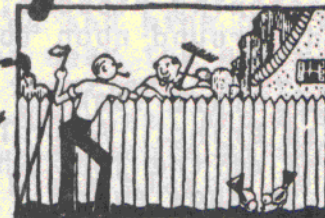




The Garden Spray

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 1978, Volume 36, Number 9

COMING SATURDAY and SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9 and 10.

MGCM ANNUAL FLOWER and VEGETABLE SHOW
in the Auditorium of the Leon Snyder Building
at the
MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th: A BIG FAMILY DAY AT THE ARBORETUM.
(Show an Arboretum membership card or let the gateman know you are a MGC member for free admission.)

8:00 - 11:30 Enter specimens in show competition. (Auditorium display area.)

11:30 - 1:00 Lunch. Bring a picnic lunch or take advantage of the Arboretum lunchroom. (Get there early to avoid the crowd.)

2:00 - 3:00 Men's Garden Club meeting in the Fireplace room. (Wives invited.) Dr. Leon Snyder will talk about the Arboretum.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MGCM MEMBER EXHIBITORS are attached to this issue of the GARDEN SPRAY. Please note that only official containers are to be used for flower specimens but that you supply your own paper plates for vegetable exhibits.

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE. A PLEA FOR HELP.

(From Darwin Price and Charles Proctor, Show Co-Chairmen)

Coming up is one of the big events of the Men's Garden Club year--the Flower and Vegetable Show. We can remember years past when the club was much smaller having 35 to 40 (and at least once over 50) exhibitors. Let's go all out and beat that this year!

This is your chance to show that your thumb is greener than Joe's or Jerry's. There's no trick to exhibiting. Just get the material to the Arboretum in time so you can get it all set up and entered by 11:30 A.M. If you have questions about preparing your entries, someone will lend you a hand. The Rules for Exhibitors attached to this issue of the SPRAY are explicit and easy to follow.

We need help in staging the show. If you can give us some time, please contact Darwin Price, 866-7760, or Charlie Proctor, 926-9408.

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(MESSAGE, continued from page 1)

The committee will be at the Arboretum by 8:00 A.M. to get the tables set up. Help will be needed from 8:30 on to place exhibits on the table

Judging will start at 11:30. We need 7 men to work with the judges--fastening ribbons, tallying results, etc. We also need a few men starting around noon to tally for the sweepstakes.

So--start looking around your garden to determine how many entries you can bring. And please call Darwin or Charlie and offer your services for one of the jobs where help is needed. All together we can make this the best show ever.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

A widowed gardener told me that his wife would not as much as stoop over to pull a weed but was out in the garden to claim the first bloom. He was a good gardener; she a good user. He poked gentle fun at her, but she was wiser than some gardeners who seem to garden only for gardening's sake. Gardens are to be used.

We all saw this on our last tour. I am thinking of the men (and their wives, of course) who got their children into the act--Dick Victor and Dr. Rosin. Each child had his own little plot and also helped in the care of the rest of the growing things. These men see it is just as important to cultivate gardening in their children as to compost their flower beds

Then, of course, we couldn't miss Mr. Scherer's enormous project of providing a regular park for people near and far. How many tax dollars would it take on the part of a city or county to do exactly the same thing as he? What a wonderful public service! Gardens should be designed to bring beauty to the neighborhood. The British have a tradition of formalizing their plantings in front of the house like a garden parlor. In the back they develop their gardens more as a living room. The public view is most important.

In our own home it has slowly begun to dawn on us that the gardening season makes a most appropriate time for entertaining. We are beginning to think that it is better to entertain in July than in December when it is not only hectic, but cold and stormy. What a privilege it is for those without gardens and beautiful yards to enjoy yours. Granted you already have an attractive, interesting yard and garden, how relatively easy it is to do (especially if you stay outdoors and don't have to clean up the house). This year we have had a couple bus loads of residents from Walk come over to view the yard and share simple refreshments. One has only to extend the invitation to such an institution and they organize all the rest. Their response was ecstatic. It makes the gardener's efforts seem worthwhile. Such an experience takes these elderly citizens back to the gardens and yards they once cared for and loved. It revives beautiful memories.

