

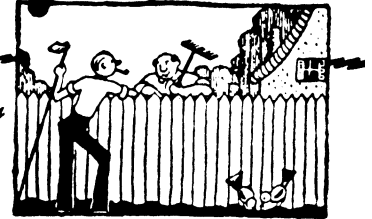


The Garden Spray

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

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

June 1976, Volume 34, Number 6



"Oh, what is so rare as a day in June
Then, if ever, come perfect days"...

And the nights are perfect, too--perfect for attending garden club meeting. The garden is all planted and up. The weeds aren't wild yet. The lawn is less demanding. The evenings are long and lazy. So you've no excuse for not attending the

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of MINNEAPOLIS meeting JUNE 8th, 5:45 p.m.
at Mount Olivet Church 50th St. at Knox Ave., So.
Three dollars will pay your way as usual

SPEAKER: NELS HERVI of Virginia, Minnesota
State Chairman of the Wildflower Commission
Expert Wildflower and Bird Photographer.

This program will be excellent. Mr. Hervi, retired Director of Public School Music, Mt. Iron, Minnesota, has collected pictures of every wildflower in our state and has planted many of the state's wild flowers on his property at Pelican Lake near Orr.

THEN, TOO: There will be a mini flower show at the June meeting to display those beautiful spring flowers--a prelude to the big flower and vegetable show August 21 and 22 at the Arboretum. Bring an entry or two. It will be a good opportunity to gain experience if you haven't exhibited before for part of the program will deal with the do's and don'ts of exhibiting. Take a chance; make that mistake where you won't be embarrassed and when you can profit by it.

Let's start the season out with a big mini-show. There's no limit to the number of entries but they must be in place by 5:45 p.m. for the judging. You will have to provide your own containers. Each entry will be judged against perfection and ribbons and awards will be given on this basis. June points and ribbons will count towards the August sweepstakes and prizes. (If you have questions, call Bob Smith who provided data for the last two paragraphs and is in charge of this portion of the program.)

ONE WEEK LATER, TUESDAY, JUNE 15 OVER the BACK FENCE MINI-TOURS START

As a trial balloon we wish to offer a slightly new wrinkle to the MINI-TOUR idea. If you are so inclined we wish to meet you at Carl Holst's garden at 3750 Abbott Ave. So., at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 15th. We will proceed together from there to other gardens in the area.

These gardens will not necessarily be in the same league as Carl's but

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As this report is being written plants are arriving for the Spring Plant Sale. With over a hundred members and guests registered it promises to be a banner event.

The crabapples at the arboretum, a project sponsored by our club, were never finer than they were this year. Over 10,000 visitors came to the arboretum to see the bloom. The peak of bloom was about May 9 which was a week or ten days earlier than normal.

An exciting project at the arboretum this spring is the waterfall project. This is an extension of the Dwarf Conifer Collection and is sponsored by the Margaret Rivers Fund of Stillwater. We hope to have the waterfall operating by the end of May.

Don't miss the June meeting. The illustrated talk on wildflowers promises to be one of the highlights of the year.

--Leon Snyder

(MINI-TOURS continued)

specific problems for which they desire your helpful suggestions. Others will be willing to demonstrate how they did or are doing something of interest. In any case it will be an opportunity for an informal exchange of ideas and to enjoy fellowship especially with our newer members.

If you would consider offering your garden for this tour or a future tour please contact Dick Hulbert or Jim Perrin.

Then come JULY and SEPTEMBER. Plans are not completely finalized as yet but Jim Fishbaugher tells us his committee is hard at work and may come up with an out of town trip. There was some discussion at the auction about moving one trip into August thus making August a two event month but no decision was made.

BIG FLOWER and VEGETABLE SHOW at the ARBORETUM SATURDAY and SUNDAY AUGUST 21st and 22nd

Start planning while you're planting. New this year at the August show will be the following: 1) A youth gardening section; 2) A separate court of honor for vegetables; 3) Valuable prizes in addition to the regular ribbons and awards.

The youth gardening exhibition provides you with an opportunity to promote youth gardening by encouraging your children, grand children, or, the children of friends or neighbors to plant a garden and to exhibit what they grow. Despite the early season it still won't be too late to start a garden when you receive this issue of the SPRAY. You help the child make appropriate choices of what to plant now that it is June. Remember Youth exhibits require that a Men's Garden Club member be the sponsor.

--Bob Smith, chairman

Water your lawn when it's dry -- 1 hour a week in open areas, 2 hours under trees. Wet soil to depth of 5 inches or more.

Weed, then mulch the vegetable garden. Apply 4 inches of straw mulch or 2 inches of peat moss or crushed corn cobs. This will hold moisture and

JAPANESE GARDENS
by L. W. Corbett

It was the month of October when we joined a small group to visit and study Japanese gardens. (It was listed as an Horticultural Seminar.) We flew from San Francisco to Tokyo. There we met a group of Japanese horticulturists at the Prince Hotel for dinner and discussion.

