of St. Paul gardens. Refreshments were served by Mr. Ridder at his Lincoln Avenue Gardens, and a 6:45 dinner was served in Schumenann's River Room. At 8:30 all attended the Pop Concert in the Auditorium where they were entertained by the orchestra and the St. Paul Figure Skating Club.

Thursday, the closing day of the convention, started with a short business meeting in the Junior Ballroom at the Nicollet with Joe Johnson presiding. At 10 the meeting was turned into a general panel discussion with Gene Pfister acting as moderator and with many national figures taking part, among whom were Dr. L. E. Longley, Dr. Leon Snyder, Dr. H. B. Tukey, Harry O'Brien, Dr. R. M. Carleton, Fleeta Woodruffe, W. Ray Hastings, Robert Pyle, Dr. A. A. Plagman and our own Archie Flack. At noon the delegates were entertained at a luncheon in Northrup King's cafeteria with Gene Pfister presiding. Dr H. B. Tukey spoke on "What the Scientist is Doing for the Amateur Gardener". At 2 P.M. the group was taken to the Municipal Flower Garden at Lyndale and Kenwood Parkway where they were joined by the ladies for a tour of Minneapolis home gardens entered in a contest to be judged by the visitors. The ladies had been entertained during the morning at the Women's Club auditorium with a talk on African Violets by C. J. Hudson, Jr. Following lunch at the club, the ladies walked through the park and joined their husbands for the afternoon's tour.

The annual banquet was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Nicollet Hotel with President Johnson officiating. Dr. J. O. Christianson was the speaker and his topic was "Whatsoever a Man Soweth", a witty and fitting closing for the convention.

There were 424 registered at the convention--251 men and 173 ladies--which included 55 Minneapolis clubmembers and 39 of their ladies. Official delegates from our club were Harold Stevens, Glen Cerney, Cortis N. Rice and Fred T. Paul, one or more of whom attended every session.

FROM THE EDITOR: Men, 1949 wasn't a one man or small committee project. 1967 wasn't a one man or small committee project either. 1988 again calls for all out effort. Start providing Bill Hull with your input.

SEED POTATOES (EUROPEAN STYLE) From THE GREEN THUMB, Dallas MGC
There are many ways of planting potatoes. Most of us take our seed potatoes, planting the smaller ones entire, and cutting the larger ones into several pieces, each having one or more eyes. Such wicked, woeful, wanton waste would be deplored by the resourceful French. Their nursery-men put their seed potatoes onto what we think of as tiers of drying racks. They are kept moist and warm in a well lit area--a greenhouse. When they begin to sprout, they are transferred to the sales-room. The customer snaps off these sprouts when they are about 3/4" to 1-1/2" long. Because of the high humidity, they have already grown many small roots. He takes them to the salesman, who counts them and makes the sale. The denuded potato goes back to the forcing room to grow a second generation of sprouts. By the end of the planting season, it will have yielded three or even four crops of good quality sprouts. In this way a large potato which might cut into four or six plantings provides them with 30 or more.

Richard Poffenbaugh, Mansfield Ohio MGC, writes--"The Wallo' Water plastic plant protector is a plastic free standing collar, 18" in diameter and 18" tall, composed of hollow tubes which hold a total of 3 gallons of water for insulation from the cold. (Supposedly) it protects a tender plant down to 16° F. I planted two Early Girl tomatoes in them April 22. May 6 they were slightly over 12" tall; had good outdoor green color and were starting to make good growth. I pinched off the lower suckers to induce good growth. They should be over the collar top by May 31. My goal is to have ripe tomatoes July 4th!"

THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK BOARD NEEDS ANOTHER CARE HOLST

The new boulevard plantings on 53rd Street in Minneapolis are oaks. Some thrive. Some fail the first year. More last a couple of years but their leaves are light green or yellow and pale. They seldom leaf out again. New trees are planted in the same spot. They, too, are well mulched with wood chips and kept watered but what good does it do if the problem is chlorosis and the soil is not treated?

A U. of Wisconsin Extension Service bulletin on oak chlorosis advises: If you have an oak or maple that is yellow or light green, it is probably due to lack of iron or manganese. Iron or manganese deficiencies occur because the soil becomes too alkaline. Under forest conditions when the leaf litter is left under the trees for years, the soil becomes quite acid. The acid soil makes the iron and manganese available to the plants. In the city, since there is usually a lawn under the trees, the soil becomes more alkaline so these nutrients can no longer be taken up. Sometimes the change from acid to alkaline soil takes 20 or 30 years after building a home in or near oaks or maples.

The best way to work with the problem is to return the soil to forest-like conditions if possible. Put woodchips (pinebark or pine litter are especially good) under the tree. Add granulated sulfur at 10 pounds per 100 sq. ft. In three or four years your tree will turn green again.

No fertilizer containing phosphorus or potassium should be applied to the root zone of chlorotic oaks because excesses block the uptake of the micronutrients iron and manganese.

Who would write an article for the SPRAY but so far hasn't?
Tell Ed Culbert.