One shared blossom with a sick, confined and lonely person is a gift from heaven. Such people are not at all hard to find. The knowledge that you picked the flower from your own garden, thought of him and delivered it in person is therapy for body and soul.

We may not be able to call up the right words to express our concern and sympathy, but with the thoughtful gift of flowers, who needs oral eloquence? The flower and the deed speak for themselves.

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THE AUGUST TOUR IN RETROSPECT

It was 86 in the city but there was a breeze in the country and the two open-window air conditioned buses were comfortable.

Our first stop was at Charles Robbins' where wood chips and pine needles commingled to form a ground cover under the evergreens near the entry. On the south side of his lot a shade garden of hosta, impatiens, fibrous rooted begonias and coleus was necessitated by trees--Charles' and his neighbor's. South of the back gate was a neat, clean vegetable garden with everything from tomatoes in cages emerging from black plastic to water spigots disguised as little men. North of the gate were flowers descending order from tiger lilies, phlox and delphinium through zinnia salvia and marigolds to the fronting row of dusty miller--a fetching sight from the big deck with it's potted petunias and hanging baskets.

Marlin Rosin shook our hands in welcome as we entered his yard. Ferns side the house matched in color the greensward stretching down to a lake. Centered in it near the house was a rose garden in full bloom. On one side an extensive all purpose family garden had areas labelled "Marilyn Garden" and "Michele's Garden". These contained both flowers and vegetables. One child showed their gardens while the other poured refreshments. Included in the family garden, among other things, were tomatoes in grass mulch flanked on either side by three rows of strawberries, a planting raspberries in fall bloom and even a celery border. Elsewhere was a bed of chrysanthemums. Under the deck and adjacent to the greenhouse were hanging baskets of fuchsias, tuberous begonias and orchids.

Dick Victor lives in a new housing development of shadeless, windswept open spaces which poses problems. His black plastic mulch won't stay down. The rabbits chewed his fruit trees last winter and won't let his beans alone this summer. The soil is clay. Nevertheless, he has huge tomato fine leaf lettuce, a good start on a rose garden and scarcely a weed. (Thanks, he says, to the black plastic he pulled up because it wouldn't stay down.) His lot rises up hill so his garden is terraced with logs. His borders are outlined with brick. He had some beautiful mood indigo salvia raised from seed. A self-seeded marigold signata pumila which showed up where Dainty Marietta had grown last year had Dick puzzled.

How does one describe the vision which greets the eye as he approaches Richard Scherer's? Breathtaking! A kaleidoscope of color! We drove down hill (over the lawn in a bus, mind you) soaking in all that beauty. Banks and beds glowing with pink petunias, red salvia, yellow celosia, vari-colored marigolds walled in with great granite boulders rescued from the lake where a past generation of farmers had dumped them; borders and beds of balsam, cleome and zinnias; impatiens banked around spruces. What a landscape architect's dream!

On to Ray Rahn's golf course with a formal hedge of clipped potentilla and another of dwarf honeysuckle. There were big pools of flowing water tinted blue to be the more readily viewed from the clubhouse. There were quaint signs such as, "Birds bathing. Don't look." And geraniums and, of course, those marvelously inviting greens of the 18 hole golf course.

All aboard for Harold Witter's 15 acres--No road in yet just a swath through the grass in the ditch to a rail fence mostly hidden by tall grass and brush. Plenty of native dogwood shrubbery here. There are

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(TOUR, continued)

rows of small evergreens, taller deciduous trees in great variety, fruit trees, too. A raspberry patch has been started. Will it die out or be crowded out before the house is built? Nature has some bad habits, one realizes. Look at that Southern Belle hibiscus! Careful, almost underfoot are tight heads of midget cabbage.

Back we go to Farmington the home of Marvin and Ruth Kuchera. As Stan Crist says, "The Kucheras are delightful hosts and they welcome visitors. The Kucheras are good gardeners, but what makes their place so outstanding is having the Vermillion River bubbling through the back yard. A little bridge goes to an island. In driving by their home, you would have no idea what their back yard had in store. Besides raising very fine flowers, Mrs. Kuchera is an artist in arranging dried flowers. She has taken every prize offered at the state fair with her arrangements. The home offers still one other outstanding feature--cecropia moths. They are propagating these moths, and have furnished a number to the zoo and others." We'd add, "And did you see that gorgeous cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) near the water's edge?"

