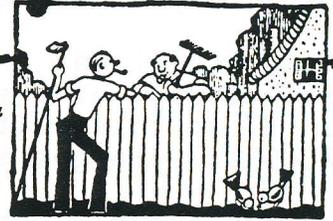




The Garden Spray

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

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



November 1987. Volume 45, Number 9

THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Will Meet Tuesday November 10, 1987, at the

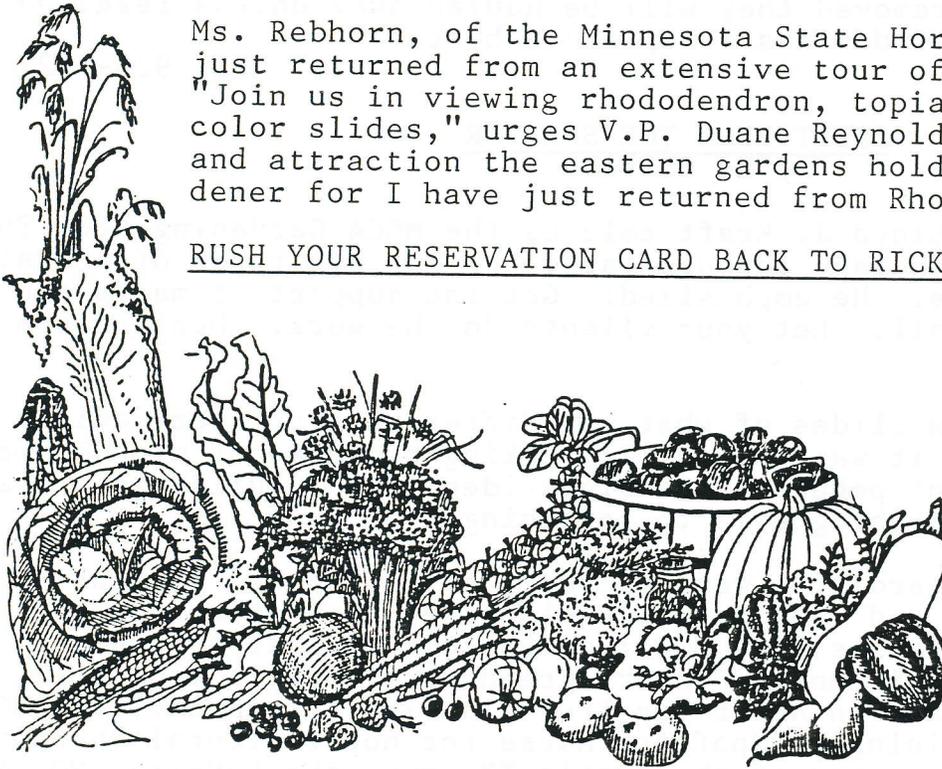
PERSHING PARK FIELDHOUSE, 48th Street at Chowen Avenue South
Dinner \$6.00 at 6:00 P.M. Program at 7:00 P.M.

"THE GARDENS OF THE EAST - FALL 1987"

Speaker: Martha Reborn

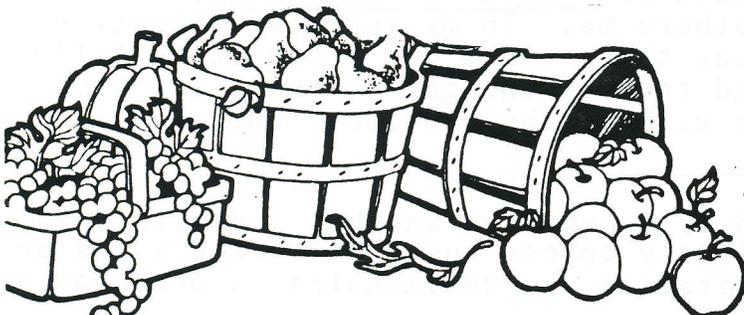
Ms. Reborn, of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society has just returned from an extensive tour of eastern U.S. gardens. "Join us in viewing rhododendron, topiary, landscape and fall color slides," urges V.P. Duane Reynolds. "I know the beauty and attraction the eastern gardens hold for a midwestern gardener for I have just returned from Rhode Island."

