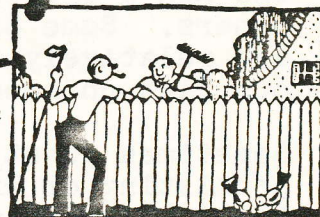




The Garden Spray

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

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



November 1979, Volume 37, Number 11

WEATHERWISE, OUTDOOR GARDENING IS PRETTY WELL FINISHED FOR 1979. But, because one can't garden outdoors doesn't stop a green thumber from continuing his garden hobby indoors throughout the winter months. This takes the form of working with houseplants; so--

HOUSEPLANTS WILL BE THE THEME FOR THE MGCM NOVEMBER MEETING.

There will be selected experts to give you all the do's and don'ts re caring for houseplants.

THAT'S NOT ALL--THERE'LL BE A PANEL ON THE SUBJECT OF GREENHOUSES.

What will you have? The free-standing style? The attached or lean-to model? One actually built into the house?

In addition to the main program there'll be election of officers for 1980, our usual monthly plant auction and a guest speaker from the University of Minnesota Foundation on the "St. Paul Campus Improvement Fund".

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS TO THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB DINNER MEETING
at
MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th Street at Knox Avenue South
on
TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 13th, 1979 5:45 P.M. Cost \$3.50

RETURN THE ATTACHED RESERVATION CARD TO BOB GAGE AT ONCE

* * * * *

DID YOU KNOW, As Reported By Charley Proctor In October

- .That the Blackburn Trophy has been awarded regularly since 1962 and that Verner Carlson has won it eight times; Dale Durst has won it three times; Henry Halvorson, Les Johnson and Bob Smith have each won it twice; and Dave Johnson has won it once?
- .That the Foley Award has been made regularly since 1963 and that Thor Solem has received it three times; Verner Carlson, Don Hardesty, Al Nelson and Bob Smith have each received it twice, and Bud Christenson, Fred Glasoe, Henry Halvorson, Evald Johnson and Dick Victor once each?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

D. Bruce Johnstone
6920 Rolling Acres Rd.
Excelsior, MN 55331

Tom Jones
6880 Rolling Acres Rd.
Excelsior, MN 55331

We're always receptive to new members. Who have you to suggest?

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.--A group of expert gardeners. Right? Wrong!

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis has a lot of very experienced gardeners. Some of them are tops in their fields. However, a lot of us are relatively new to gardening and are trying to make something grow on our flat untamed lots in suburbia.

Sometimes guest speakers and even member speakers look upon the club as consisting of experienced gardeners only. They feel that everyone in the club knows as much about their subject and/or specialty as they do. Earlier this year we scheduled a talk on lawn care. There had been more requests for a speaker on this subject than for one on any other subject and I, for one, was very excited about this particular program. Those of you who recall the program will remember the speaker's opening words to the effect that since we knew all about basic lawn care he would, instead, discuss fusarium in lawns. My need for information on basic lawn care remains unfulfilled.

I have listened to Jerry Olson talk on roses many times. Each time something becomes clearer or new ideas are presented. Ideas presented in past talks I may not have utilized because I was not at that stage of development. However, as my once untamed piece of land yields to the spade and rototiller I am constantly presented with new problems which need answers. My need for basic and updated information never ceases.

If those of you with many years of experience will share your knowledge with us, we, in turn, can share it with future members. The survival of our club depends on it.

See you in November.

--Bob Gage

It is always of interest to know what former MGCM members do gardenwise after leaving this area. George Sweezy organized the Men's Garden Club of Wachtung Hills, New Jersey. He is currently president of the club and editor of it's bulletin, GREEN SPROUTS. In the bulletin's September issue he writes:

"WELCOME BACK! As gardeners we have all been busy with our favorite summer pursuit, watching over the fruits of our springtime labors of planning, ground preparation, fertilizing and planting. Being realists as well, we know that gardening like life itself has its little "ups and downs". We find ourselves always comparing with another year's yield and quality, another year's rainfall, another person's success or degree of success and trying to decide how we could have done better.

