

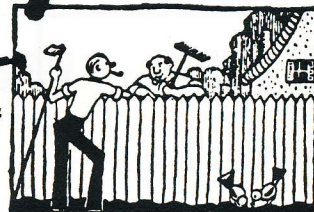


The Garden Spray

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

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

October 1982, Volume 40, Number 10



WHAT DOES A MINNESOTA GARDEN LOOK LIKE IN THE WINTER?

The most common answer is WHITE. Cold, bleak, dirty, dreary, uninteresting are equally appropriate. But, IT NEEDN'T BE SO. With some imagination and careful planning our gardens, with the aid of evergreens and other colorful plants can have a special characteristic in winter.

COME TO OUR MGCM MEETING, 6 P.M. TUESDAY OCTOBER 12th to
HEAR member RAY MARSHALL, who is very knowledgeable on such matters, tell how to make our winters (Yes, winters!) colorful. His slides will show how we can improve our outlook, or looking out, in winter.

RETURN YOUR RESERVATION CARD TO PHIL PETERSON PROMPTLY. Then a dinner (\$5) will be awaiting you at our meeting place the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 49th Street and Chowen Avenue South, when you arrive.

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FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW REPORT

Despite a not especially good growing season our annual flower/vegetable show was very satisfactory. The number of exhibitors and of total entries was approximately the same as in recent years. Again, a few exhibitors (8) accounted for a large percentage (59%) of the entries. The quality of the material was excellent. Henry Halvorson's delphinium, Grand Champion in flowers, was certainly outstanding and Dr. Snyder's basket of blackberries, Grand Champion in fruits/vegetables, made one want to reach for the cream pitcher for a treat.

We were disappointed that more members did not have entries in the new classes, the exhibits division. There was only one entry in the potted vegetable section and only 6 flower and 5 vegetable entries in the exhibits division. Hopefully another year will see more interest in these classes.

The big prize-winners were:

	<u>Flower Section</u>	<u>Vegetable Section</u>
SWEEPSTAKES:	Dave Johnson	Bob Smith
NATIONAL AWARDS:	Dave Johnson	Floyd Ashley
COURT	Chet Groger - marigold	Vern Carlson - burpless
OF	*Henry Halvorson - delphinium	cucumber
HONOR:	Dave Johnson - veronica	Jerry Shannon - Waneta plum
	Walt Schmidt - rose	Jerry Shannon - celery
	Stan Van Vorst - perennial	*Leon Snyder - blackberries
	sweet pea	Bob Smith - Anoka potato
	* = Grand Champion	Bob Smith - potato collection
		(over)

Our sincere thanks to the many who worked hard to make the show a success. It takes many hands to put such a venture over, and many people came through. Thanks again.

--Bob Smith & Charlie Proctor, Co-chairmen

GARDEN SHOW, COMPARATIVE FIGURES 1976-1982 (Provided by Charles Proctor)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER EXHIBITORS</u>	<u>FLOWER-NUMBER EXHIBITS-VEGETABLE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1976 (Aug. 2)	20 members 6 other club 5 youth	468	116
1977 (Sept. 10)	28 (29%, 8 exhibitors, made 58% of the exhibits.)	262	168
1978	25	240	60
1979 (Aug. 25)	31 members 8 non-members 6 youth	335 (26%, 8 exhibitors, made 49% of the exhibits.)	105
1980 (Aug. 23)	28 members 4 non-members 2 youth	338	112
1981 (Aug. 22)	29 (21%, 6 exhibitors, made 49% of the exhibits.)	362	117
1982 (Aug. 28)	29 (28%, 8 exhibitors, made 59% of the exhibits.)	329	132
			461

COME AND GET IT....FREE!