It was soon evident that the Japanese idea of a garden is entirely different than is ours. We were furnished a "List of Japanese Garden Plants". The list had English names and the corresponding Japanese names. Lists were trees, shrubs, special plants, vines and flowering herbaceous plants, not a single annual or biennial flowering plant such as we use. Our idea is based on the English cottage garden. The Japanese garden may be one small pot or acres around some temple or shrine. We speak of gardeners and nurserymen; they call them "greensmen".

The average Japanese home has no yard or space for a garden. In the towns and cities if there was a vacant lot it was planted to rice. If the home had any space it was planted to trees or shrubs that were carefully trimmed and shaped to fit the surroundings. Many of our hotels were beautifully landscaped and maintained with gardens mostly of large rocks, water and shrubs. Azaleas and rhododendrons are used extensively.

Japanese gardens take many forms. They are a place of beauty and of repose. You can contemplate for hours. The Zen Rock Garden of Ryoanji Temple is world famous. It is not large but it is supposed to represent the sea with islands. The garden is of beautiful white sand with fifteen stones placed to represent islands. The sand is carefully raked to give a design of waves. The shrine and garden were built in the fifteenth century. They are supposed to sit and contemplate life and the world and to make any meaning you want out of the garden or nothing at all.

I found the moss garden of Saihoji Temple very fascinating. It is like a small park with winding paths, a small stream and a lake. It was conceived in 731 A.D. It apparently is an excellent environment for the growth of moss. They claim forty species of green and yellow moss grow there. There were three or four women manicuring the moss and apparently pulling out moss plants that were growing in the wrong area. It was a very beautiful and restful place.

We took a ship to the Island of Shikoku and the city of Takamatsu. This is one of the centers of bonsai cultivation. It is also the Japan of a century ago and not westernized like Tokyo and Yokohama. We spent a day watching these bonsai growers operate. The seedling pines were started from seed planted in rows or beds just as we do. When the little trees are about fifteen inches tall the work begins. They use aluminum wire of several different gauges. This is wrapped around the tree and then the tree is bent in the shape wanted. Most trees were planted in shallow clay trays. It is a question of cutting, trimming and shaping. I was told that it took from seven to nine years to make a marketable bonsai tree. Some that we saw were seventy five years old. These individuals become gardens for some people.

On another trip we bought a flowering cherry. The stem was a little larger than a big pencil. The branches were cut not over three inches long. We had it for about two weeks and it was a mass of pink blooms.

One of the most interesting gardens that we saw is now called Ritsurin Park. It was built 330 years ago as a villa of the then ruling feudal family. It is considered as two gardens, North and South. Quoting from the brochure--"This promenade type of garden is most exquisitely laid out against the background of Mt. Shiun with rocks, ponds and trees each boasting a quaint beauty of its own and has been said to be the best of the kind in Japan." It has the typical Japanese bridges, tea house and shaped pine trees. This shaping of trees astounded me. The limbs are cut out and tied down or twisted to achieve the shape they want. When we were in this garden men were cutting the pines to make a screen. All of these gardens charge a small entrance fee.

In October the flower on display was the chrysanthemum. Almost all were in pots and, I assume, grown in greenhouses. There were a number of single stem show types. They do use cushion types in bed plantings. I was intrigued with small garden type mums that were grown in pots and trained like a peacocks tail. The plant itself is supported on a bamboo frame attached to the pot and extending down at an acute angle. When displayed on steps, wall or pedestal the plant hangs down like a blanket. Some grown thus appeared to be five or six feet in length. I understand that these plants are carried over from year to year.

Conclusion. The Japanese are excellent gardeners and they have a very distinct style. They have contributed to our American gardens both in plant material and style.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

A thank you to Vinton Bouslough for seeing that this issue of the GARDEN SPRAY got printed, assembled, stapled, labeled, stamped and mailed. We told him it would take three hours of his time if his wife did most of the work. Your editor sent copy to our typist and, with his wife, took off for Kentucky right after our May auction. Strawberries were reported ripening there so daughter Kathryn felt she could use a couple of migrant workers from Minnesota.

Ours isn't the only Men's Garden Club which is arboretum minded. The PRACTICAL GARDENER of the Portland Oregon MGC reports, "Arbor Day celebration this year will be at the Arboretum Headquarters. The Staff will plant a Hemlock in memory of our late friend and member Thornton Munger, who was instrumental in getting the Arboretum established many years ago. Our Club, as has been our tradition, will plant a Magnolia in the grove.

June 20-26 is the fourth annual National Tree Appreciation Week set aside by MGCA to call attention to the worth and value of trees in our ecology. In this Bicentennial year, clubs are urged to call attention to the oldest tree in town, the most historical, and the markings of trees native to the area.

