

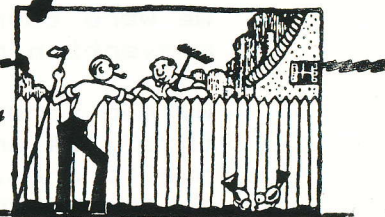


# The Garden Spray

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

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

July 1984, Volume 42, Number 7



## SECOND GARDEN TOUR THIS YEAR

A Regular MGCM Meeting

### PROGRAM

Guided Tour of Japanese Gardens  
Buffet Dinner at Normandale Community College  
Tour of Members' Gardens

### SPECIFICS

DATE: Tuesday July 10, 1984  
LOCATION: Normandale Community College  
9700 France (northwest parking lot)  
TIME: Guided Japanese Garden tours start  
5:00 p.m., dinner 5:30 p.m. - members'  
garden tours start 6:30 p.m. return 9:00 -  
9:30 p.m.  
PRICE: \$8.50 per person (dinner and bus)  
RESERVATIONS: Return reservations postcard no later  
than Friday p.m. July 6, 1984 (after  
Friday you will be at your own risk!)  
IF YOU ARE ON THE AUTOMATIC ATTENDANCE  
LIST, YOU WILL BE COUNTED AS ATTENDING  
UNLESS YOU CANCEL.



MEANWHILE: get out your April GARDEN SPRAY. Have you followed up on the front page article A GENTLE REMINDER? If you have you are well on the way with your preparations for our club's flower and vegetable show the weekend of August 18th and 19th. If you haven't alerted your "little garden friends" to the fact that they'll be on display at the arboretum get busy right away. It's still not too late.

IT HAPPENED, (even if it wasn't chronicalled) EARLIER. A dozen or so club members showed up at 9 AM Friday April 27th at the Lake Harriet Garden Center for our MGCM Arbor Day tree planting ceremony. Herbert Neby (on his way to the dentist?) had been there before us and had dug a hole into which we carefully dropped a 2 inch caliper balled and bur-lapped Imperial locust. A burst of rain made shovelling and packing dirt in around the roots a hurried job so when Russel Smith arrived all that was left for him to do was to give his blessing and hop back into his car.

APPLE MAGGOT is the major insect pest of home orchards. Symptoms: brown lines running through fruits. Control: Spray in early July. Repeat every 7 to 10 days through August. Use Diazinon 50 WP, Sevin 50 WP or all purpose spray.



## WE SAW 24 PERFECT GARDENS

You should have been there. It was a beautiful mid-July and we were touring members' gardens for the second MGCA national convention held here in Minneapolis. This was in 1967.

We had three partial days of tours. We had (are you ready for this?) 24 private gardens of members on the tour, plus three public ones. Everyone saw from 13 to 17 different gardens depending upon which tours they selected.

On Wednesday Tour One took our visitors and us to the homes of Glen Cerney, Jerry Olsen, Fred Holzman, a Mr. Pelling whom I can't remember, Don Morton, Dean Witter, Marvin Heighstedt and Jack Bucholz. Some of these fellows were from the Richfield MGC. Tour Two went to the gardens of Harold Kaufmann, Cliff Brisco, Archie Flack, Phil Smith, Lee Hamlin and Bill Hull. Hamlin was Richfield MGC.

Thursday we visited the Northrup King trial gardens, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and the Minneapolis Rose Gardens/Lyndale Garden Center.

Friday we were back to the buses for touring members' gardens again. Tour One went to Vic Lowrie's, Manly Jackson's, Dwight Stone's and Dave Johnson's. Tour Two went to the gardens of Les Johnson, Larry Bachman, Lloyd Bachman, Ron Twite, Otto Nelson and Nate Siegel.

Everyone was truly excited about what they saw and we were known as the convention where we promised 22 members' gardens and opened 24. We set a trend that has been too frequently ignored in recent years. Yet people keep saying, at conventions, "I want to see some members' gardens" and "How does an individual garden here?"

People said (actual written comments in unsolicited letters): "Never have we seen any more beautiful gardens." (Manitowoc, Wis.) Another: "The garden tours were a great thrill. Each garden was different and the colors were gorgeous." (Elgin, Ill.) A third: "I did not believe one club could offer so many home gardens worth looking at." (Houston, TX). Truer words were never spoken.

Let's think ahead now and start planning for the improvements we want to make in our landscaping that will culminate in at least as many such gardens in 1988.

