



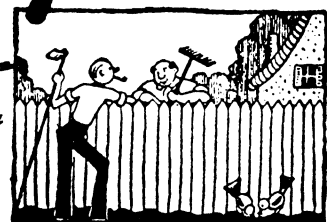
# The Garden Spray

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

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

June 1972, Volume 30, Number 6

- Convention Issue -



New Member

P-Todd Bachman  
3347 Shepherd Hills Circle  
Minneapolis, Mn. 55431  
Bus. Tel: 869-1461  
Home Tel: 831-3579

Mailing Zone Change

James E. Perrin  
10701 West River Road  
Minneapolis, Mn. 55443

The June Meeting

Again this year instead of staging one big flower show our June, July, August and September meetings will feature little flower shows. Each monthly show will be judged and ribbons awarded by Al Nelson and Carl Holst. Points earned at each showing will be cumulative. The grand total for the four months will determine the winners, so bring as many specimens as you can each time. Containers will be supplied. Specimens should be in place by 5:45.

Tuesday, June 13, we meet at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, 50th Street and Knox Ave. South. Dinner (\$2.00) and business meeting at 5:45. Afterwards we will go to the Lake Harriet Garden Center to view the roses. There will be no bus. You will go on your own but wait for the departure signal from Carl Holst.

In case of rain, we will remain at the church for a question and answer period conducted by Dr. Leon Snyder.

\* \* \* \* \*

Shouldn't you be a candidate for the Lehman Trophy? Phil Smith is chairman of the committee. Enter your name with him P.D.Q. -- and while we're mentioning Phil, have you read in your May "Minnesota Horticulturist" the reprint of his Delphinium Tour article from the British "Delphinium Society 1972 Yearbook". The yearbook, which also mentions Bill Cowcill and Bob Waldoch (Sioux Valley MGC), contains five photographs in which Smith appears and says (he) "is an active Vice-President and wrote us on a number of occasions and on a variety of matters during the year but the highlight of his delphinium year was, of course, his visit to England."

Charles Proctor will be placing an order for spring bulbs with the Dutch Gardens in Holland. If you are interested in bulbs from this source get in touch with Charley.

Frank Rosecrantz, past North Star Region president and past Minnetonka MGC recently sold 1,700 copies of the MGCA cartoon booklet to Wayzata School District #284 for use in grades 4, 5 and 6. First he sold a few teachers on it and then went to the school board where it was quickly accepted.

A REGULAR CONVENTION GOER REPORTS  
by Sherm Pinkham

My assignment is to cover the convention through the eyes of one who has attended several. A freshman with a mere seven, while George Hubert of Beloit has fifteen to his credit and John Cochran of Detroit, twenty.

Harriet and I were met at the Tucson airport on Sunday afternoon by two members of the Tucson club. From that moment, the hospitality of the Tucson fellows and their wives was superb. Greeting old friends at the hotels is always heartwarming. I have gotten to be on kissing terms with some of the gals. I should add that new friends are made every year.

Others in our group, I am sure, will tell about the business end of the convention, the garden tours, the fine Mexican-American High School entertainers, the banquet, the side trip to Old Mexico, etc. We had it - "Fun in the Sun" as they advertised but I will still have to agree with Rog, Minnesota is O.K.

There is one matter in particular I would like to mention. The headquarter ground in Des Moines is in need of landscaping. A detailed plan has been worked out which lacks only one element - "Green Stuff" put out by the Bureau of Engraving. How about this? Let's pass the hat (remember what we did for the wildflower garden in ten minutes?). Why not start with a memorial tree for Archie Flack with an appropriate marker at its base, "Given by the Minneapolis Club," and as funds permit honor other pioneers like Tony Koester, Glen Cerney, Herb Kahlert, George Titus, Fred Paul and others. The fund has an initial deposit of five bucks. I will accept any amount from a five to a one. Give me a phone call if interested or send a check in the mail.

The National organization is the cement that holds the other clubs together, with each in turn helping to beautify America. The officers are all able men and our Executive Secretary, Lyman Duncan, is tops. We need to look at the whole picture and promote gardening wherever we can. Let's look beyond our own noses and not say "What's in it for me?" As President John Baumgart aptly said in his address to the delegates, "Fellows, somebody has a world of hoeing, watering and feeding to do. Don't say 'Who' say 'Me'!"