RUSH YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK TO RICK BONLENDER



*The men who know
Make things grow*

THANKSGIVING BONUS: HOWARD KLIER INVITES US FOR THE 15th TIME



Howard Klier invites us to attend an after Thanksgiving holiday decorations workshop for MGCM members on FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27th at 6:30 P.M. at KLIER'S NURSERY, 5901 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis

Bring your own materials or purchase what you need at Kliers'.

REQUIEM

September 26th--A beautiful moving day at the Fragrance Garden found 17 of us there to move 15 yards of compost. Dave Johnson had a "special" place to get this wonderful stuff. Len Brenny had his plow going before 8:15. By 10:40 we had the compost in place.

Nate Siegel was invited to inspect his plants. We designated it "Nate Siegel Day" at the garden. Someone suggested the work session should be on TV so this writer gave our President, Dr. Olson, a quarter to call WCCO TV. We got a 20 second spot on the news.

Several people worked on both clean-up Saturdays--Vint Bouslough, Ken Petterson, Phil Peterson, Hal McIntyre and Joe Stenger. Andy Marlow, Lloyd Wittstock, Bob Druke, Merle Pulley and Chuck Jonas made the clean-up go faster. Hope I haven't missed anyone.

Thanks,

Duane Johnson, Committee Co-Chairman

WANT WINDOWS TO MAKE A COLDFRAME?

Available at no charge--15 sets of double-hung windows. Must be reserved before November 1st but won't be available until about November 15th. Immediately upon being removed they will be hauled away unless reserved. Double-hung means each window has a top and a bottom.

--Bill Hull 926-1327

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

by Ed Culbert

At our October meeting Lloyd J. Kraft told us the MGCA Gardening From The Heart program provides therapy through gardening for all types of and all ages of disabled persons. He emphasized: Get the support of management. Get your hands in the soil. Let your clients do the work. Don't do for, do with.

He told us he would show slides of what ten different clubs were doing. Judging from the slides it was, primarily, taking pictures of club members standing beside important people or of signs identifying buildings. Less than one third showed anything akin to gardening.

Among those related to gardening were pictures of raised bed gardens (Overland Park, MO. MGC and some New York club); an orchard at Ozanum Home For Boys (Greater Kansas City MGC); greenhouse work at Arizona Children's Home and at Crittenden Center; greenhouse work, a vegetable garden beside a school and an Arbor Day tree planting (Green Bay, WI. MGC); Meninger Foundation training at Spofford House for horticultural therapists. In addition I caught the names of the Austin, TX. MGC, the Sedalia, MO. MGC and the Albany, NY. MGC.

Kraft's heavy emphasis on "The institution provides the leader; MGCA members act (only?) as advisors" bothers me. In my years in education I've seen this kind of operation many times and I don't buy it. If I'm going to handle the thing, if I need to know enough to handle it, I'm going to handle it alone. I can do without the "advisor" nuisance.

Twist - the dance movement imitated by a gardener who has just finished harvesting a bushel of okra from closely spaced rows. A novice gardener cannot imagine how persistently irritating the small hairs on okra can be.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Peter W. Dombrowski 788-2381
2329 Marshall St. N. E.
Minneapolis 55418

John F. Moon 861-5745
5648 Girard Ave. S.
Minneapolis 55419

John C. Groos 823-8620
5240 - 3rd Ave. S.
Minneapolis 55419

Gerhard Rothen 333-5839
723 - 26 Ave. S.
Minneapolis 55454

Note: Mr. Groos' name appeared last month but was misspelled. We apologize.

THE MEN ABOVE HAVE PAID THEIR DUES FOR 1988.
IT'S YOUR TURN NOW. DUES ARE DUE DECEMBER 1st.

