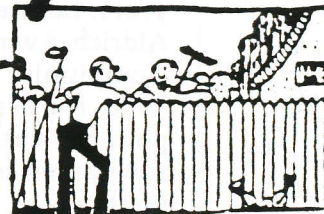




The Garden Spray

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



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

September 1989, Volume 47, Number 9

MGCM SEPTEMBER MEETING

Topic for the Evening: Fall Gardening

A new meeting format is in store for our first fall meeting. Instead of an outside speaker, we have organized an outstanding panel of men to conduct a discussion on fall gardening. The Panel Participants will be: Carleton Nelson, Doug Madsen, Lee Gilligan and Kent Petterson.

Comments and specific suggestions will be presented by the panel followed by an open discussion with the audience. Come to the meeting armed with questions and comments for the panel. If you stump the panel, maybe someone in the audience can help out.

Our purpose in this type of meeting is to engage the audience in the discussion. Possible discussion topics: How to extend the fall season; starting your next year's garden; lawn care for fall, etc. Bring your own topics for discussion.

WHERE? Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th Street at Chowen Avenue South

WHEN? Tuesday evening September 12, 1989

TIME? 6 PM Dinner for \$6.00 Program 7 PM

COME PARTICIPATE ENJOY
* * * * *

STATE FAIR DISPLAY

Kent Petterson and Duane Raynolds are planning an MMGC display for the State Fair. The theme of the display will be "Fragrant Plants". They are preparing an information sheet which describes the Club, The Fragrance Garden project etc.. They also plan on distributing Club brochures.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mary Maguire Lerman
2161 Doswell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108

*The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled,
public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom
should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign
lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt.*

— Cicero 63 B.C.

Gardening From the Heart

From MSB PROFILE, Summer 1989
Minneapolis Society for the Blind

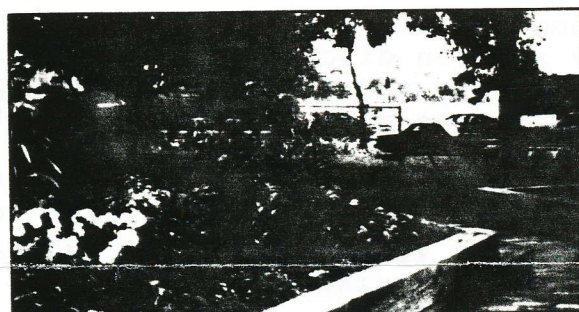
A valuable community resource has been quietly enhancing the neighborhood around MSB for almost 20 years. Located in the triangular plot on Aldrich Avenue, just behind MSB, is a Community Fragrance Garden. Since 1970, the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis has designed, planted and maintained the garden for use by MSB clients and staff.

Over the years, the garden has been admired for its beauty, but in the summer of 1988, Kent Petterson, Chairman of the club's Fragrance Garden Committee, questioned whether the garden was meeting its original goal of accessibility to people who are blind and visually impaired. Kent and his committee also saw potential in using the garden for therapeutic purposes and as an educational vehicle. "We hoped that MSB would use and enjoy the garden freely. But I thought we had failed in making it as inviting, or user-friendly, to people who are visually impaired" stated Petterson.

Petterson's questions led to the formation of a new committee that involves members of the Men's Garden Club, MSB staff, and volunteers with expertise in the areas of accessibility and horticulture.

Headed by Marilyn Brown of MSB's Volunteer Services Department, the nine member committee has begun development of a plan that would be implemented over the next 5 years. The plan is not formalized yet, but the possibilities include a permanent identifying sign at the entry of the garden, plant markers in braille or raised letters, tape-recorded self-guided tours, and wheelchair-accessible paths through the garden with handrails that would also serve as walking guides for people who are visually impaired.

The committee is also investigating the possibility of turning part of the area into a "teaching garden" that would include vegetables and herbs that could be used in the Techniques of Daily Living and Leisure Education classes.



The fragrance garden is a delight to the senses.

THINK AHEAD...WINTER IS APPROACHING

SUMMER-FLOWERING BULBS need to be dug and stored at the same time that the spring-flowering bulbs are being planted. Proper storage techniques place them into two groups: those that require cool storage near 45° F. and those that require warm storage about 55° F. Among bulbs that require cool storage are gladiolus, crocosmia, dahlia, acidanthera, canna and Mexican tiger flower. Those needing warmer storage include elephant ear, caladium, sprekelia, and Peruvian daffodil. Tuberose needs the warmest condition of all, and should be kept near 70 degrees.

Save your onion sacks. They are super for storing those gladiolus corms. Hang from the rafters in a cool part of the basement.

