

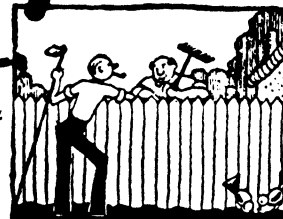


The Garden Spray

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

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

- ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT ISSUE -
September 1976, Volume 34, Number 9



SNYDER MEETS THE CHALLENGE



Minneapolis members in attendance at the MGCA convention in Fort Collins swelled with pride at the resounding applause which followed MGCM president Dr. Leon Snyder's presentation at the morning session on July 28th. Dr. Snyder was prepared to follow Dr. Joseph E. Howland on the "What's New" seminar from 10 to 11:30. He was mildly surprised to hear at the close of the first session that he was to speak at 10. What Dr. Snyder and the audience didn't know was that Dr. Howland wouldn't be there to speak at all and that he'd be asked to utilize the entire period.

Snyder was equal to the occasion. He used Dr. Howland's time to present his prepared talk with an extended report on the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, MGCM and its initiative in starting the ball rolling fund raising over the years, expansion, present status, current income and expenditure figures, etc. We were amazed at the detailed statistics he was able to give from memory and how well they dovetailed into his prepared talk which followed. (For which see pp. 3, 4 of this issue)

* * * * *

MGCM OPENING FALL MEETING MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13th 1976

at the

LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD GARDEN COURT, 7th Street at 1st Avenue South

(Note the change of date and place.)

DINNER at 5:30 PM PRICE \$3.25

Following dinner the gardener will tell us about the plantings in the Garden Court. We will then take a walk to Peavey Plaza (Orchestra Hall) 10th and Nicollet and the Security Life Insurance garden (North Stewart's) 12th and 2nd Avenue South to see those plantings.

Suggestion: When you come to the meeting park your car near Orchestra Hall.

COMING in OCTOBER (Back to Mount Olivet) A Fall Planting Clinic

* * * * *

There is to be a Recognition Dinner for Dr. Leon Snyder at the Radisson South Hotel on Friday evening September 24th. The 7 o'clock dinner in the Great Hall will be preceded by a social hour. Details and reservations

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This year's flower and vegetable show was held at the arboretum on August 21 and 22. It was sponsored jointly with North Suburban Men's Garden Club. The auditorium was filled with high quality exhibits of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and house plants. In spite of two very warm days, the specimens held up well and many visitors enjoyed the show. If this show continues to grow, we will need to expand into the balcony area next year.

Many of our own members saw the show this year. A short educational program was held in one of the classrooms at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Our members heard a few remarks from Dr. Jim Ozburn, the newly appointed head of the Department of Horticultural Science and Landscape Architecture. Your president then discussed the merits of some trees growing in the arboretum. At 2:00 p.m. the group adjourned to the fireplace room for refreshments. At 2:30 p.m. the flower show was opened to members and the public.

The August tour was held on Sunday, August 29. Several member's garden were visited enroute to the home of Louis and Helen Fischer on the St. Croix where a delightful time was had. Following a leisurely visit around the yard and orchard, the group crossed the river to Prescott, Wisconsin where dinner was served at the Steamboat Inn. About 150 members and wives were on the tour.

If you missed either of the two scheduled events in August, you missed a real treat. Plan now to attend these events next year.

--Leon Snyder

COURT OF HONOR

(FLOWERS)		(VEGETABLES)	
Jade Plant.....	Chuck King	Kennebec Potatoes.....	Bob Smith
(Grand Champion)		(Grand Champion)	
Bridal Satin Glad.....	Del Ferguson	Worden Grape.....	Leon Snyder
Safe Shot Dahlia.....	Chuck King	Buttercup Squash.....	Bob Smith
Blaze Climbing Rose.....	Dwight Stone	Sweet Spanish Onion.....	Don Hardesty
Candy Cane Zinnia.....	Vern Carlson	Sweet Green Pepper.....	Jim Mielke
Gloriosa Daisy.....	Vern Carlson	Copenhagen Cabbage.....	Don Hardesty
Climax Marigold.....	Vern Carlson	Mount Royal Plum.....	Leon Snyder
Cactus Collection.....	Bob Livingston	Beacon Apple.....	Chuck King
Piedmont Rebel Dahlia.....	Chuck King	Big Boy Tomato.....	Walter Schmidt
Hanging Basket Begonia...	Walter Schmidt	Herb Collection.....	Bob Haley

