



The Garden Spray

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

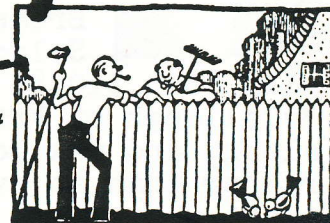
Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society

March 1986, Volume 44, Number 3

MARCH MEETING DATE CHANGED

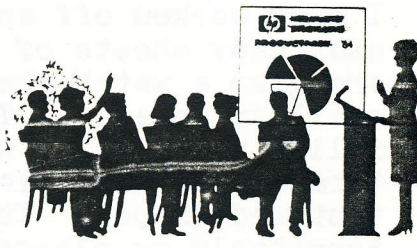
NEW DATE IS TUESDAY MARCH 25th

SEND RESERVATIONS NOW



The Dayton-Bachman Flower Show "A Japanese Garden" is here. Again the Men's Garden Club has planned a dinner meeting with a speaker and a tour of the show to follow. Wives and other guests are invited.

Our SPEAKER, MRS. SUSAN BAGGE'S TOPIC will be "JAPANESE GARDENS". Mrs. Bagge, a well known and gifted landscape designer, received her formal training in horticulture at the University of Minnesota. She became interested in the Oriental Garden through her work with Ikebana (the art of flower arranging). Last year she made a trip to Asia for the express purpose of studying the Japanese Garden. She has a superb collection of slides showing the impeccably maintained Zen Meditation Gardens in Kyoto as well as some selected private gardens of particular interest. She photographed the remarkable collection of Ueda San (pronounced wee-da san), "The Master of Bonsai". Mrs. Bagge will use these examples to explain the philosophy and principles involved in the creation of a classical Japanese Garden.



THE DATE: Tuesday, March 25th

THE TIME: 6 PM

THE PLACE: The Skyroom on the 12th floor of Dayton's downtown store, 8th Street and Nicollet Mall.

THE PRICE: \$10.85 per person.

Reservations with checks should be mailed to reach George McCullough, 8812 Tretbaugh Drive, Bloomington, MN 55431 by Friday, March 21. Reservations made later than that will not be accepted. Use the form below.

BIG BOB'S CORNER



MARCH MEETING DATE IS CHANGED. Our March meeting will be held in conjunction with the Dayton's-Bachman's Flower Show. Our meeting will be Tuesday, March 25th in Dayton's Skyroom. Dinner will be at 6:00 PM. Our menu will be Stuffed Oriental Breast of Chicken with Wild Rice, a Fresh Vegetable, a Tossed Salad, rolls and for dessert we will have Ice Cream. This will cost \$10.85 per person. Hurry. Get your reservation in to George McCollough by Friday, March 21st. Remember your loved one, bring her along, and ask your dear friends to join you. Make it an evening out, rather than an evening in front of the tube. After dinner there will be a short program. Then we will all take a trip to visit the Japanese Gardens, the theme of the show.

During the months of March and April many of us will be taking care of the seedlings we started in January and February. This caring is an art, not a science and, like most arts, it is hard learned and a lot of fun. One may feel uncomfortable with some of the things he grows, but such feelings are as unavoidable as the frustrations of a music teacher. These emotions are what makes growing plants fun. Now that you have overcome those frustrations and no longer feel uncomfortable about the things you grow, pay a little more attention to a few of these plants. Bring them to the Plant Auction and Gardening Garage Sale. Remember, these are money making activities for the Club. The Garage Sale will help pay your way to the 88 Convention. So stay tuned for Russ Smith and his Committee for more details.

I have worked off and on trying to write this article. After throwing away many sheets of paper I noticed on these few warm days that my plants are like a watchmaker in a clock world working with the time and the smallest details. The air brings the hint of Spring and the sun suggests fuller hue. While watching I can see the progress and point to the alterations taking place in my plants. Soon enough they will mend their tattered shapes. The bright light of Spring, will turn into warmth and inevitably my plants will show it. They will spread balls of green into my flower room and light it up with blossoms that will make winter disappear. But today, February 21, there is only the mildest possibility that such an outrageous event may occur. It's snowing again.

Remember: Now is the time to invite your friends and your gardening acquaintances to one of the highlights of the Men's Garden Club. Ask them if they are interested in joining the club. Tell them of our activities. Invite them to the March meeting. Who knows, if they join you may become a member of The Spade Club.

