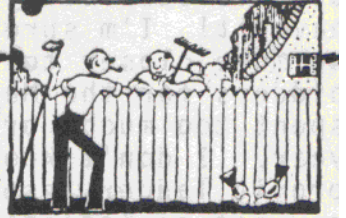




The Garden Spray

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

Member--Mens Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society



June 1977, Volume 35, Number 6

JUST ONE MORE MEETING BEFORE SUMMER TOURS START.

TUESDAY JUNE 14, 1977 at MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH
Fiftieth Street at Knox Avenue South.

DINNER at 6 PM \$3.00 MEETING at 7 PM, FEATURING

GUS SINDT of AFTON MINNESOTA and a PANEL of MGCM MEMBERS
on
"HOW TO JUDGE A FLOWER SHOW".

Mr. Sindt is a certified judge for gladiolus, iris, peonies and vegetable and this will be our SPRING MINI FLOWER SHOW so we need your assistance. Bring what you have, in your own containers, and have it in place before six. No prizes are promised; but this will constitute a fine lesson on the hows, whys, whats and wherefores of exhibiting.

MY NEIGHBOR'S ROSES

The roses red upon my neighbor's vine
Are owned by him, but they are also mine.
His was the cost, and his was the labor, too;
But mine as well as his the joy their loveliness to view.

They bloom for me and are for me as fair
As for the man who gives them all his care.
Thus I am rich, because a good man grew
A rose-clad vine for all his neighbor's view.

I know from this that others plant for me,
And what they own, my joy may also be,
So why be selfish, when so much that's fine
Is grown for you, upon your neighbor's vine.

Abraham L. Gauber

Modern science, with its great discoveries, stands humbled by the awesome food-producing ability of the plant kingdom. Every year plants take up vast tonnages of carbon released by decaying wastes and transform it into plant material, and in the process recharge the biosphere with life-sustaining oxygen. Biologically speaking, we are plant parasites--although we have long been cotenants of the Earth, plants existed before man and need him not at all. The earthly realities are that man cannot really hold dominion but must live in harmony with the natural world.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
from Fred Glasoe

I should have learned by this time that it's OK for the president of our club to stop worrying and to relax and enjoy our many activities. But I haven't! I'm sure many of you past Prexies know what I mean. Every time we move closer to the auction I start to wonder if we will have as many bidders for the May meeting; if the plants will be good; and, whether we spent too much, or if we will get the funds we need for the rest of the year. I don't know how many years we can keep climbing up and up the profit ladder, especially as the ladder gets harder to climb with each new set of inflationary rungs. I well know how the Auction Chairman feel and together we worry right into the bidding. This, of course, is crazy because our great members turn out en masse; bid freely and fiercely; and seem well satisfied with the quality of the plants.

Yes, we came through once again in good shape and can fulfill the budget estimates that had to be made way last January. We took in a new record amount, but we also had to pay out a record amount for plants. Our profit in spite of these new records seems to be just about the same as last year's profit. This should make us all feel good and it makes me want to sing many praises and thank yous to all the men who were able to be with us to make our auction night such a monetary success and such a memorable evening of good fellowship.

With all the excitement of the evening, I got mixed up regarding the announcements for the July and August garden tours. We will be having food served on both tours. The July tour will end at Lake Nokomis Park with a chicken and rib picnic served by DeLaria's. The August tour will include a visit to St. Olaf College and a meal in the college dining room which is well known for its good food. The picnic that I inadvertently and mistakenly said would be in July will be part of the September meeting and Show at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. There will be more on this important event in the next two newsletters.

We are moving closer to the time of the National Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina. As of now we have only two delegates. It would be nice if we could have a full delegation of six members to keep Sherm Pinkham and Ed Culbert company. There are so many interesting gardens and flower areas in that part of our country that I'm sure it would be a very worthwhile trip.

Summer brings not only gardens but also a great many garden shows and visits. The state Rose Show will be June 18 and 19 and the State Lily show July 9 & 10. Many local clubs have very nice shows. Every week brings new ones to attend. Our own June meeting is going to be on Growin Perfect Specimens. We will have the Chairman of the Minnesota State Horticulture Society Judging Committee and many of our own members will point out the qualities of perfect blooms and top notch produce in their own garden specialties. Whether one shows or not it is good to have an ideal and to learn how to grow for perfection. It's exciting to see new possibilities and to go home with the desire to create the same delights in our own plots. So many of our members are top winners in state society shows and at the Minnesota State Fair that we know our June program will be guided by experts.

