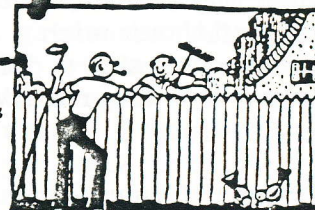




The Garden Spray

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

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



July 1983 Volume 41 Number 7

SECOND GARDEN TOUR THIS YEAR A Regular MGCM Meeting

PROGRAM

Dinner at Pershing Park
Followed by Tour of Members Gardens

SPECIFICS

DATE: Tuesday July 12, 1983
LOCATION: Pershing Park - 48th & Chowen - Mpls.
TIME: Dinner 5:30 p.m. - Tour starts 6:30 p.m.
PRICE: \$7.50 per person
RESERVATIONS: Return reservations postcard for TOUR #2 no later than Friday p.m. July 8, 1983 (after Friday you will be at your own risk!)
IF YOU ARE ON THE AUTOMATIC ATTENDANCE LIST YOU WILL BE COUNTED AS ATTENDING UNLESS YOU CANCEL.

THIRD GARDEN TOUR THIS YEAR

Wives, Sweethearts & Other Guests Invited

PROGRAM

A tour of Roger Koopman Garden in Faribault
A tour of Richard Scherer Garden in Eagan
Followed by a snack at the yard of Jack Kolb

SPECIFICS

DATE: Sunday July 24, 1983
MEET AT: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
Parking Lot
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PRICE: \$5.00 per person
RESERVATIONS: Reservations Only - Mail all reservations with checks payable to MGCM to Greg Smith 4941 56th Place North, Crystal, Minnesota 55429 by July 19, 1983. Automatic reservation list NOT in effect

I plan to attend TOUR NUMBER 3. Reserve 2 place(s) for me and my guests (\$5.00 each).

My check is enclosed .

Signature Bill Hue

SPECIAL NOTICE

Dinner reservations for monthly meetings should be mailed so as to reach Bob Churilla by the preceding Friday. Cancellations and/or additions will be accepted through the preceding Saturday but only in case of emergency. Anyone coming to a meeting without such a reservation should not expect to eat dinner unless someone fails to come and a dinner is available. If you come to a meeting under these conditions, let the reservation chairman know that you would like to eat if it is possible.

Likewise, if your tour reservation does not reach Greg Smith by the deadline, and you do not call the following day in case of an emergency, don't plan on a seat on the bus or a dinner unless one is available. You are, of course, welcome to drive on the tour if necessary. Bus reservations must be locked in by the deadline and dinners must be guaranteed by that time also. I can't ask our reservation chairmen to work under the conditions that have developed, including about 25 late reservations for the May 31st tour. Please cooperate by marking your MGCA calendar and getting your reservation in on time.

-Chet Groger

WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT?

IT'S CUTWORM TIME AGAIN Several species of cutworms attack vegetable crops in Minnesota. Most important are the black, variegated, dingy and dark-sided. Some of these overwinter as eggs, others as partly grown larvae, and the black cutworm moths come in from the south. Most have one generation in Minnesota, although the variegated cutworm has more than one brood and also may be a problem late in the season. Those species (dingy, for example) which overwinter as larvae become noticeable first, but will overlap in the time of appearance of those which hatch in spring. Cutworm activity and development is dependent on temperature conditions. The warmer it is, the faster the development. Sevin in a bait form is effective in controlling them. Then there is always the stale beer George Luxton advocated years ago.

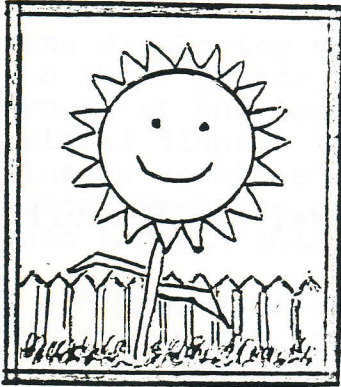
AND SOON THERE'LL BE SQUASH VINE BORER which can injure pumpkin, gourd, cucumber, zucchini, muskmelon, and other cucurbit type crops. The borer winters as larva or pupa inside a silk-lined dark cocoon an inch or two below the soil surface. The adult is a clear-winged moth wasplike in appearance with copper-green front wings, orange and black abdomen, and 1 to 1-1/2 inches across the wings. Females "dart" in and out from the base of the plants, laying eggs during this process. They are day fliers.

