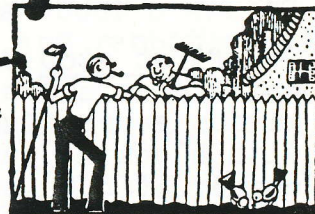




The Garden Spray

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
September 1985, Volume 43, Number 9

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS
Regular Monthly Meeting
September 10, 1985

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.

HISTORY AT IT'S MAKING

WELCOME to the September 10th Dinner Meeting. We will be honored by one of the Bachmans explaining how they made history in the nursery and floral business. There will be slides showing the old and the new. It will bring back memories of the past to many of us. It will be fun to hear the Bachmans talk about the past. So here is a meeting where we will hear about the past and about the future. MARK YOUR CALENDAR--and don't forget "HISTORY AT IT'S MAKING", September 10th.

GET YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK TO DUANE REYNOLDS PROMPTLY

YOU DIDN'T GET A CARD? That means you are on the permanent reservation list and must call Duane if you aren't coming to the meeting. Failure to come and failure to call will cost you \$5.00, you know.

* * * * *

COMMUNITY FRAGRANCE GARDEN
(19th & Aldrich Avenue, South)
(M-i-n-n-e-a-p-o-l-i-s)

MEMBERS - - - - September is here. Let's keep up the maintenance of the garden by watering and weeding.

At our September meeting I will announce a date in the latter part of that month for a final clean up. At that time I will give you a report on the progress of the Garden for this season.

Members----KEEP THAT GARDEN WATERED AND WEEDED

HAPPY GARDENING----Joseph L. Stenger (Committee Chairman)

MGCA CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Albany, New York.....July, 1986
Rockford, Illinois.....June, 1987
Minneapolis, Minnesota.....July 3-6, 1978 THAT'S US!

SUMMER TOUR, SUMMER PLEASURES

by Jerry Shannon

On Sunday, August 11, sixty plus members and their guests gathered under sunny skies in the parking lot of Lake Harriet United Methodist Church the departure point for the MGCM summer garden tour.

The first stop for those aboard the motor coach and the overflow riding in private cars was Westwood Lutheran Church of St. Louis Park. This church garden separating the parking lot and the building foundation is ablaze with blooming perennials and annuals throughout the growing season. MGCM member Stan Crist and his wife, Esther, have planned, planted, and cared for this horticultural treasure for the past several seasons. A flower border 150 feet by 12 feet is no small task, especially when the annuals are all raised from seed by the Crists. Mass plantings of Border Beauty Rose, Yellow Marvel and Small World cherry colored zinnias; Inca Yellow marigolds; Nicki Red nicotiana; Trinidad verbenas; celosia; snapdragons; Foxy foxgloves, cosmos; Carpet of Snow alyssum, blue ageratum and lavatera gave masses of color. Perennials blooming were veronica and delphinium with the chrysanthemums ready to take over and add their beauty for fall. How lucky for Westwood to have horticultural benefactors such as Stan and Esther!

Our next stop was at the Minnetonka garden of Stan Crist. Stan has an approximate $3/4$ acre homesite on which he has a balance of flower beds and vegetable plots. Island flower beds surface above a carpet of green lawn. Within these beds are mass colors of blooming Trinidad verbenas, Yellow Marvel zinnia, Foxy foxglove, Nicki Red nicotiana, blue salvia, Inca Yellow and Happy Face marigolds. In the vegetable garden were growing onions, cucumbers, tomatoes, cabbage of all types plus raspberries.

To keep deer from foraging on his trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables, Stan has hung at regular intervals throughout his yard small packets of human hair in mesh bags. They not only worked on keeping out the deer but also provided quite a topic of conversation for those of us visiting.

The third garden to be visited was that of past president Russ Smith who lives in Wayzata. Russ' garden is both shady and sunny and it is built on a series of terraces rising behind the house. The terraces nearest the house included the flowers with various varieties of sweet peas, red geraniums, marigolds, nasturtiums and zinnias. A marvelous planting of hardy amaryllis (*Lycoris squamigera*) with their pink blooms stood tall within this bed. At the top of the garden (upper terraces) raised vegetable beds of onions, brussels sprouts, squash, pencil cabbage and raspberries were growing.

