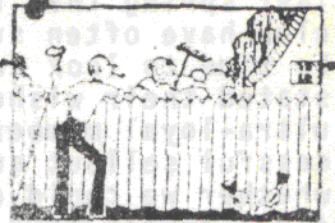




The Garden Spray

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



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

September 1977, Volume 35, Number 9

COMING SATURDAY and SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10 and 11.

MGCM ANNUAL FLOWER and VEGETABLE SHOW

(The North Suburban MGC will join us.)

in the Great Hall of the Andersen Educational Building
at the
MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM

PUBLIC VIEWING: SATURDAY, 2:30-4:30; SUNDAY, 11:30-4:30

Come early Saturday. All displays must be in place by 11:30. Entry blanks and instructions are attached to this mailing. Tags will be available at the registration table; containers in the preparation room. Only official containers may be used for flower displays. Vegetable exhibits are to be placed on paper plates. (Better bring some.)

An Arboretum membership card or a statement that you are an MGCM member will get you past the gateman free. Display materials will help prove the point.

Bring a bag lunch (It doesn't have to be in a bag.); eat in the cafeteria or, go without eating. Suit yourself.

Also on Saturday September 10 at 1:00 PM at the Arboretum

SEPTEMBER MEN'S GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The Speaker will be Dr. Francis de Vos, Arboretum Director.

Dr. de Vos served for 16 years as horticulturist and assistant director of the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. He then became director of the Chicago Botanical Garden a post which he relinquished to become director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum after Dr. Leon Snyder retired.

--Check the bulletin board for the meeting room.--

LONG TIME MEMBER NOT IN ROSTER

Montgomery, Edmund T. (Harriet) 922-6909
4320 Wooddale Ave. 55424 380-8967

CHANGE OF ADDRESS and PHONE

Wadekamper, Julius 427-2802
10078 - 154 Av. Elk River 55330

NEW MEMBERS

LeBoutilier, Ted

Johnson, Carl E.

588-7718

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It might be a little late for a confession now, but I was not too sure last spring that two big family Sunday tours would sell. Members of our club have often suggested that we plan Sunday tours so that there would be time to look and to ask questions. Just as frequently they have stated their wishes to see the much talked about gardens of our two ultra-loyal members from Faribault. Our July tour had been such a successful sellout and such an enjoyable pleasure that I began to wonder whether we could ever top the all out effort and group support of our first summer tour. Thanks for proving me wrong! The August tour was super and my ego was well pumped up with the praise we received as we arrived back within four minutes of our scheduled return. Well, let it be known that I had little to do but plan the route, call the bus company and ask the chef at St. Olaf College to feed us in his usual style. I then passed the ball to those two experts, Dick and Roger, who as we all saw, are gardeners par excellence.

Don't ever let anyone tell you that gardens go to pot in August. There was more bloom in Koopman's back yard than most of us have all together during the spring, June and July. Many of the members remarked that even a lawn like his would be a sufficient triumph. We could go on and on about Dick's orchids, both vegetable gardens, the fantastic outdoor potted ferns and flowers, the crunchy apples, the delicious little cakes and brownies, the lovely music, and yet would have trouble conveying the absolute sense of admiration we felt when we viewed the effects of really fine master gardening.

Bus two is claiming a championship ribbon for their singing, but we didn't have a trophy along. The two colleges were beautiful, and the new Japara garden on the Carleton College campus was especially unique and pleasing. The view of Rice County from the dining room windows and the food at St. Olaf Center found many of us reminiscing about college days. The day was fun all the way; we had one of the best times we have ever had. Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make the day outstanding. I think the combination of our July tour gardens and the visual feast of our August tour would give a national Men's Garden Club convention one of the finest shows possible!