Tree Appreciation Week won a national award from the Arbor Day Foundation in 1974, and in 1975. The Hendersonville, North Carolina Men's Garden Club was a national winner in 1975 for their urban forestry project.

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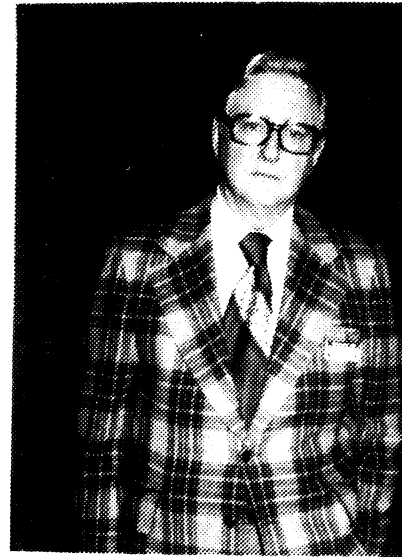
Water trees and all shrubs, (especially new transplants,) every 10-14 days. To thoroughly wet the soil, the equivalent of 1 inch of rainfall

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Deadline: the 15th OF EACH MONTH.

MGCM PRESIDENTS: DWIGHT STONE, 1964

Would you believe it? Dwight Stone that snappily dressed fellow who sports the jaunty plaid beret says he "would rather have a vegetable garden than a flower garden but my lot doesn't lend itself to vegetable gardening." That statement of preference is not hard to believe when you see as we have a circle of lettuce, peppers, cabbage, tomatoes under a pine.



Dwight Stone

Perhaps you'd understand even better if you knew Dwight was born in Donaldson, Kittson County, Minnesota (population 128). Donaldson, in the Red River Valley is in the heart of Minnesota's potato growing region. The Red River Valley potatoes you eat may have been shipped from there.

Dwight's interest in gardening "dates back to 4 H club days" and was "revived during the Victory Garden era". To Dwight that means World II for he wasn't born until just after the close of World War I which it's own Victory Garden (plus substitute breadstuffs) era.

Now he grows everything possible in pots--Container gardening is the dignified term.--He moves the pots around as whimsy directs. His favorite flowers are "pansies, chrysanthemums and tuberous begonias". We think we should add pink geraniums to that list. He's always had a border of flowers whenever the garden club has visited. His flowers are gorgeous; his garden immaculate.

Stone, Administrator Office Services, Northern States Power Company, joined MGCM in 1958. He has held all the club offices and, like Rene [unclear] served several terms as secretary. He was chairman of the MGCA 1967 national convention held in Minneapolis--the convention we still hear about at other conventions. This convention, possibly MGCA's first financially successful one, contributed a considerable sum to national coffers. Through Stone's efforts the local share was set aside as a convention fund money from which is used each year to cover a portion of the registration fees for MGCM delegates to the national meeting.

Stone received other national attention, too, with a tongue-in-cheek article he wrote for the GARDEN SPRAY following a trip to the 1974 national convention in Cortland, New York. Hal Nelson of Rockford, Illinois, editor of the national MGCA magazine The GARDENER picked it up and printed it. Some readers of The GARDENER took umbrage and felt constrained to take Dwight to task. He wasn't fazed. What could faze a man of whom it was reported after a garden club tour, "There was even a potato plant peeping out of the corner of a flower bed near the SW corner of his

NEW MEMBERS

(Clip and paste in your roster.)

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Last year's growth on pine and spruce trees should be examined now. Are there little flecks of white along some of the needles? This may look like paint, but it is not. These flecks are egg masses called pine needle scale and they usually hatch at the same time lilacs are coming into full bloom. Now is the best time for homeowners to rid trees of this pest by spraying with Malathion, two teaspoons to one gallon of water. Be sure to cover all portions of the tree and spray again in ten days. This insect, if not treated may cause whole branches to die, sometime even destroying the tree.

Vegetables all too often are thought of as drab plants growing one next to another in straight rows. Seldom are vegetables used either by themselves or mixed with flowers in the home landscape. But vegetables, when used in a manner that brings out their individual character, can exhibit a stately show of foliage and fruit. Vegetables should be selected according to their use in the landscape. Several points to consider when selecting vegetables to enhance the landscape are: color of foliage, type of leaf, plant size at maturity, and the water and fertilizer requirements of the individual plants. Purple cabbage, bronze-leaved lettuce, and red-veined beet tops make a colorful show of foliage that can intensify the color of many fall flowers.

Save your time and the time of your telephone caller. If you know you are coming to our next club meeting tell your wife.

The Akron, Ohio, MGC conducts a plant sale at the Home and Garden Show each year and grosses about \$10,000 during the ten 12-hour days the show runs. Members serve a "scheduled three shifts of four hours each". All proceeds go into the club "Youth Fund".

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
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