"But under sometimes adverse conditions we manage to do reasonably well and under more favorable circumstances we become genuinely elated with our results. This is both healthy and desirable and subtly helps to give us the "balanced perspective" we all need in our every-day affairs. With this in mind we all look forward to the return from the "field experience" to the "sharing" and "planning" phase - the reason for our club."

THE SEPTEMBER TOUR

Sunday, September 9th, was a dull, cool day. Rain threatened until mid afternoon. Then the sun came out to warm and brighten things up. After a few false turns our bus found Burton and Betty Deane's address near Minnehaha Creek. Their entry planting, potentilla, dwarf viburnum, red leaf barberry was sedate; but around the corner in the back yard what a riot of color! And the artistry of it all! A brown wide-lattice fence served to silhouette pillars of clematis, morning glories, scarlet runner beans and specimen clumps of cosmos, helianthus, liatris.

Peeking out between at middle level were roses, zinnias, chrysanthemums, tall salvias, tall snapdragons--also retrievals from the farm, a cistern pump, a rural mailbox, part of an old hay rake. In and out in front nasturtiums, pansies, petunias, sedum spectabile, dwarf nicotiana, forget-me-not, calendula, marigold--all at the peak of perfection--beamed up at us.

But the Deanes didn't plan just a feast for the eye. Flanked by tall dahlias on the one side and, under a tree, on the other by a tractor tire enclosing a bed of tall impatiens was a marigold bordered vegetable garden--carrots, beets, beans, kohlrabi, cucumbers, tomatoes. The garden club is in good hands for a couple more decades.

Roger Anderson's garden is not only on Minnehaha Creek; in wet weather it is in the creek. He has acres of cat tails backing up flower beds which sport zinnias, salvia, ageratum, marigolds and dianthus. Standing apart are tall powder puff hollyhocks and pink geraniums. Near the house Anderson has lots of shade so, as you'd expect, within the drip line are beds of impatiens and of tuberous begonias. More begonias and impatiens hang in baskets under the eaves.

A fascinating bed on a down slope had at it's upper end variegated hosta set off by red and pink impatiens. The impatiens continued down hill. Accented by the moist black earth in the bed it in it's turn was set off with granite boulders. There was more to see but the "All Aboard" call stopped my study. It even halted the neighbor's dog which had been serenading us all the while.

Don Wilson was worried after we left Roger Anderson's. We drove down Don's road to within two blocks of his place before we stopped at non-member Bob Werner's. Here we saw grapes galore--red grapes, blue grapes, white grapes, green grapes--in sod and under a long arcade of plastic netting. Some grapes were not yet covered. The birds aren't interested until the grapes turn color. The grapes are sprayed only for mildew. Werner explained that his apple trees had suffered badly from hail and from winter damage. The Christmas tree balls we noted in the apple trees are his way of determining when it is time to spray for apple maggot control. He coats the balls with tanglefoot and watches until they catch the egg-laying flies. By chance when leaving we spotted in the side yard rose hips the size of dolgo crabapples.

Non-member Ken Sorenson, president of the Rose Society, has a wooded hillside for a back yard. It is a huge wildflower garden in spring. Only the red berries of Solomon's Seal are visible in September. Small matter. We came to see his roses which were gorgeous from the bed of miniatures to the towering tree floribunda, Gene Boerner, on a four foot standard with six foot canes extending above the graft. An added bonus
(continued over)

was the sight of the beds of impatiens against the rock walls of the garden and the clump of white chrysanthemums--dazzling in the sunlight.

Stanley Crist knows how to get time for visiting his garden. He serves a lunch. He has developed a big garden on the sandpile he took over 19 years ago. The pools adjacent are part of a creek system which feeds into Minnehaha Creek. The land abutting is Minnetonka parkland but since it is undeveloped Crist has planted specimen spruces and fruit trees on it.

The view from his deck makes one want to put feet up, relax and just drink in the beauty of the flower beds below. Probably Stan doesn't have time. His flower garden had impatiens three feet tall, even taller salvia "Blue Bedder" and Zenith series zinnias. (He sprays the zinnias with benlate from August on to control mildew.) Blooming furiously under a ginnala maple was a bed of hosta. Petunias were everywhere.