A TRIBUTE TO LES JOHNSON, 1894-1986



We have lost a great man, a great gardener, a great friend. Leslie Johnson passed away on January 22, 1986.

Les was one of the finest gardeners in our club. If you were privileged to visit his back yard you will recall the evidence of the love and knowledge he had for growing only the finest in flowers and plants.

The Johnson home was flanked by two apartment buildings. Surely, the residents of those buildings were happy, positive folks because of the view Les provided for them year after year.

Les joined the Men's Garden Club in 1954. He served as president in 1961. MGCM made him an honorary member in 1977. He was a loyal and interested supporter of the club for over thirty years. He strove for only the finest in himself, in others and in gardening.

Les was born in the 3700 block of Pleasant Avenue in South Minneapolis. When he married he moved two blocks south to 3919 Pleasant. Though he lived only within a couple blocks during his active life his interest spanned much larger radii. He had been associated with the Goodin Co. He was active in the Speed Skating Club and in the Golden Gloves Boxing Club.

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum was a special love. He was instrumental in setting up the original rose and lily gardens there. His family is establishing a memorial for him at the Arboretum.

At the age of eighty-eight he decided to give all of this choice perennials and lilies to friends. The plants were replaced by an orchard of miniature apple trees. But his love for flowers continued as was evident at the Mount Olivet Home where he was responsible for a glorious flower bed on the grounds.

The love and devotion that Les had toward his wife, Catherine, was admirable. Much of his energy in recent years was devoted to Catherine in her failing health.

In 1983 and 1984 they moved to Mount Olivet Residence where at one time Les and Catherine had rooms across from each other where he could watch over her with care and love. Later they moved into the Care Center of the Residence. There the Johnsons celebrated their seventieth wedding anniversary this past October.

Les is survived by his wife, three daughters--Mrs. Kenneth Bartholomew (Evelyn), Mrs. Audrey Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Howard Thurston (Dorothy); two sons, Donald and Howard; twenty-four grand children; and thirty-three great grand children.

Les and Catherine were "best loved" in this large family as two instances which come to memory attest. Ten years ago the Johnsons flew to California where Les served as best man at a grandson's wedding.

Five years ago in October I had reservations in the Flame Room at the Radisson. As I was letting friends out in front of the hotel a huge black limousine plus a caravan of cars pulled up behind us. I stalled
(over)

a bit to see who such well known people might be. As the chauffeur opened the back door of the limousine there were Les and Catherine Johnson sitting in the back seat. Their families were the caravan and they were about to celebrate the Johnson's sixty-fifth wedding anniversary, in the Flame Room.

Yes, I did see a well known person that evening. And, Yes, we have lost a great man, a great gardener, a great friend!

--Jim Fishbaugher

SPRING PLANT AUCTION MAY 13th

NEW LOCATION: Lynnhurst Community Center--1345 West Minnehaha Parkway.
MORE PARKING: More dinner and auction space.
GET THOSE PLANTS GROWING under lights for the farmers auction.
MORE INFORMATION LATER.

LAST CALL FOR WINTER PRUNING

Prune grapevines, pear and apple trees and finish all dormant spraying before dormancy ceases. One of the ideas of pruning is to open up the tree. This means allowing greater space between branches. Then sun can readily penetrate deep into the tree. Only sun-bathed branches produce fruit. On apples, look for the small spurs or stubs that project from the branches. These produce the flowers and fruit. Preserve as many of these as possible.

Most of your pruning probably will be confined to the use of loppers. They are great for taking off a year's crop of water sprouts. You can recognize these as the thumb-sized (diameter) shoots that stretch straight to the sky. Sometimes they are erroneously called suckers. Suckers are really shoots that come from below the soil line at the base of a tree. Some folks suggest pruning water sprouts in summer as they occur; others say this invites disease.

Prune late flowering shrubs. If too thick cut out older canes at ground level. Cut back raspberry canes. Before new growth starts spray with bordeaux mixture.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS and TELEPHONE NUMBER (Please correct your Directory)

Lindstedt, Paul 588-8633
3232 Fremont Ave. N. #204
Minneapolis, MN 55412

NEW MEMBERS (Add to your Directory)

Ackland, Gene M. 559-9066
4830 Pilgrim Lane N.
Plymouth, MN 55422

Beardsley, James L. 738-7957
2311 E. Minnehaha Ave.
Maplewood, MN 55119

HAL McINTYRE'S telephone number as shown in the 1986 Directory has a wrong digit. The correct number is 377-8846.