TOP POINT WINNERS

(FLOWERS)		(VEGETABLES)	
Vern Carlson	89 points	Don Hardesty	37 points
(Sweepstakes)		(Sweepstakes)	
Del Ferguson	80 points	Bob Smith	32 points
Dave Johnson	51 points	Bob Haley	22 points
Chuck King	42 points	Bob Waldoch	21 points
John Monson	40 points	Del Ferguson	19 points
Henry Halvorson	36 points	Jim Mielke	17 points
Bob Waldoch	30 points	Dick Victor	15 points
Fred Glasoe	28 points	Dale Durst	13 points
Darwin Price	25 points	John Monson	9 points
Dick Victor	21 points	Leon Snyder	8 points

(continued page 8)

WHAT'S NEW IN ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

by Leon C. Snyder

The question of whether a plant is new or not depends on a number of factors. If you are the first to grow a certain plant in your community, this plant is certainly new to you and to others in your community who see it for the first time. This is true even though the plant may have been grown in other parts of the country for many years.

At our arboretum we are engaged in testing plants from all parts of the world for hardiness and landscape use. Through this program we evaluate about 500 new plants a year. A few of these show exceptional promise as landscape materials. We work closely with our nurserymen to get these superior selections propagated and available to the gardening public. These selections are usually publicized as being new although they may have been grown for many years in other parts of the world. Amur Cherry, Emerald Mound Honeysuckle, European Wild Ginger, Korean Abelia leaf, Korean Boxwood, Prairie Dawn Rose, Sakhalin Corktree, and Sargent's Highbush Cranberry are just a few examples.

Another way that new plants become available is through selection. Differences exist between individual plants of a species. Sometimes these differences may be sufficient to warrant giving the plant a cultivar name. To illustrate, Mr. Shubert discovered a plant of the western chokecherry in central North Dakota that develops a purplish red color as the leaves mature. The Oscar Wills Nursery in Bismark, North Dakota, propagated this plant vegetatively and introduced it under the cultivar name of 'Shubert' chokecherry. Other nurserymen across the northern states and Canada recognized the landscape value of this plant and started to grow it.

Al Johnson of our staff observed a plant of the redosier dogwood growing in a swamp north of St. Paul, Minnesota that has short internodes. Cuttings were taken and rooted. The propagated plants are compact and only about half as tall as the species. This was introduced under the cultivar name of 'Isanti' dogwood and has become very popular.

In our arboretum we have a number of plants under observation that differ significantly from the species. These will be propagated and evaluated under different conditions. Some of these will be given a cultivar name and introduced through nursery channels. Examples of such plants are an upright form of burr oak, a dense form of sugar maple, a fast growing selection of painted buckeye with brilliant red fall foliage, a redfruited Amur maple, and a fast growing Sakhalin corktree.

Nurserymen have an excellent opportunity to select superior individual plants from large seedling populations. One of our leading nurseries has selected and introduced compact forms of the American highbush cranberry, Amur maple, and the Minnesota Snowflake mockorange.

Another way that new cultivars can be developed is by keeping a watchful eye for bud "sports" or mutations. Occasionally, a single bud of a plant will undergo a genetic change and the resulting branch will be significantly different from the rest of the plant. Double flowers are often the result of a bud sport. The Bechtel flowering crabapple, the double bloodroot, the double rue anemone, the double trillium, and

flowers, the stamens and carpels become petaloid and the flowers are longer capable of producing fruits and seeds. Vegetative propagation is the only way that such plants can be increased. In nature double flowered sports can occur and disappear due to their failure to produce seeds. Only when man observes them and takes the necessary steps to propagate them vegetatively are they preserved for future generation to enjoy. Fruit color and flower color changes can also be the result of bud "sports".