We called on the Norm Christophersons and Otto Ericksons in Sun City. Both families are fine and they want to be remembered to their Minneapolis friends.

Other Convention Business

Delegates to the convention elected C. Hal Nelson of Rockford, Ill. 1973 MGCA president (for the first time in 3 years Nelson had no upstate New York opposition) and re-elected Kim O. Roberts, Santa Rosa, Calif. 1st vice president. Roberts, who has undergone five major surgical operations in the past year, was a surprise visitor to the convention. Though still convalescing, he was in good spirits and addressed the Board of Directors and the delegate sessions. Other elected were: 2nd VP, Col Clare Royer, Marietta, Ga.; 3rd VP, Harold J. Parnham, Des Moines, Iowa, the last surviving member of the original founders of MGCA; treasurer, Drexel C. Jackson, Des Moines. Present treasurer Ray Blue of Denver, who has done a whole lot of a job, declined another term.

A three-point "Gardening for Everyone" program was adopted in which club activities will center around taking gardening to the "inner city," to suburbia, and to the youth of the country in an effort to improve the ecology of the nation.

## ROG'S REFLECTIONS

Just a month ago I was writing about the heavy snowfall and cold weather. Now, just a few weeks later, everyone is hustling around getting their air conditioners going and doing a lot of complaining about the ninety degree heat wave we're having. So, maybe spring (or summer) has arrived in Minnesota at last. As far as I'm concerned, the eighties and nineties can stay around as long as we get some rain to go with it. It's a real joy to see the garden plants jump when the warm spell arrives. I've been a little apprehensive about getting my tender annuals out with the unusually cool and unpredictable spring, however, Dave Johnson assured me the other day that we've seen the last frost, since we've had a full moon. Dave said he's been keeping track of the last frosts of spring for as long as he can remember and not one has occurred after the full moon. He, of course, got his garden planted May 13, knowing the danger of frost is past and will have a big jump on the rest of us in getting the plants in bloom. (Provided, of course, that his hypothesis is correct.)

I want to express my thanks to Charlie Proctor and Bob Smith and their committee for the fine job they did in putting on the May auction. I know they put in many hours of hard work getting one of the big jobs of the year organized and successfully completed. Not only was the auction a financial success (\$451.00 net), but a fine selection of plants was offered, there was a good turnout (63 members and guest); and, I think most agree, Pearl Park is a fine facility for holding the event. A lot of humor was added with the presence of the NSP Clowns (suppose I should be careful how that's stated).

I wonder if we should consider making some rules limiting the number of auctioneers. Sending a fresh, well rested auctioneer at you every fifteen minutes certainly tends to inflate the prices and deflate the pocket book. I observed, with a bit of humor, at one point an auctioneer was unable to get his \$1.00 starting bid and had to retreat to 25cents before he could get some bidding action; and, would you believe, he ended up selling that plant for \$2.00. Seriously, our actioneering team of Dwight, Ev and Julius do a great job making our plant sale a success. Thanks, boys, for your contribution.

I must confess I've been too busy with teaching, coaching, garden business and tending my own yard to get down to see the Fragrance Garden, but Dave and Carl tell me the daffodils made a great show and the tulips and hyacinths are coming to their peak now. Due to the late bloom on the tulips, it has been decided to move our planting date to June 3rd. Please keep in mind that we need help at the garden, and if you haven't signed up to volunteer some time during the summer for maintenance work, contact Dave Johnson.

A couple of events coming up that we want you to consider participating in are the Lehman Trophy and the Flower Show. Chairman Phil Smith is anxious to get his completed list of Lehman Trophy candidates so he can begin his evaluations. If you have made improvements in your yard and garden and want to make an attempt at getting the big prize (the Lehman Trophy), get your name to Phil Smith. Since we do not have a separate flower show, we will again this year, have specimen judging at each of our summer meetings. Bring your prize blooms to the meetings and start collecting points for the Sweepstake Trophy and the Foley Cup awarded at the Christmas Party.

See you all at the June meeting. Carl has an interesting program planned which will take us to the Rose Garden. Bring a guest with you.