Crist must be a vegetable man at heart even though the vegetable garden was well hidden. Bob Smith may claim more vegetables, but Stan had beans, broccoli, chard, cabbage--red and regular--yellow globe onions, melons, butternut squash on black plastic. He doesn't spray or dust for borers. Butternut doesn't have a borer problem, he says. There was a tiny strip of soy beans and another of rye--both intended for green manure. Capping it all was a large bed of strawberries and a row of Fall Red raspberries weighted down with fruit.

Larry Catron has a terraced hillside. His beautifully laid limestone walls and flagstone paths catch the eye first; then the beds of impatiens. Next one notes the hillside background of weeping willow, tatarian honeysuckle, plum, sumac, arbor vitae which both shuts out sight of housing farther up and provides a backdrop for salvia, marigolds, morning glories, cosmos, snapdragons, petunias, and other flowers.

Within the upper terrace lies the vegetable garden containing young leaf lettuce, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, beans--both bush and pole. The only detraction was the, never meant for a bus, turn-around at the end of the road. We thought our bus would drop either to the garden below or to the railroad tracks even farther down and spoil our afternoon.

WINTER STORAGE PER ED. CULBERT

Some folks leave carrots and parsnips in the ground and cover them heavily with leaves or hay to prevent the ground from freezing. Thus they can dig them, as needed. Others store in window wells similarly. I leave carrots and parsnips in the ground until frost solidifies the top 1/4 to 1/2 inch of ground. I then dig. The green top usually comes off with the frozen topsoil.

I dump them into a laundry tub of cold water to remove excess dirt. As I fish them out I cut off the tails and the leaf ends and toss them on the floor. (Covered with a single layer of newspaper to absorb some of the moisture.) When all are trimmed, I stack them tightly, leaf end down, in a 5 gallon stone crock. When the first level is finished I pour builder's grade vermiculite over all and rattle the crock until the vermiculite sifts down into all open spaces and covers the upper surface 1/4 inch. I repeat the process until the crock is full and covered one inch deep with vermiculite before storing in the cold fruit cellar.

(Continued bottom page 5)

SUPERSTEAK IS SUPER INDEED

by Bill Hull

Doggonit! The show was too early for me this year. I just needed another week or two for many of my entries because I was late getting started in 1979.

But when my garden got going, there were some things of which I was proud. As usual, my Southern Belle hibiscus stopped traffic. For ten years or so they have been true eye-catchers. Lots of the usual things like marigolds and zinnias, although some were newly introduced hybrids hitting the market next year. More interesting were such as "Nicki Red" nicotiana, which is new and highly touted by every seed catalog this year. They were a little darker red than I expected but have bloomed profusely for many weeks.

Also outstanding were "Goldcrest", cosmea from Unwin's which is said to be a half-hardy annual. I'll bet they're half right--half way through the winter they'll be dead. A small-blooming plant, only reaching about a foot for me, they made an attractive circle around tree base.

Two of Unwin's asters were also beautiful. I speak of "Totem Pole" and "Amore", both of which have been quite large and gorgeous in color. Sometimes I think nothing is as beautiful as a bouquet of mixed-color asters with their clean, pure colors being so fresh.

Nothing in my garden got the attention of the new hybrid tomato, hitting the market in 1980, called "Supersteak Hybrid VF" - Burpee. My advance trial seeds truly created outstanding fruit of 1-1/2 to 2 pounds. Delicious flavor. Abundant producer. Deep, oblate, rich, red meaty fruit. Bigger than "Big Boy" and nicer. This tomato will probably take off with growers. I also grew "Big Boy", always nice even though I used 1975 seeds; "Red Cherry", which Northrup King distributed free in Family Circle magazine and which grew in abundant clusters. They are dark red, delicious, truly the best cocktail-type tomato I've grown. Also I grew Unwin's "Yellow Perfection" tomato but I will return to "Golden Yellow Ponderosa" next year - even if I have to use my 1974 seeds again. The latter is a better size with the former being at best a golfball-sized tomato.