In nature, these sudden genetic changes occur at infrequent intervals. To speed up the frequency researchers often use irradiation techniques. At our Horticultural Research Center, Dr. Harold Pellett and Dr. Cec Stushnoff are working with irradiation techniques to induce mutation. A number of interesting mutants have occurred in treated apples, honeysuckles, and dogwoods. Some of these will probably be named and introduced.

Plant breeding is the method by which many of our new cultivars are developed. Crosses are made between related species in a genus. Occasionally, intergeneric crosses are made. Large populations of seedlings are grown from seeds resulting from these crosses. Promising seedlings are then propagated and tested under a variety of conditions. Only the very best should be named and introduced.

At the arboretum we have crossed the Mollis azalea with the roseshell azalea. The resulting seedlings combine the good characteristics of both parents. The Mollis azalea is a hybrid species that resulted from crossing two oriental species, one from Japan and one from China. It is a vigorous plant that is vegetatively hardy but does not have adequate hardiness in the flower buds. A minus 20 to 25 degrees F. will injure the flower buds. The flowers are large and showy. Colors range from yellow to a deep salmon pink. The flowers give off a strong, musky odor. The roseshell azalea is a native of the Appalachian mountains. It lacks vegetative vigor but has very hardy flower buds. The flowers are rather small, pink in color, but very fragrant. The seedling resulting from this cross combines the vigor of the Mollis parent with the hardiness and fragrance of the roseshell parent. Flower size is intermediate. The original cross was made in 1957. Seedlings from original cross are now about 8 feet tall and the plants have bloomed profusely every year. Temperatures have dropped to a minus 40 degrees with no injury to the flower buds. Due to difficulty in vegetative propagation, we will be introducing this hybrid using seed propagation controlled crosses. This hybrid should be on the market in 1978.

The arboretum is engaged in an extensive breeding program with hardy azaleas. This spring over 20 selections were made from various crosses. We hope to overcome the problems of vegetative propagation so we can introduce superior clones rather than seed propagated strains in the future. Breeding work is also in progress with flowering crabapples, forsythia, mockorange, roses and weigela. 'Radiant' and 'Sparkler' are University of Minnesota introductions of crabapples.

Plant improvement is something that all of us can contribute to. Amateur gardeners often have the opportunity to travel and examine plants. When you notice something unusual, try to propagate it and test it out in your garden. If you need help with propagation, seek the assistance of a local greenhouse or nursery. Amateur plant breeders have also

such as dahlias, daylilies, iris, lilies, roses, etc. By concentrating on a single genus they can actually learn more about the plants and which ones make good parents than many of our trained scientists who must work with many kinds of plants.

FLOWERS FOR THE HOME - STAN MUNRO, MODERATOR
- Reported by Dwight Stone

A rule to follow in gardening that will be all-inclusive for all parts of the U. S. is difficult to make. With the U. S. divided into five climatic zones, it would take at least five rules as the temperature, soils, etc. vary to a great extent. Even within a locality we have varying degrees of temperatures and moisture which makes gardening different for each yard or area.

In laying out the design of a flower garden select a location that, 1) will give you sunshine for at least six hours a day and, 2) has good drainage. If this isn't possible it will be necessary to limit your garden to plants that will grow in the area selected.

To give you the best overall view of a garden give the beds as much depth as possible while still not being so wide as to cause difficulty getting to the plants at the back of the border. If the border is over 10 feet deep it may be necessary to provide walkways in the plot to assist in working the bed. Curved lines rather than straight lines will also enhance the beauty of your flower plantings. Wherever possible avoid straight narrow borders.

When planting, set plants in clumps to give a mass of bloom. It is also an advantage to have at least two areas of heavy bloom going at a time.


After all the rules are established and if you follow them to the letter, the success of a garden will be governed by the area available, your individual tastes in flowers, and the dictates of your wife. However, if you have a system that works for you--hang the rules--do what you know will give you the end results you are trying to achieve.

CONVENTION WORKSHOPS
Reported by Henry Halvorson

"Eat the Weeds"; "Dwarf Fruit Trees"; "Insect Problems"; "Propagating Around the House"; "Plant Disease Problems"; "Grafting for Fun"; "Trickle Irrigation"; "Transplanting Garden Plants" -- How do you choose two from such an offering?