The Bachmans were all there waiting to greet us as we pulled up at the Lakeville Greenhouses and Nursery. A lecture tour of the greenhouse complex first. Especially interesting to me were the long rows of hanging baskets--asparagus sprengeri, impatiens, ferns--; the houses of gloxinias; the poinsettias. "Over 2 acres (of poinsettias) now....will expand as we continue to make cuttings," said our guide. The controls are exact. A bench of Bright Golden Anne chrysanthemums bore this set of directions "Plant, 6/19; Pinch date, 7/13; Lights on, 6/19; Lights off, 6/26; Flower 9/4." The watering is all automatic. Would you believe that virtually 100% of the production of this vast facility is sold at retail from Bachman's own shops and European Flower Markets?

A guided bus ride around the nursery area (clean cultivated--no grass weeds) preceded the short ride to the Mount Olivet Retreat Center where we relaxed and enjoyed a fine dinner as the sun set.

Several persons on the August 6 tour inquired about the pressed flower pictures made by Mrs. Kuchera and wondered whether they were for sale. They are. If you are interested, call Ruth Kuchera at 463-8514 for an appointment.

RECIPE for SUGAR COOKIES SERVED at KUCHERA'S

1 cup of margarine or butter	2 eggs
1 cup Wesson oil	1 tsp. salt
1 cup powdered sugar	1 tsp. soda
1 cup granulated sugar	1 tsp. cream of tartar
4 cups plus 4 tbsp. flour	1 tsp. vanilla

Blend sugars, butter, oil. Beat in eggs--one egg at a time. Add dry ingredients sifted together. Chill--Roll in balls--Dip in sugar. Flatten with bottom of drinking glass. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet in 350°-375° oven for 8-10 minutes.

Makes 100 cookies.

CHANGE of ADDRESS and TELEPHONE

Wilson, Don 933-7156
4329 King's Drive

In Memoriam

ROBERT S. BRYANT....1898-1978

Robert Bryant was born in Moorhead, Minnesota. A veteran of World War I he moved to Minneapolis in the early twenties to enter the security business. He once said his wife, Olga, introduced him to orchids as a hobby. The avocation became a compelling interest and he ultimately became a commercial grower of orchids, dahlias and other cut flowers for the florist trade. He frequently exhibited at shows; he was a flower arranger; a flower show judge.

He was a past president and honorary life member of the Minnesota Dahlia Society, a past president of the Minnesota Orchid Society. His membership in the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis covered a span of over 30 years and he came regularly. He will be missed.

THE NATIONAL MEETING

by Sherm Pinkham

In my opinion, it was a good meeting. The weather was dry and mild; the programs were good; the entertainment was excellent and the Ohio people were fine hosts. There were over 500 people registered, representing 24 states, and guests from 3 provinces in Canada.

National officers were advanced a notch. The new President of 1979 will be Earl Starr of Florida; First V.P. Leonard Guerrero of Texas; Second V.P. Jeff Collier of N.C.; and Third V.P. John Leonard of Ohio. Harry Bevington of Des Moines continues as Treasurer and Glenn Vincent as Executive Director.

The Treasurer's report showed finances to be in satisfactory condition. Ray Tillman's report on the Endowment Fund showed assets of \$51,698.00, with 343 Life Members and funds coming in regularly from memorials and other gifts. Life Memberships are \$90.00 for those who have paid their 1978 dues.

Several speakers urged clubs to enlist young men. We have some fine recruiters nationally. Carl Holst of Stow, Ohio, recently had a heart attack. While in intensive care in the hospital he signed up two doctors for his club.

Clubs were urged to set a goal whereby they do good for their community. Ten clubs are enlisted in the "Gardening from the Heart" program, working with disadvantaged youth.

The GARDEN SPRAY was judged to be one of the top bulletins and Ed. Culbert was called forward to be recognized. The COMPOST PIT of the North Suburb MGC, of which Roy Singer is editor received a similar award.

The fine Minnetonka Club had eight people registered. They were asked to stand and be recognized at one of the banquets.

I feel that everyone left Akron with a renewed interest in gardening and with a determination to make America more beautiful, each in his own way.