The first sign of their presence is a sudden wilting of the vine and then masses of greenish-yellow excrement protruding from holes in the stem. The borer can be found by slitting the stem with a knife. Later in the season it may be present in fruits as well as stems.

Control is difficult. Some larvae can be killed before they enter the stem by dusting with either rotenone or tomato-vegetable dust at weekly intervals when the vines begin to run. Follow label directions: If the vine starts to wilt, remove the borer with a knife and heap earth over the stem joints to start new roots. It is good procedure to do this as a precautionary measure even though no borer is suspected.

A second planting of summer squash can be made so as to mature after the four to six week larval feeding period is completed. Pull up and burn vines immediately after harvest.

JUST AMONG US GARDENERS



While going through some old Garden Sprays, I ran across an article I wrote in February 1975 about gardeners being friendly people. It is interesting to review old writings to see if you would write the same thing today. In this case, my feelings on the subject are the same as they were then. I quote in part: "Gardeners are friendly people. When you walk into a home with plants and flowers, you know you are in a friendly home." Just stop and think. Aren't all the gardeners you know, either in our club or not, especially friendly people? How many times have you visited a friend with a garden and he or she wanted to share a plant or flower with you? It's food for thought and cause to reflect on why garden clubs are such friendly groups.

It is with this thought in mind that I am striving this year to promote additional activities in our club. By so doing, I hope that members new and old will have a better opportunity to get acquainted and to share their friendship with other members.

It is true, of course, that projects such as Youth Gardening, Flowering Crabapple Planting, the Fragrance or Community Garden and the Flower and Vegetable Show are worthy projects in themselves. But the more of these projects where many members can participate, the better chance we have of getting acquainted. In a club of 130 or more members, it isn't easy to get to know everyone. I know that many members make a special effort at meetings to meet and get acquainted with other members. However, the best way to get acquainted is still to serve on a committee or to work on a project with other members.

Expanding on this premise, I have taken the suggestion of one of our past presidents and am starting the formation of Special Interest Groups. Our club had such groups many years ago and the members of those groups worked together pursuing their special interest. Some of these groups will become active and have their own meetings where they can associate and exchange information. Again, what better way is there to work with a smaller group within the club and thereby get acquainted. I urge every member to join one or more Special Interest Groups and receive both benefits.

I have mentioned before that we can always use a little more neighborliness in the form of visits with other members. To encourage this, I am asking members to pick a Saturday in July when they will be home and would welcome visits from other members. A list of those members participating is published in this issue of the Garden Spray. I urge every member to visit at least two of these gardens during July. You can always learn something from another gardener, you can expand on your friendships and you can spend an enjoyable few hours in someone else's gardens. Your wife, of course, is also welcome. Such activities have been the start of many friendships among our wives.

Special thanks must be extended to the Bachman and Turnquist families for their hospitality and cooperation in making our May 31st tour such a success. I came away from that tour with the same feeling I had when we first had a Dayton-Bachman Spring Party, that of having experienced a wonderful evening. Our thanks also go to the Tour Committee headed by Robert L. and Russell Smith, the Smith brothers. Starting with just an idea, they developed a spring tour which can be difficult and very unpredictable.

The next few months are busy ones for gardeners. Watch for the coming activities listed elsewhere in this issue under "Coming Events". Make the most of this summer. I hope it will be one of your best.

Chet Groger

COMING EVENTS

The following MGCM members invite you to stop by for a backyard garden visit on the Saturdays indicated.