One can't hold his breath a minute these days because we must immediately set our sights on our annual garden show at the arboretum. Walt Schmidt showed me the rough draft of the printed program and it looks as if it could really put the frosting on the cake for a sumptuous, successful summer for our club. I hope we can get everyone to show at least one or two flowers or vegetables. Let's shoot for 100% participation! We are sharing the show with the North Suburban Club which always gets 85% of its members into the act. Let's have a real, all-out drive for member participation! This is the one time we open ourselves up to the general public and attempt to sell our club and ourselves as vital, hard-working gardeners who want to pass their skills along. Let's show our efforts so that we will appear to be a group that has a lot to offer. Our full participation will intrigue other fellows who will want to be a part of our Class A Men's Garden Club! Come all and come early!

--Fred Glasoe

P.S. A lot of the women folks pressured me to get the recipe for that delicious dessert we had at St. Olaf Center. It is on page 4.

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August 1977, Volume 35, Number 8.
Deadline: the 15th of EACH MONTH

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MGCM PRESIDENTS: ROBERT E. SMITH, 1966

What would you do if you owned a large suburban home with a lot that is 425 feet deep? If you were Bob Smith, you would plow up the back half and develop a formal vegetable and flower garden. You would completely enclose it with a 6 foot high chain link fence above an 8" wide concrete ground barrier and then lay out grass walk-ways with concrete barriers between the grass and the garden.



Bob Smith

It takes a perfectionist to design and create such a formal and carefully planned garden and Bob is certainly a perfectionist. Every planting is in its proper place at the proper time. Imagine 13 weekly plantings of sweet corn, each at proper height, for a continuous summer supply.

Bob learned his gardening early at the family home at 56th and Blaisdel Avenue in south Minneapolis where his father was a postman at the Diamond Lake Post Office and Bob had a paper route. There were vacant lots available for the asking where the Smiths could plant extra vegetables and Bob found himself selling excess vegetables in the neighborhood. Upon graduation from Washburn High School, Bob joined the Marine Corps. When he returned to Minneapolis, he enrolled at the University of Minnesota and emerged with degrees in Electrical Engineering and Business Administration which led directly to Northern States Power Company's Plant Accounting Department, where he is now an Administrator.

When the Smiths were first married, they lived near Lake Nokomis but the yard was too small for Bob's gardening plans and, in 1954, they bought the property in Minnetonka where they now live. Bob built their home himself and the Smiths have raised four children, three of them still at home. Trees and shrubs dominate the yard, including many fruit bearing trees such as two apricot trees as large as apple trees and loaded with fruit. Dwarf apple trees, especially produced by doing his own grafting of cions to dwarf root stock, are a recent addition to his garden, which allows Bob to have many more varieties of fruit. Apples and tomatoes are Bob's favorite crops but he has some of everything, even including sweet potatoes and okra.

Bob joined MGCM in 1959 when he worked with Dwight Stone, Curtis Rice and Norm Christopherson. He has served on most of the committees and was involved in the planning and management of the 1967 National Convention. He served as Treasurer, Vice President and then as President in 1966.

A visit with Bob in his garden is like a visit to the Arboretum. With all of the specimen fruit trees, shrubs, vegetables and flowers and the new circular garden at the center, complete with martin home and martin box, 3210 Chase Drive should be designated the Bob Smith Horticultural Garden.

--Chet Groger

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FALL TURF CARE
by John L. Kolb

Many homeowners and gardeners are too involved raking leaves and burying rose bushes to think about fertilizing their lawn in the fall. If the truth were known they probably wish the grass would quit growing and that the mower could be stored as well. Traditionally from "Old Wives Tales", fall fertilizations were avoided. "Hardening Off" was usually associated with discoloration and dormancy of grass from lack of fall care.

Turf research has given reason to consider new findings regarding fall fertilization. Contrary to early beliefs nitrogen content in the foliage will actually increase the cold hardiness of turfgrass. Beware, however, it is not so much the nitrogen content as it is the ratio between nitrogen and potassium. Thus, a fertilizer high in nitrogen and potassium and low in phosphorus should be used for late fall fertilization. If soil tests indicate high levels of phosphorus, only nitrogen and potassium need to be applied.

