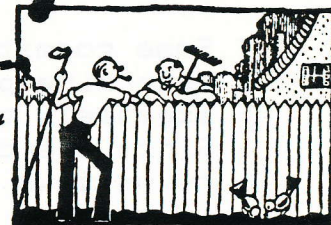




BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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



ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT ISSUE  
September 1986, Volume 44, Number 9R

The papers have been full of Back to School advertising for a month. The days are growing shorter. It's too late to do much more weeding. You're hankering to once more meet at the church to put your feet under the table, to eat, to once again socialize with fellow gardeners you haven't seen all summer. Then be apprised that

### THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Will Meet Tuesday September 9, 1986, at the

LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 49th Street at Chowen Avenue South  
Dinner \$6.00 at 6:00 P.M. Program at 7:00 P.M.

### "A POTPOURRI OF HORTICULTURE AROUND THE WORLD"

Speaker: Dr. Orrin Turnquist

Dr. Turnquist, Professor Emeritus of Horticultural Sciences at the University of Minnesota, has been a member of the Mens' Garden Club of Minneapolis since 1951. He attended the University of Minnesota where he obtained a Bachelors' Degree in Forestry, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Genetics. He then joined the faculty where for 38 years he taught a wide range of subjects ranging from general horticulture to specialized aspects of plant genetics.

Dr. Turnquist originated and ran the Vegetable Trial program throughout the state - where new varieties were field tested under controlled conditions in order to determine their suitability in our climate. He has been extremely active in plant breeding programs where one of his projects was the development of the Anoka potato - a smooth white variety which remains one of the finest early potatoes.

Dr. Turnquist has visited horticultural centers all over the world and will show slides and give a narrative description of gardens which he feels are of special interest. We will see slides of the 200 Hectare Rhododendron Trust in New Zealand, the production of kiwi fruit, and formal gardens of Japan and America.

GET YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK TO DUANE REYNOLDS PROMPTLY

YOU DIDN'T GET A CARD? Don't you remember? You asked to be 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 \$6.00, you know.

\* \* \* \* \*

The GARDEN SPRAY was one of 5 club bulletins earning the MGCA Journalism Award for 1986.



## SELECT NOW YOUR JULY '88 WORK SPOT

Several of you have asked where you can plan to work during the 1988 convention here in Minneapolis. Well, now is the time to speak up because we will need many people in the planning stage as well as the working stage two years from now.

Some committees need to start meeting immediately in order to determine possible expenses for 1987 (Publicity, for example), so we need to start planning in detail right now. Since the club voted to extend this invitation let each one of us take our responsibility most seriously. Won't you move in now?

You will soon see a worksheet upon which you can place your name. This is the list of committees for which we hope you will sign up very soon.

Banquet. Decorations and Favors. Door Prizes. Emergencies. Finance. Food and Meals. Reception (Greeters). Hospitality Room. Information-Lost and Found-Message Center. Printed Programs. Properties. Publicity. Registration. Signs and Accessories. Souvenir Packet. Special Ticket Sales. Tours and Transportation. Women's Activities.

Look for the sign-up sheets or call Bill Hull, General Chairman, at 926-1327.

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

Members - - - - September is here once again. Lets keep up the maintenance of the garden by watering and weeding.

This has been a good year for flowers at the garden. It was good even though we lost a few flowers and the Rabbits ate up our beautiful Lettuce. However the remaining flowers bloomed and looked good throughout the season.

We will have our 1986 final cleanup of the garden on Saturday October 18, 1986. By that time the Frost will have hit the Pumpkins and our Flowers too. So please keep that date open and be there at 9:00 A.M. for the the Cleanup.

MEMBERS ----- Please Keep the Garden Watered and Weeded for the rest of the season.

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

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





## BIG BOB'S CORNER

Gentlemen! welcome to the September dinner meeting. It seems like we have not had a meeting for some time. We all know that during the months of July and August we have our Garden Tours. Our Tour committee has done it again. They came up with another outstanding tour. Our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gustafson, did an excellent job on the dinner. We all should stand up and applaud for all the hard work they did. Thank you for the excellent dinner and for helping to make this tour a big hit.

