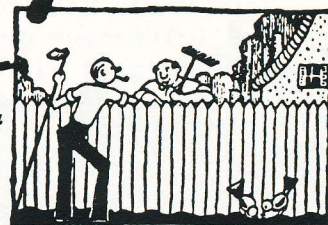




The Garden Spray

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

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



ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT ISSUE
JUNE 1983, Volume 41, Number 6

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS
Regular Monthly Meeting
JUNE 14, 1983

LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 49th Street at Chowen Avenue South
Dinner \$5.00 at 6:00 P.M. Program at 7:00 P.M.

Our speaker for the evening, MGCM fellow member Dr. Leon C. Snyder, is well known to all of us because of his garden column, his talks at our meetings, his wealth of information on horticultural matters, his ever readiness to share his knowledge with others. His topic? "PERENNIALS FOR THE NORTHERN GARDEN". You'll be sorry if you don't show up.

For other events on the 14th see Chet Grocer's letter on page 3 and the listings on page 4.

GET YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK TO BOB CHURILLA PROMPTLY And, Remember we welcome materials for auctioning any month.

ARBOR DAY SPECTACULAR
Report and Pictures, page 2, From Jerry Shannon

On Saturday, April 23, approximately twenty-five members gathered in the area of the Lake Harriet Rose Garden to participate in the planting of a large balled and burlapped Ohio Buckeye tree. It joined the seven trees that the Club planted in 1982 on a site just northeast of the Rose Garden.

Another exciting activity this Arbor Day was the replanting of the ornamental crab apple collection. In 1951 MGCM members purchased and planted 100 individual bare rooted trees in an area northwest of the Rose Garden to mark the 10th anniversary of the Club. Thirty years later, a tornado destroyed a vast portion of the collection. This year, 26 members purchased 29 bare rooted trees to begin a replacement collection. Five varieties were planted in clumps of seven to five. The varieties planted were Radiant, Red Spendor, Sparkler, Spring Snow, and Royalty.

An interesting sidelight to the morning was that two local television stations covered the event thanks to press releases sent out by Andy Marlow. Good MGCM public relations were aired at both the 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. news.

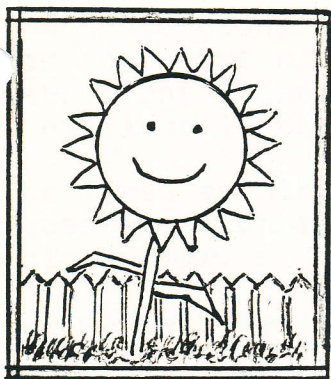
Ray Marshall and Jerry Shannon made this Arbor Day event possible.

Now that these trees are in the ground and the Fragrance Garden has been planted don't rest on your hands. The Park Board may take care of the trees but it is up to us to take care of the Fragrance Garden. Pairs of committee members have been assigned for each week all summer. Pick a week to lend an extra hand.



THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB PLANTS TREES NEAR LAKE HARRIET IN APRIL 1983

JUST AMONG US GARDENERS



I wish that everyone could have the chance to watch our Plant Auction Committee in action. I write this the day after what will probably prove to be our biggest and most successful auction. I watched these men work from the night of their first meeting. Assignments were made to review and plan purchases, to help transplant all of the seedlings made available to us by Northrup King, to solicit and plan door prizes, to arrange raffles and (something new) to consider the possibility of serving our own supper. This last possibility was offered by Chairman Carleton Nelson and his family and proved to be a great success. Through the efforts of Carleton, his wife Beth and his daughter Judy Koski, we enjoyed a good meal at a reasonable price and saved a good deal of money at

the same time. For instance, instead of buying cake for \$56.00 they baked a selection of cakes at a cost of about \$13.00. This is family dedication to our Club, and we owe this family a great big "Thank You".

On the day of the Auction, Dave Johnson (who handled purchases excellently) and Chuck Jonas with his big van were off at 8:00 to haul plants and continued to do so until into the afternoon. Members of the committee were at the Park Board Center by 9:30 to start setting up for the Country Store and to price those plants as they came in. (You noticed that they were all priced). All day long the committee worked at preparation and by 4:00 o'clock Frank Vixo and his crew of cashiers were on hand to handle all sales. I marvel at the smoothness of the entire operation and, as I say, I wish all of you could have seen it.