Peruvian daffodil (ismeni) stores well in a pot of soil or in a paint pail of vermiculite. In either case leaves will shoot out early before time to plant outdoors, so keep cool and dry.

GREEN TOMATOES are edible. Before a mild frost, 29 degrees, pick. They color up if stored at 70 degrees. Warmer or cooler temperatures degrade the ripening process. Or, use in green tomato recipes. They are tasty fried, as a relish, or mixed with ripe tomatoes for catsup.

When I was a boy in the Mesaba Range grandmother and mother used to scour

(continued on page 8)

Notes from the President . . .

The musical term for the month of September is Ritardo--Gradually delaying the time--Things are starting to slow down except for the mums and asters and a few more. With the possibility of a frost the plants are starting to prepare for the winter.



MGCM SEPTEMBER PERSON OF THE MONTH

This member joined MGCM in 1983. He is involved in six local clubs and societies. He is chairman of the Minn. State Horticultural Society Plant Show for the State Fair this year. With MGCM he is chair of the Flower and Vegetable Show and is on seven other committees. I would like to recognize DUANE REYNOLDS as September Person of the Month. Duane, your involvement in plant life is superb.

NOTES ON MGCM 1989 GARDEN TOUR

Greg Smith and his committee put together a fine season of tours. I missed the July tour due to a trip to Canada but I did hear very positive comments from you about the fine experience.

The cool weather of August 6th was topped off by a special pot luck hosted by Lorraine and Bob Churilla. This kind of activity really helps the positive interrelationships of club members. Thanks Bob and Lorraine for all the work and for providing your home.

It is a special event when you present your garden to the club for the first time. This year of the eleven gardens seen, four of us were first time showers to the club. This was a good representation of "First Timers".

I would like to suggest that we make it a goal to visit every member's garden at least every six years. Every member should be requested to show his garden. To help in this planning we are going to do research on member's gardens to find out where we've been in the last 5 years. At the September meeting, Gene Ackland will be set up to help us gather the data for future planning.

NOTES ON MEMBERSHIP

One of my goals as President was to take in 10 to 15 members during 1989. We are a ways from that goal.

I did a little research in the 1977 Directory and found that we still have 38 members in the club that were members then. Simple math says that about 1/3 left in 12 years.--We need new members! I've found the best way to recruit is through personal contact with friends. I brought four members in that way. Bring your friends to the September meeting. Let's have 80 people on September 12th.

TWO IMPORTANT SHORT NOTES

1. Howard Klier has graciously opened his store to wreath making on November 24th at 6:00 PM. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.
2. Christmas tree favors are needed for our December Party. If you know of such an ornament or have an idea for display please contact Dwight Stone at 588-5692.

Duane Johnson

TWO CONVENTION TALKS -- BRIEFED BY ED CULBERT

RAY McNEILAN an Extension agent like our Clint Turnquist was like Clint in the helpful suggestions he offered. I think I'll try his apple maggot remedy. He says the Tanglefoot people have a fake apple which attracts the maggot fly successfully enough to control the population but a red or yellow apple coated with Vaseline works just as well.

He felt an early spring start in the garden wasn't necessarily smart for in many cases if the temperature drops to 40° F. during the night a plant will lose all the gain made in the days. It reminded me that years ago my elderly neighbor, Martin Mikaelson, planted a month after I did, kept his garden well watered and ere long his vegetables were ahead of mine.

McNeilan also spoke of the value of the new netting mulches. (Samples were included in our convention packets.) He briefly mentioned the plastic trench tents and water walls commercially available as protection from late frosts.

* * *

Of ED HUME a newspaper columnist and garden talk show man the program said, "Ed discusses and shows how to choose the right plant to beautify the home garden. Ed stresses the importance of knowing how large any tree or shrub will grow and its orientation to the sun and surroundings. He also points out the importance of leaf texture, shape, leaf color and flowers or berries."

But Ed didn't merely discuss. He challenged. With the aid of slides he talked out of both sides of his mouth and proved right both ways. He decried an all green shrub border as dull then proved that with variances in height, color, texture it can be OK.

He showed a beautifully designed triangular patch of trees and shrubs then tore it to pieces by calling attention to the effect differences in their growth rate would make in a few years. One would mature at 70 feet. Another alone would fill the entire triangle.

Hume didn't exactly say, "To hell with the neighbors" but he inveighed again and again against foundation plantings to be seen only "from the neighbor's window"..."The flower planting is for you to see and enjoy," he said.