July 9

Ralph Callaway	5324 Halifax Ave., Edina
Chet Groger	6836 Creston Rd., Edina
Henry Halvorson	4915 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley
Dave Johnson	1633 Xerxes Ave. N., Golden Valley
Carmine Sacco	(Check before coming) 1984 Snelling Ave. N., Roseville

July 16

Archie Caple	7221 - 15 Ave. S., Richfield
Henry Halvorson	4915 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley
George McCollough	8812 Tretbaugh Dr., Bloomington
Carleton Nelson	3209 W. 90 St., Bloomington
Jerry Shannon	1847 Eleanor Ave., St. Paul

July 23

Bob Churilla	3725 Lincoln St. N.E., Columbia Heights
Stanley Crist	(Check first) 13525 Larkin Dr., Minnetonka
Vic Lowrie	5025 Ridge Rd., Edina
Phil Peterson	6529 Knox Ave. S., Richfield

1983 MINNEAPOLIS AQUATENNIAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW - JULY 19-21

We are invited to participate in this show and we hope that several members will join in. Entries should be taken to the 5th Street loading dock of the Pillsbury Center between Second and Third Avenues on Monday, July 18, between 7:30 AM and 3:00 PM. The show is in the First Bank Atrium. Bring your bottle containers for cut flowers and paper plates for vegetables and fruits. Bottles will be covered after judging. The show is open to the public July 19-21 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Entries must be picked up Thursday, July 21, between 4:00 and 6:00 PM. A complete show schedule is printed in the June/July HORTICULTURIST.

1983 MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CONVENTION - AUGUST 5-7

Convention opens at St. Cloud State University at 2:00 PM. Basic package price including double occupancy room and all meals and tours - \$63.00 per person. Please advise Fred Glasoe or Chet Groger if you plan to attend. Complete information in June-July Horticulturist.

MGCM FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW AT THE ARBORETUM - AUGUST 20 & 21

Entries are to be made between 8:00 AM and 12:00 noon on Saturday. All entries to be removed at 4:30 PM Sunday. Show schedule in the August issue of the GARDEN SPRAY which will reach you on or about August 10. No regular meeting in August.

NEW MEMBERS

Chelen, Harley	824-9442
4833 - 13 Ave. S.	
Mpls., MN. 55417	

Peterson, LeRoy	888-3753
2701 W. 91 St.	
Bloomington, MN. 55431	

Reynolds, Duane	537-6512
7116 - 39 Ave.	
New Hope, MN. 55427	

THE SPRING TOUR WAS MARVELOUS SAYS ANDY MARLOW

On May 31, 1983, a spring garden tour returned to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis schedule for the first time in many years. Despite the late developing spring, an interesting evening was spent by 106 members and their guests. The only fly in the ointment was the need to scurry around at the last minute to secure additional places on the bus and additional dinners for those who, like this writer, let the reservation deadline go unnoticed. The Smiths--Russ, Robert L. and Greg--and Dr. Bob Olson saved the day for a number of us. I, for one, promise not to put them through this juggling act again.

The Robinson coaches delivered us first to the doors of the Bachman growing complex in Lakeville. It's a gigantic place which, Lloyd Bachman told our tour group, serves 50-60 retail outlets in the Upper Midwest. In December alone they ship 150,000 poinsettias from this location. They are all brought into bloom at the same time by controlling the day length. In order to keep plant diseases and pests from destroying their huge investment in plant materials, the entire greenhouse complex is kept as sterile as a hospital. That includes nearly two dozen glass greenhouses and about 50 poly greenhouses.

The show stopping greenhouse is a four-span-wide glass house used for bringing garden mums into bloom. Lloyd says they can control the bloom to within 3 or 4 days of the chosen date by restricting the plants to 10 hours or less of daylight for various lengths of time, depending on the variety. All this is accomplished with an automated system that not only controls light, but energy costs as well. A series of opaque, insulated shades are pulled shut by electric motors at the appointed hour and inflatable cuffs along each seam are blown up automatically to provide a perfect fit. Even a small light leak can cause part of a plant to fail to bloom, making it unfit to sell. The insulating properties of the system are such that after a heavy snow fall the shades must be opened to melt the snow and prevent the collapse of the building, no matter what the blooming schedule calls for.