Did you read the August SPRAY? If you did, you will have learned that the Board of Directors is looking for ways to increase the registration subsidy funds for the 1988 convention. Well, the idea that was picked was to have a good old fashioned raffle. During the month of September you will receive an envelope in the mail with raffle tickets in it for you to sell 20 or more. (At the time of writing the prizes have not been selected.) If every member were to sell 20 or more tickets for the raffle, we would have a chance to earn approximately \$2000.00. This would give us \$3500.00 in the funds or approximately \$35.00 off your registration. Not bad for doing just a little work. Remember, ASK NOT WHAT CAN YOUR CLUB DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR IT.

With the 1988 Convention still in mind, let's talk a little more on what you can do for it. There are many committees you can work on, and some that need chairpersons. Please think about signing up for one of these committees. We all know that it takes 100% participation to make a convention a big success. Remember, if we start early your job will be that much easier when the time comes for you to step into action.

During the past 8 months there were many activities within the Club. As your President I would like to say Thank You for your support and hard work. But! There was one activity that many of us forgot about--that is, to inform our sunshine chairperson, or a member of the Board, that a member was not feeling well. I would like to apologize to all of those members we forgot about. I am sorry.

## HINTS OF THE MONTH

Do you have ailing houseplants? They will reflect all the love you give them.

- A. Did you know that a plant will come out of a slump if you cover it with a large plastic bag and place a pest strip inside with it? Remove the bag in a few days and you will find the plant in better health. This is an excellent thing to do when transferring it from outside to inside the house.
- B. Give your plant a shot of Geritol on a regular basis for 3 months. Within a month you will notice a difference.
- C. Give your plants a tablespoon of castor oil followed by a good drink of water and watch them perk up.

WELCOME  
NEW  
MEMBER

Donald A. Powell  
1519 Natchez Ave. S.  
Golden Valley 55416

377-5509



## THIS CONCERNS YOU, TOO

### CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING AUG. 6.

The committee held its regular meeting at Bill Hull's Wednesday, August 6, 1986.

Members present were: Gene Ackland, Ed Culbert, Bob Churilla, Chet Groger, Bill Hull, Ray Marshall, Charlie Proctor, Duane Reynolds, Jerry Shannon, and Russ Smith. Members absent: Jack Kolb and Andy Marlow. Invited but unable to attend: Dave Moehnke and Bob Olson.

The major goal of the evening was to discuss fracturing the committee into separate sub-committees to permit more in-depth attention to single portions of the coming meeting. Decision: to make public offer now to club members to volunteer for specific committee assignments through a committee listing in THE GARDEN SPRAY and via a pass-around sheet at meetings. Various ones of the basic committee volunteered for specific jobs.

The Albany convention was discussed and Bill Hull had presented a six-page summary of what he, Russ Smith, and Ed Culbert had learned and observed at this meeting. The intent is to benefit from Albany's experience. One item of report was the great amount of interest expressed by attendees who want more preconvention publicity. This has already been arranged through host clubs at Rockford next year and Minneapolis the following.

It was felt that now is the time to decide at which church we will have a Memorial Service and the chairman was urged to proceed with others to make that inspection and possible reservation.

Chet Groger presented some inexpensive caps he had obtained as possible gifts to attendees.

Larry Cattron's fine slide projection used at Albany was highly touted and the club owes Larry a big thankyou for that contribution. It was decided to show that slideshow at a future meeting, whenever the program director can give us ten minutes.

It was decided to arrange for a bus to take a load of MGCM members and wives to the Rockford convention next June. Russ Smith will be getting back to us with a specific cost figure. One of the southern MGCs has done this for years and highly recommends the procedure. Now we must urge our members to plan to take that trip in June 1987. We will learn from Rockford and have a great trip. We will build 1988 attendance in Minneapolis by supporting Rockford in 1987.

After refreshments served by Carol Hull, the meeting was adjourned.

Bill Hull



## In Memory of Stanley P. Van Vorst

On August 5, 1986, the Mens' Garden Club of Minneapolis lost a truly outstanding and dedicated member. On this day, Stan Van Vorst lost his year long reoccurring bout with cancer.

Stan, joined MGCM in 1981, and as a member for only five years, showed a willingness to become really involved in the club's activities. He served as a Director on the Executive Board for three years and as a member of the tour committee for many years.

Throughout the greater part of his seventy-one years, Stan was an amateur horticulturist with the reputation as an outstanding grower. His large magnificent landscaped yard on Edgumbe Road in St. Paul's Highland Park, attested to he and his wife Dorice's floriculture prowess. The gigantic Niobe willow in the island bed in the middle of the back yard, with the complete shade garden beneath, is a showcase for what can be grown under a tree in the shade. Hundreds of gardeners on garden tours, have been left speechless when they walked out from under the lath house with its hundreds of hanging baskets of shade beauty and emerged to view the spectacular floral delight that spread out before them from border to border in the back yard. Winning the Lehman trophy attested to its beauty.

