

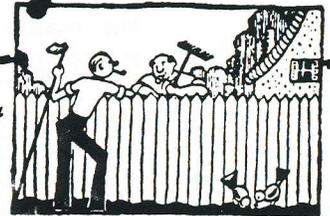


The Garden Spray

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

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

JULY-AUGUST 1988, Volume 46, Number 7



SUNDAY AFTERNOON GARDEN TOUR

August 14, 1988, 1:00 p.m.

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church Parking Lot
(Buses leave promptly)

Reservations for a seat on the bus are required.

Cost: \$5.00/person

Featuring Representative Gardens from the MGCA 1988 Convention Tours including the Gardens of:

- . Phil Smith
- . Jerry Shannon
- . Len Brenny
- . Carleton Nelson
- . The Fragrance Garden

Send reservations and checks to: Joe Stenger
5421 Girard Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Reservations must be received by Wednesday, August 10, 1988.

Please reserve _____ places for me and my guests:

- 1.
- 2.

Find enclosed my check for _____ (\$5.00/person)

Signed _____

GARDEN TOUR

Wives, Sweethearts & other Guests invited

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Wow! Did we have a convention!

We made our guests feel welcome and, judging by their remarks, they all went home pleased and enthusiastic.

We did have a big crowd. The most recent figure I have is 572 registrants, subject to a few last minute no-shows and some late arrivals. We know it was the biggest convention in fourteen years. If we had twenty-eight more people registrations would have equalled the last two conventions combined.

Of course the tremendous registration by you fellows gave us a good kick in numbers. Made possible by your efforts to build up a fund to register us individually, about seventy percent of you did actually register. Everybody thanks you.

People came because we sold them. It's as simple as that. We planned for four years to the day (July 4 1984 when we received the actual contract - to July 3, 1988 when the convention started). But we went after them with individual letters and much publicity. Also some people remembered twenty-one years ago and touted our reputation at their local clubs.

Then when we got them here we fulfilled most of our promises. The quarters were luxurious, the food delightful, the fireworks left people gasping with comments like "I've never seen anything like it." Of course the weather was terrible. But they understood and empathized with us. And we toured twenty-six different gardens - all prize winners in spite of watering restrictions for many of us. Then, Northrop King hosted us beautifully.

Financially we are in the black. We are repaying the club's three thousand dollar advance and, when all is settled, when all the bills are in and paid, we will give you a specific figure. In the meantime, it's good to know that with such a very low registration fee, we kept in the black.

We will present a wrapup as part of the October club meeting, to show some activity slides, to summarize and to recognize some hard workers. There are people who really broke their backs for our club and we want to be sure we give them a tremendous pat on the back.

Bill Hull
General Chairman, 1988 MGCA Convention

The seniors at the public hi rise, Lyndale Manor, 600 - 18th Avenue North, sincerely appreciate and thank you for the many dozens of cookies which were donated to our people after your National Convention Meetings. They have used them in Congregate Dining, as afternoon snacks in the lobby and in some of our activity programs. Most of the seniors here are disabled, have trouble going anywhere without help and have low income. The cookies were a generous donation and a special treat for our people. I did make sure that our residents knew that the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis were the donor.

—Burton Deane
Director

Reflections on the 1988 Convention

The convention is over. It is hard to believe. There was so much build-up prior to it - now it's over. Andy Marlow summed it up best, "It was more work than I thought it would be - and more fun, too."

My wife told me I would have to get a private line if anything like this were to occur again. The week prior to the convention was like running a "bookie" joint - the phone was ringing nonstop (each call seemed to be a newly perceived crisis).

My job was relatively easy. One can only guess what the phones were like at Bill Hull's and Chet Groger's - the nerve centers for the convention. Bill Hull worked on the philosophy and direction of the convention - Chet on the nuts and bolts. There were uncounted meetings, plans, counter plans and alterations en route to the final event. There were also periods of strained relations, even hurt feelings and anger as the tension mounted. But all this seemed to melt away when the event began to unfold. Everyone who came had a good experience - despite the heat - the snafus - the pressures - despite everything people uniformly had a great time.