Cucurbits? I have them coming out my ears. We don't care for cucumbers, but different kinds of squash like Burpee's "Butter Boy" hybrid, "Banana" squash from previous years' seeds, an Israeli green-meated melon from a friend, and an assortment of gourds from Northrup King. This latter group grew over the fence, six and eight feet up on the neighbor's hedge, pulled down a hundred year oak tree and will give us a big collection of oddball squash. But aren't they fun?

STORAGE (from page 4)

Stored this way in November carrots were firm until finally used in March. Parsnips lasted until July 1979. Some fine root hairs may develop. In July the parsnips had many to which the vermiculite clung like a beard. Occasionally there is some rotting or drying up, but the vermiculite insulates the bad from the good and you either find a mummy or a small wet glob only here or there in the crock.

Orchids showcase - two local greenhouses

By Kathleen Mattsson

For two area residents, Rita Clatt and Fred Glasoe, the fascination of growing orchids has become an all-consuming passion.

Members of the Orchid Society of Minnesota, both growers are looking forward to the Mid-America Orchid Congress, held Sept. 26-29 at Dayton's Auditorium, and rated one of the largest orchid shows in the country.

Fred Glasoe, 618 E. 58th St., knows all about the satisfaction of raising plants. A member of numerous garden clubs, Glasoe's interest led him into educational areas. He has done plant programs on educational television and written newspaper columns on horticulture. He developed and is currently in charge of the Environmental Science Centers for St. Paul Schools, which introduce elementary school children to plants and animals.

Glasoe's interest in flowers, like Clatt's, was inspired by a close family member. His grandmother maintained a huge garden on six acres of land where all members of the family were expected to work daily. Glasoe retained the interest in horticulture as he grew up and much of his life revolves around the birds, rabbits and plants which he raises at work and at home.

Glasoe's interest in orchids came as a result of his involvement with the school program. He made a written request to the Orchid Society of Minnesota for extra orchids, to be used at the environmental centers. Mem-

bers of the society responded so generously to the request that Glasoe and his wife, Beth, ended up with 30 extra plants at home.

"That's when I started thinking about my greenhouse," Glasoe said. He saw a building pictured in *Popular Science* magazine which intrigued him, and came up with something similar. The structure is made of wood, heavily insulated on three sides, with glass only on the south-facing wall and roof.

"In January," said Glasoe, "the heat goes off around 10 a.m. and stays off until evening." He estimated heating costs last winter for the greenhouse to be close to \$125. The structure has its own well, and fans to circulate the air.

All of this heat, circulating air and moisture combine to make an environment extremely desirable for one plant in particular—the orchid. Both Glasoe and his wife are connoisseurs and he speaks lyrically of the peculiar attractions of the plant.

"Orchids are the Cadillac of flowers," he said. "The more you know about them, the more interesting they seem. They are the second largest plant family in the world, and each one is different.

Glasoe cited some of the advantages to raising orchids. According to him, the plant is not messy to grow as dirt is not needed, just bark. Orchids are hardy plants and not difficult as long as some fluorescent light is available.

"You don't need a greenhouse to grow them," Glasoe said.

"Two or three varieties can be grown in anyone's living room with the addition of a light during the winter months." Many orchids, once they blossom, stay in bloom for long periods of time and can be used for corsages or worn in the hair.

He too is excited about the upcoming orchid show. According to the show description, orchids from all over the world will appear in a futuristic setting. Circular pedestals of all heights and sizes, each topped with an orchid display, will hang suspended throughout the auditorium. "Anything the orchid society gets involved in will be done beautifully," said Glasoe. "They are the most helpful and enthusiastic group of plant people I have ever met."

For Fred Glasoe, as for Rita Clatt, the pleasure in orchid growing and working with plants in general is related directly to the involvement of the grower. Glasoe's involvement is obvious, especially when he is describing his favorite orchid variety, the *Cattleya*. "The satisfaction in growing one of these plants is almost immeasurable," said Glasoe. "When a great big *Cattleya* finally opens up its blossom, the effect is just as if someone was looking at you . . . Its a wonderful feeling that doesn't compare to anything else I know."

MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 5TH DISTRICT

1979 GARDENERS WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1979

* Over 30 classes offered for your special garden interests

*Principal Speaker (11:00 A.M.)- WILLIAM L. NUNN, well known Minn. garden writer, horticultural consultant and vegetable specialist

*Hobby greenhouse tour (1:00 P.M.)

REGISTRATION

Registration Fee (\$3.00 single, \$5.00 couple)
Lunch (\$3.00 per person)
Tour (\$3.00 per person)

(Less 10% for Pre-Registration Discount)

Christmas Party



Join with the Men's Garden Club
of Minneapolis and their wives
on Monday, the third of December
nineteen hundred and seventy-nine

at six o'clock

for social hour and dinner

at six forty-five

Mount Olivet Church

50th & Knox

Cost is \$17.00 per couple

RESERVATION FORM

Please make _____ reservations for me for the MGCM Christmas Party,
Monday, December 3, 1979. Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
I will carve a turkey: _____ yes _____ no

Mail to: - Dean Schneider
2520 Dresden Lane
Minneapolis, MN 55422

Reservations must be made by November 28, 1979
Make check payable to: Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

NAME OF MEMBER: _____

NAMES OF GUESTS: _____

The Minnetonka Men's Garden Club is kind of a legend in its own time. An active organization, there are currently 34 members, and they are known throughout the area for their gardening expertise.

The club is as much a social as a service organization. Members meet once a year for a corn feed, and once a year for a picnic. They meet quite frequently to hear expert speakers, and many of their business meetings are pleasure outings for the garden-minded, though. The Saturday after the flower show, for instance, they will be traveling to the Northrup King trial gardens to preview the flowers for the coming year. Then, the same day, they'll be stopping by the Arboretum to view the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club show.

Among the major accomplishments of the club are the garden triangles of Excelsior, and some of the beautification work they've done in Wayzata.

In Excelsior, the men's club works in an atmosphere of mutual admiration and cooperation. Over the years, the club has created three garden areas: the Capt. Johnson Memorial Triangle, at the entryway to Excelsior, by the post office; The Arey Memorial triangle by the Red Owl;

and the newest, and barely developed, triangle on County 19 by the police station.

The Johnston triangle, is the oldest and most established. Its planting was one of the motivating forces behind the formation of the garden club. The Arey Memorial was started in 1975, sort of a part of the Bicentennial, and is now the most flexible and largest of the three.

The club meets once a year just to decide on the plantings in this area, and to create the design for the areas. Each year the design is changed and improved upon.

The beautification projects are coordinated efforts too. The club does all the planting, designing, weeding, spraying, edging and other maintenance. The city mows, buys the plants, and does any engineering needed to establish the site.

When a sprinkler system became necessary to keep the two large triangles beautiful, area merchants, community people and businesses pitched in to buy one.

Since the club has created a constructive atmosphere like that in Excelsior, is it any wonder the City of Minnetonka asked to the club to help them create public gardens on its city hall site?

The Minnetonka Men's Garden Club is impressive, though, not only for its public service projects but also for the unique individuals who have created it.

Some have been with the club since its formation in 1952, other long-term members include Ed Graupman, Bernie Reutiman and William Dixon. Member Bruce Johnstone has taught horticulture and has written books on growing vegetables and flowers. He also judges flower shows. Hugo Carlson is a dahlia expert, and judges that division at the state fair. Dr. Leon Snyder, retired director of the University of Minnesota Arboretum, is a member in good standing of the men's garden club.

The club now has just one concern: that people are not enjoying their garden sites as much as they could. All of the triangles are meant to be walked through and, not just looked at. Too many people, said club members, are just driving by. The gardens can look small from the road, but they really are quite large.

And they cordially invite anyone who sees them working at any of the gardens, to stop, say hello, and ask questions.

There's nothing a gardener likes talking about better than gardening.

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



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

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To

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FOR FUN AND FACTS ...ST. LOUIS 1980