Next we traveled to Crystal Bay on Lake Minnetonka to see the multi-acred Noerenberg Gardens, now part of the Hennepin County Park Reserve system. They are still maintained much in the same manner as the original estate gardens of Frederick Noerenberg with massive beds of Majorette hollyhock, foxglove, vinca, Blue Victoria salvia, butterfly snapdragons, fringed bleeding heart, white mallow called Mont Blanc, and an interesting meadow rue seven feet tall. A huge bed of Peruvian daffodils, even though not in bloom, provided beautiful foliage.

An 1890 vintage boat house with an oriental motif overlooked Lake Minnetonka, and provided an excellent view while sitting in white wicker period furniture. Huge stately century old Scotch pines, maples, and elms added to the beauty of the landscape.

(Continued on page 3)

TOUR from page 2

The next garden stop was the garden of Dr. Leon Snyder, on Rolling Acres Road in Excelsior. A long driveway led down to the house nestled amongst the trees. South of the drive, in full sun, sat the fruit and vegetable growing area. Grapes, plums, apricots, apples, blackberries, and raspberries are grown in this area. Protecting his vegetable garden is a double strand smooth wire electric fence, with its wires about 6 and 12 inches off the ground. This is a great raccoon, skunk, and rabbit repellent.

Sweeping along the south side of the Snyder home is a flower border above a low stone wall. Within this border grow a variety of conifers, shrubs and a profusion of perennials and annuals. Signet and Naughty Marietta marigolds, yellow Mexican poppies, cosmos, and petunias gave a calico of colors.

A large river birch grew in the center of the turnaround with its strikingly beautiful brown/bronze peeling bark.

The last garden on the tour was that of Mike Heger, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum horticulturist, living near Waconia, Minnesota. The yard is shaded by three very large trees, a lovely Burr and Red Oak plus a big American Linden. Growing in the borders under these trees were the perennials that Mike specializes in, the hosta. You might say that he has his own "hosta glen", planted neatly with what seemed like hundreds of different varieties, all labeled with the correct variety name.

The final stop on the day's full tour was at the picnic shelters at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Here the tour committee, board members and their wives served a picnic buffet which very adequately met the appetites of the tour participants.

When the motor coach pulled back into the parking lot of the Lake Harriet Methodist Church at the end of the tour, members and guests exclaimed over and over about what a wonderful day it had been. How better can we express our thoughts than by quoting the Minnetonka MGC bulletin:

GARDENING IN MINNESOTA

Strong winds blow; we've abundant snow;
sub-zero days; then days too hot;
monotonous weather we have NOT!
But, oh, for the gardens that Minnesotans
raise deserving our thanks and
ardent praise.

ONION ROT: Recently Mrs. Culbert came home from a visit in the Red River valley with some huge onions. They weren't really ready to be pulled for storage but the donor said her onions had begun to rot at the base. I've had that same problem this year and attributed it to too much watering. If you have had a similar experience and can suggest a reason/remedy write it up for the SPRAY.

Meanwhile, the stand procedure and advice is: Cool dry storage works best for onions. When over 50 percent of the tops have fallen over, onions should be pulled and cured for three weeks in an open garage. Dried tops should then be removed and bulbs hung in mesh bags in an area that will not freeze but still remain below 45° F.

GARDEN COVER CROPS: Garden soil can be protected by a winter crop such as rye or ryegrass. Rye is preferable for seedings made after September 15.

ED ASKS, "HAVE YOU HEARD THAT -

MGCA has an official song? It was adopted at the convention in Mobile (1984) and sung again this year in Chicago. You already know the tune: "The Marine's Hymn". The words are:

All across our big fine nation
Men's Garden Clubs abound,
We try to help each other
Make the best use of our ground,
So be sure your friends know who we are
and what our clubs can do,
For in helping others on their way
Our greatest joy is found.

The SPRAY won't win any more Club Journalism Awards until you get a new editor? "Beginning this year (1985) club bulletins which have been named for 3 years will not longer be considered for an award. The intent is to provide more encouragement for new editors."