I started having a good time when it came to write the description of the gardens for the Tour Book. I called Ted LeBoutillier and asked the questions Andy Marlow and I agreed on for interviews. After a short time Ted said, "Why the hell don't you come over and look at my garden so you know what you're writin' about!" Ouch! That hurt! He was entirely right, of course. So, I tried to visit each garden and talk to each gardener. That was wonderful. I made it to almost all of them. It was terrific - ringing the front bell, wearing my Garden Inspector hat. And though often coming without warning, they were always glad to see me. Upon hearing of the importance of my mission, they would tell me of the best parts of their gardens and gardening successes with unabashed candor.

The good times continued when almost all of the bus captains got the right size garden club shirt despite a remarkable reshuffling of bus captains in the last week. I never could convince svelte Gene Ackland he wore an XXL shirt, however. The best thing I ever did was to lay my hands on a dozen high quality resourceful guys to lead the bus tours. Most of them made "dry runs" of the route prior to the actual tours.

Despite all of this preparation there were a few "glitches" - but most were beyond control: the oppressive heat, bus air conditioners which failed, sprinkling bans - that sort of thing. The tour guides acquitted themselves magnificently. Between them and the gardeners who undaunted by drought and high winds produced 25 lush gardens to visit, the members' garden tours were among the true highlights of the convention. Not many clubs could provide five tours - each with a couple of show stoppers and all of the gardens of National Convention quality. We are justifiably proud of all of them.

- Bob Olson

FROM JUNE MINUTES MGCM BOARD

Rick Bonlender requested a representative from MGCM to sit on the Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment's Minneapolis Green Task Force. Charlie Proctor and Chet Groger were recommended.

Undesignated money in the Memorial Fund is to be used for Fragrance Garden walkway expenses. A plaque will be installed with the names of members designated to receive memorials.

AFTER THOUGHTS BY ED. CULBERT

As Bill Hull said there are many to thank for the convention. The various committees with their chairmen performed admirably but the driving force behind all was Bill himself. His touch was everywhere. e.g. That little note in each registrant's packet about picking a buddy so we'd know if you were missing was just the right start.

One of the largest MGCA clubs ever formed must be the one in the sky made up of the 160 men memorialized at Wesley Church July 3rd.

We thought we might have 3 or 4 takers for the hikes, but Vint and Ellen Bouslough drew 7 on July 4th and 21 July 6th. Al and Ann Miller had 7 on the 6th. On July 4th Vinton picked up 3 women who missed the women's tour bus. The hike made them feel better.

Albert Wilson was at his best. "You have my permission to go home and do it now" in response to a question about pruning some shrub. "I've got the bathtub in my room full of stuff for my talk tomorrow", he told me on Sunday July 3rd. Judging from the big cardboard bicycle box I saw he must have brought it from California.

The booklet telling about the members and their gardens to be seen on tour was a brilliant idea. Though no delegate saw more than 6 gardens, (Each garden was limited to 2 busloads of visitors.) everyone had a chance to read about the gardens seen and not seen.

The Northrup-King trip on a 95° day was a searing experience; but the food was good and the NK guides had the answers. "Yes, the soil within the shelters is just the farm soil plowed up where it stands." "No, this wasn't intended to be a wind tunnel but it does help us tell how these plants we are trying out will react under stress." Lured by the prospect of winning a valuable prize many of us made a complete tour of the grounds.

If your turkey was underdone Wednesday night blame the hotel cooks. Our table sent it's turkey back for a replacement.

Despite the woman going back for 6 more cookies the cookie supply held out to the end.