He didn't like solid foundation plantings of shrubs, either, but showed some which he appeared to be willing to at least tolerate. I think he might grudgingly accept the hedge in front of our house for we can see the flower box from inside our front window and visitors can see it over the hedge most of the time.

Hume didn't like small grass areas in which shrubs were intruded but in some slides to which he didn't object the only difference I could discern was the replacement of the grass with brown mulch or small stones.

Ed Hume meant to be challenging and he succeeded. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who went away mulling over his contentions.

* * * * *

All species of squash and pumpkins are native to the Western Hemisphere and have been grown by the Indians for centuries. Corn was first developed in the Andes mountains of South America. Potatoes came from western South America as did common and lima beans.

POST-FORTLAND NOTES

From Bill Hull

Friday was the day we visited Mt. St. Helens and the Columbia River Gorge, plus having a Salmon Bake in the evening. It was obviously going to be an exhausting day so I skipped the morning visit to St. Helens in order to make a business call in Portland. We had seen a good film of the mountain the night before and, after receiving non-exciting reports the next day, from people who had gone that morning, we were not too sorry we had missed it.

But the afternoon visit to the Columbia River Gorge was gorgeous and well worth the long ride of seventy miles each way. On this trip our hosts supplied airconditioned buses, which wound through beautifully forested areas near the river, on an old "original road". At two lookout points high on the hills we looked down at the river "way below" and could see approximately twenty miles away. As we moved along we glimpsed several waterfalls and stopped at the base of Multnomah Falls, the granddaddy of them all with its 620 feet of roaring water dropping down to our level. A wag friend from Rockford, IL commented that they must have had a huge pump to keep pumping that water back to the top.

We stayed there about thirty minutes while people used the facilities, ate a fast-thawing soft ice cream cone, or had a cola. Then back to the bus for a visit to a nearby fish hatchery, at Bonneville dam. At the visitors' center there we saw salmon trying to get up the ladders. 'Twas very interesting with an occasional good view of a fish just beyond the glass viewing windows, where they came to take a look at us.

I must comment that the roses there were beautiful but we got the impression that they grow so fast and easily in Oregon to require much less care than here in Minnesota. The roses at this visitors' center were left to shatter with little care, completely unlike the well-groomed ones we had seen the previous day at the International Rose Test Gardens, where we saw many lovely specimens.

But then back on the bus to freeway it to our hotel. A great trip topped off with another filling meal but this time it was fire-baked salmon. Gooood.

NEW PRODUCT that might be worth trying. SHIELD SKIN a skin cream which is said to be 90 percent effective in preventing poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac dermatitis when applied before contact with these plants. The cream forms an invisible barrier that blocks contact between the poison and skin. It can be found in drug, outdoor and sports outlets this summer.

The MGCA 54th annual convention was held at the Red Lion Inn in Portland Oregon from August 16 to 19. There were about 375 registrations. The representative from the Minneapolis club were past national president Bill Hull & Carrol Hull, Ed Culbert, Merle Pulley, and Janet & Russell Smith.

The Board of Directors met during the afternoon of August 16 to handle the business of the MGCA. Each officer, each Committee Chairman and each Director made a report to the Directors. The general consensus of the reports were that the local clubs and regions are relatively strong but membership is declining. The Scholarship program is active and if anyone has a recommendation for a recipient, application should be made. Each year 3 scholarships are awarded. The Gardening from the heart program is very active in many clubs, including Minneapolis with their Fragrance Garden. Calendar sales are strong but could easily be doubled. The seed trial program needs more participants.

Of major concern to all is that MGCA is operating generally from hand to mouth financially. The Board of Directors authorized the employment of a professional firm to provide counsel and advice and assist in solving the financial problems. The Meetings are to commence shortly after January, 1990.

The Delegates meetings were held in the mornings of August 17th and 19th. The same type of reports were given to the Delegates as to the Directors. The 1990 slate of Officers were elected by the Delegates. They are Chris Christiansen (President); Robert Schwarz (1st Vice President); James Tracy (2nd Vice President); Elvin Burnell (3rd Vice President); Ron Heggen (Treasurer).

The rest of the days were spent in tours, seminars and eating.