- Roger J. Anderson

FROM JULY 1967 TO APRIL 1972

By Dwight Stone

It was five years ago, but the memory of July 1967 still lingers on. Since that time, it has been in Pittsburg, Fort Collins, Des Moines, Roanoke and this year in Tucson. Of course, by now you have guessed, I'm talking about the National Conventions of Men's Garden Clubs.

To try to compare the Minneapolis Convention with the Tucson Convention would be folly so I'll just give you some off-the-cuff observations. You may be interested in knowing we still receive many compliments about our convention and we receive many inquiries as to when are we inviting the convention back.

Convention activities were divided between the Ramada Inn (convention site) and the University of Arizona. Much of the program was built around the staff of the University. Of most interest to us from Minnesota was the address made by Dr. Laurence M. Gould. Dr. Gould is President Emeritus of Carlton College. There was a speaker at each banquet but, mostly, their topics were non-horticultural. The annual banquet speaker was Ray Smucker, an Arizona Radio & T.V. personality. His talk entitled "How Far Does A Crab Apple Have To Fall To Split A Shingle" was perhaps one of the most entertaining presentation I've ever witnessed. Again, it had nothing to do with horticulture.

In all aspects I enjoyed the convention. If there was a disappointment it was the lack of tours of home gardens. The excuse for not having home gardens on the tour was the lack of rainfall. At convention time, 100 days had elapsed since the last precipitation. To me, this was a week excuse as you don't need rain for Cacti gardens which is waht 95% of the people have.

Gardening in Tucson or in any desert country for that matter is much different from ours. Here we have a season or time in the summer when each plant blooms. In Tucson, you would see a garden with pansies, stocks, iris, delphinium, roses, glads, amaryllis, sweet`peas, etc. all blooming at the same time. It was difficult for me to believe that sweet peas would do so well there. By the first of June, gardening is over in Tucson except for the Cacti.

People you met during the Minneapolis Convention still ask about you. Chamberlein of California sends greetings to Les Johnson; McKenney of Ft. Wayne sends greetings to Bob Smith; and Allen Morrison inquired of Dick Lehman. If I remember right, Morrison is a former Faribault resident.

The convention in 1973 will be in Dallas. The 1974 convention will be in the Finger Lakes area of New York and will be held on a college campus. Plan to attend one or both. You'll be glad you did.

One new Tucson shopping center has a little arboretum. We noted beautiful planting in many shopping centers. There were green trees or island in their parking lots, too. It shames Minneapolis!

Tucson had its troubles, too. (What convention doesn't?) The original convention chairman cancelled out because of family problems. The decorations chairman was transferred to California. The food service management changed hands April 8. April 8, was also the busiest day ever at the convention chairman's nursery. Three hundred-eighty hats were bought to those expected to go on the Nogales trip. Then, at the last minute, transportation was available for only 200 and ticket sales had to be cut off.

## MY FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Henry Halvorson

This was my first trip as a delegate to a national convention and I was quite impressed with the meetings and the many interesting gardening people from all over the U.S.A. There were 583 delegates attending the 40th annual convention held at Tucson, Arizona on April 10, 11, and 12.

The convention opened Sunday night with a Memorial Service to former Men's Garden members who have passed on. A very appropriate program honoring past gardeners was given.

There were several interesting workshop discussions on various topics. One I attended was on "Photography for Gardeners." The most interesting thing here was telling about a new camera called "Lester Dyne Instamatic II" put out by Kodak which will sell for approximately \$71.00 with case. It is supposed to be the easiest, and one of the best to use for close-ups of flowers. The best and truest colors are obtained by using Kodachrome II film.

Another interesting workshop was one on "Indoor Gardening." "Make a living with what you get, but you make a life out of what you give." One garden club was having classes for the elderly on "growing things indoors." These classes were given every Wednesday night in a high rise apartment building. Different types of terrariums were discussed and what plants could be grown. We were reminded that MGCA is a service organization and not a hobby organization.

We visited the Hydro-gel laboratory at the airport where experiments were done with Hydro-gel, a new type of chemical that can absorb many times its weight in water. If mixed with sand or vermiculite it produces higher yields, a higher quality and uniformity in size of fruit. All these experiments were done in plastic greenhouses where temperature and light were controlled.