I attended "Propagating Around the House" by Bert Swanson. He talked about the use of redwood coldframes and hotbeds with treated wood. Swanson uses peat or perlite for a propagating medium, a mist system for faster and better root development. He says I.B.A. is the most common root regulator. He recommends rootone with a fungicide for geraniums. He discussed tip layering, mound layering and budding.

Swanson's propagator:

Propagating medium	Peat or Perlite
Base - one inch	Soil or Sand
Heating cable	
Bottom - two to five inches	Sand or Vermiculite

Ken Goldsberry, convention MC, presented a very interesting workshop on "Transplanting Garden Plants". He emphasized the importance of pinching back on many varieties of

PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON - SPEAKER: DAVID BURPEE
- Reported by Paul Lindstedt

David Burpee spent four days at the convention visiting with MGCA members in attendance there.

Burpee's grandfather was a hospital chief of staff during the Civil War. So his son W. Atlee Burpee was sent to medical college at the age of 18 but disappointed his father by leaving the college when he was 18. He borrowed \$1000 from his mother and started a back street seed store in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1876. Realizing that he would not get far in his local operations he printed a four page catalogue. At the age of 35 he had the largest mail order business in the world. In 12 years time he bought a farm to test seed. Upon the death of his father David took the business at the age of 22.

The Golden Bantam sweet corn was not popular at first because people associated it with 'horsecorn', but after giving it a try it soon became popular. The sweet pea was developed to eliminate root rot, and in the marigold was introduced. Marigolds and zinnias were propagated letting the bees do the pollinating as hand pollination is very expensive.

The white marigold idea was started back in 1920 when it was considered an impossibility. Thirty-four years later 8000 people had sent in suggestions and \$100 given to those who helped. The \$10,000 offer stood till 1974 when six people sent in near whites. After some retrials a woman from Iowa went to Philadelphia to pick up her check.

David Burpee is a cousin of the late Luther Burbank. He is a spry and retired from active business life at the age of 77. He still travels between the Pennsylvania and California farms. At the close of the speech the MGCA presented the speaker with a plaque in recognition of his work and to commemorate the centennial year of the W. Atlee Burpee.

CONVENTION BUSINESS
Reported by Sherm Pinkham

The financial condition of MGCA is on the rise. Income over expenditures for the eight months ending June 30, 1976, was \$9,669.00. The Endowment Committee reports total assets of \$26,044.00 broken down into: Life memberships \$19,765.00, Bequest and gifts \$6,369.00. All current investments of this committee are being made in U. S. Treasury notes. With the gain in new clubs, more members and increased endowment funds our financial condition should be secure.

The Harold J. Parnham Gardener fund was established to honor Mr. Parnham, the only survivor of the 10 members who organized MGCA in Chicago on September 26, 1932. Members, or clubs, may become a Harold J. Parnham Gardener by donating \$100.00 to the fund. The fund becomes an endowment and the interest earned from it will be used for scholarships and other worthy projects. At the convention, 10 members tendered a \$100 check each to honor MGCA's first gardener. Donations are tax deductible.

Youth Gardeners of America was organized at the convention with Mark Hardy, Reidsville, NC, being selected for president. Ten youths met at breakfast Thursday morning at the convention to organize the group.

The 1977 convention was set for June 29 to July 1 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The 1978 meeting will be in Albany, Ohio.

THE BANQUET SPEAKER WAS EFFECTIVE

- Reported by Floyd C. Ashley

James W. Wilson, Executive Director, All-America Selections and National Garden Bureau provided us with an interesting report on the testing of All-America Seed Selections and related activities. The colored slide presentation with commentary held my attention.

Our speaker advised that he is employed by the National Garden Bureau, which develops and breeds new seeds. Presently, he informed, there are 52 All-America Selections trial gardens throughout our country. His slides took us behind the scenes to a number of display gardens revealing test results on a number of new varieties. Of special interest were experiments with native wild flowers, tomatoes in containers, flat beds versus raised beds, and All-America vegetable selections especially Scallopini, a new squash for 1977. Watch for it!!