Next year's meetings will be held May 4-7 in Miami. The 1980 meeting will

THE DAY AT WOOSTER

by Ed Culbert

Tuesday, July 25, we were bused to the Ohio Research and Development Center at Wooster, Ohio, where the morning was spent in workshops conducted by faculty members, the afternoon in touring the facilities (Garden of Roses of Legend and Romance, Arboretum, Display Gardens, Conservatory, etc.). Our buses circled the area continually thereby permitting each one of us to spend as much as or as little time as we wished in each area.

The Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, has been training horticultural technicians since 1972. Students work for approximately two years to earn the Associate of Applied Science Degree in one of five horticultural programs--Floral Design and Marketing, Greenhouse Production and Management, Landscape Design and Contracting, Nursery-Management, and Turfgrass Management.

Students are involved in the operation of the greenhouse facilities, ATI campus grounds, the putting green, flower show display area, and the nursery at Apple Creek in addition to participating in various community projects. Active involvement in short courses and professional meetings in the State provides students an opportunity to display their talent and interact with industry people.

Graduates have been highly successful in attaining jobs in their field of study. The practical approach to horticultural education plus the ten to sixteen weeks occupational internship that must be served in some phase of the industry before the Associate Degree is granted contribute to this success.

The May GARDENER promised "handout copies of speakers' talks" so we took few notes--a mistake, since the handouts never materialized. However, we do remember hearing that:

- More than 50% of the fruit trees planted by Ohio commercial growers in the past 10 years are dwarfs. They start flowering earlier, are easier to work on, and produce more fruit per acre.
- A tin can driven into the ground around a sucker from dwarfing roots will cause the sucker to root. Once rooted, the suckers can be grafted onto and planted elsewhere.
- "Keep the soil moist is a most vicious piece of advice." Under watering is better than over watering.
- A windbreak can cut your fuel bill 20%.
- Consider a coldframe instead of a heated frame. Trap the heat nights with a thermal blanket over the frame's cover.

At Akron, Dr. Joseph Howland, former MGCA president, told us young people have become genuine realists. They want to find the one best way to do things....People skills represent the greatest needs of young people.... What with so many conglomerates going into the field the opportunities in horticulture never looked so good for young people.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE ROSTER WAS PRINTED

(Clip and paste in your roster.)

McCullough, George H. (Alma)	831-4902	Norton, James L. (Shirley)	727-14
8812 Tretbaugh Dr.	332-3491	5521 - 35 Av. S.	521-36
Bloomington, MN 55431	Ext. 210	Mpls., MN 55417	

DRIFT FROM AKRON

Echoes of the mass food poisoning at Raleigh in 1977, Sam Fairchild speaking, "Many of you participated in the problem. The Raleigh MGC's paid \$9786 in medical bills (The Wake County Hospital which treated most of the conventioners presented no bill); but insurance ultimately repaid about 96% of this amount. Much of the ambulance and first aid service was provided by the volunteer rescue squads from the area. We made donations to these groups to express our appreciation."

There was no illness this time but the bus Sherm Pinkham rode to Wooster had brake trouble so it and an escort bus drove a random path back and forth, hither and yon along dusty country roads near Wooster seeking a repair facility. A trucking contractor's shop materialized in the middle of nowhere so \$50 and 50 minutes later buses and occupants were en route to Joe's Pub where a delayed meal awaited.

Sherm Pinkham goes to conventions to see people. He's always around shaking hands. He gets in the news, too, as witness the following item from the convention bulletin for Wednesday, July 26.

"One of our esteemed fellow gardeners lost his room key. After searching all his pockets and brief case, he had to ask for a second key for his room. When he put on his pajamas the next night there was the key in his pocket. Don't misplace any of the endowment fund Sherm Pinkham."

There were no home garden visits at Akron. Home gardens weren't even mentioned at the meetings. One bus load of people en route back from a visit to the Cleveland orchestra's summer home did visit the Stow MGC and Park Board gardens for youth and senior citizens, however.

The gardens seen at the famed Stan Hywet Hall were larger but they couldn't hold a candle to the display at Scherer's on Sunday, August 6.

HOW TO SHOW A WINNER

by STANLEY E. MUNRO

Two weeks before the show date:

Read the schedule again.