Though snow still covers the ground in the Twin Cities in early March, it's not too early to start thinking about the MGCM Flower and Vegetable Show, scheduled for August 16 and 17 at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The Show committee has already designated the carrot and the tuberous begonia as the National Award vegetable and flower for the show. The top entry of each wins a special ribbon from the Men's Garden Clubs of America and extra points in the sweepstakes competition. Keep that in mind this spring as you grow or purchase plant material for your garden.

Life Memberships a Good Thing

Those of you who are not Life Members yet should really consider it at this time. As a life member there can never be an increase in National Dues. (\$10.00 per year at the present time).

You can become a Life Member with a one time payment of \$100.00 or you may pay \$25.00 for each of the next four years and it will really only cost you \$60.00 since you would be paying \$10.00 of the \$25.00 per year (or possibly more) as your annual dues.

As a Life Member, your Mens' Garden Clubs of America National Dues are paid for life and the money you paid for Life Membership (\$100.00) goes into the Endowment and Investment Fund a Trust Fund which will continue to earn interest money forever.

As a January 1, each year, the Endowment and Investment Fund pays \$10.00 per Life Member to Mens' Garden Clubs of America. This \$10.00 is from interest money generated from the Fund. As a result, the Mens' Garden Clubs working capital is the same for the year as if you paid your membership fee on an annual basis.

Your cost of the Life Membership is tax deductible under IRS Ruling 501C3.

If you continue to pay the \$10.00, annual membership fee, the money is used for current operating expenses and is gone by the end of the year.

If you have a question about this please call me at 545-4404 and I will try to provide a satisfactory answer and assist you in becoming a Life Member.

Russell C. Smith
National Director, MGCA

MGCA CONVENTIONS AHEAD--PLAN TO ATTEND

Albany, New York July 19, 20, 21, 22, 1986
Rockford, Illinois June 13, 14, 15, 16, 1987

MGCA CONVENTIONS AHEAD--PLAN TO WORK ON--ATTEND, of course
Minneapolis, Minnesota July 3, 4, 5, 6, 1988

Tissue Culture Explained at February MGCM Meeting

Reported by Andy Marlow

Tissue culture is not a futuristic method of plant propagation, but a kind of high tech horticulture in use right now. That's according to University of Minnesota horticulture professor Dr. Peter Ascher, who spoke at the February MGCM meeting. Professor Ascher is a plant geneticist who got started in gardening at age four. In addition to his professional work, he is a member of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and the Lily Society.

Many plants now available have been propagated using tissue culture. Some, such as the Boston fern, are grown exclusively by tissue culture. Others, such as the Staghorn fern, have been dramatically reduced in price because they are easily propagated through tissue culture. And this method of propagation has made possible "certified virus-free" strains of raspberries, blackberries, apples and the like.

Ascher says the simplest way to explain tissue culture is to think of it as "micro-cloning." Most of us have "cloned" plants -- taken a cutting, rooted it and started a new plant. In fact, tissue culture requires all of the same elements as this simple type of cloning: a piece of plant tissue; nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium; water; and a support medium. To this are added a source of energy (usually some form of sugar), vitamins and growth hormones, the exact type and amount depending upon the plant being propagated.. Tissue culture also requires a sterile environment, since microbes thrive along with the plant material in the rich broth of the tissue culture medium. The biggest different between what we clone and what tissue culturists clone is in the size of the plant material. Some plants can be grown from as little as a single cell.

One amazing thing is the number of plantlets can be grown from one clonal parent. Using traditional methods 3 to 5 lily bulbs can be generated from each lily scale. With about 100 scales per bulb, each parent plant could be expected to produce between 300 and 500 offspring. Using tissue culture techniques on 1 millimeter cross sections of the parent bulb, some 20,000 off spring can be produced from the same bulb.

Woody plants have been difficult to propagate reliably in the past, but now all the new "Lights" azaleas and the "North" blueberries are reproduced using tissue culture methods. As a result, these winter tolerant varieties have arrived at the garden centers years earlier than would previously have been possible. Three cheers for tissue culture and scientists, like Dr. Peter Ascher, who have perfected these techniques!