Lastly, it is very important that each of us bring at least one or two blooms from his garden or some of his potted plants for our June Mini-Show. It will be very difficult to explain plant judging without sufficient

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MGCM PRESIDENTS: FRANK P. VIXO, 1967

Frank Vixo grows both flowers and vegetables. The vegetables are utilitarian; hence, of "special interest". His "special interest" dahlias and roses are a delight to the eye. Moreover, Frank has a farm background and that seems to be a major requisite on the way to the MGCM presidency.

Frank was born in Petersburg, Nelson County, North Dakota (population 318) on the Fargo to Devils Lake route of the Great Northern's Empire Builder. Too young to protest he sought larger worlds to conquer, followed the old adage, "Go West, young man. Go West!" and moved to a farm near Powers Lake, Burke County, North Dakota (population 565). Here, on a stub line of the Great Northern, he grew up.



Frank Vixo

Dakota farmers become versatile. They have to, Frank is an exemplar of that. And, he's met success in his endeavors. First, as a teacher high school through graduate courses in college. Then, as a special agent accountant for the FBI. Then, as chief accountant for the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

Ultimately the roving life in these fields paled upon him. He, to use his own words, "decided to pay my rent and settle down" so joined Northern States Power Company in 1955.

Frank picked the right place to work. Cortis Rice, Jr. of the NSP staff who had been MGCM president in 1950 learned that Frank "had never lost (his) interest in growing things" and immediately invited him to join the club. Cortis was busy working on the May auction so Frank's first meeting was an auction. It must have been impressive for he still remembers that "C. G. Harkins served as cashier and (A. R.) Blackburn helped me understand what it was all about."

Since then Vixo has worked hard for MGCM. He has been treasurer; has hosted garden tours; co-chaired flower shows; worked on auctions; become a perennial "Mr. Auditing Committee". Perhaps most important, as MGCM president in 1967 when the National Convention here showed a profit in excess of \$6000 he established with the Internal Revenue Service the non-profit nature of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. This enabled us to retain the "profits" which were shared with the National.

Frank's daily work and his gardening must account for a full day. Where does he manage to squeeze in time for his other hobbies--carpentry, photography, fishing? In some kind of off-season, maybe?

CORRECT YOUR DIRECTORY, Kevin Oshima's address is:

Box 141-A Route 1
St. Marys Point

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 2)

materials. If everyone brings at least two (more is better) plants, we can have a nice room full of color and good material for our search for greater understanding of the matter of growing for quality. Let's have a big group at our June meeting and let's have each one of us carry with him a little bit of his spring garden from home. Don't forget to bring your own vases as we have none at the church. Bring a friend and enjoy another evening of good fellowship, good food and a good garden program.

YOU'RE STILL IN TIME IF YOU HURRY

So far only two persons, Ed Culbert and Sherm Pinkham, are known to be planning to attend the National Conference at Raleigh, North Carolina, June 28 - July 1. We are entitled to six delegates so if you are, or could be, interested in being a delegate contact MGCM Secretary, Jim Mielke at once so that you may be issued the appropriate credentials.

Secretary Mielke has supplied the following pertinent information:

- (a) Each affiliated club in good standing shall be entitled in any annual, or special meeting of the Men's Garden Clubs of America to two delegates for the first 25 members or less and one additional delegate for each additional 25 members in good standing and the number of alternates equal to the number of delegates. Alternates serve only when delegates are not present.
- (b) Elective national officers, Directors and Past Presidents shall be delegates-at-large, to all Annual and Special meetings.
- (c) Each accredited delegate or alternate and delegate-at-large present shall be entitled to vote on each question submitted at any annual meeting. There shall be no voting by proxy.
- (d) Delegates/alternates certified to vote for one club may not cast votes for any other club. In order to vote, a club must be represented by a delegate(s) or alternate(s). One man; one vote.

NOTE: Convention expenses of official delegates are tax deductible.

Full details on the convention were in the March-April and May-June GARDENER magazines.

The poem on page one was written by a friend of Harry Sova and was reprinted there because June is the month of roses and we have so many rose growers. We're sorry we didn't have it when the article about C. F. Knoblauch was written. It would have been singularly appropriate in connection with the article about "Knobby". (See page 4, February 1977 GARDEN SPRAY.)

It's wise to set out a few tomato plants late so as to have an ample supply of green unripe fruits to extend the season. Fruits from later vines keep better than those from older, spent vines.

NEW MEMBERS

(Cut and paste in your 1977 Directory)

James H. Dock 890-7258, 871-8700 John Roegge 922-3623, 456-4608

YOUR LAWN IN 1977

by J. L. "Jack" Kolb

Writing for gardeners on the care of lawns seems redundant. Almost everything has been said in bulletins, periodicals, papers, etc. Even so, there are a few pointers we might add after reminding you that in the days of power mowers trash such as leaves, twigs, etc. constitute a constant hazard.