At the University of Arizona campus we heard a lecture by Guy Green who talked on the "Art of Gardening." His views of a garden: "A garden is man's idealized view of the world about him." "A garden is a sanctuary." "A garden expresses man's feeling over nature." He listed the following: 1) Tightly walled forms of garden. 2) Part of a house as in Mexico and Spain. 3) Formal. 4) Completely natural, used form to fit the people living in it for individual expression.

One of the interesting tours we took was to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum where plants were grown and shown in natural habitat as well as living animals and birds. A very interesting place. After this tour we stopped at "Old Tucson" which was a movie set for western shows. Here we were served a chuck wagon dinner.

The Ramada Inn where we stayed had a pool surrounded by roses which were in full bloom then. Some of our meetings were held at the Ramada Inn. At one of our banquets there, we were entertained by a group of 15 boys and girls from the Pueblo High School in Tucson who gave us a program of Mexican folk songs and dances using about 12 guitars.

Tucson is a beautiful city. It had a new civic center which was beautifully landscaped. One evening we were up on "A" mountain and saw a panorama of lights of the entire city, a beautiful sight.

The day we left, Arizona had quite a dust storm, so traveling between Tucson and Phoenix was difficult. It was nice to get back to Minneapolis again.

## CONVENTION NOTES

By Bill Hull

April 10 Tucson is a beautiful city. Elevation is 2,584 feet. Population is 258,000 plus another 100,000 in standard metropolitan area. Coldest month is January - 62.6 degrees average. Hottest month is July - averages 98.5 degrees. 143 days with temperature over 90 degrees - that's 40%. Low humidity. 91 degree day yesterday, seemed very comfortable. Typical lot size - 7,000 square feet costing \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Luncheon speaker Dr. Laurence Gould. Excellent talk, Is it too late? "I think we may decide it in this decade...there is no basis for curing our ills except technology...Man took it as his exclusive right to take over the environment without consideration of others...Waste is something we haven't yet learned how to use. The problem is not whether man can survive but how he can solve the problems.

April 11 A great bus tour in air conditioned comfort. Lots of palo verde blooming. Many saguaros looking like burned trees after a fire. The hillsides full of them. A great trip to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum near Tucson. Beautiful place. Two hours were spent at the museum seeing native animals, birds and flora. Temperature about 90 but to most of us it was comfortable.

April 12 Garden tours via a/c busses. To Randolph Park rose gardens. Some of the original 1960 roses still there. Beautiful sight. 220 beds of 2,000 bushes. Planted for mass display. All roses in beds sufficiently sunken that beds could be flooded and dirt walks remain dry. To Mrs. Fetterly's Japanese garden, Tucson style. To beautiful Arizona Inn, where some of us would liked to have stayed. American plan, two people, about \$50 a day in superb setting. To Oliver Drachman's lovely front lawn with millions of pansies and poodled trees. Only MCG garden invited.

Talked with Larry Horton, host committee, about growing roses in Tucson. They're beautiful now and in the fall. In the summer, Larry mulches heavily and tries to keep the roses alive through the heat. Summer bloom looks almost like wild roses since the roses have a tendency to revert. We spend four months trying to keep our roses alive - and so do they - just different problems. Claude Farrow, Portlan reports planting roses with roots spread as much as possible to the south. By getting southern sun, faster growth is accomplished.

Past President's luncheon. Speech by Dr. Norman Hilberg, professor of nuclear engineering, U. of Arizona. Subject "Ecolibrium". A few quotes, "Public is bathed in misinformation. We are almost completely illiterate except in our own fields. Urged 1) as a society we get the information we need and get it as rapids as possible 2) establish some new social mechanism to let us make decisions as reasonable ones for society - we need a spokesman (institutional) for the environment - a court of decision."

Good talk with Ralph McPheeters, Tucson convention chairman, who reminisced of his youth in Minneapolis when he was first a bus boy at the Radisson Hotel and later a captain of waiters at Charlie's Cafe. Now a big nurseryman in Tucson area.