After a leisurely drive through the hundreds of acres of tree and shrub nursery and a jaunt down Cedar Avenue, we arrived at the homes of MGCM members Lloyd Bachman, Todd Bachman and Orrin "Clint" Turnquist. The three homes are adjacent along the shore of a lake. A glass of wine or punch and appetizers awaited us. We sipped and munched as we toured the three yards.

Because of the delayed season, the viewing was limited, but enchanting. All three exhibited an impressive display of hostas in the shady, wooded area. Lloyd's garden was noteworthy for at least two dozen large, showy trillium blooming in a clump near the edge of the woods.

Not in bloom yet, but just days away, was a 10' spread of red exbury azalea. A yellow version of the same specie was bright with blossoms. Lloyd says the exburys do quite well for him. They've been in place now for 8 or 9 years. He puts a six foot high fence around the garden where they grow in the fall and fills it to the top with leaves. In the spring he just pulls the compacted leaves back from the plants and lets them become compost in place.

Trees were the highlight of Clint's garden. He has a fairly complete miniature fruit orchard spread out down near the lake. A number of varieties of grapes spread out along a grape trellis added to the interest of this area. Finally, we saw Clint's Korean mountain ash in full bloom. It's quite a bit showier than the American variety we're used to.

(continued over)

TOUR (from page 5)

That was as far as yours truly got on the tour. We were all rounded up and herded onto the buses for the short trip to the Mount Olivet Retreat Center where dinner awaited. Following our repast, it was back to our starting point at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church and the end of an enjoyable evening. Each lady present was, in fact, presented a reminder of the event courtesy of Bachmans. They'll have a yellow single mum called "Hawkeye" gracing their garden plot through the fall.

THE APRIL MGCM MEETING DEMONSTRATION AS REPORTED BY ANDY MARLOW

If you haven't started your dahlias by the time you read this, it's too late. Tuck this issue of the Spray away until the beginning of April next year. That's when Fred Glasoe says you should start working on your dahlias for the best results. Fred gave an excellent demonstration on just how to begin at the April 12th MGCM monthly meeting.

Fred says dahlias come in many shapes and sizes, with blooms ranging from 1-1/2" up to 15" across. The top dahlia grown in Minnesota was 16-2/3". But Fred suggests that a gardener "might not always want to grow the biggest ones". He points out that dahlias of all sizes are great for flower arranging.

Dahlia roots are dug in the fall for wintering. Fred suggests leaving them in the ground as late as possible to harden off a bit. He says "the longer they stay in the ground the better off you are." Late October or early November is a good time to dig them. He keeps the roots in a plastic bag with vermiculite and looks at them every month or so. He adds a little water or opens the bag to let them dry, as necessary.

In the spring, Fred encourages his dahlias to sprout in order to see where to divide them. He puts them in a mixture of one part peat moss and one part vermiculite in a plastic bag. Watered properly they begin sprouting in about a week. When the sprouts, which are found at the point where the tuberous root joins the stem, are about 1/2" long, start dividing.

Using a sharp knife, divide by cutting down the stem, making sure you get one or two shoots and a root tuber, along with the piece of stem. Pot that in a light soil on a slant so all the root is covered. That should be done by mid-April. Transplant outside by mid- to late-May for August bloom. For September bloom, you can just plant the division directly outside in mid- to late-May.

To get maximum size blossoms, Fred says to "top the plant just above the first two pair of leaves". That leaves the plant with only 4 leaders to form blossom stalks and the plant puts all its energy into producing a few giant flowers. For more plentiful blossoms, leave 3 to 4 pairs of leaves. Fred suggests growing the smaller, border dahlia from seed.

MAY AUCTION PROCEEDS (Reported by Carleton Nelson at June meeting)

Country Store	\$ 517.00	Raffle	\$ 131.00
Auction proper	\$1439.00	Lunch	\$ 322.00
Grand Total.....		\$2409.00	

Sherm Pinkham tells us the MGCA Endowment Fund totalled \$164,819.88 as of May 31, 1983. The increase for the month of May was \$4,341.26.

