

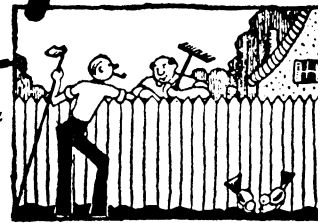


The Garden Spray

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

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

June 1973, Volume 31, Number 6
Convention Number



GARDEN CLIPPINGS

What plants! What fun! What bargains! What food! What a turn out! *What are all the whats about?* Our 1973 plant sale and it was a real success with lots of plants and lots of profits.

Many thanks to Chairman Dave Johnson and his committee for their good work. It was nice to see many of our newer members, including those from Richfield, really diggin in.

We need the same enthusiastic support for our Fragrance Garden for the Blind. John Lillibridge is chairman and he needs plenty of help in maintaining the garden during the summer. There is no salary but the fringe benefits are guaranteed--a good feeling that you helped someone less fortunate. Let's have plenty of help.

Our flower show will be the first week of September and some other garden clubs will probably be involved. Dale Durst and Ron Twite are co-chairmen. Details will be announced later, but it is not too early to think about blue ribbons. It will be a good show if everyone participates.

I just returned from the spring meeting of the American Rose Society in Winston-Sale North Carolina. Over six hundred members attended and the program was well-planned and interesting. The thing that impressed me most was 1500 Improved Blaze Climbers full bloom along the freeways leading into the city. That is highway beautification at its very best.

--Carl J. Holst

NEXT MEETING Tuesday evening June 12, 5:45 PM. BACK TO OUR USUAL PLACE
Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, Knox Av. So. and 50th St.

- for a LADIES AID DINNER at Two Dollars

* * MEETING PROGRAM * *

Major Talk: SPRING IN PARIS

by Phil Smith, president of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and MGCM member. This will be the slide illustrated talk we missed because of our April last minute change of meeting date.

Short Talks (Convention Reports) by MGC, Mpls. members.

Minnesota State Horticultural Society convention June 25, 26, 27. Paul's Place Inn 2965 N. Snelling Ave., Roseville. See your May issue of *The Minnesota Horticulturist* for complete details and registration forms.

FOUR GALA DAYS AT DALLAS

by Sherm Pinkham

The Dallas Convention was a successful affair, good weather, good programs, and good entertainment. Thirteen of us left by Braniff Air Sunday noon and arrived at Big D three hours later. Six miles up at 590 per is high and fast for this country boy. Included were the Graupmanns, Maskis, Dixons, Carlsons, George Larson and Culberts and Pinkhams. The Excelsior Club, a fine group, had us outnumbered. Bill Hull showed up later.

Sunday afternoon the "Miracle of Pentecost" was presented with a Memorial Service at the Biblical Arts Center. The painting of hundreds of Bible characters on a large screen was two years in the making. There was music and narration. Carl Holst saw it some years back and recommends it highly.

Some fine gardens were visited during the week. A trip was made to the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, perhaps one of the finest in America. A post Convention Tour was made to Tyler, Texas, the nation's largest rose bush growing area, producing some 20 million bushes annually. We learned that the cooperative Rose Growers there grow many of the roses sold by the big name houses--also that they ship more roses to Canada than are grown in all of Canada.

Executive Secretary Lyman Duncan presented certificates to the 30 honor clubs for the year to date. These clubs already have memberships exceeding last year's figure for the same period. I was proud to accept a certificate in behalf of MGCM.

Wednesday noon Bob Waldock of the Sioux Valley club and Ed Culbert of our club each received certificates of award "for having published one of the three best local club bulletins in his class for the year 1972". Claud Farrow, Jr. made the presentation. Ed accepted for Bob who was not present.

National Awards committee chairman Bill Hull revealed the names of the 1972 winners at the Thursday night banquet and presented appropriate medals to the recipients.

Growth of our organization through more members and new clubs was stressed. We now have about 7000 members and the goal is 10,000 during 1973. Akron, Ohio, is the largest club with 185. Austin, Texas, is next in size. They took in 36 men in April. Why not Minneapolis shoot for No. 1 spot?

The National organization is going full steam under the capable management of Executive Secretary Lyman Duncan. I was amazed at the many services that "National" offers us--Lending Library (cost is postage), seed exchange, slides and motion pictures, "Garden Timely Tips" on scores of garden subjects, etc. etc. up to 41 services.