—Bill Hull, '88 Convention Chairman

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**PETUNIAS:** Recently researchers discovered that a petunia kept at temperatures of 62 to 75 degrees F. and below will be well branched, bushy, compact and multiflowered if grown in full sun. If grown in partial shade or the temperature is continuously higher than 75 degrees the plant will tend to be tall and leggy. They can be pinched back in July and should recover in 10 days or so. Care must be taken not to over water. An occasional feeding with a low-nitrogen liquid fertilizer is recommended.





June 19, 1984

### TERRACE TALK

The Tour Committee should be congratulated for the excellent meeting on June 12th. Their timing was perfect as far as weather and the selection of gardens was excellent. Of course, I must take part of the credit because I am also working on the Tour Committee. Thanks to all of those who worked and presented an enjoyable evening.

The next tour should be equally as good, weather permitting. We intend to tour the Japanese gardens adjacent to Normandale Community College and have a dinner buffet style at the College. The tours of the Japanese gardens will be guided and will start at 5:00 p.m. so that you can come early and then eat at 5:30. I am advised that the tour takes 40 to 45 minutes. The tours will be conducted during the time we are there, however about 5:45 would be the last tour where we could comfortably see the Japanese gardens and then get to the buses where we will be leaving to tour members' gardens at 6:30. Let's make this a successful tour also.

In early spring, we signed up for special interest groups. I haven't heard of any of the groups meeting other than one meeting at Chet Groger's house which was a very fine meeting. I would encourage the Chairman of these groups to hold a meeting at the proper time to discuss the various subjects of the special interest group. This could be a fine program if we worked a little bit at it.

The National Convention Committee is going full speed ahead under the direction of Bill Hull. You will be hearing about the Convention from time to time and will be asked to assist in various ways. Let's hold a good Convention. Four years may seem a long time; however, this type of Convention requires substantial lead time and preparation. The Committee has been contacting hotels and trying to determine the headquarters locations, the first item on the Agenda.

Let's hope the weather settles down so that we can perform our gardening tasks in an excellent garden, the type we all desire.

-Russ

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"DEATHS Not a member of our club but a member of the Minneapolis Club, but the Minneapolis Club had to share this member with all the clubs as he devoted so much of himself to the National organization for many years. In recent years he spearheaded the Endowment Fund (E&I) of the MGCA. At the national conventions everyone knew him or if they didn't, it wouldn't take long as he was such a likeable fellow, and always had at least one funny story to tell at the conventions. We regret the loss of Sherm Pinkham who died February 2nd at the age of 89. We'll miss him at Mobile and conventions to come."

--The Yardner, Houston Texas, April 1984



## SUN SHINES ON MGCM JUNE GARDEN TOUR

reported by Andy Marlow

Although it had rained heavily for much of the week preceeding the June 12 garden tour by MGCM members and their guests, and the forecast called for more of the same, the sun made a command appearance and highlighted an already bright display of early garden blossoms. Iris and peonies provided most of the color in the gardens visited by the 76 tour participants.

### BOB CHURILLA

Churilla is one of several outstanding rosarians in MGCM and his just-about-to-bloom roses were the subject of many questions. Bob recently acquired 3 of Jerry Olson's 15 year old tree roses and was still trying to force one of them into active growth after the shock of transplanting. To accomplish that, he built a mini-greenhouse by draping black plastic over the spread of canes to raise the temperature inside high enough to stimulate sprouting of the buds. He'd already finished with the other two, which both showed signs of vigorous growth to come. "Wandering Wind," a pink climber that looks to have been in place for many seasons was one of several roses blooming and providing both color and fragrance.

Even though he has about 200 standard and 65 miniature roses, they are not Bob's only gardening interest. He's set out to demonstrate how much can be done with a relatively small urban back yard. The entire area is lined with beds separated from the very lush lawn by landscape timbers. The northeast corner has a small waterfall shaded by an arbor, with the delicate blooms of coral bells and a large hanging basket of oak leaf fern a couple of the highlights. A vegetable garden gets full sun along the fence at the south edge of the yard and wildflowers interplanted with yews grace the north wall of the Churilla's sun room. The large stand of jack-in-the-pulpit and some well-budded, but unopened, astilbe were eye-catchers here.

### CARMINE SACCO

A riot of color greeted us in MGCM member Carmine Sacco's back yard garden. In fact, there was much oohing and ahing over the size and colors of the 373 named varieties of tall bearded iris growing in the large, but very full beds. In addition, there were two or three other beds of seedlings, the results of Carmine's breeding efforts. It was all but impossible to pick one or two favorites, but a gigantic lavender blue unnamed seedling, nearly as large as a muskmelon, caught everyone's eye. Carmine suggested that we may have been a couple of days late for the peak of bloom, but few agreed with him. The display was truly spectacular.