FROM DAVE MOEHNKE and GEORGE McCOLLOUGH

"Dave and I wish to thank all the people who participated in providing cookies and bars for the MGCA Convention hospitality room. We had many favorable comments.. This would not have been possible without your generous help. Again we say thank you for helping us to look very good."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS and TELEPHONE

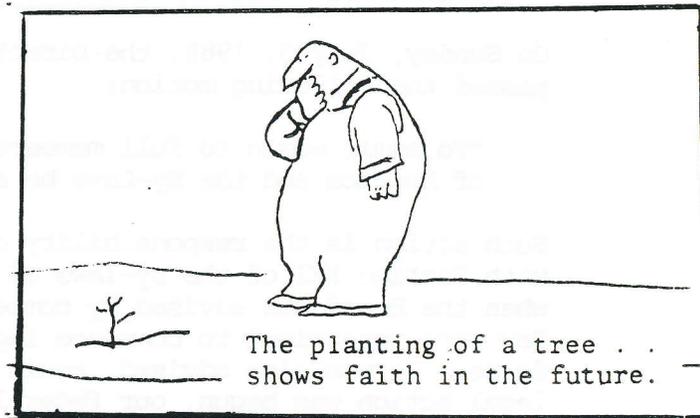
Rick Bonlender	377-3333	Stanley Crist	540-6358
1806 W. Chestnut Ave.		12600 Marion Lane #420	
Mpls., MN. 55405		Minnetonka, MN. 55343	

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Reed Sonstegard	866-3425
6336 Logan Ave. S.	
Richfield, MN. 55423	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don't stop watering! Walk through your garden and pick the plants that you want to keep healthy and spend the time, water and effort keeping them in premium condition, because on August 20th we have our annual Flower Show at the Arboretum. Remember, every other garden also has drought stress, heat and sun scald and undersized plants because of the weather. Your plants are probably better than anyone else's - so don't be afraid to enter.



New members, if you need help or assurance, call me - 537-6512.

GOOD NEWS

The Christmas Party will be at Lake Harriet Church this year. Augsburg wanted additional money for insurance, so to keep the cost down we are back at the church.

BETTER NEWS

The committee found a caterer (Agnes not being available for December was part of the reason to go to Augsburg) who is able to handle the event.

BEST NEWS

The caterer thinks the "Parade of Turkey's" is a great idea and is planning to have whole turkeys - fully cooked - for the meal. All we need now are carvers.

The convention was outstanding! Everyone in our club who was able, worked hard and went beyond the call of duty.

Our guests were truly grateful and amazed that a club could do so much. As president, I was easy to recognize so many people approached me with the thank you's and compliments. I want you to know your work was truly appreciated. Thank You.

HAPPY GARDENING!

There will be a special Flower and Vegetable Show issue edited by Andy Marlow out in a week or so.

MGCA DIED JULY 3, 1988: KILLED BY VOTE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS

On Sunday, July 3, 1988, the Directors of Men's Garden Clubs of America passed the following motion:

"To admit women to full membership in the Men's Garden Clubs of America and the By-Laws be adjusted accordingly."

Such action is the responsibility of the Board of Directors in accordance with Section XXI of the by-laws of MGCA, and was determined to be necessary when the Board was advised by competent authority that the women of Green Bay were determined to commence legal action and had the financial backing to do so. It was also advised, again by competent authority, that as soon as legal action was begun, our Federal Tax Exempt status could be rescinded.

The change in the by-laws will affect only the national by-laws. It will still remain the option of each local club to admit or not to admit women to full membership.

--Above from a handout to delegates at July 4 business meeting.

In the stock market this would be called a hostile takeover. But, unlike corporate stockholders who similarly have no say yet are apprised of the problem well in advance, MGCA members received no individual notice. The Green Bay raiders now in possession gained nothing to sell off unless it be the E and I Fund or the headquarters building. Hence, they must be the same group of "have it my way" rabid feminists who are rewording the hymns in mainline Protestant churches--and thereby fomenting fighting and scission.

It isn't that women aren't good gardeners or that there aren't oodles of women's garden clubs and even a few coed groups. However, Leo Knack MGCA founder saw a need for men to have a group where they could meet together in their own way free from the distaff side's special interests. Green Bay has decided that may not be.

As of July 3 the name Men's Garden Clubs of America became an anomaly. It must inevitably change. To what? What name does Green Bay decree?