Our house has been sold. I must get rid of much of the gardening supplies I have accumulated in 28 years. It's free for the taking. You are all invited to come on Saturday, October 9, and help yourself. A partial, not complete, list of the free material follows:

Buckets	Plastic flats	Wood trellises
Lawn edger	Tomato stakes	Lawn chairs (2)
Burlap bags	Peony supports	Metal plant stakes
Hanging pots	Compost screen	Wire plant supports
Wooden flats	Hardware cloth	Aluminum foil trays
Nursery stock containers	Portable plastic plant protector	
Civil Defense water barrels	Misc. plastic and pottery planters	
Storm windows (for cold frames)		
Many seedling flats--various sizes and shapes		
Many plastic and clay pots--all sizes and shapes		

I will also have some items to be sold.

--Charlie Proctor, 4131 York Ave. So.

RANDOM THOUGHTS THIS FALL

Protecting plants from early frosts might increase the productivity of my garden and prolong the life of tender annuals. The first killing frost is often followed by several days, if not weeks, of favorable growing weather. If a light frost is predicted and the conditions are suitable, I could sprinkle the garden for frost protection. Of course, the water would have to be applied continually during the freezing period.

The fact that my spring flowering bulbs produced small flowers that were few in number was probably due to over-crowding. Now would be a good time to dig them up, thin them out and throw away any diseased, damaged or small bulbs, work in organic matter and a complete fertilizer high in phosphorous and replant the best bulbs. Maybe I'd better plant new bulbs.



Thoughts From the Gazebo

Fall is the air. The sky is steel gray in color and the morning air is cool. It is September 14, and as I pen my thoughts for the October issue of "The Spray", subtle indicators that summer is over are all about the garden. So many of the summer blooming annuals and perennials are way past their prime. The birds that live in and about the garden, such as the wren, oriole and brown thrasher are gone and have begun their fall migration. The plums and grapes have been harvested and only the late apples are still ripening. Most of the vegetables have been harvested, with only the tomatoes, squash and root crops still to be picked. By the time you read this article I am sure that the first frost of the season will have occurred and we will be into Indian summer. Color in the flower beds are now being provided by the mass planting of petunias and geraniums, with the dahlias, garden mums and roses also providing a spectacular display. Isolated foxglove, heliotrope, penstemon, and physostegia plants are also in bloom.

Everyone owes a big thanks to Bob Smith and Charlie Proctor for their leadership in preparing for and staging the Flower and Vegetable Show in August. I thought it was simply spectacular. The only disappointment was that I am sorry that more members did not participate. The Board of Directors certainly would like to hear your ideas on how to increase member participation.

If you have ordered calendars and have not paid George McCollough for them, please do so immediately. Club funds have had to be used to pay for MGCA calendars ordered and not paid for. This has amounted to hundreds of club dollars. Please settle your debt with the treasurer now.

I hope to see a large turn out for the October 12, 1982 meeting.

Jerry Shannon

WINTER STORAGE ADVICE

Dahlias, begonias, cannas and all fleshy tubers will need special care if you expect to get them through the winter. First consideration should be given to a suitable storage area that will provide a uniform temperature of 38-42°. This can be accomplished by closing and insulating an old well pit or a cool portion of the basement. Keep in mind that the area must be ventilated with outside air to be successful. On very cold days the storage area may drop down to near freezing; but don't let it get down to the freezing level. Shelving will be necessary to use the space to good advantage.

All roots and tubers should be packed in double grocery bags using vermiculite as a packing medium. Kraft bags and vermiculite have the ability to absorb excessive moisture and then release it back to the roots as needed. All roots should receive a dusting of sulphur, or other garden fungicide. Bags should be taped closed and labeled as to contents. It is advisable to check for deterioration every 6 to 8 weeks. Keep in mind that a bruised or diseased root will contaminate good roots.

This cold storage treatment should never be used for Amaryllis bulbs or Peruvian Daffodils. Temperatures below 60° will delay or prevent such bulbs from blooming next season.

When frost threatens pick the mature-green tomatoes, also those starting to turn pink. Keep them at temperatures between 60 and 80 degrees until they have colored to suit you. Don't put them in the sun. They will turn red in total darkness. After they ripen, put them in the refrigerator.