Good long feeding applications of the proper type of nitrogen prolong color retention and extend the beauty of the lawn, without measurable growth. Certain types of slow release fertilizers will give earlier spring green from the same fall applications. These type nitrogen sources are from: (1) Sulfur coated Urea; (2) Osmocote; and (3) IBDU. Bacterial activated nitrogens are not as desirable.

Environmental conditions in late fall (cool temperatures and short days) favor root growth and carbohydrate accumulation. Be reasonable--high rates are not what we are advocating here. High rates of nitrogen have the opposite effect to that desired and you may lose cold hardiness.

NABISCO TORTE (St. Olaf Center Recipe)

3/4 lb. Nabisco crumbs	2 eggs
1/2 cup butter	1/2 pt. whipped cream
1 cup powdered sugar	1/2 cup nuts
1 cup pineapple (crushed - drained)	

Cream together butter and powdered sugar--Add 2 yolks (one at a time), Beat whites stiff and add to mixture. Place 1/2 crumbs on bottom of pan and the cream mixture (nuts, pineapple and w. cream). Cover with rest of crumbs--Refrigerate.

AS I SAW IT (The July Tour)
by Ed Culbert

Each of the gardeners visited had a specific objective he sought to accomplish in his garden as I see it.

Fred Glasoe wanted a gay and festive side-yard to beckon from the street a cool shady spot where he could sit down over a beer and contemplate the work ahead. (Sacks of last year's oak leaves still waiting to be spread. Fred's lilies (white, yellow, shades of brown, orange, spotted) fronted by phlox were gorgeous as was the white orchid tied to his workshop-greenhouse and swaying in the breeze as if striving to get away. The other orchids hung up and down the board fence under the oaks provided a fitting background for the easy chair. Even the rabbits far from being a nuisance had utility. Fred says they provide a very special fertilizer.

Dr. John Haas wanted a minimum maintenance, strictly private, area where he could sit and meditate. This he gained from an enclosed patio of concrete with a small built-in goldfish pool and with floor space for displaying varied bonsai specimens. A tree geranium stood near the door. A brilliant yellow cysanthemum accented the opposite area.

Fred Lang wanted a woodland glade where if need be he could shut out the world and hide from it all. He found this under a clump of oaks with a bank of ferns to the rear, a row of tall cedars to one side, a hedge of virburnum nana compacta bordering the patio. On the patio were arrayed redwood pots of red geraniums. No one vouchsafed to help garden despite the spade enticingly embedded in the pile of peat moss which greeted us as we debouched from our buses at Fred's front door.

Chuck King wanted to see masses of color whichever way he turned. The front of his home was quite formal with it's planting of juniper fronted by red geraniums and salvia. The side with it's banked masses of chrysanthemums promised a blaze of glory come fall. The rear yard was a photographer's paradise with it's fibrous rooted begonias stretching to a Russian olive surrounded by tall impatiens; it's clipped border of variegated grass; it's colorful bed of low snapdragons fronted with red and yellow crested salvia and backed by Blue Bedder salvia.

Jerry Shannon wanted a vegetable plot but wanted it concealed. He also wanted masses of flowers and lots of lawn. He accomplished all three by planting a compatible border alongside that of his neighbor thereby gaining double width; by running the two lawns together in the rear; and by utilizing an unusual rear side-extension of his lot for the vegetable garden. The border was eye catching, especially the yellow heliopsis and the fox glove. The large vegetable garden hidden by a lane of tree rose a large dahlia planting and a bed of red nicotiana contained, among other items, some hugh cabbages and onions and some cauliflower tied up for heating and blanching. Morning glories stretched to reach the martin house atop a tall pole.