And who thinks a local club will have the option to not admit women when the national rules say admit? Refusal to accept a woman into membership is the basis for another lawsuit or, cheaper in Minnesota, a discrimination complaint to the Human Rights Commission. Make no mistake that Green Bay intends to force all clubs into line.

What happens when an all male organization is forced into an unwanted new mold? Probably just what happened to an educational fraternity to which I belong. It like MGCA had a comparable women's group. Today some 30 years after the change when I attend a chapter meeting I see women and a few stray men. Why? I've been checking the membership proposals for several years now. Females nominate only females. Males nominate persons of both sexes. The disparity increases year after year.

Where does that leave us in MGCA? As an individual club we can withdraw from the national organization. Or, better--Let's disband the national organization now and let the headquarters in Des Moines revert to the seed company which donated the land. Regardless, 20 years down the road they'll be asking, "What was the Men's Garden Clubs of America? Never heard of it."

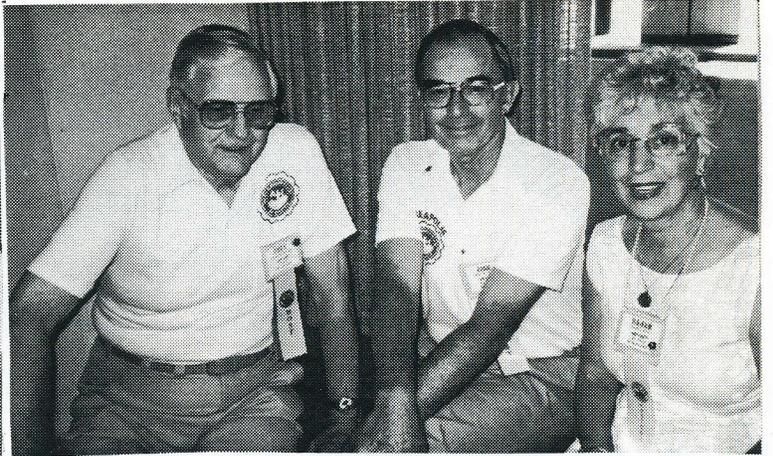
Edwin C. Culbert

PEOPLE SEEN AT THE CONVENTION

--Courtesy of Bob Olson



Bill Hull, Convention Chairman
Unidentified visitors



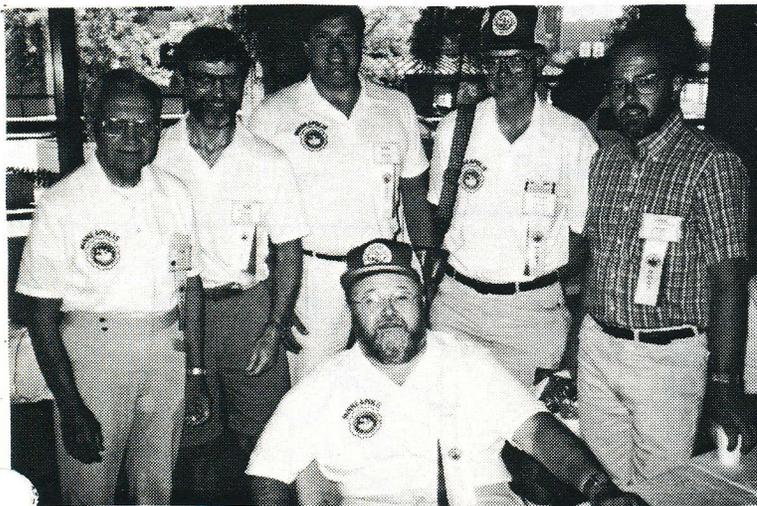
Convention Vice-Chairman
Chet Groger
Registration Workers
Jack and Rajah Kolb



MGCA President Al Miller and
his wife, Barbara
National Committee member, Russ Smith