A storage area such as described above pays off in big dividends when storing carrots, beets, cabbage, potatoes. (On the other hand apples keep better at temperatures just below freezing.) Vegetables for storage should not be picked immature and they should not be overripe because in either case the quality will be low.

The mild or bermuda-type onions cannot be stored for long, but the more pungent kinds can be kept through the winter. Cure and store them at temperatures just above freezing. Humidity should be low to prevent the onions from sprouting.

Late potatoes should be stored at about 40 degrees. Stored at 50 to 60 degrees they have better texture, color and flavor but will not keep long. Potatoes should be stored in a dark place to prevent greening.

Only Late varieties of cabbage should be stored. Store at 32 to 35 degrees and at 75 to 80 percent humidity. Chinese cabbage and cauliflower should be stored the same way.

Pumpkins and winter squash should be cured before being stored. This means keeping them at a temperature of 80 to 85 degrees for about two weeks. Then keep them in a dry place at 50 to 66 degrees.

Dwarf geraniums can be brought in. Geraniums don't need a rest period and will go right on blooming. Old plants too big for winter windows can be carried over in the cellar under lights. Caladiums from the garden can be potted up. Fibrous begonias can be brought in. After a rest they will start blooming again if cut back.

Bill Cowcill is in the Trevilla Nursing Home of Golden Valley, 7505 Country Club Drive, Golden Valley, MN. 55427.

MINNEAPOLIS CLUB DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH MGCA FOR YEARS

By Bill Hull, Club Historian

When Editor Ed Culbert first asked me to prepare this article concerning the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis (MGCM) and its involvement with the Men's Garden Clubs of America (MGCA) over a long period of time, I didn't know how much work lay ahead.

The first member of MGCM to be prominent in MGCA was Herb Kahlert, who served faithfully, became MGCA president in 1958, received the Silver medal a few years later, and died in 1960 at the age of 74. Dr. Ray C. Allen, MGCA past president, Kingwood Center, Ohio, said: "...our great gardener, Herb Kahlert...there were times when I was afraid the organization would have folded if he (Herb) had not personally assumed special responsibilities."

Herb Kahlert bestowed a mantle on me in 1956 when I was elected my first term as a Director of MGCA and appointed Director of Publications to solve some problems. Now I don't want to exalt myself, but how do I fill the job Ed Culbert has given me without telling newer members some things I did? In those days we worked our way up to the presidency by working intimately with about eight different committees for three years each. Thus from 1961 through 1963 I went from third VP to first VP. At the Rockford convention in 1963 I was elected 1964 MGCA president. I did much writing for THE GARDENER, usually without bylines. In my year as president we started the Big Pumpkin Contest, wrote the Management Training Manual, made the first survey of members, finalized the Johnny Appleseed National Memorial, almost finalized the new IRS tax status, while I visited more MGCA clubs than anyone had previously done. All this time I kept pointing out my tie with my home club, MGCM.

A lot of the interaction between MGCM and MGCA was shown in the pages of THE GARDENER. For example, in 1955, Joe Witmer wrote of our activities; also there was a story of Herb Kahlert's presenting the charter to the MGC of Rochester. It was also the first year I was elected a director...no, that was 1956, the same year that P.W.Young wrote of our club in THE GARDENER.

In 1957 we were one of six MGCs chosen by the Associated Bulb Growers of Holland to be given several thousand tulips to plant in one spot. We did so and had our group pic in our magazine. There were also stories of our planting evergreens in the Lyndale Gardens public space and one by George Titus of his new home in California.

Tony Koester was shown in 1958 carving one of our fourteen turkeys for our Christmas party; there also appeared an article on the seven MGCs in Minnesota. Also Otto Erickson wrote on "Precision Gardening."

(continued page 6)

We contributed a lot and we received a lot in those days.