Now for next year--The Cortland, N. Y. group will host the convention at Cortland College for three days beginning August 11, 1974. We will have college facilities much like Fort Collins. Cortland is in the beautiful Finger Lakes District. Several New York clubs are in on the arrangements. It should be a bang up affair. Children will be welcome and cared for. See you at Cortland. Be sure "You All Come".

ADDENDA Dr. Larry C. Grove was awarded the Silver Medal for his long service to MGCA on the Board of Directors, as national publicity chairman and, later, as principal author of "Plants, How They Improve Our Environment". One of the well-known garden writers in MGCA, Dr. Grove, formerly with Better Homes and Garden magazine, now retired. Dr. Grove regularly has a column in The Gardener entitled "Timely Garden Reminders". This collection of articles has been re-printed and combined into a 10-page booklet "Tips for Year Around Gardening" for those who like to have all the facts in a handy

CONVENTION BUSINESS and OTHER ITEMS
by Ed Culbert

The MGCA 41st annual convention in Dallas last month stressed the importance of gardening education as the main thrust for clubs to pursue and adopted a resolution encouraging every family to participate in "3-E" gardening (ecological, educational, and economical) as a project the family could enjoy even if it had to be limited to window boxes.

The delegates adopted motions authorizing the executive committee to make vegetable gardening education MGCA's key national project for 1973-74 and to have a model demonstration vegetable garden at the national headquarters grounds. Local clubs were also urged to set up demonstration gardens.

A resolution urging clubs and regions to be active in examining abandoned railroad right-of-ways for the purpose of determining which would be suitable for areas for hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, nature trails, picnicing, preserving areas of native flora and fauna, and then urging legislation that would require railroads to provide the states with the first right to purchase (right of first refusal) such abandoned right of ways was introduced by Corwyn Hicks, Mid-America director.

An opening of this nature existed on our very doorstep. The Chicago and Northwestern railroad is abandoning its line from Plymouth Jet. to Gluek. This is the old "Luce Line" right-of-way. Already active in the field, the Luce Line Trail Association organized in 1971 and headed by Dr. Harold J. Panuska of Orono, engineered a bill in the 1st Legislature establishing a riding and hiking trail on the old right of way. The bill was passed by the House, 86 to 34, at 3:50 a.m. Sunday, May 20, and sent to the governor. Under the bill, the state commissioner of natural resources would purchase or acquire land from the Chicago North Western Railroad route which originates in western Hennep County and runs southwestward. The acquisition would be contingent on Interstate Commerce Commission approval of abandoning the railroad line.

Delegates were asked to approve a motion to set all future conventions between June 11 and August 25. (Purpose: Encourage family attendance.) I spoke against it contending that the area hosting the meeting should have free choice as to time of year; that vacations are increasingly scattered throughout the year; that by and large children would be unlikely to accompany parents*, and; that though child care and activities directed toward their attendance might be feasible on college campuses like Ft. Collins they would be prohibitably costly in central cities. After considerable debate and suggestions for amendment, the presiding officer with no regard for due Parliamentary procedure revised and reworded the motion.

It is my impression that the package which finally passed 79 to 44 provides that future conventions shall start on Saturday or Sunday; shall be of 3 or 4 days duration; shall be at a date mutually agreeable to the local committee and the national directors, and that pre and post convention activities must have the approval of the national directors.

The Hawaii convention bureau (my interpretation) was present for the second consecutive year to try to get the national convention for 1977. There is no Men's Garden Club affiliate in Hawaii though last year it was inferred there was or soon would be one. Despite this Fortunato Teho, representing the University of Hawaii, was permitted to explain the attractions and advantages of holding a national convention in Hawaii. Questions and objections were numerous but his bid was accepted (steam rolled?) Mr Teho promised a big and thriving Men's Garden Club in return.