Kickoff Luncheon, July 4th
Al Miller at podium



Bus Captains for Garden Tours
L. to R.--Stan Crist, Bob Olson, Greg Smith
Duane Johnson, Gene Ackland
Seated: Fred Glasoe



Attracted by Garden Tour book
L. to R. Greg & Janis Smith
Russ & Janet Smith
Jerry & Lee Shannon

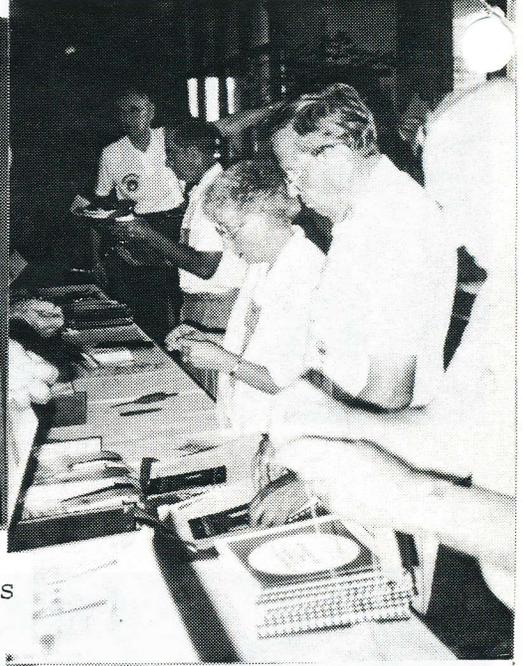
PEOPLE SEEN AT THE CONVENTION
 --Courtesy of Bob Olson



Sales Head, John Leonard and
 MGCM's Bob Livingston



MGCM President Duane Reynolds
 addresses the convention



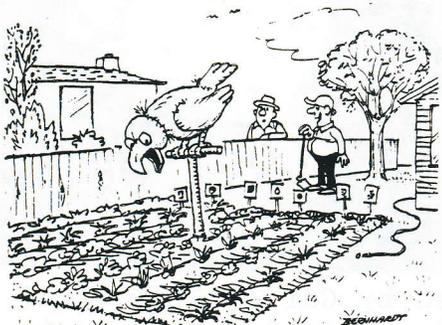
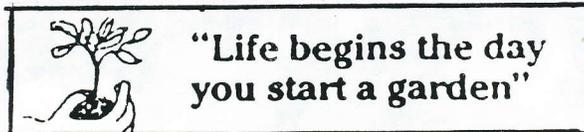
Busy Registration Desk
 L. to R. Charles Proctor, chairman,
 Jack Kolb, Rajah Kolb
 Harold Gulde

WHAT ARE TREES FOR?

Trees are for boys to climb . . . for cats to get caught up in . . . so little girls can cry about. Trees are to catch kites . . . for hunters to hide behind and squirrels to hide in. Trees are for people to look at . . . to hang a swing in . . . to pitch a tent under. Trees make an open field a park. They beautify a street. They make a house a home. Trees slow down the wind . . . settle the dust. Trees are for picnics . . . and for poets to write about. Trees buffer the raindrops . . . stop erosion . . . hold the snow. What are trees for? Trees are for everyone. (from the Kent OH MGC bulletin).

* * *

They claim that people who talk gently and kindly to plants make them grow better. Has anyone tried shouting at weeds?



"It's a scarecrow designed to scare away bugs."



"You'll laugh when I tell you what happened."



"You know what I really miss most?
 Having a yard."

SUN DRIED TOMATOES

One of the trendy nice new food products in the last few years is sun dried tomatoes.

They are used in many California and Mediterranean recipes, as well as various sauces and pasta dishes. Sun dried tomatoes have an intense and sweet tomato flavor. They are delightful, if you like tomato products. The problem of course is their high price.

Last fall, I experimented with drying them in the oven with very satisfactory results. First, one must have a good supply of Roma or paste type tomatoes. They shrink greatly when dried. A bushel of tomatoes will yield only a bowlful.

In our garden, we do not have enough sun for tomatoes. Well, in our front terrace there is enough sun for a few tomatoes or delphiniums, but of course we must have the delphiniums.