After his retirement as a CPA, the Mens' Garden Club of Minneapolis held an important part in Stan's life and he actively participated in all of its activities. The Flower and Vegetable Show at the Arboretum benefited from his many entries, with both his container grown flowers and specimens from his floral borders. Entering the show was not enough, for he often could be found clerking or tallying points.

The Van Vorst's large car was always loaded with plant material after the plant auction, showing his generous support for this annual event.

Everyone attending the Christmas Party in 1984, will long remember the Christmas tree adorned with over two hundred precious little ornaments made from sea shells that Stan and Dorice so cleverly created.

Stan also shared his horticulture interest and energies with the Minnesota State Horticulture Society, serving on its Board of Directors, opening the yard for horticulture tours, showing at the Society's State Fair Show, and helping at the Home and Garden Shows.

The Garden Club of Ramsey County also benefitted from Stan's active involvement.

Yes, we have lost a real gardening friend, a man not tall in stature, but like the willow in his yard, a giant in his relationships with his fellowman.

Jerry Shannon



## 2,400 GALLONS OF WATER DAILY FROM ONE ACRE OF GRASS

Among the enjoyable highlights of the Albany convention was a lecture on "Lawn Care and Maintenance" by James R. Watson, Ph.D. It was a surprise to us to learn that Dr. Watson is from Minneapolis--a Vice-President of Customer Relations and agronomist for Toro and an Adjunct Professor in the Horticulture Department at the University of Minnesota. I'll bet he's well known to Leon Snyder, Clint Turnquist and Jack Kolb.

Dr. Watson spoke interestingly from a slide outline, under not-too-good audio conditions. He emphasized that one acre of lawn grass gives off 2400 gallons of water daily, which has the cooling effect of a 140,000 lb. air conditioner. He talked about judging soil--What are the soil considerations for a good lawn--stating the requirements of it being a good, medium-sandy loam that provides organic material, clay material and water.

He emphasized the importance of providing pore and air space in the soil, showing by illustrations how water must be held so it is available to the grass plants, usually in open "air spaces" in the topsoil. The delicate, fragile, hairy root hairs must have good aeration. If they are short and blackish it indicates air and water compaction.

Among his charts was one showing the available water storage capacities in various types of soil. Here they are showing gallons of water per cubic foot of soil.

Fine sand.....	.50
Sandy loam.....	.90
Loam.....	1.13
Silty loam.....	1.31
Silty clay.....	1.33

Here's to more silty clay instead of the fine sand I have. Incidentally, Dr. Watson pointed out that sand particles vary tremendously from "small fraction" to "large fraction" in size. For use in gardens he suggested we purchase "medium fraction" size sand.

Obviously, one couldn't take down everything he said. I remember that he advocated the use of organic additives; that he mentioned that one should contact the local county agent to determine which of the 50 or 60 cultivars of bluegrass are best locally; that thatch of 1/4 inch is no problem but when it builds to 1/2 inch, "It's a time to adjust something to keep it under control." He emphasized that fertilization is a supplementary procedure and should be used after soil testing. During this part of his talk he hardly had a chance to mention favorably slow-release urea forms of nitrogen and the importance of potassium when his time ran out due to the many questions from the audience. He had to ignore weed control and ended with, "Use common sense and good judgment, treating according to the needs."

You had to be there.

--Bill Hull

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What MGCM member a few years ago had that beautiful closely cropped green carpet between the two concrete strips of his driveway? The one we all admired and asked about only to find it was Knotweed?

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Watering is the most common source of house plant problems.



## HIS TALK WAS THE BERRIES

At Albany there were only three seminars plus, of course, the inimitable annual lecture-demonstration on pruning by Albert Wilson which was reported so beautifully last year by Russ Smith so Bill Hull, Russ Smith and I each took one to write up.

Mine by Marvin Pitts, Department of Horticulture, Cornell University, was billed as a talk on small fruit so I figured it might deal with apricots, plums, crabapples and the like. After all the dictionary defines pomology as the science dealing with fruits and fruit growing. I was mistaken. There were two slides showing apples, one showing grapes and several other single slides showing elderberries, etc. Sample cuttings of blackberries, currants and gooseberries, the later bearing huge berries, were displayed --not discussed.