MEGA had become THE GARDENER in 1959 when Leon Snyder wrote of flowering crabapples, Walter Quist wrote of zinnias in the tropics, Glen Cerney of perennials, there was a report of Bill Hull speaking to over 500 radio stations on "Who Gardens at Your House?" and an article and photo of our club's flower photography session at Archie Flack's yard.

In 1960 articles in THE GARDENER told of the North Star Region being organized at Hull's house and a photo of MGCM's living charter members. Followed the next year with a story of the friendly rivalry between garden neighbors Dale Durst and Hull. Bill Cowcill wrote in 1963 about geraniums, Ev Haedecke was elected a national director for MGCA for three years, and Leon Snyder received MGCA's prestigious Gold Medal for "outstanding horticultural achievement".

1964 was Hull's year as national president and hence he and MGCM were in the news a lot. Editor Hal Nelson said "Hull is a past president of the MGC of Minneapolis and served on that club's board longer than any other man - three years as treasurer, one as vice president, one as president, and one as past president, for a total of six years. He was also instrumental in organizing the North Star Region". More interesting were articles about Eng Hoyme, Joe Seaman, articles by Carl Holst and Ron Twite, one about the Bachman/Dayton flower show, a photo of Ev Haedecke in attendance at the annual MGCA board meeting in Chicago and a notice that THE GARDEN SPRAY under editor Vic Lowrie won recognition as one of the best in MGCA.

In 1965 we achieved tax exemption for MGCA and Hull's article "What Tax Exemption Means to MGCA" was important. Jerry Olsen, Hull, and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson wrote major articles, as did Mickey Nilson and Welcome Sunding. Hull was invited to attend the White House Conference on Beautification as a representative of men gardeners.

In 1966 our Al Hubbard wrote three articles for THE GARDENER. Ed Graupmann, our friend and MGC of Minnetonka member, was elected a new MGCA director for three years. Hull was awarded the prestigious Silver Medal by MGCA for "outstanding service to the national group" and was also appointed chairman of the MGCA Ways and Means committee to search for a national headquarters building.

In 1967 the MGCA convention in Minneapolis was headlined, as headed by Dwight Stone, as the second such convention in Minneapolis. Leon Snyder was recognized nationally as one of our speakers and THE GARDEN SPRAY, Hull now editing, was cited by MGCA as being "one of MGCA's top ten bulletins".

But the very next year, 1968, THE GARDEN SPRAY, Hull editor, was given the top MGCA award as "the most outstanding club bulletin of the year". That same year carried stories of Nate Siegel and Otto Nelson organizing the Sioux Valley MGC and of ground breaking ceremonies in Des Moines with Joe Howland and Hull participating in 70 mph winds. The next year, 1969, Ed Graupmann was again elected a national director for three years and THE GARDEN SPRAY again received an award for being "one of the top twelve".

1970 was a dry year for us but Les Johnson kicked off 1971 with an outstanding article on "Perennials for Your Border" which was so good I've made note to read it again.

(concluded on page 7)

In 1972 we didn't have too many articles in THE GARDENER. Weren't we doing anything worthwhile or weren't we reporting on them? Exceptions were very good articles by Ed Culbert, Phil Smith, Bruce Johnstone, Cliff Brisco and Bob Waldoch (a dual member of two clubs).

Bob Smith wrote three articles in 1973, P.W.Young wrote two, Ed Culbert's THE GARDEN SPRAY was honored as being in Group IV of the club bulletins, and it was the first year a national director was elected by regions. Charlie King was so posted for us.

Bob Smith again produced three articles in 1974, Dwight Stone wrote two and others were by Don Wilson, Ed Culbert, Henry Halvorson and Bill Hull. Most importantly there was an article relating the death at 91 of our own Harold Kaufman. Carl Holst appeared as an MGCA national director for a few months and then was replaced by Sherm Pinkham, who has been one the eight years since. Again, THE GARDEN SPRAY won honors as being one of MGCA's top twelve.