At our June meeting, we are going to try something different for a lot of us but something that our Club did some years ago. Elsewhere in the Spray is a beginning list of Special Interest Groups which will be given the opportunity of meeting at some of our regular meetings to discuss their special interests. Based on experience from previous years, some of these groups will organize and meet separately on occasion. Our game plan at the June meeting will be to have our guest speaker on after a short meeting, give time for about 15 minutes of questions and answers on horticultural subjects and at about 8:00 o'clock adjourn to allow the Special Interest Groups to meet in separate areas of the room. Members will be free to "float" from one group to another. Each group will have a chairman or co-chairmen and members who have not signed up yet will have a chance to do so. As I mentioned at a previous meeting, a primary purpose of our Club as spelled out in our By-Laws is to exchange horticultural information. I am counting on the Special Interest Groups and the "Information Please" question and answer periods to help achieve that goal.

I agreed to handle national calendar sales again this year during a transition period when production will be transferred to Toledo, Ohio, and sales and accounting will be transferred to the national MGCA office in Des Moines. Bob Smith in Spokane proved that a MGCA calendar was a workable project but he found the project too big for one man. The Toledo and Van Wert, Ohio, clubs, headed by Past President Delbert Dunbar, will produce and ship the calendars from now on and all orders will go directly to MGCA. I estimate this project to be worth in excess of \$10,000 annually to MGCA and clubs can add to their club treasury and have fun doing it. Our club realizes about \$500.00 a year from calendar sales. Our calendar committee will be asking for your order before June 30th, the deadline for orders.

Watch for me to start pushing "Back Yard Visits". Come July, I will ask members to pick a Saturday when you will be at home and will welcome members to stop by for a visit in the garden. Think about it.

—Chet Groger

BRING A VISITOR. GET A NEW MEMBER.

INITIAL LIST OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (Please sign up for the group of your choice)

VEGETABLES

Orrin Turnquist (Co-Chairman)
Bob Smith (Co-Chairman)
Joe Alfano
Ralph Callaway
Archie Caple
Larry Corbett
Stan Crist
Bob Gage
Fred Glasoe
Don Hardesty
Bill Hull
Carl Johnson
Dick Leming
Jim Mielke
Gordon Newton
Phil Peterson
Charlie Proctor
Jerry Shannon
Juel Shefland

ANNUALS

Leon Snyder (Chairman)
Roger Anderson
Larry Corbett
Stan Crist
Michael Denesuk
Paul Denn
Dale Durst
Chet Groger
Carl Holst
Bill Hull
Dan Jach
Dennis Johnson
Duane Johnson
Dick Lehman
George McCullough
Gordon Newton
Sherm Pinkham
Darwin Price
Dick Scherer
Milt Thomas

DAHLIAS

Fred Glasoe (Chairman)
Roger Anderson
Vic Lowrie
Jerry Shannon
Thor Solem
Milt Thomas

PERENNIALS

Jerry Shannon (Chairman)
Glenn Bartsch
Ralph Callaway
Stan Crist
Michael Denesuk
Bob Gage
Chet Groger
Ev Haedecke
Dick Lehman
Vic Lowrie
Andy Marlow
Phil Peterson
Dick Tepley

IRIS (Meet with Perennials to start)

Bob Gage
Chet Groger
Don Hardesty
Ted Johnson

LILIES (Meet with Perennials to start)

Fred Glasoe
Chet Groger
Dick Scherer

PEONIES (Meet with Perennials to start)

Bob Gage
Fred Glasoe
Chet Groger
Don Hardesty
George McCollough
Jerry Shannon

ROSES

Carl Holst (Chairman)
Roger Anderson
Ralph Callaway
Bob Churilla
Fred Glasoe
Carl Johnson
Chuck Jonas
Clarence Knoblauch
Ted LeBoutillier
George McCullough
Jim Mielke
Jerry Olson
Dick Scherer
Jerry Shannon
Joe Stenger

INDOOR GARDENING - (Chet Groger - Chairman)

Archie Caple, Dale Durst, Carl Holst, Dan Jach, Ted Johnson, Darwin Price, Charlie Proctor, Al Rahlenbeck, Carmine Sacco

REFLECTIONS ON THE TUCSON CONVENTION
by Sherman Pinkham

The convention, in my opinion, was very successful. To begin with, we had four days of perfect weather. Accomodations at the Doubletree Hotel were first class. The Tucson, Phoenix and Green Valley fellows outdid themselves in the way of hospitality.

The first evening we were given a real treat, a musical program by the Tucson Boys' Chorus, the finest I ever heard. They will travel to London this summer.

The memorial service for deceased members was impressive. Fortunately no names from the Minneapolis roster had to be listed. The minister in charge was President of the Tyler, Texas, club.