April 11 Banquet Silver Medal awards Carroll Greenman of New York. No more worthy recipient exists. Carroll has done much for MGCA, establishing regions and doing many other things over long period of time. Delicious steaks served to 501 people. Master of Ceremonies Earl Upham of Tucson. Good corny jokes such as "A house without a tree isn't fit for a dog." Speech by Ray Smucker, Phoenix, radio and TV entertainer. Reminisced about early days of radio and imitated many radio stars. Some more corn interwoven such as "When he picked up his cat after it had been run

NOTES FROM THE TOMATO PATCH

By Bob Smith

(the second of two articles)

Tomatoes produce a relatively large quantity of fruit for the space required and their fruit is enjoyed by most people. This is probably why they are the preferred vegetable in most gardens and are even included when space is limited.

Cultural practices vary widely among gardeners particularly in the manner of training. Tomatoes are easily grown but have certain basic requirements that must be satisfied for good results. They are heavy feeders requiring high fertility, a good supply of moisture during the fruiting season, well drained soil, and rotation of plantings from year to year to minimize disease problems. I have seen neighbors grow tomatoes for the first time with great success only to have failure when they planted them in the same spot the second year because they didn't provide the basics. It is possible to grow them in the same place year after year but success is much easier if they are rotated. This holds true whether you grow them by natural methods or with use of chemicals for fertilization and disease control.

The cultural practices with natural methods that I use are as follows:

1. Fertilization - a small amount of organic nitrogen from soybean meal or hydrolized turkey feathers, a good supply of phosphorous from bone meal or colloidal phosphate and potash from wood ashes, green sand or granite dust to provide necessary nutrients for quality fruit and to help reducing the incident of insect pests, particularly aphids.
2. A good supply of humus from rotted manure or compost with a heavy mulch of leaves or hay during the fruiting period to maintain an adequate even supply of moisture helpful in reducing the incidence of blight and blossom end rot and to maintain optimum soil temperature during hot weather.
3. Annual rotation to soil in which potatoes or tomatoes have not been grown for at least three years to reduce incidence of disease and to allow for build up of nutrients.
4. Staking plants for upright growth to provide good air circulation, to keep the fruit off the ground and protect from sun scald, for ease of picking and mulching, to eliminate damage from slugs and produce high quality fruit.

With these practices I have been able to grow tomatoes very successfully year after year without the use of chemicals for disease and pest control and have been able to market all surplus fruit at premium prices.

I would like to enlarge on the system I use for staking tomatoes and would highly recommend its use whether to grow one plant or sixty. I use 8 foot 2" X 2" redwood stakes which are driven one foot into the ground with three foot spacing between plants. The plants are pruned and tied once a week throughout the season until they reach the top of the stakes about mid-August and then topped. Fruit that sets after this time will not ripen in Minnesota. As plants are pruned and tied I inspect for any sign of disease or insect problems and water if necessary by letting the hose run under the mulch while tying. Used binder twine, which is available for the asking from any horse stable or farmer, works fine for tying. One loop will provide four or five ties.

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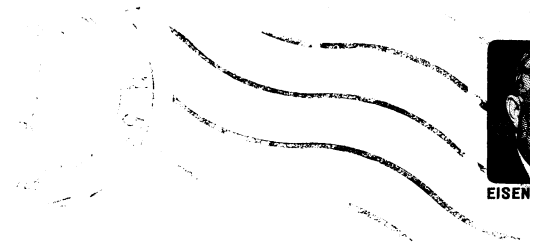
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For most varieties four main stems provide the height and form that I like. In selecting the four stems after planting, all suckers that form at the leaf nodes are removed by pinching to the first one that appears above the first fruit spur. This sucker is left to provide the second main stem. These two stems are each allowed to produce one more sucker above the next set of fruit spurs for a total of four main stems after which all suckers are removed. When making the ties, I carefully twist the stems so that they are tight against the stake and all branches and fruit spurs point out from the stake. This provides foliage to protect from sun scald and prevents deformity of fruit which might otherwise become squeezed between a branch or stem and the stake. This may sound complicated but it is very simple when you start doing it and requires very little time. The end result is tomato vines that have good upright form and a high percentage of good quality fruit.

In concluding this article, I would like to ask each of you who grow tomatoes this year to keep notes on your cultural practices and how they work out for you this season. Also your experience with the varieties that you are growing whether new or old so that we can have summary report in the Spray this fall that will be of benefit to the rest of the club members.

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