Last September I bought a bushel of Roma tomatoes at the farmers market for \$6.50. I ate a few of the prettiest ones and decided to try duplicating the sun dried product produced in California. In our climate we cannot dry vegetables or fruits in the sun. With the humidity, they will quickly mold. I've tried it.

I got very good results using the kitchen oven. We have enjoyed the tomatoes all winter and still have some on hand. I plan to do more this fall, assuming I can find another bushel of Roma tomatoes.

The procedure is simple, although it takes days to complete. I used cookie sheets, three at a time, with a light wiping of olive oil. This may not be required, but it seemed good insurance against sticking. Teflon coated cookie sheets should not need any oil.

After washing and drying the tomatoes, I split them in half lengthwise and placed them skin down and close together on the trays. With the oven set at very low temp (150°-160°) it took about 24 hours to dry a batch. They get to be a dark reddish brown in color, when done. Sometimes the larger ones may need a little longer in the oven. It is not hard to eat them all when finished.

I dried mine quite dry, but certainly not burned. They were still pliable and chewy when removed from the oven, but became rather crisp when cool. They have kept quite well merely stored, uncovered, in a large bowl in the kitchen cabinet, with no sign of mold.

If one wanted to freeze them, I think they could be somewhat less dry or more chewy. However, it was nice to merely store them dry in the cabinet.

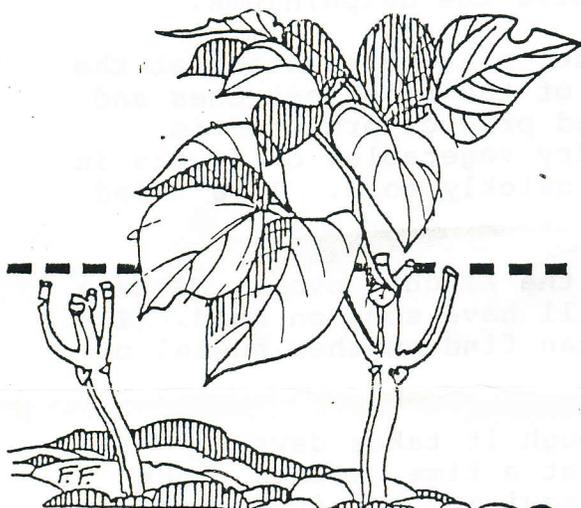
As for use in cooking, they obviously need to be reconstituted. This can be done in a little water, or even olive oil, but I prefer to make a sauce (such as a cream sauce, onion bernaise, or mushroom tomato sauce) and simmer the crumbled tomatoes until soft enough for use in the sauce.

In a soup or stew, they can merely be crumbled and added dry, although one must be sure that they cook long enough to get soft. They are easy to crumble by hand and ten or so add tremendous flavor to a sauce or stew. Remember, this is the flavor or essence from that many whole tomatoes.

If you like tomato flavor as I do, try to dry some in your oven. No additives, no preservatives. Mine seem equal to the sun dried expensive kind sold in gourmet shops. As I said, the problem is to keep them for later cooking, since they are so good as a snack food.

The only other thing we have dried are morel mushrooms, but that is another story.

-Phil Smith



Regreened Beans

Last summer, instead of pulling my green beans out of the garden when they'd finished producing, I decided to go over them with the lawn mower. I set the mower on the highest setting, leaving three to four inches of the stems intact. After raking up the shredded stalks and putting them on the compost pile, I was going to run the rotary tiller over the garden stubble to dig up the roots. Fortunately, a rainy spell hit, and the ground wasn't dry enough to till for about a week. When I went back to the garden, I saw that the bean-stem stumps were all sending up new shoots! I left them alone, and in about a month I was picking green beans again from the old plants. Sure beat the time and effort of replanting—all I did was side-dress the "new" plants with manure tea. Talk about cut and come again!

Larry Shields



June 25, 1788 USA
Virginia 25

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, Inc.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
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FIRST CLASS

To

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