In 1975 Bob Smith proved continuing interest with two more articles, Bruce Johnstone contributed another and I was pleased to see that the Big Pumpkin Contest which I had started eleven years previously now involved 46 clubs which distributed nearly 40,000 seeds. Also we can proudly note that Sherm Pinkham was named chairman of MGCA's newly instituted Endowment and Investment committee.

Leon Snyder was featured in 1976 as a Fort Collins convention speaker, while Sherm Pinkham, Evald Johnson and Bill Hull were announced as being Sustaining Members. Bruce Johnstone's new book was extolled.

In 1977 publicity was given to Dwight Stone as fifth district president of the Minnesota Horticultural Society and also detailed were Fred Glasoe, Vic Lowrie, Leon Snyder, Carl Holst, Jim Perrin, Larry Corbett and Stan Crist. Bruce Johnstone was featured in two articles and Sherm Pinkham's photo was carried on the fourth cover.

And so it has continued for the next years to date. Highlights include an article about Mr./Mrs. Dick Lehman's retirement hobby of orchid growing, Bruce Johnstone having contributed a chapter to a new Agriculture Department Yearbook, big article on Sherm Pinkham the toymaker, Cameron Smith's fine three-part article on plant propagation and 1982 which is MGCA's fiftieth anniversary and which is MGCM's fortieth anniversary.

Yes, we in MGCM have contributed a lot to MGCA but have received much publicity in return. Our bulletin has been consistently honored under three editors as being one of the best in MGCA and our people have been recognized as being outstanding gardeners and horticulturalists.

Planning and organizing ahead of time makes for easier and more efficient gardening. So, why wait until spring to turn your garden soil? It pays big dividends to turn the soil in fall and leave it rough over winter. A rough soil catches more moisture for the subsoil. Another advantage is that you can then work it two weeks earlier in the spring thereby gaining an additional fortnight for your cool weather vegetables.

G. VICTOR LOWRIE: A STORY OF CONTINUING SUPPORT

For the past 50 years Vic Lowrie's principal hobby has been gardening. His interest began while living in a sun-drenched area where he grew nearly 150 rosebushes. Now his home is in a shady wooded area and his gardening interests have switched to shade-loving plants such as hosta, impatiens, begonias, bleedinghearts and astilbes.

During the 1950's Vic was an active member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. It was during this time that a special interest group of the Men's Garden Club asked the Horticulture Society to study the possibility of developing an arboretum.

In 1955, with the University of Minnesota's approval, a committee was formed to raise funds and locate an appropriate site for the arboretum. As chairman of the Arboretum Fund Finance Committee of the Men's Garden Club, Vic helped raise much of the necessary money.

After much concerted work by many

people, Vic, then president of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, presented the University of Minnesota President J.L. Morrill with the deed to the original 160 acres of land on Feb. 6, 1958.

At that time Vic says he thought the original tract of land would be the entire arboretum. "It has developed way beyond my imagination of what it would be like. The grandeur of the landscape—the hills and valleys, the woods and water—offers unsurpassed opportunities to develop plantings for every possible environment. The whole arboretum is as beautiful as anything I've ever seen. That's why I'm so involved with it, I love it."

Vic Lowrie certainly is involved! He has served on the Minnesota Arboretum Foundation since the beginning. After the death of John E.P. Morgan, Vic stepped in with his experience and contacts to help complete the fund-raising drive for the Education and Research Building. His expertise and experience in advertising and publishing has benefited the arboretum a number of times.

When asked if he had any hopes for



the future, Vic said, "Throughout the years the development and capital improvements of the arboretum have been privately funded. I hope we will always be able to find people who are willing to support new developments. Our membership needs to increase and I would hope that everyone takes every opportunity to promote the arboretum and invite people to become members."

MINNESOTA
LANDSCAPE
ARBORETUM NEWS

—Linda S. Sanford
assistant extension
specialist

Return to
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