Examine the individual plants in your garden.

Place a stake beside the best ones.

Continue spraying or dusting up to 10 days before the show.

Make a heavy watering two days before the show.

Consider placing a "bonnet" or cone shaped protector on a stake to give protection against rain or sun to a choice bloom.

The night before the show:

Cut your flowers the evening before the show day. Cut — with a sharp knife — those that are not quite mature.

Place them promptly in five-six inches of warm water.

Cut stems two-three inches longer than you expect to show.

Store blooms in dark, cool place overnight; this is called hardening off."

Going to the show:

Get an early start; it will take off the pressure of traffic.

Give blooms plenty of room while transporting; it's almost as much of an achievement to carry flowers to the show as it is to grow them.

Keep car windows closed to protect from wind or draft.

Peonies, dahlias, glads and delphinium can be transported dry in a covered box if they have been properly hardened off.

Provide special carriers so potted plants will not tip over.

At the show:

Drive as close to the unloading area as possible.

Unload the parked car.

Complete the entry form if necessary and obtain exhibitors number and tags.

Fill containers with water.

Cut stems to proper length; if you have transported the flowers dry, make this cut under water to get the water system working again.

Place in container, wedge to hold stem straight; groom your exhibit.

Fill out exhibitors tag; check again to make sure you comply with schedule.

Place exhibit in correct display area; make a short prayer.

While in the display area, take a look at the competition.

After the show:

Study the judge's placing, you will probably disagree.

Congratulate the winners; ask them how they grew such "beautiful stuff."

Resolve to do better yourself next year.

WHAT DOES CRABGRASS TASTE LIKE!

by Bill Hull, Past President

Does anyone have plans for an ark?

I'm beginning to think we should be building arks. We've had more rain than usual, more in the first six months of 1978 than all of 1976, topped off with routinely bad week-ends. We saw some beautiful gardens on our July tour but it's a great credit to the gardeners' web feet that they looked so good.

I'm becoming more and more of a week-end gardener and I hate it. Early work, home for dinner, eat, sit down and relax and it's mosquito time. I go out after dinner to work the short remaining daylight hours, the mosquitoes eat me up. The other day I saw a flying dog. It was my neighbor's poodle being carried away by mosquitoes. Now, after all that rain, we no longer have rain. My garden has been so pounded down by deluges that the soil is getting compacted and the weeds are trying to outgrow the vegetables. But this weekend I'll get out there with bee netting and gloves and weed the garden well.

The above was written two days ago. Now it's the weekend. On Friday night we started with a gentle rain. It's Saturday afternoon and the rain has stopped. My entire list of things to do on Saturday is decimated. It's beautiful rain but, not now, Lord. The mosquitoes are outbreeding the rabbits and the weeds are thumbing their noses at me from the garden. Maybe I should go up there, in the rain, and add some fish emulsion to the corn, onions, squash, canteloupe, etc., to give them greater edge over the weeds.

The peas were shot, the apples ripped off the tree by squirrels and down-pours, the corn strangled by vines, the peppers overwhelmed and buried by the creeping squash, the tomatoes overshadowed by the neighbors hedge and by my asparagus. Austin and Rochester have been inundated as has part of Minneapolis. But there are good things happening, too. Wait a minute, that would be out of character. I'll ignore those and just bitch.

It isn't really all that bad--quite.

Three new clubs have been added to and 19 clubs have disaffiliated from MGCA since 1977. Total club membership has dropped from 9142 to 7737.

"A horticulturist is a botanist with people goals in mind." (Dr. Carlson)

Dick Lehman received a note from Maude Germain saying that George had died July 6 "quickly and without pain". Old timers will remember George Germain who like Bob Bryant joined MGCM in the 40's. Upon retiring he moved to Santee, California. Though no longer a member of MGCM he continued to subscribe to the SPRAY.

An MGCM member asked, "Do you and your wife do all the writing, organizing, typing?" The GARDENER editor asked bulletin editors to figure out how many hours they spent typing copy since they took over. We don't type. Sometimes we scarcely scribble. The GARDEN SPRAY depends on Nancy Tallman to translate our hieroglyphics into attractive typing. There'd be no awards otherwise, regardless of content.

Get ready for the Flower and Vegetable Show.