There were a number of slides of raspberries during the showing of which Pitts told us the V shaped row is a good new way of growing them. Unfortunately, he did not explain how the canes are kept down so as to spread them in a V. He suggested we consider Heritage raspberry as an annual and cut off the canes after the fall crop. He advised the use of diazonon when ants feast on the berries, "But be sure to wait five days before picking the fruit". The ants don't show up on my raspberries until four days before the berries are ripe.

Most of the slides and accompanying discussion dealt with strawberries so I suspect that is Pitts' current field of study for there were many slides showing work during hybridizing strawberries including some showing changes in size, shape and color of the fruit. I sat through both sessions lest they differ and to make sure I got all I could from my scribblings in the dark. The scribbles when deciphered turned up items such as: The American wild strawberry, prized by the colonists, was taken back to England where it was hybridized--strawberries are very adaptable as to soil and climate.

Other gleanings were: If nematodes are a problem sterilize the soil with vapam. He didn't warn that this was to be done before planting only "Read the label"....Grow strawberries in a single row and keep the runners cut off if you want large berries. Several slides showing relatively close rows of strawberries illustrated the potential for size and yield....The tarnished plant bug is the culprit which produces the nubbins....Red leaves indicate a nitrogen deficiency....Yellow graining in the leaves indicates potassium deficiency.

Home garden weed control by use of plastic mulch was mentioned. Time ran out as Pitts was telling us about the day-neutral strawberry discovered in Utah and its potential for the future. Already California commercial growers have crossed this plant to produce the big early strawberries they now send to market. --The Culberts think them devoid of taste, but then what strawberry tastes like the wild ones gathered along a railroad track on a warm sunny June day?

--Ed Culbert

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From Rockford MGC's COMPOST PILE

"Remember the Flower Show. Make an arrangement of weeds (most original and interesting) if you don't have anything else. No excuse permitted for not showing." Too bad we didn't get this in time for Andy to set up another class.



## BIOTECHNOLOGY AND THE GARDENER

The subject of Biotechnology (tissue culture and genetic engineering) was covered at the national convention of Mens' Garden Clubs of America.

The current thinking in the field is toward genetic engineering such as taking a gene from a resistant plant (example a gene from a plant resistant to Roundup combined with a tomato gene) to create tomato fields that can be aerial sprayed with Roundup for weed control.

Tissue culture is the other area of study. Tissue culture has become very refined. It initially started as an attempt to rid orchids and dahlias of viruses by taking growth tips and growing them in a medium which causes rapid growth.

In order to do tissue culture, certain specific requirements must be met. The entire process must be aseptic. The medium must be special for the type of plant being propagated i.e. it needs all of the salts (fertilizer) for growth of the plant. It needs a source of food or energy (sugar) and growth hormones (oxygen etc).

Theoretically each cell is capable of reproducing itself so that millions of plants can conceivably be grown in one test tube. As a result, tissue culture will and has reduced the cost of propagation.

The main uses of tissue culture at present are :  
Virus free plants  
Plants free of funguses and bacteria  
Propagation

P.S. Ed Culbert attended the lecture on small fruits. He commented that he did not like the hybrid day neutral strawberries. I did not listen to him and ordered 25 Tristar plants--Will report on taste later.

--Russ Smith

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THE CALENDAR SALES committee is telephoning for your order for the 1987 MGCA calendar. After you have given your order mail your check to treasurer George McCollough. The calendars should be available in September or October. If your caller misses you send in your order anyway.

The 1988 Convention fund is \$100 richer because of a member who, unable to attend meetings, wants to "do (his) bit anonymously". We unanimously thank you.

Not everyone can do his bit the way this man did; but every man's participation is needed. Many will be needed to serve on advance committees. Many more will be needed during the convention to speak, guide, demonstrate, man registration tables, do routine chores or just be around to help answer questions.



## August MGCM Tour Goes South

reported by Andy Marlow

Many Minnesotans go south for the winter, but the August MGCM tour proved that going south can be fun in the summer, too. The members and their guests visited gardens as far south as Burnsville and Shakopee, and enjoyed every bit of the trip.

**Bill Hull's** was the first stop and immediately questions began popping at Bill about the huge hibiscus bed on the boulevard in front of the house. Bill explained that about 25 had been there for between 12 and 16 years. Another 50 had been added this spring. There were dinner-plate-size blossoms in red, pink and white. They were edged with bright yellow dwarf marigolds.