MGCM CHRISTMAS PARTY - For Members and Guests

On Tuesday Evening, December 8, 1987

Augsburg College Center, 720 - 22nd Ave. So., Mpls.
(1 block south of Riverside Avenue)

Social Hour - 6:30 PM

Dinner - 7:00 PM

FEATURING:

- A turkey dinner with all the trimmings (no carvers this year)
- Entertainment by the Augsburg College Cabaret Group
- Awards, Door Prizes, Poinsettias for the ladies
- And more

Normal table setting will be in groups of 8 but larger parties can be accommodated if requested with reservation. Members are requested to honor table assignments. The Social Hour will be on the first floor of the Center. The dinner will be served on the second floor. (An elevator is available.) As in past years, members may bring items wrapped for door prizes. Members and parties may want to car pool. Three parking lots adjoin the College Center.

BY RESERVATION ONLY - Return the reservation form below with your check for \$11.95 per person to Joseph Stenger, 5421 Girard Ave. So., Mpls. MN 55419 BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD.

Please make _____ reservations for me for the MGCM Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 8, 1987. My check for \$_____, payable to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is enclosed.

Club Member _____

Guests: _____

As you know from the October meeting, the club is trying to obtain corporate sponsorships of certain events, to help us put more icing on the cake next July. Your help as a salesman making a very few calls is badly needed. Please talk with Russ Smith or Bill Hull if you can even consider it.

Jerry Shannon is working on a ten-day deadline these days, preparing the material to be printed for insert in the January-February Gardener. We're speaking of hotel reservation forms, touting material, registration forms, the whole works. Jerry also just sent our slide show (used at the Rockford convention) to North Carolina for use in a regional meeting. It was also used at the Arboretum last week-end.

Russ Smith is reaching national advertisers, by mail, offering them the opportunity to sponsor anything from a coffee serving to a big tour luncheon. Here we are speaking of thousands of dollars, of course.

You probably also read in a recent SPRAY that money from the subsidy fund might be used for another purpose. Hold up! That didn't refer to the fund we have been building to register we members in 1988. It referred to the annual allotment the club budgets to help sponsor our delegates at the MGCA national convention. Two entirely different things.

At our November club meeting, Jerry will give you an update of what his committees are doing. Russ will do the same in January, Chet Groger in February and Archie Caple in March - so you can see a lot of people are working. As Bill says "It isn't just a one man show."

The Committee
October 7, 1987

THE (PLANT) DOCTOR'S ADVICE
by Chuck Levine

Underwater gardening

Now you can literally submerge yourself in winter gardening by going underwater. A home aquarium can have not only fish but plants as well. The cultivation of plants in an aquarium can be a fascinating, enjoyable garden pursuit, especially ideal for Chicagoans who are confined to indoor gardening for several months of the year.

Don't be discouraged by the experience of those who have started to grow aquatic plants and had them rot and disintegrate; most aquatic plants are long lived and durable, if provided with proper conditions.

Here are some suggestions to help ensure success with these plants:

First, provide your plants with fluorescent lights, thought by many growers to be the key to aquatic success. This should not surprise the many indoor gardeners who have found success with other "difficult" plants by using artificial light.

Second, check with the dealer where you purchase your plants to find out if the plants are being kept in soft or hard water and at what temperature and pH level. Find out the optimum conditions for these plants and adjust them gradually, over a period of hours, from the conditions in which they have been grown to the optimum conditions.

Many pet shops sell aquatic plants; many more should. Ask the shop owner about plants; encourage him to sell more and to provide a greater variety. Aquarium gardening can provide you with a new and unusual outlet for your gardening abilities. Avoid plastic plants; your fish know the difference and so will you.

The plants listed here are readily available and easy to maintain in the home aquarium: Aponogeton, Cryptocoryne, Echinodorus, Hygrophila, Sagittaria and Valisneria.

Every Member Sponsors A New Member



"TELL THEM TO WAIT - I'M BUSY GARDENING"

Bob Olson
President
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

This year once again we have been invited to make wreaths at Klier's Nursery, 5901 Nicollet Avenue. This has become a traditional event for the Men's Garden Club and always occurs the Friday after Thanksgiving. About 40 enthusiastic wreath makers come fairly early in the evening to try their hand at this art form. A large number of them are complete novices. Howard's wife, Ardis, cheerfully shows beginners how to make a Christmas wreath. She coaches them through each step and believe it or not, everyone ends up with a pretty decent product. Ardis appears to have the patience of a pine tree.