*Comments overheard from young fellows sitting near me.***

"I have 4 kids. I wouldn't take them to a convention."***

"It's not and shouldn't be a vacation for kids."***

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED IRIS

by Julius Wadekamper

The old fashioned irises of grandma's garden are gaining new respectability. Given specific dimensions to which they must conform, they are now considered the arranger's delight. Miniature Tall Bearded iris, known as MTB's or Table Iris, fall between 15 and 25 inches tall. The combined height and width of the flowers must not exceed 6 inches. They are borne on slender, wiry, flexuous stalks 1/8 to 3/16 inch wide directly below the flowers increasing to 1/2 inch at ground level. The MTB irises bloom at the same time as the tall bearded irises, about May 28th to June 15th in the Minneapolis area.

This class of irises meet the needs of the flower arranger and the small gardener. They are well branched and have a more airy and wildflower look than their modern relatives the tall bearded iris. For the most part the miniature tall bearded iris are diploids. The flowers are held well above the leaves which are about 1/3 to 1/2 the height of the stems. The Standard Dwarf Bearded Iris discussed previously range from 10 to 15 inches and hold their flowers directly above the foliage in a cushion-like effect.

Two bad effects of this group of irises would be too tall and oversized foliage. Increased efforts are being made by hybridizers today to clarify the colors and refine the qualities of MTB's.

Their culture is similar to that of other bearded irises. Rhizome rot can be a problem in any of the fleshy rhizomatous iris. It occurs as dry rot or bacterial soft rot. The dry rot often occurs over winter and destroys the entire plant. Soft rot often occurs where drainage is poor. It can be treated by scraping away the rotted area with a grapefruit spoon or a sharpened teaspoon and dusting with terrachlor.

If you or your wife are interested in arranging or if your predilection is for smaller flowered more dainty plants here are some MTB's that are good.

BIT O' AFTON--white standards, violet falls with wide edging of white,
wide yellow golden beard.

BLUE TRIMMINGS--standards lavender blue, falls dark violet, yellow beard.

BROWN CROWN--standards light tobacco brown, falls daphne red.

CAROLINE ROSE--standards and falls white stitched rose pink.

DAINTY DANCER--standards bright yellow, falls cream heavily veined lavender,
orange beard.

LITTLE TIGER--standards tan, falls tan with lighter flush in center.

NAMBE--standards golden yellow, falls violet, gold border.

SNOW FIDDLER--standards pure white, falls white with deep navy blue lines.

TOPSY TURVY--standards deep yellow, falls pure white, orange beard.

DILETTANTE--light orchid-pink self.

PEWEE--white self.

GINGAM BLUE--light blue self.

SHERWIN-WRIGHT--medium yellow self

LIMBER LASSIE--white self

SHRINKING VIOLET--dark violet self

We have lost a good member--a victim of big business re-locations. George Sweazy has been transferred to Detroit, Michigan. He will be living in Birmingham, a northern suburb, and hopes anyone who happens to be in the area will stop by. His new address is 31140 E. Rutland, Birmingham, Mich. 48009

Don't miss Letters to the Editor on page 6. Wow! I guess I'd better be careful about what I even think about California and Florida. Does anyone wish equal time to defend Minnesota's climate which was equally scurrilously (cavalierly?) treated by the editor in our April issue?

MINIATURE ROSES, PART 3, WHERE and HOW TO GROW

By Jerry Olson

Miniatures may be used in borders around a bed of larger roses or they can be planted in small formal or informal beds by themselves. Since they take comparatively little space, one can try many different varieties. They grow well in window boxes or in just plain clay pots. Plantings can also be made in wooden tubs which can be moved about the patio where or when needed. Miniatures are available as bushes, climbers, or tree roses. With this type of selection on hand one can develop some very beautiful and colorful miniature plantings. Some authors recommend the use of these roses in rock gardens; but in Minnesota, the winters are too severe and they will not survive in places where the soil is too shallow.

People who can seldom grow rose bushes have had luck with the "Little Ones". Their needs are small, but they do like to be planted in a well prepared soil containing plenty of humus. This, plus tender loving care by you, will get them off to a flying start.

Given an open sunny location with good drainage they will succeed with a moderate amount of care and will bloom from May until freezing weather in the fall. They bloom as early as Harrison's Yellow and the blooming season averages at least five months or more. Other roses in your garden will have difficulty in matching this. If given a good mulch and plenty of water, they will bloom profusely even through the hot weather of July and August. With a regular spraying and dusting program they will remain vigorous and prolific all summer long.

