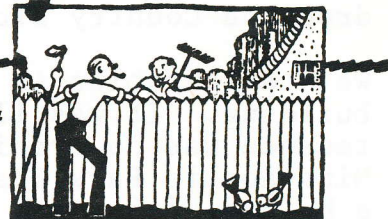




BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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

June 1988, Volume 46, Number 5



The NEXT MEETING of the MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of MINNEAPOLIS
(The last before the national convention)

Will be held at 6 P.M. on TUESDAY JUNE 14th, 1988

AT the PERSHING PARK FIELDHOUSE, 48th ST. and CHOWEN AVE. S.
(One block north of the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church)

DINNER: \$6.00

RESERVATIONS TO RICK BONLENDER PROMPTLY, PLEASE

PROGRAM
TWO MINI-SESSIONS

THE FIRST on ROSES. Much has been written, spoken and sung about the rose,
e.g.

"A rose is a rose is a rose" -- Gertrude Stein

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet" -- Shakespeare

Though some folks say roses are too much work many men in our club are rose lovers and rose growers. After all anything that is worth growing requires attention.

From our club's list of rose growing members we have chosen as speakers a former railroad brakeman and a former railroad engineer who are now devoting their lives to roses.

JERRY OLSON a long-time rose grower who this year has 400 roses.

TED LE BOUTELIER who specializes in miniature roses and has developed his interest into a full time business.

The SECOND will focus on PLANT DISEASES, BUGS, BLIGHT, etc. (Plants do have diseases, you know.)

Our speaker CHUCK LEVINE a Vo.-Ag. teacher at the Dowling School in Minneapolis, author of last year's SPRAY articles THE (PLANT) DOCTOR'S ADVICE, will discuss PROBLEMS and PREVENTION IN THE GARDEN.

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THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR JULY ISSUE OF THE GARDEN SPRAY
See you at the convention

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Randall M. Egan 377-4450
2024 Kenwood Pkwy, Mpls 55405

Thomas Hansen 871-1933
2442 Elliot Ave, Mpls 55404

THE COUNTRY STORE and THE ANNUAL AUCTION
(As noted by Ed Culbert)

Our auctions always go well. May 10th was no exception. At the Country Store held earlier in the afternoon there had been few items to buy and business was slow. Each year the Country Store has less and less to offer and fewer folks attend. Perhaps we should start the auction earlier and drop the Country Store entirely.

We ate at tables in the courtyard of the Burroughs School/Lynhurst Park building. It was ill cared for, if cared for at all. Certainly the maintenance was no credit to either the Minneapolis Public Schools or the Minneapolis Park Board. Shrubbery along the walls had been decapitated at a height of 6 feet. Butchery!

A bed of vinca had managed to survive in one corner of the courtyard. A border of hosta around another bed had for the most part done well save for a few intrusions of weed trees. Several sturdy crabapple trees had spread a carpet of pink petals over the ground as if to hide the scene. Other than that the place was a mess of seedling buckthorn, maple, ash, box elder, elm and what not.

The meal wasn't Kentucky Fried Chicken after all. Chicken, yes, but baked and accompanied with all the other things which go with a meal at our regular meeting place. I'm sure the ladies who attended in greater numbers than usual preferred this dinner to fast food.

At 6:45 the tables were stacked and auctioneer Dwight Stone took over. Back of him was displayed flat after flat of color. Many plants sold by the flat but the stock on hand was sufficient to permit breaking up some flats for those who needed only a pack or two. This has not always been the case. Some years people who couldn't begin to use a full flat had to go home disappointed.

Dwight did a beautiful job of spotting the bidders. On one flat of flowers bidding stalled at \$12.00. Then someone ventured \$13.00. "No", said Dwight, "You've already got it for \$12.00."

Potted azaleas brought little interest until Jerry Shannon stepped up to tell us that azalea care offered no great problem. "Just be careful to give adequate moisture." Then the pots moved at \$19.00. Still cheap. Where were the people who bid so wildly last year? I had to leave about half way through the auction and before the give-aways started so you'll have to ask somebody else about what happened later.

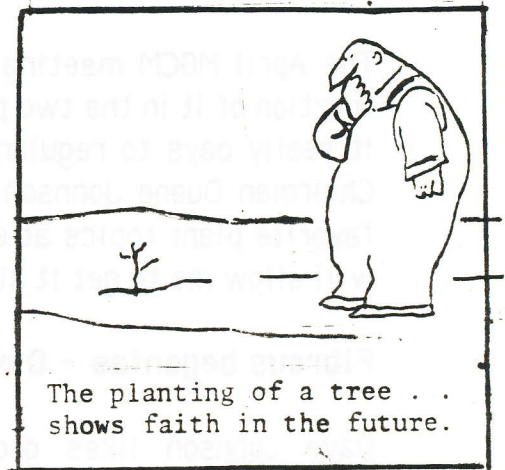
The letter all 110 MGCM members received in mid-May from our convention committee certainly bore good news--An approximately 75% full registration from our membership. Up from the 60% anticipated earlier. Apparently an earlier stumbling block for some members was that they didn't understand that five meals (3 lunches, 2 evening meals) were included in the price quoted as the registration fee. You will get fed two evenings though that wasn't clear in the write up.