PRUNE AT THE PROPER TIME ADVISES ALBERT WILSON

Reported from the Tucson MGCA convention by Carl and Agnes Johnson

Some plants are susceptible to disease invasion if pruned at the wrong time. These plants should be pruned when they are least likely to become infected. e.g.

1. Oaks should be pruned during December, January or February to minimize the chance of oak wilt infection, a fungus disease. (Any summer pruning necessitated by storm damage should be covered immediately by a wound dressing.)
2. Apples, flowering crabapples, pears, mountain ash, hawthorns and cotoneasters should be pruned between the time they go dormant in the fall and the time growth starts in the spring to minimize the spread and chance of infection by a bacterial disease, fireblight.

Some trees have a free flowing sap and will "bleed" if pruned in late winter or early spring. Although this "bleeding" causes little or no harm to the plant, it causes major concern for many homeowners. To prevent "bleeding", this group of plants can be pruned anytime they are actively growing; early in the growing season is best. The "bleeding" trees include:

all maples, including the boxelder	honeylocusts	elms
birch, ironwood and blue beech	butternuts and walnuts	

Trees and shrubs that bloom early in the growing season on old wood should be pruned immediately after they finish blooming. Any winter injury should be eliminated as soon as the following plants come into leaf:

apricots	chokecherries	lilacs
azaleas	deutzias	magnolias
chokeberries	forsythias	Mayday tree
clove currants	juneberries	
flowering plums and cherries	early blooming spireas	

Shrubs that bloom late but on old wood should be pruned either early in the spring before growth starts or immediately after bloom:

barberries	eunonymuses	Cistena sandcherries
buckthorns	ninebarks	smokebushes
buffaloberries	alpine currants	Royal Purple smokebushes
caraganas	honeysuckles	viburnums
cranberries	sumacs	winterberries
dogwoods		

Shrubs that bloom on the current season's growth should be pruned in the spring before growth starts. Most of these should be pruned to the first pair of buds from the ground:

most clematis (to live wood)	Annabelle hydrangeas
garden roses (to live wood)	Anthony Waterer spireas and New Jersey teas
PeeGee hydrangeas	

(Remove old flower heads and thin to encourage larger flowers)

The natural form of an evergreen is usually the most desirable and pruning should be limited to correcting growth defects. Evergreens that grow continuously through the growing season can be pruned at any time, but early in the growing season is usually best:

junipers	white cedar or arborvitae	yews	hemlocks
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Although spruces, firs and douglas firs don't grow continuously, the time for pruning them is not critical. Pruning in later winter or before growth starts is probably best. However, some spring pruning is not harmful.

(continued over)

PRUNING (from page 7)

Pines put on a single flush of growth and stop. They must be pruned at the candle stage of growth before the candles become woody. Pruning at other times will cause dead stubs. To promote dense, compact specimens, pines should be pruned when their candles are elongated to about three-fourths their length. Up to two-thirds of this new growth can be removed. Pruning should not go into last year's growth.

Source material: PRINCIPLES OF PRUNING by Albert Wilson

THE JOY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

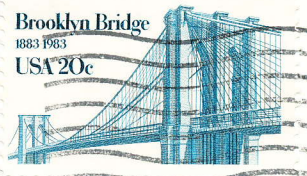
When you harvest homegrown vegetables and enjoy garden flowers you have grown from seeds, you experience a deep and fundamental satisfaction, a joy of accomplishment. You did it. You started from scratch and cooperated with Mother Nature to bring beauty and nourishing food out of the earth. Every person needs that joy of accomplishment. Plant a food and flower garden this very year, and pat yourself on the back. No one ever becomes blasé about the miracle of life. Even the old gardener, bowed and bent with time, thrills to the sight of spring flower and vegetable seed thrusting their way through the soil.

When you pour a packet of seeds into your hand and begin to place them the proper distance apart in the furrow, you become not just a participant, but a custodian of life. You planted those seeds. You cared for them properly. You harvested the crop. It is perfectly natural to be excited and thrilled with your success. Gardening is to enjoy!

-- F.A.C. McCulla in The YARDNER

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Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
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