Among the various reports received were:

- John Leonard's that 742 jackets have been sold, resulting in \$4,800.00 being turned over to MGCA.
- That Pete Petersen's slide programs are in full swing. He has about a dozen to choose from. "We Find God in our Garden No. 1" has been shown hundreds of times, not only to member clubs, but to church groups, senior citizens, etc. It brings good publicity to our organization, as well as financial gain.
- That the Endowment Fund continues to grow--\$155,000.00 as of February 28th. The goal of \$200,000.00 will be reached.
- That two new clubs have been formed and there are prospects for six more.

There was a wide choice of meetings on special topics. For instance, I attended a meeting on Mums. It featured various classifications, growing tips, soil preparation, cuttings, pinching, mulching, etc. Main tip--plant early varieties for your region.

Bill Hull's historical report on MGCA, covering 1939 to 1982 was a masterpiece.

A friend from Illinois brought me a program of the Minneapolis Convention held July, 1967. It is interesting reading and I will bring it to the meetings for you fellows to look over.

In the meantime, plan on going to Mobile in April, 1984. It should be a corker. You all know that.

MEMBERS WHOSE NAMES DID NOT APPEAR IN THE 1983 DIRECTORY

Ray, Glenn H.	933-7672	Wittstock, Lloyd C.	378-0233
14624 Woodhill Ter.	373-1031	170 Malcolm Ave. S.E.	
Minnetonka, MN. 55343		Mpls., MN. 55414	

NEW MEMBERS

Hanes, Roger N.	690-4228	Harwell, Gary V.	724-0529
1705 Ford Parkway	890-2500	3609 Cedar Ave.	347-3233
St. Paul, MN. 55116		Mpls., MN. 55407	
Schweer, Floyd J.	831-4530		
9048 Kell Circle	926-6544		
Bloomington, MN. 55437			

BOY, DID WE SEE COLOR IN TUCSON

by Bill Hull

As most of you know, Carol and I spent over a month in Tucson prior to the MGCA convention. Since it was an early spring, we photographed flowers in bloom three weeks prior to the convention in order to record the bloom at that time. True enough, some of that color had disappeared and others replaced it by April 15. I'll bring those color prints to the club meeting soon.

Probably the most prolific plants in that area (excepting oleander which is used so widely as a neglectable hedge) are the pyracantha and the African daisy. The pyracantha at convention time was in full bloom and still carried its red berries. It is used everywhere from being a hedge to an espalliered wall plant and is, of course, quite beautiful. It must be fairly foolproof since it is so widely utilized.

The African daisy was mainly past its peak at convention time but prior to that had been riotous. I photographed one garden on March 27 where the yard was full of this plant, growing without control but three weeks later all was gone. I grew it from seed in Edina last year.

The most impressive plant we saw was the ranunculus which we saw in a Mrs. Hubble's garden. A twenty foot row of multicolored plants was unbelievable but my photos prove it. Of course everywhere there were gazanias, agaves, petunias spilling over their tubs in great profusion, brittlebush in the desert, huge sweet peas, the best ever pansies and very lovely poppies. The area was truly lovely before and after the convention.

Cactus in bloom? Yes, barely. We had seen some in bloom at Green Valley before the convention and also at convention time at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum where the hedgehogs were in bloom and everyone was photographing them. Some of the other cacti were just starting to bloom. I can't see an agave without remembering visiting our past member's home in La Jolla (Al Blackburn) when I backed into an agave. It is a bloodying experience!

The convention hotel, the Doubletree, was superbly landscaped with annuals, roses, orange trees in bloom (oh, that heavenly scent), superb greensward, local gardeners' flowers on the head tables and carnations from Colorado courtesy of old friend Ray Blue.

We saw lots of color, heard some outstanding speakers. To me the speaker highlights were one on EPCOT (Environmental Prototype Community of Tomorrow) and Albert Wilson (MGCA Gold Medal Award winner) on how to prune anything. What a masterful and colorful speaker is Albert, with a superb sense of humor.

I'll give a special report on business matters of the convention, hopefully orally to the club, because in some ways there were many major decisions made. I'm glad I went as I am sure is true of Sherm Pinkham, Ed Culbert, and Carl Johnson.

Carl Holst has a variant on the Minnesota tip method for overwintering roses. He buries his roses under plastic bags of leaves. "It works like a feather bed, is easy to clean up and the garbage man carts them away in the spring", he says. How about using those leaves for summer mulch, Carl?