Mr. Wilson's lament was the feeling of disappointment that people fail to try newly developed seeds. They seem to be reluctant to give up the old favorites. He solicited our cooperation in his endeavors by entreating M.G.C. members everywhere to experiment with new seed introductions and then to report the results for your locality under your selected growing conditions.

The presentation by Jim Wilson stimulated me enough to throw off the bed covers early Thursday morning so I could inspect the Colorado University Plant Environmental Research Center before the round of Workshops starting at 8:30 a.m. This Research Center has been established so that students, researchers, gardeners, members of the Horticulture industry, home owners and other interested persons can observe and correlate growth habits, economic and aesthetic values and culture of plant materials propagated and used by mankind in his environment. Here I saw All-America Selections responding to Rocky Mountain Foothills environment. And, I observed Scallopini receiving the tender and loving care of Janet Roseman.

Next year I plan to devote some space to testing 1977 All-America Selections in my "rabbit sanctuary". Why not join me in this probe into the untried and unknown?

Ponderosa pine seedlings graced the tables at the President's Banquet and each member took one home. These were raised at the Colorado Forest Service at the University. The pines are first grown from seed and potted in three machines where they are placed in a press that forms root stocks 2" x 2" x 9", covered with a stapled tar paper. They are then packed in white styrofoam cases that hold 30 with holes for drainage in the bottom. The seedlings are grown in the greenhouse for two years with the proper nutrients, temperature and humidity with overhead lighting. They are planted by Marc first when they have attained a height of 4-6 inches. The tar paper is not removed before planting. P.W.L.

We visited the Solar Energy Applications Laboratory at C.S.U. It is directed by George O. G. Lof, pioneer solar energy authority. His home in Denver has a solar air heating system that has been in operation since 1957. There were only a few houses with solar heating systems before 1973. The C.S.U. Solar House I is the first heated and cooled residential-sized building in the world, and was put in operation in 1974. Solar House I uses liquid while Solar House II uses heated air. The third house uses liquid again but is more advanced in design. These three with different systems are operated and evaluated at the same time. When the units are properly installed they should last the life of the house. P.W.L.

SHOW (Continued from page 2)

YOUTH GRAND CHAMPIONS

Richard Westerberg	Carrots, Tomatoes, Onions	Under age 1
David Smith	Cabbage, Cucumbers, Beets	Over age 13

There were 20 exhibitors from MGCM; 4 from the North Suburban MGC (D Ferguson, Chuck King, John Monson and Ed Peszynski); 2 from the former Sioux Valley MGC (Bob Waldoch and Al Westerberg); and, 5 youth exhibitors. There were 584 entries in all (Flowers 468, Vegetables 116).

CONVENTION SIDELIGHTS
by Ed. Culbert

Shown at the convention was a most effective set of slides with tape accompaniment to teach young gardeners how to plant and how to grow various vegetables. Designed for use in the Arvada Colorado area (11 inches rainfall and very dry clay-like soil) it is professionally excellent. It was entirely produced and narrated by Arvada MGC members.

Liz Case who ran the women's activities at the convention was super. She had plans in variety for every day, was energetic, knowledgeable and vocal. She even took over for the men on occasion--like serving as a guide on a bus to LAZY-B and leading singing on the return trip.

There were buses running around on tours all of the time--unfortunately delegate sessions and tours conflicted for the most part.

National President, Luther J. Cooper, Jr., certainly made good on his promise to try to meet and greet everyone attending the convention. He walked around from table to table pouring coffee at breakfast daily.

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:

President: Dr. LEON C. SNYDER
Rt. 1, Box 573E, Excelsior, 55331
Vice President: FRED GLASOE
618 E. 58 St., Mpls., 55417
Secretary: JAMES E. MIELKE
Rt. 5, Box 228, Excelsior, 55331
Treasurer: DEAN S. SCHNEIDER
2520 Dresden Lane, Mpls., 55422
Past President: ROBERT C. LIVINGSTON
6001 Tracy Ave., Mpls., 55436
Director: ROBERT GAGE
16145 Hillcrest La., Eden Prairie, 55343
Director: RICHARD HULBERT
3422 Xerxes Ave., N., Mpls. 55412

FIRST CLASS

TO:

William H. Bull
6033 Creston Road
Minn. 55435



CLAR.
She g