I agree that no purpose is accomplished by giving a certificate annually to the same bulletin. Why not just announce "The following club bulletins meet the basic requirements for a good club bulletin on the basis set forth by the bulletin committee" then give a citation to bulletins or editors new to the list.

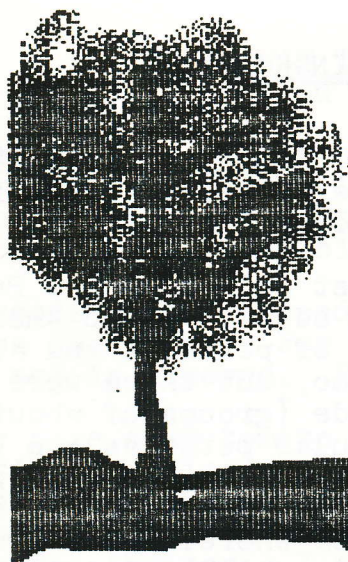
I continue to wonder when the reviewers will awaken to the fact that each bulletin submitted should bring a critique showing what were considered to be it's strong points and/or giving suggestions on how to improve the weak points. The trite response is, "Refer to your bulletin manual". Unfortunately, the only issue I ever received was prepared before my time. After looking it over my reaction as a newly appointed editor was, "I don't buy this and this. I'll do it my way and MGCM can fire me if they don't like it."

My perversity is showing. Grandmother Goldsworthy would have admonished, "All right! All right! Follow your own devil. You'll go to Hell all the faster." I hope I won't grow to be like the man at the convention who was cited for his 19 years as his club's bulletin editor. He could barely walk to the podium. I don't feel that burdened yet. Maybe by 1988?

Cathy Olson speaking in Chicago on CULINARY HERBS and Betty McCarthy on GROWING HERBS INDOORS on WINDOWSILLS or UNDER LIGHTS failed to check their topics and to compare notes in advance? Net result: Both brought samples of herbs, discussed them and passed them around for the audience to examine and smell. Betty had nary a word to say on her topic as stated. Cathy's specimens were unlabeled. Betty's, fortunately, were protruding from medicine bottle containers labeled to show what herb we were smelling.

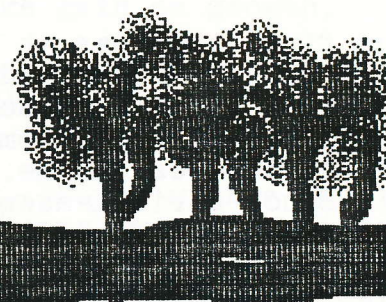
Cathy also passed around samples of basil oil, basil butter, basil vinegar and salad burnet vinegar for tasting. Bill Swain, herb fancier, who helped us finance the 1949 MGCA convention by preparing our club dinners in 1948-49 would have loved this program. He might even have found a use for the list of her 33 herbs (counting the varieties of the same herb such as French tarragon, Russian tarragon) together with their botanical names.

Incidentally in giving background lore on herbs Cathy made one remark whose double implication was missed by her audience: "If a man can't smell Rosemary he can't give true love."



FROM THE WEED PATCH....

by Andy Marlow



Garden Spray editor Ed Culbert is probably biting his nails right now, wondering if this column is going to arrive in time for publication, but I wanted to wait until after the **Flower and Vegetable Show** so I could make a few remarks about it. The official report from the show committee appears elsewhere in the Spray, but, as you know, your president and the Board made increased participation in the show a major priority this year. I can report mixed success at best. We did increase participation by just under 20%, but that means we went from 22 exhibitors last year to 26 this year. In fact, three guys signed up for exhibitor numbers this year, but didn't enter anything. And we missed some of the old reliables like Bob Smith, who usually enters quite a few vegetables. Those of us who had worked all year toward the goal of greater participation were down a bit.

Dave Johnson wasn't down at all. All morning, as he prepared his exhibits, he kept saying he just wanted to help fill up the tables. He filled them all right -- with ribbons. He not only won the National Award for a zinnia blossom, but also took both the Flower and Vegetable Sweepstakes awards. Quite a feat with a garden less than a year old. Good going, Dave!