Editor's Note: Carl and Agnes Johnson did a superb job in capturing in detail Albert Wilson's demonstration-lecture at the MGCA convention in Tucson last month. We will print their report in three installments. Installment 1 follows. Installment 2, "Prune at the Proper Time", will appear in the July SPRAY and Installment 3, "Pruning Fruit Trees", will appear in the August SPRAY.

ALBERT WILSON ON PRINCIPLES OF PRUNING
as reported by Carl and Agnes Johnson

What a delight to have the privilege of attending Albert Wilson's seminar on pruning at the MGC Convention at Tucson on April 18. Mr. Wilson is a recognized gardening authority and a stimulating humorous speaker. He emphasized there is nothing that "cuts like a Corona".

Why prune? Not to shear the plant like a sausage, round it like a golf ball, or spread it like an umbrella. The effect you aspire to is unadorned, natural symmetry and radiance; plant prosperity; and blooms and fruit. First impulse is to rush out and clip, clip; but a far better impulse is to construct in your mind a preview of what that tree or bush or vine is to look like in your garden a year, and five years, from now.

You cut away useless parts, get rid of overbearing weight and ugly edges. The plant itself points out to you what should be done and begs you to do it. Your trees, shrubs and vines carry four kinds of wood--dead, old, firm and young; and two kinds of buds, leaf and flower. Learn the difference before you cut anything at all.

The dead wood you can spot at once. The old wood is not doing much in the way of leaves, buds or sprouts; it looks gray or dark and is found inside and low down. The firm wood is green; it supports leaves and all the new growth. The new growth, where all the current activity is expressed, is lighter green, fresh, and it reaches out eagerly all through the season. It bears new leaves and flowers in spring, the fruit in summer and the fall display. It bears two kinds of buds: flat-pointed which open out into leaves and further new growth; and fat, round which explode into blossoms.

Where do you make the cut: The bud is the storehouse of the new growth which is to come; you manage that growth by selecting the bud. Cutting stimulates almost immediate regeneration; and this is influenced by the angle of the cut. If you cut straight across the dormant buds will all have an equal chance and shoot out in all directions from the sides of the stem, and leave the cut end to die back and become a coat hanger--an invitation to insects and fungus.

Make cuts slantwise just above a bud, or at a branchlet or twig, using a 45 degree angle. When sawing or cutting off larger limbs, be sure to remove the expanded base of the limb at the point where it joins a larger limb.

1984 MGCA CALENDAR ORDER (Due by June 30th)

_____ Standard Calendars @ \$2.00 each	_____
_____ Ad Calendars @ \$2.10 each (100 minimum)	_____ (Ad copy attached)
_____ Mailing Envelopes @ 10¢ each	_____
_____ Total (Check enclosed)	_____

Member: _____ (Mail to George McCollough, 8812 Tretbaugh Dr., Bl. 55431)

I LEARNED SEVERAL THINGS AT TUCSON
by Ed Culbert

In his seminar on Plant Propagation professor Steve Fazio discussed propagation by seed, by tissue culture and by cuttings. He dwelt at length on the new techniques revolutionizing commercial growing. e.g. Heretofore for every acre of lettuce 2-1/2 feet of water, 1/3 of which was used to germinate the seed, has been required and 25% of the crop was left behind. Plants are now started in rubberized peat pellets which include fertilizer and fungicide. Only a few drops of water are required per pellet.

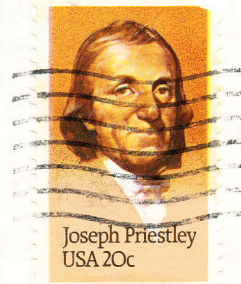
Trays of pellets are seeded by machine. A plate the size of the tray has tiny holes at pellet intervals. Seeds are sucked into the holes in the plate by vacuum then dropped into the holes in the pellets. When seedlings are the proper size another machine separates the pellets and plants them 10 to 12 inches apart in the field rows. Currently under development is another machine which will toss aside pellets showing no green growth and plant only those in which the lettuce has germinated thus leaving no gaps in the field rows.

Professor Fazio noted that successful rooting of plants is dependent upon a number of factors...age of plant material, time of year, type of cutting, nutritional status of mother plant and presence of co-factors, rooting media, environmental conditions, root-inducing substances, etc. An interesting sidelight was his reference to some recent findings: Rootone plus coconut milk will root most cuttings which won't root with Rootone only. Banana works for other cuttings.

My reaction? How I wish I could take a class--any class--from this man.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.

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