Miniature roses, considering their size, have tremendous root systems through which they absorb lots of water and food. Once a month spring through August I feed at least a tablespoon of fertilizer to each plant depending on the size of the plant. Throughout the summer special treats such as "Barnyard Tea" and liquid fish are doled out to the little ones which respond with hundreds of plump buds and countless colorful blooms. True, with extra food, the plants do get a little larger, but the plants seem more disease resistant, and produce more blossoms which have a richer color.

These roses, with some type of protection, are comparatively hardy in Minnesota. They may be covered like any other roses. However, each autumn I tie the canes together and gently tip the carefully loosened little plant into a small trench. Then the plant is covered with soil and lots of leaves for the long winter sleep. This same method is used for covering miniature trees and climbers.

In the spring, after the cover has been removed, raise the miniatures to their normal upright position and wash the soil off the canes. In late April cut out any dead wood or long spindly growth, but do not whack the plant down. These little plants resent severe pruning; cut only enough to shape the plants. This is also a good time to stake your miniature trees; it helps to keep them in an erect position.

Memorial Day weekend was due to be opened at 9 a.m. Saturday May 26 by planting work in the Fragrance Garden according to John Lillibridge. Worth noting is that the Fragrance Garden was the publicized feature of the Minneapolis Municipal Hiking Club's hike on Wednesday evening May 16. Led by Helen Stanock 50 members of the club visited the garden and were delighted with the display of tulips. On other occasions the "Minnehike" have visited Otto Nelson's terraced garden.

If you missed the tulips at the Lake Harriet gardens this year get someone to chase you around the block with a stick. Every true gardener should have seen that display at least once.

Bring a guest to our June meeting.

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Editorial Staff: Leslie W. Johnson, Robert E. Smith, and Donald Wilson
Deadline for material the 15th of each month.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

Our sympathy is extended to Harold Kaufmann whose wife, Mildred, died May 20. Harold and Mildred never missed a club function in the days when Harold's health permitted to attend regularly.

The North Suburban MGC annually contributes \$100 to the arboretum (for the hemerocal plantings); the Sioux Valley club \$50. Both clubs support various other projects al

That was quite some show our three auctioneers put on at the May meeting. Dwight (t colonel) Stone exhorting; Julius Wadekamper triple tonguing like a tobacco auctionee Ev. Haedecke slipping around surreptitiously selling the left overs under the table cut rates.

Strange one has to leave town to learn what is happening at home, isn't it? At Dall Dr. John Baumgardt told us a U. of Minn. azalea bud hardy to -40° F. would be on the market in a year or so.

The folks at Dallas kept us so busy there wasn't even time to be exhausted until we home to Minneapolis.

The Yardner of the Houston, Texas, MGC gives these tips on how to make cut flowers l longer. "Always cut flowers with a knife, scissors crush their stems. Use tepid wat in containers, flowers have difficulty absorbing cold water. For tulips, add some pennies to the water or place the flowers in a copper container. For peonies, add t tablespoons of sugar to each quart of water. For lilies, add a half cup of vinegar each cup of water. For roses, add two tablespoons of salt per quart of water."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO OUR FRIENDS IN SUN CITY

Regardless of Ed Culbert's dislike for Arizona and New Mexico, I believe most of us not share his views. After spending ten days in Sun City in February, I am envious the life style and comfortable living there. We may have different gardening method but you know we have our problems here, especially from November to May. Next fal when I am out in the garden digging and storing and mulching and covering, I know will secretly be wishing I could join you.—Chet Groger

AT TIMES WE ARE A RUDE AUDIENCE

For several years I've seen something gradually worsen in our club and it should stopped quickly, In my opinion we are a terribly rude audience. Yes, rude, becau there is so much talking when an officer or a guest is trying to talk to us. Abo three years ago there were just three or four fellows who talked loudly to each oth whenever they pleased but now it sometimes involves six or eight. Haven't we notic that an officer or, even worse, a guest speaker, sometimes stops to see if he can heard? I'm sure this is an unthinking habit but it must anger or at least hurt guest speaker when he thinks people are talking because of his inability to hold audience's attention. Please, fellows, let's stop this bad habit.

Perhaps we should all come earlier to get our visiting over before the meeting start