In the back yard, Bill has started conserving plants. He has a magnificent climbing rose on a 12' long trellis. This reporter failed to get the name of it, but was informed it had been recovered from Bill's "old homestead." In bloom with its beautiful lavender blossoms was a lythrum Bill had collected from a wild lakeside clump.

Furthest back in the yard was the vegetable garden. Banana peppers, potatoes and several varieties of tomatoes stood out, including an at-least-two-pound Supersteak that looked ready to eat.

**Arneson Park** is one of Edina's hidden assets, a gift to the city from Mort Arneson, longtime Twin Cities landscaper. It's a beautiful formal layout, planted and maintained by the Federated Women's Garden Council of Edina. There isn't space here to do this garden justice and you can visit it any time. Just take the 70th Street exit off Highway 100 and go east several blocks. The entrance is clearly marked and visitors are welcome. On a private visit, though, you will probably not be served lemonade as we were. I hope we said "thanks" enough, as the refreshments were greatly appreciated by all.

**Bob Gage** and his wife Barbara lived in Japan for a while and the influence is easily seen in their garden--for their yard is all one large garden. The house has been turned on the lot so that you have to enter through part of the garden, which includes several specimen trees and a spot to sit for a quiet moment of reflection. Tour members actually entered the back yard through the house, since the garden was designed with that in mind. The upper level patio allows a view of the entire yard and the small body of water around which the Gages and their neighbors have built their homes.

Little gardening room is wasted in the yard. Plants, including many varieties of hostas, were tucked tastefully in every corner. Especially nice were the raised beds that, coordinated with a well-designed fence, provide almost complete privacy from the street traffic. The beds are high enough that one need not stoop to plant or weed. A very nice arrangement, indeed.

Just beyond the the end of the raised gardens is the vegetable patch. Bob loves tomatoes and grows only Sugar Lump and Celebrity. The Sugar Lumps were nearing maturity, with long strings of small red fruit hanging from every plant. The Gages escaped, by sheer luck, without any of the just-ripe muskmelons disappearing aboard one of our buses.

**Larry Bagge** and his wife Sue have different gardening interests. Larry has a bed of 150 premium hybrid dahlias (over 90 varieties) which he raises for show. A couple that caught the eye were Dark Tiera, a velvety red single with a yellow and white center, and Marie Smuggy, another single blossom with curled petals that looks like an eight-pointed star.

Hostas are a part of Sue's interest in Oriental gardens (about which she spoke at our

(over)



March meeting this year). She has several varieties given to her in Japan, including H. Lancifolia Bunchoukou, with tiny lance shaped leaves edged in white, and H. Lancifolia Shima-Labitan, also quite small with leaves more white than green. A large bank of Honey Belles in full bloom perfumed the air along the west side of the Bagge's garage.

**Dave Moenke** and wife Renada have lived in their Burnsville home for 9 years, which has allowed perfectionist Dave time to complete more than a few major projects. The perennial garden in back was built with a semi-trailer load of Lannen stone trucked in from Wisconsin. The bed is overflowing with perennials and Dave says he needs to start a new garden to take some of the cuttings. In bloom during our visit were yarrow, phlox and potentilla, along with some portulaca and both single and double petunias for annual color.

Dave is a member of the National Marigold Society and has 225 Scarlet Queen Sophia marigolds in a single bed at the base of his three-season deck house. Another 100 of the same variety grace the front yard. The center of focus in the front yard, though, is a large cutleaf staghorn sumac, surrounded by creeping juniper and potentilla.

**Walt Gustafson** and his wife Melba played host for the last stop of the tour, which included liquid refreshments and a complete roast beef dinner for all. With parched throats and empty stomachs, few found the energy to fully explore the Gustafson's creek-side yard. A steep drop from the house to the Minnehaha Creek floodplain below was fully terraced and contained both flowers and vegetables. This reporter chose not to explore these beds, but to slake his thirst and try out the Gustafson's private bridge across the creek until dinner was served. The meal was prepared and served by the Gustafsons as their treat to the club. It was magnificent and recipes for the potatoes and the delicious Swedish rolls were in much demand.

## ***Every Member Sponsors A New Member***



Return to  
**THE GARDEN SPRAY** of MGCM, INC.  
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\* \* \* \* \*



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