Good going to Ted Olson, too! I've pestered him beyond most people's patience to enter just one thing in the show. He went one better by entering two potted geraniums, and winning a second place ribbon with one. He noticed that some of the other ribbon winners weren't all that much better than some specimens he had left at home. I hope he (and others) remember that next year!

While our show was going on inside the Snyder Building at the Arboretum, the Minnesota Iris Society was selling their favorite plants outside on the terrace. Some garden centers could take lessons from these folks. Friendliness and a willingness to help a relative novice at iris growing resulted in two bags of rhizomes waiting by the Marlow back door, ready to add color to a pretty plain iris bed.

Finally, if you're thinking about tossing out garden tools, pots or other paraphernalia this fall, hold on a while. The 1988 MGCA convention committee is busy hatching plans to raise money to subsidize MGCM registration fees for the convention, hoping every MGCM member will then be able to attend. The first step, if it's approved by the Board, is a "gardening garage sale" to be held next spring. If you can find room to store a few "unwants" until then, they may help pay your way to the '88 convention. Stay tuned for details as they become available.

OF BALL'S, KLEHM'S AND THE STINKY GINGKO TREE
by Bill Hull

We spent Wednesday, July 17 touring two commercial establishments--4 big air-conditioned busloads of us. We were fortunate to have a beautiful summer day of about 80 degrees. Delightful weather!

Our first stop was at the Ball Seed company in West Chicago where Ball maintains its show and test gardens while growing seed in South America. My photos will show some of the 70-plus varieties of petunias and at least 25-30 varieties of tomatoes. Many other items, too, but these were of strong interest to me. Our particular Ball's guide (groups of about 25) was Bruce Christiansen who told us their most popular petunias are White Cascade, Pink Magic and Sugar Daddy, in that order. Among those I personally liked were the very dark blues (purples): Fulcon and Blue Flash. We also saw a square foot gardening demonstration area wherein were growing the newer Supercascade petunias in rose, pink, red, white and lilac colors. Hybrid petunia seed, said Christiansen, is "worth more than gold".

From Ball's large, lovely display area we went to Klehm's Nursery (Charles Klehm & Son) at South Berrington, still in Cook County, where immediately we were served a glorius buffet luncheon of sandwich makings, cole-slaw, potato salad and huge amounts of fresh fruit. Klehm's grow large amounts of nursery items, particularly hostas and hemerocallis, for wholesaling. They also have a retail outlet in Arlington Heights, Illinois, and provided us with catalogs. We were taken around Klehm's 700 plus acres on flat-bed wagons pulled by tractors. Jim, our guide, was extremely knowledgeable and conversant. At one stop he demonstrated how they might handle an order for 100 or 1,000 green ash trees--how they are budded, trained, pruned to meet the purchaser's request. In one field we found thousands of unnamed seedling daylilies. I photographed several in the short time we stayed at that spot. In another spot we were shown long rows of newly grafted flowering crabapples and Jim discussed the future handling and digging of these trees. We saw work crews cultivating between the long rows of trees with swiftly moving tractors.

It was a splendid day and I sensed a very satisfying one for all the men and women who took this trip.

Friday we spent a long afternoon at the Chicago Botanic Garden where we had a ninety-minute conducted tram tour around the 300 acres of this esteemed garden. Our tourguide, Lynn, pointed out many trees and shrubs with much humor in her presentation. It was a sticky day with rain forecast so many of us left our cameras in the buses. We particularly noted Rupturewort which does so well as a groundcover, in poor soil. Also Wintergreen Korean Boxwood--used as a 12-year old hedge and maintained at 16 inches height. Lynn told us of how the "Stinko Ginkgo" tree got its nickname, because the fruit from the female tree drops, rots and smells very bad. She also discussed the ginkgo's shape--the female tree being more rotund and the male tree more tall and cylindrical. About that time we saw one which was a little of each shape and the inference was that the tree was undecided as to its sex. We also saw a superb Learning Garden for the Disabled and a Children's Garden in which the children had made and erected 13 adult size scarecrows. It was a fine but tiring afternoon--yet worthwhile.