The wreath making started about 30 years ago with Howard's father. Some friends of his from the Richfield Garden Club would get together in a member's home to make wreaths and centerpieces for the Christmas party. They alternated homes each year making the wreaths in basements and amusement rooms. Finally the wives put their feet down to stop this in-home wreath making. They couldn't get the needles out of the carpets, nooks and crannies. Howard Klier's Dad said, "Come on down to my place - we've got plenty of room, we're used to wreath making, and the mess will be controllable. We can get the materials right there." The undertaking moved to Klier's and never left.

Howard's partner, Don, and Don's wife make the cookies which are present in bounteous supply. Howard and his wife make venison meatballs. Also generously supplied are wine, coffee and tea. The Richfield Club disbanded many years ago and 10-12 members came to join the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. They brought this tradition with them. In addition to the Kliers, Larry Bachman, Carl Holst and a former member named Miller were among those making the move and bringing the wreath making with them.

In recent years, Albert Rahlenbeck has come with his trusty assistant. Albert made wreaths professionally when he lived in Germany. He turns them out like a machine - each a perfect specimen. Last year he made five wreaths for our Christmas party which were given as door prizes to be taken home when the party was over. Albert also made a few additional wreaths for smooth talking club members. Albert has dropped out of our club this year but I have invited him back to assist us with wreath making. Albert says he is delighted at the prospect and will make every effort to attend this thoroughly enjoyable evening.

* * * * *

Jane Pezlar from the Minneapolis Society for the Blind has been in contact with me re their relation with the MGCM. The MSB is having a 75th anniversary in two years and would like to include the Garden Club in their publicity activities. We are currently examining braille signs and tags which can be put up in the garden, but there is much more to be done. We need a corps of interested individuals to meet regularly with the MSB members and develop an ongoing program centering around the Fragrance Garden, but including other horticulturally related activities. Please contact me or Duane Reynolds if you have an interest. We are anxious to get your input, energy and ideas.

PERSONALS

Andy Marlow's write-up of Julius Wadekamper's talk at our September meeting was reprinted in The Compost Pit, the Rockford, Illinois MGC's bulletin.-- Good advertising for Julius; good recognition of Andy's fine reporting.

Did you see the picture (3 columns wide, 9½ inches high) of our secretary, Rick Bonlender, in the "Shelter" section of the Star-Tribune of Saturday October 17th? He was standing on a ladder raking leaves from a gutter. We hope he discourages kids from standing that way.

WHAT OTHER MGCA UNITS DO

The Spartanburg, South Carolina MGC was involved in a litter pick-up in March 1986 in which they picked up 47 bags of litter on 4 streets. Apparently this is an annual event for they report, "No money was found this year."

The Spreader of the MGC of Syracuse, New York reports: Among the objectives of MGCS is to be of service to the community. We have had timely projects in the past and currently are involved in such activities as an educational booth at the State Fair, an advisory function to a vegetable garden at Argosy House, maintaining a planting at the Syracuse Public Library and helping with the gardening program at the French Fort and more. And, we have a youth program. Each year, in cooperation with the County Cooperative Extension facility, MGCS sponsors a largest pumpkin and a biggest sunflower contest for youth.

A number of MGC's have pot-lucks. One bulletin notes a pot-luck Christmas party. Such a way to treat a wife!

A good many clubs have plant sales at shopping centers and the like. In most cases, it seems, the plants are raised by the club members.

MGCM ANNUAL DUES FOR 1988

Your 1988 club dues are due and payable by December 1st. They become delinquent January 1. We want you to renew your membership in time to be included in the Club Directory published February 1st.
.....

(Please return this portion. The information is needed for the Directory.)

Last Name First Name Middle Initial Nickname Wife's Name

Address and Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____ Honorary Member: _____

MGCA Life Member: _____ MN.Hort.Soc. Dues paid, if elsewhere, to: _____

ALLOCATION: MGCM \$7.00; MN. Hort. Soc. \$8.00; MGCA \$15.00; Total \$30.00

Make checks payable to MGCM. Total Dues Enclosed: \$ _____

Send to: Joseph Stenger, Treas. Dues Already Paid: \$ _____
5421 Girard Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN. 55419