If you haven't already responded to the questionnaire asking what events (trips, meals) you will miss (not attend) do so now in writing to Chet Groger. It will save us paying for an uneaten meal or unused bus space from our convention subsidy fund.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I belong to several garden and speciality plant associations. The Lily Society meets quarterly and will discuss the finer points of the liliium.

The Dahlia Society meets monthly, has a pot luck dinner and a program specific to the culture of dahlias. Each grower has his or her own special techniques to produce the finest bloom.



The Gladiolus Society has some excellent growers and hybridizers. If you attend the state fair, you will see some truly remarkable specimens.

I suspect each society and member can attest to the beauty and mystery of their favorite plant. At some of our meetings talk to the rose, daylily, hosta, marigold or begonia growers. Ask them about the usefulness and beauty of their favorite flower.

After talking about flowers, sit down next to a fruit or vegetable grower and ask for hints and tips. Which variety does best in sun or shade? Which is resistant to insects and disease? How are tender fruits wintered over in Minnesota.

I suspect every plant, flower, vegetable and fruit plus nuts are represented in our club. We range from the turf grower who has a lawn "you could eat off" to the vegetable grower who "wouldn't grow anything you couldn't eat". Each of us has a talent and interest that makes gardening a universal hobby. A hobby for the young, old or in between.

In July we have a chance to meet gardeners from across the country. We can share stories, give advice and brag about what we grow in our short season state. "Northern gardening at its best."

Let's all sign up for the convention and show those attending from the EAST, WEST and SOUTH that Minnesota is the home of the "best northern gardeners."

HAPPY GARDENING!

Duane

April MGCM Meeting Report

by Andy Marlow

The April MGCM meeting was chockful of information -- it's hard to report even a fraction of it in the two pages your editor generously allots for my humble efforts, so it really pays to regularly attend monthly meetings. Vice-President and Program Chairman Duane Johnson has arranged for members to give mini-lectures on their favorite plant topics at each meeting and no amount of furious scribbling on my part will allow me to get it all down.

Fibrous begonias - Dave Johnson

Dave Johnson likes growing fibrous-rooted begonias because they do well in conditions ranging from full sun to semi-shade, and they have very few pests. There are many varieties available, but Dave prefers the Glamour series for their size and either Gladiator or Lava for their bright red color. Pink Avalanche is good for cascading down Dave's hillside garden and Anne Francis is a rose color that has the perfect habit for hanging basket.

Dave grows most (maybe all) of his begonias from seed, starting before the first of the year. The seeds are quite small, about 2 million to the ounce he said, so Dave mixes them with a bit of sand for even distribution. He sows the seeds in deep pans which have a layer of crushed rock on the bottom, then a layer of sand, then a layer of Jiffy Mix. The seeds must not be covered as they need light to germinate. He grows them under cool white florescent lights set about 3-4" above the plants and covers the pans with Saran Wrap to form a mini-greenhouse. Just as the seeds are "ready to pop" he takes the wrap off. They get transplanted when they have two sets of true leaves.

Dave holds over favorites from each season by taking cuttings. He starts the cuttings in vermiculite and pots them into a mixture of 40% black dirt (sterilized) and 20% each of vermiculite, perlite and milled sphagnum peat moss. The transplants go into the same mix.

Tuberous begonias - Dwight Stone

These plants are, as the name implies, grown from tubers instead of seed, although Non-stop and a few other varieties may be successfully started from seed and the tubers held over after the growing season. Dwight said there are many different forms, including rose, carnation, camelia and pickatee shapes, that all come in upright and trailing plants. A wide range of colors is also available.

He starts his tubers in about the same mixture that Dave uses from his transplants and rooted cuttings. He puts 3 to 5 tubers in hanging baskets and lets all the sprouts develop. He puts just one tuber in each pot and lets only one shoot develop. He even plants some directly into the ground. But, he warns, don't put them out until you're

sure the last frost is done. They are very tender and May 23 or so is early enough. The tubers also have a tendency to rot, so don't overwater. They are hungry plants, though. Dwight feeds them every ten days, alternating with liquid fertilizer and fish emulsion.

Bulbs should be harvested before the first frost. Dwight breaks off all but a little bit of the stem, dries them for 7 to 10 days and then breaks off the rest of the stem. He stores them over winter in a box covered with peat moss in the basement, but he warned that no matter how careful you are, expect to buy some new bulbs in the spring. Some WILL rot.

Master Gardener Program - Archie Caple

MGCM member Archie Caple was a member of the first Master Gardener class in Minnesota way back in 1977. The idea had its beginning in Washington state in 1972 and quickly spread to our state. The idea was to train volunteers in a variety of horticultural areas to provide assistance to county extension agents. The program is operated here by the University of Minnesota through the Minnesota Extension Service.