Turnips and rutabegas are products of Western Asia and were eaten before recorded history. Rhubarb came from the Eastern Mediterranean and Asia Minor.

CHEAP WAY TO CHEAT THE WEATHER (PLASTIC MULCH)
(This and other Talks reported by Ed Culbert)

Robert P. Schmerbauch told us black plastic holds in moisture and adds warmth so put it down 10 days prior to seeding very early plants e.g. lettuce. To avoid lifting by wind put the edges down a good 6 inches. Planting through the black plastic will give a weeks gain on growth.

For seeds make T shaped slots and place a small rock underneath to provide access for water. For transplants cut a square hole but make sure the peat pot is covered. For bare root stock, "Forget it".

Put a cage over tomato plants set in black plastic. Cover with a clear plastic bag (single plants) or clear plastic over hoops (rows of plants). Leave an opening at each end to let in some cool air. For plants, like tomatoes, which dislike 40° temperatures the housing proved helpful for 30 days. (Editor: I saw this procedure in use for various plants in the Lester Park area of Duluth last year. The results were impressive.)

For plants which need a cool soil use straw mulch or several layers of newspaper thoroughly wet down. The light colors turn back the heat of the sun.

There are some mulch problems, viz: Crown rot in wet seasons. Possible increase in fungal disease. Increase of early season aphids.

Allan Arrowsmith, Executive Vice-President of Pan American Seed Co. (A George J. Ball subsidiary) speaking on PLANT PROPAGATION FOR THE 90'S at a luncheon said that the growing of wheat was the first step leading man to farming but that man's method of reproducing plants had changed little in 2000 years. We still rely primarily upon reproduction vegetatively (as from cuttings) or from seeds. But there are significant changes currently and in the offing.

Today tissue culture, a highly developed form of leaf cutting, is practised widely. This greatly increases the number of plants from the same source and makes possible the reproduction of plants not readily grown from seed. It assures exact reproduction of some plants, e.g. cauliflower, which tend to vary though grown from the same seed.

Today we are pregerminating seed, arresting the procedure for shipping and shipping the product to commercial growers.

Current research which should bear fruit in the 90's deals with: (1) Increasing the germination percentage for seed (95% is the goal) and (2) Decreasing the time required for seed to germinate--One Canadian researcher claims to have already germinated petunia seed in one day.

Ken Brewer speaking on WHAT'S NEW IN FOLIAGE PLANTS said:

- . 90% of their trouble is caused by watering. The water is too cold. It should be around 75° Fahrenheit.
- . Bendiocarb is an effective insect control agent. It has no odor and won't discolor the foliage.
- . Croton Normæ needs only 75 foot candles of light. Hedera Beaucamp which has no spider problem does well in low light, too.

Parsnips were first listed in early German catalogs. Celery was first used as food in France. Parsley belongs in the same family as celery and was used as flavoring by the Greeks and Romans.

Growing Tuberous Begonias

By Leo Neuman

Mr. Neuman is an amateur Begonia grower residing in Willmet, Illinois. He discussed his experience at the National Convention of MGCA in Chicago, 1985.

Mr. Neuman grows his Begonias for show in a 15' X 30' fiberglass greenhouse with a screen cover. His cuttings and seedlings are grown in an outside growing house. Both houses have sun shading. The greenhouse has its sun shading on a easily movable pulley system. Tuberous Begonias require as much light as possibly be given to them, short of full sunlight. They cannot stand the full noon sun. Begonias do not like shade other than for developing leaves. They do not blossom well in the shade.

Leo Neuman grows his Begonias in a sterile mix. He uses three parts of peat, two parts of vermiculite and one part of perlite. He uses a light fertilizer in the mix at the time of mixing and an occasional fertilizer during the growing season.

Begonias cannot be forced. They are planted only after they show new growth.

Only one stem is allowed to remain in the pot when the plant starts growing. The excess growth can be removed prior to planting or after planting. The growth after planting can be re-potted as cuttings and will develop tubers which will become display plants next year or in the following year. These cuttings he grows in the outside greenhouse.