Russ Smith Director
North Star Region

Sometimes Stupid Things Work (from MGC San Antonio Bulletin)

Two or three weeks ago I read somewhere that some woman discovered that the smell of people would keep her little feathered friends out of her cherry trees. Her husband's dirty sox and underwear draped neatly from cherry branches, discouraged thieving birds more than anything else she had tried. This even included those vicious looking plastic snakes and owls perched menacingly in the foliage. Being curious and desiring to find a solution I could afford, I tried it. They haven't bothered cherry trees around here, but they do love to share our grapes and figs. So I hung a pair of worn-one-day sox in each of two fig trees in my back yard, and a couple of sweaty undershirts from the grapevines, that were just begining to produce some tasty purple Champanel grapes. It **worked!** Now I think I know why crows are attracted to scarecrows in cornfields. Scarecrows don't smell like people; they just look like people, and the birds would need imagination to think of them as people. But the birds have no imagination. Stinking sox and underwear warn them that there are people around. Give it a try. It doesn't cost much, and after the grape/fig season is over, you can still recover your sweaty clothes, put them through the washing machine and dryer, and back in the drawer.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER
by Ed Culbert

BURPEES BE DAMNED! was the way I started my letter to them August 9th. I once deemed them to be a reputable firm. But no longer. Fall bulbs arrive later and later each year. Now far too many fail to grow. Perhaps it's the unhurried delivery. Wouldn't you think an African violet order could be filled in 4 months? Or, must one wait for them to grow the plant to produce the seed from which to grow the plants ordered? Listen to my tale of woe.

Barbara was intrigued by the African violet pictures in one of those monthly booklets Burpee sends out. So, on April 10th I ordered some. On April 13th the order was acknowledged, the check cashed and delivery promised for May 1st.

On April 24th a box containing 3 "free" bulbs was shipped (none grew) with a notation, "Rest of order will be shipped separately." They didn't say when or, for that matter, if at all.

On May 26th I wrote to say I had not received the violets. This brought a card dated 6/1 saying, "Nursery is shipping now." Apparently the nursery was in Australia and shipped via tramp steamer for June 26th came and still no violets. So I wrote requesting my money back under their money back if not satisfied guarantee. I sure wasn't satisfied.

To this latter epistle I got no response whatever, so I reread the back of the shipping bill. To get a refund I had to have something to ship back or to produce as evidence. Hence, no shipment, nothing to return. Ergo, no refund.

On August 9th I wrote Burpees that I was writing an article for publication in the SPRAY which also reaches various MGCA editors around the country advising CONTROL YOUR URGE TO DEAL WITH BURPEES and that I also was filing a consumer complaint with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office.

Something worked! When I returned from the MGCA convention I found an envelope from Burpees containing a folder "BURPEE CLEARANCE SALE" and a check on the attachment to which was printed, "We are pleased to send you this refund." The check was drawn on the First State Bank of Lake Lillian MN. I wonder.

FACTS ABOUT MULCHES

(Excerpted from the Manure Spreader Kansas City MGC)

- Loose mulches protect against high temperatures better than those that compact more tightly - a loose layer of straw or bark chips will transfer less heat than a tight layer of sawdust or peat moss.
- Loose porous mulches (straw or hay or peat moss) also permit better water penetration.
- Wood chips, grass clippings, straw, compost and other organic materials can serve as a cooling mulch for shrubs and trees as well as for gardens.
- Dried grass as a mulch, unless loosened frequently, causes a surface cover limiting water penetration.

* * * * *

Tomatoes were first cultivated in the Andes. Sweet potatoes were first found in the West Indies and later in western South America. Kohlrabi and brussels sprouts originated in Northern Europe.

(continued from page 2)

the neighborhood to find green tomatoes for piccalili. The recipe called for green tomatoes, cabbage, onions, pickling spices and vinegar. The proportions varied according to which ingredient was most available. I don't think any good Cousin Jack or Jinnie would have deigned to add green or red peppers or pimentos though I've seen it done.

The cut up vegetables were placed with salt in a stone crock topped with a plate weighted down with a rock for several days "to draw the water off" before adding the spices and vinegar, heating and sealing. Pasties always went down better when there was plenty of piccalili.

INFECTED LEAVES. Gather and destroy diseased leaves from garden plants. These include rust on hollyhock, mildew on phlox and lilac, leaf spot and black spot on roses, botrytis on peony, and scab on crabapple. This stuff can be composted but...

GATHER AND DESTROY fallen fruits to prevent the spread of pests and diseases next season. Don't shake the flowering crabapple the mountain ash or other trees where fruit will hang on to provide food for winter birds.

LOCATE your tree wrap, hardware cloth, burlap, stakes, white paint--anything you need to protect your trees and shrubs.--Assemble it where you can lay your hands on it when the time comes. This includes the pots you will need for indoor plants and bulbs. Might as well wash (sterilize) them at this time, too.

BRING IN some dirt (garden soil) or buy some so as to have it on hand when you are ready to pot your bulbs or, in February, to repot your plants.

Return to
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