Ted Le Boutilier wanted a rose garden--a big raised rose garden--but he couldn't see giving up his outdoor sitting room and his outdoor fireplace. So he built a patio with gas grill out in the yard and fitted it out with furniture facing the roses. An outdoor fireplace he built in a rear corner of the yard. His compost pile he hid behind a high board fence along the railroad right-of-way. There are other houses adjacent but the garden arrangement effectively shuts them out and leaves a feeling of quiet privacy and seclusion in a bower tinted, scented, lush with roses of all shades, sizes and varieties. Roses, roses, roses; what a display of perfection!

I wouldn't have known about the compost pile had I not opened the gate for a peek. The sight of the overturned wheelbarrow, the spade and the other items along the track took me back a lot of years to the days when I worked as a brakeman for the Oliver Iron Mining Company. Train crews ever alert for something to scrounge threw all kinds of useable items over the dumps alongside the tracks to be retrieved en route home after working hours. The Oliver, not to be outwitted, had imprinted even on it's 32 volt direct current locomotive and steamshovel light bulbs "STOLEN! From the O.I.M. Co." The only thing Ted stole was our hearts.

WE'VE READ RECENTLY THAT

Plant physiologist Bruce R. Roberts of the ARS Shade Tree and Ornamental Plants Laboratory, Delaware, Ohio, has found significant differences in the ability of leaves of woody plants to take up sulfur dioxide (SO₂) from their microenvironment, the space immediately around their leaves. Red maple, white birch, and sweetgum seedlings took up more SO₂ than did rhododendron, white ash, and azalea seedlings.

Using precisely controlled conditions--temperature, light, and humidity in a growth chamber, Dr. Roberts is gaining knowledge about relationship between woody plants and air pollution. He hopes this will ultimately enable him to recommend to city planners which trees, shrubs, or combinations of plants would be most suitable as "pollution fighters". This knowledge may also help scientists find ways to protect plants from pollution damage.

Dr. Roberts theorizes that stomata in the leaves of trees which are tolerant to shade may open and close faster, making these trees more tolerant to pollution. If this theory is borne out in further studies, plant breeders will be better equipped to select trees for pollution tolerance.

Twenty-five years ago, 70% of the apples we consumed were fresh ones. In 1975, however, only 56 percent of the apples were consumed that way. Today we're eating more applesauce, more apple juice (canned) and more frozen apple slices. Since 1960, canned apple juice use has increased from a little over 6 million cases to 15 million cases. Frozen apple slices have also been on the rise--since 1960 the pack has grown at an average annual rate of 4.6 million pounds. Most of the frozen ones have been used in bakery items.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE TOURS WERE ENLIGHTENING

Friday afternoon at the convention was devoted to some most interesting tours. Dr. Robert Downs, explaining as he went, took us in small groups through the MCSU Phytotron, a four-story structure divided into areas for general studies, etonomology, pathology, phytoengineering and germination. It houses 55 controlled-environment chambers of different sizes, plus germinators, incubators, photoperiod rooms and air-pollution treatment chambers. It was constructed with grants from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and several tobacco companies, with contributions by North Carolina State University. The NCSU Phytotron and a similar facility at Duke University comprise the Southeastern Plant Environment Laboratories.

Immediately thereafter, Dr. Roy Larson conducted a tour of the Horticulture Science greenhouses, located adjacent to the Phytotron which have 41,400 square feet of space for research and graduate training. Around half of the space is used for ornamental plants. In the Conservatory over 800 species are on display. (There were many cacti and succulents.)

About two miles from the campus and the greenhouses, a 35-acre farm is used for field growing of plants in teaching and research. Around 800 varieties of annual flowers are grown each summer. About 100 perennials are maintained. A small arboretum is in the developmental stages. The collection of roses numbers around 60 varieties and there are over 200 kinds of ornamental trees and shrubs. There are 400 named cultivars of azaleas and many new types are being tested. Here a most interesting discussion by Dr. Fro