As the plant grows, the new leaf stem growths (like suckers in tomatoes) are cut out (taking the little bud with the cutting) and these are also started as cuttings.

The blossom stems are allowed to develop after the first three have been removed. (The first three blossoms do not develop good blooms). If large blossoms are desired, all blossoms except one are removed. This will allow a single large blossom. If multiple blossoms are desired, the plant is allowed to blossom, after removal of the first three blossoms. In allowing the plant to bloom, only the male blossoms are allowed to remain on the plant. (Each blossom stem develops three blossoms, one male and two female blossoms. The male is the front bloom and the larger bloom, the female blossoms are the rear two blossoms and smaller). Tuberous Begonias would grow best at 55° temperature but will do well in natural summer temperatures, except if it gets too hot, like over 90 degrees for several days. Do not mist the plant when in bloom - misting leaves spots on blossoms. Leo Neuman grows his Begonias all in the greenhouse if he wants big, beautiful blooms. Weather will severely damage the blossoms if the plant is grown outside.

Reported by Russell C. Smith

Pruning With Wisdom

by Albert Wilson

Albert Wilson is a very fine speaker. He works for Corona Pruning Shears as a TV garden expert. He is an expert on pruning and discussed this subject at the National Convention of MGCA.

Mr. Wilson states that pruning is very simple. The thing to do when pruning is do what the tree wants and the tree will respond.

Fruit trees are divided basically into two kinds--apples, cherry, apricot, pears and plums are in one class. These fruit trees produce fruit on spurs. The other class which does not produce on spurs contain peaches, nectarines, figs, persimmons.

All trees have two kinds of buds - terminal at the end of the branch and lateral at the side of the branch. The terminal bud goes forward, the lateral bud moves sideways. Current growth refers to the growth moving forward in one year. The current growth is also referred to as the whip. Pruning is done to limit height and encourage fruiting. Pruning should be done during the dormant period in most all cases.

Buds radiate around the branch so that the bud immediately below the area pruned away should be pointed in the direction of desired growth. Pruning should be done slightly above the growth bud which is desired to continue and at an angle to the branch not a "square" cut. In apples, the two year old growth produces spurs. These are a small growth sticking out from the branch. The spurs are the growth which should be kept since they produce the fruit. Each spur has two buds which produce terminal and lateral flowers. The spur will continue to produce for 20 years or more if it is not removed from the tree. The old spurs should however, be pruned back as the tree grows larger and older. If they are pruned back, they will re-bloom and will produce more fruit.

In pruning apple trees, normally five buds are left on the new growth.

Cherries have three terminal buds. A heavy crop will be born on spurs on two year old wood. When it is desired to slow the growth and size of the tree, simply cut off the new wood. Plums react the same way as cherries.

Apricots have blooms and fruit on the new growth from last year; i.e., the 1984 growth blooms and bears fruit in 1985. The rule of thumb is that 36 buds should be saved and the remainder pruned on the branches desired to bear fruit. After three years, the old wood should be cut off from apricot trees, since they do not bear on old wood. Apples do.

(continued over)

The fruit trees that do not produce on spurs - peaches, nectarines, persimmons, etc. so once the fruit has been produced on that year's wood no more fruit will be produced. This type of tree produces a fruit in 1985 on growth of 1984.

Figs and persimmons are in the same class and pruning or not pruning is O.K. Figs grown outside should not be watered except by nature.

Citrus fruits have the buds form under the leaves. The fruit forms on the lateral buds from last year's growth; i.e., 1984 growth produces blossoms and fruit in 1985. Citrus trees should not have water on the blossoms during the time of pollination. If it rains during that period, the pollen washes off and the plant will not produce fruit. Citrus trees do however, require extensive watering. Citrus fruits can be pruned at any time.

Grapes bloom and develop on new growth of the current year blooms.

Albert Wilson advises that pruning is very important. If you do not follow his instructions and prune too severely or not enough, you will be purchasing your fruit for that year from the supermarket.

Reported by Russell C. Smith



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