To become a Master Gardener, a person must first apply to their county extension agent. If accepted they will spend 48 hours in classes at the University's St. Paul campus learning about everything from soils to garden management to pests to ground covers to lawns. In addition to lectures on the subject, each student is given a huge loose leaf binder which quickly become filled with reference material. After the course work, the student must put in 50 hours of volunteer time sharing his or her newly acquired knowledge. This might involve staffing the information desk set up at local garden centers during the spring, giving lectures to young gardeners in schools, or answering questions over the phone at the county extension office. Once the class work and volunteer obligation have been completed, the person become a "Certified Master Gardener" and gets a spanking new name tag to prove it. In order to maintain certification, the Master Gardener must put in an additional 25 hours of volunteer time each year.

So far about 900 Master Gardeners have been trained state-wide, with about half of those still active in the program. Of the 220 Master Gardeners from Hennepin County, about 70 are now active. Archie is one of those 70, but you might say he's actually a "Super Master Gardener." Four years ago Hennepin County established a second-level training program involving 3 hours of class time every Monday morning for 13 weeks. The students learn advanced information and are trained in the use of microscopes and other horticultural high-tech. At the end of their required volunteer time, they are designated Plant Information Specialists. They teach courses for the Extension Service and staff the county's mobile horticulture unit.

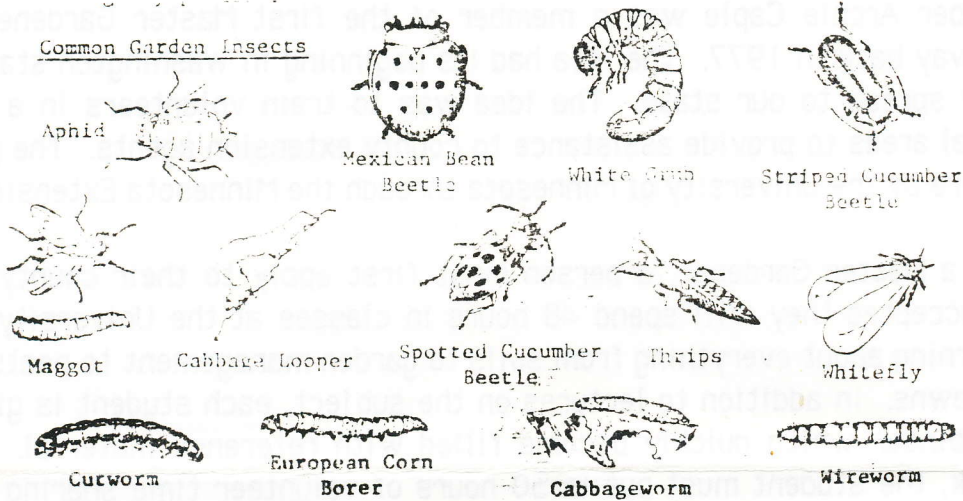
If you are interested in the Master Gardener program, Archie says you must apply to Hennepin County Agent Bob Mugaas in the fall. Applicants are interviewed and selected by the local agent. Classes will be held next spring -- and volunteer time will need to be contributed then, too.

F. R. Lein & Sons realtors devoted the front side of their May-June¹⁹⁸⁷ advertising sheet to an article titled LURING BUTTERFLIES which told among other things how to learn more about butterflies and their habits. The final two paragraphs were:

"You can begin a butterfly-attracting garden even before your research is done by planting some all-time nectar favorites: the butterfly bush, milkweed, black-eyed Susans, crepe myrtle, asters, lantana, lupine, wild sweet peas, clover, thistle, and wisteria.

"With the arrival of butterflies, your garden will look a little more natural, a little more lived-in -- like a state of "controlled disorder". You'll have your reward when that first butterfly alights with a silent sign of approval."

Common Garden Insects



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THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
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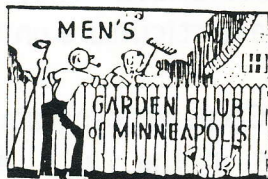
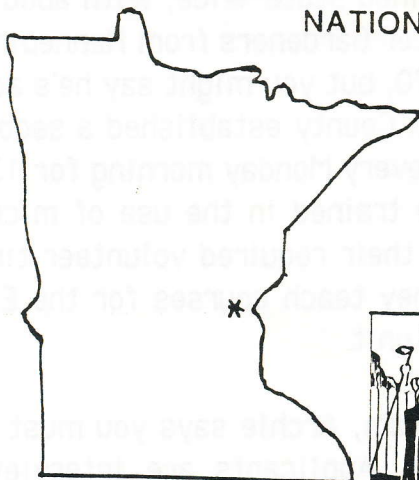


MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA

NATIONAL CONVENTION

JULY 3-6, 1988

MINNEAPOLIS, MN.



Mr. Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55343

NORTHERN GARDENING AT ITS BEST