FERTILIZATION -- Quite often this is done too early. The ideal time for the first application should be coordinated with the emergence of leaves on the trees. This indicates that the soil temperatures are at optimum levels.

Of course, the three main elements of fertilizer are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (N P K). Grass, as a rule, uses these elements in a 3-1-2 ratio. Fertilizers high in nitrogen and potash are found to give good winter survival and potash is found to be more important than nitrogen in hot weather. It is actually hard to find such combinations for sale at local retail outlets. For too many years, fertilizers were out of balance with high P such as 10-10-10, 10-6-4, etc. Older lawns especially, have accumulated excess phosphorus. Determine this by having a soil test at the University of Minnesota Soils Department.

Fertilizers have changed drastically in the last few years and many research papers are going unpublished by industry and the trade. High energy requirements are necessary to convert atmospheric nitrogen to forms used in fertilizers. (Approximately 26,000 BTUs in the case of Ammonium Nitrate)

Highly soluble fertilizers have 90% to 85% leach rates when used on turf. True slow release fertilizers have much lower leach rates. True slow release nitrogen sources require much less actual N to grow grass. So, when shopping for lawn fertilizer, select one of the following nitrogen sources: IBDU, UF, Sulphur Coated Urea, Osmocote, or Sewage Sludge.

THIN LAWNS -- Every spring the question of whether to add seed to the thin areas arises. Always ask why the turf is thin in the first place and correct that situation before spending money on seed.

MOWING -- Not much has changed here. Mow at whatever height you prefer, but mow frequently enough to prevent removal of more than 1/3 the growth at any one time. New elite Kentucky bluegrasses are appearing on the market every day. If you prefer some specialized height of cut other than the normal 1 1/4 to 2 inch, look into one of the new varieties of bluegrass for your lawn.

WATERING -- This is especially important lately. The best advice is to water when necessary and to be very familiar with the symptoms of wilt, saturation and all the gradations of moisture in between. Remember soil should be 50% spaces between soil particles. The ideal moisture condition is to have half of these spaces filled with water and half with air.

DISEASE -- This is usually not much of a problem with bluegrasses or lawn mixtures. However, diseases do exist.

INSECTS -- Insects seem to be a greater problem than disease. New pests show up each year. Better identification may be responsible for the seeming increase. In addition, the increasing number of restrictions on control makes insect control a bigger problem.

Add to SUNSHINE committee (March SPRAY)
Chairman: VERN CARLSON. Member: Otto Nelson.

MAKE WAR ON SCALE EARLY

The ideal time to control certain scale insects that devitalize trees and shrubs is when the young are crawling and easiest to kill. Scale insects suck plant juices, causing leaves to yellow, and twigs and whole branches to die back. In many cases enzymes injected by the scale to break down the plant tissues become highly toxic to the plant. This double injury can cause trees and shrubs to be killed outright when infestations are severe.

Crawling scales usually keep to the underside of leaves and twigs, feeding and looking for a place to settle down. Spraying with a good contact insecticide will give effective control. Several sprays applied two week apart may be necessary. Here are some common and troublesome scales which home owners can identify on their trees and shrubs:

- Euonymus scale - crawlers look like orange dots on underside of leaves and on twigs.
- Juniper scale - Pale yellow on leaves and twigs.
- Cottony maple scale - big fluffy white clusters on smooth twigs of most maples.
- Hemlock scale - tiny greenish white on underside of hemlock needles.
- Lecanium scale - grayish specks found on twigs of dogwood, maple, beech, elm, linden, gum oak, horsechestnut, and many fruit trees.
- Pine Needle scale - white dot-like creatures on needles, chiefly on white pine.

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Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.
CLUB OFFICERS:

- President: FRED GLASOE
618 E. 58 St., Mpls., 55417
- Vice President: RICHARD HULBERT
3422 Xerxes Avenue N., Mpls. 55412
- Secretary: JAMES E. MIELKE
Rt. 5, Box 228, Excelsior, 55331
- Treasurer: ROBERT GAGE
16145 Hillcrest La., Eden Prairie, 55343
- Past President: DR. LEON C. SNYDER
Rt. 1, Box 573E, Excelsior, 55331
- Director: CHARLES H. ROBBINS
7112 Park Ave., Mpls., 55423
- Director: RICHARD G. VICTOR
4358 Metcalf Dr., Eagan, 55122



FIRST CLASS

To

William H. Hull
6833 Creston Road
Edina, MN 55435

1977 National Convention
Raleigh, N.C. June 29-July 1