The distressing news from Sacco's garden is that he and his wife are moving to California and MGCM will be losing a fine member. He will be selling his iris after the middle of July. If you're interested in purchasing some of them, his phone number is in the Club directory.

While specializing in iris, Carmine is not a one-dimensional gardener. He has a large rose bed down the middle of the yard with hybrid tea



bush and tree roses. And the large, colorful columbine in a tree-shaded corner of the yard brought more than one envious look.

Our bus made a quick stop in front of the Hodson home, 1236 Roselawn Avenue, in St. Paul. Hodson Hall on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota is named for Mr. Hodson. Mrs. Hodson, the gardener of the family, didn't want a whole tour traipsing through the yard, but invites individuals and small groups to view the iris and wildflowers whenever they're in the neighborhood.

#### FOSS IRIS GARDEN

A quick circumnavigation of downtown Minneapolis brought us to the Foss Iris Gardens in Golden Valley. Although Alice Foss Kronebush, who has operated the garden since 1940, was not on hand due to a touch of a virus, her young granddaughter was our charming hostess. Iris were in plentiful bloom in roomy beds lining one side of the driveway which circled the hillside property.

The plants were spaced for ease of selection by customers and, therefore, were not the spectacular show we had seen at Sacco's. But it seemed easier to pick some favorites. "Doll Baby," not listed in the Foss catalog, has a pretty peach-pink, fringed blossom. "Credo's" bloom is large and deep reddish-purple. "Post Time" features rusty-red color with some shadings of orange. From the comments overheard as we strolled through the gardens, not everyone agreed with this writer's judgement. They all, it seems, had their own favorites.

#### HENRY HALVORSON

Many new plantings, and some pleasantly familiar ones, greeted us at Halvorson's. A renovated garden on the south side of the driveway caught immediate attention. Tree roses, lilies, peonies and yellow siberian iris surround a giant bird bath. In a shadier corner, an old-fashioned bleeding heart at least 5 feet in diameter still held some of its fragile blossoms, despite the heavy rains of recent days. The peonies in this bed and several more on the north side of the drive created a colorful and inviting entry.

The border garden along the south fence was full of peonies in bloom. Asked to name his favorite, Henry pointed to "Coral Charm," which opens with large coral pink, cup-shaped blossoms. As they mature, the color lightens until they're nearly white. "Raspberry Sundae" is a fitting name for another standout. The single outer petals are the color of raspberries and melted vanilla ice cream.

Henry's vegetable garden is as far along as any seen this spring. "Buttercruch" lettuce looked ready for picking and the beets were at least a foot high. The vegetable beds were guarded by rabbit fencing on all sides, but the strawberry, blackberry and raspberry planting got the fence treatment on top and all around. No sense sharing with all the bunnies and birds.

Our evening concluded with a trip back to Webber Park Building along Wirth and Memorial Parkways as the sunset bathed the landscape in golden light. It was a fitting conclusion to an enjoyable and colorful tour.



## HONORARY MEMBER BILL COWCILL MAKES THE NEWS AGAIN

The first page of the TREVILLA NEWSLETTER, spring edition, featured an article, complete with 3-1/2" x 3-3/4" photograph, about MGCM honorary member Bill Cowcill who was noted for his carnations and his tales of securing "elephant horse manure" for his father's garden. We quote from the article by Nora Strange, another resident:

"William (Bill) Cowcill...is a Veteran of World War I....He was raised in Normanton, England and joined the army as a volunteer at age eighteen.... After six weeks of training was sent to Ypres, France...where he went into active duty...

"Bill still remembers some of the horrors he faced when he was captured and held prisoner....The prisoners were confined in an old castle cellar where the water on the floor was deep, greenish and dirty. The prisoners had to sleep by leaning on each others shoulders for an hour at a time. One time after the guards had made their rounds, Bill decided to leave.... After hours of trying, they finally took out a small window and escaped going on back roads...to their own camp,...only 21 miles away.

"Bill joined the army in 1915 and was discharged in 1919,...(He) still remembers his I.D. dogtag numbers, 52497, and some of the buddies he had in the service....Discharged in March 1919, he met and fell in love with ...Elsie Clarkson and was married on March 26, 1921. She resides at Crystal Lake Nursing Home."

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THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.

Edwin C. Culbert, Editor

5315 Portland Avenue

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

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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

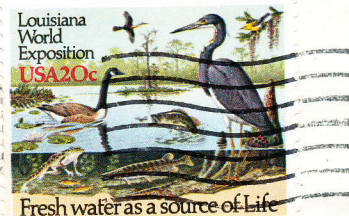
6108 Oaklawn Ave., Edina 55424

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