

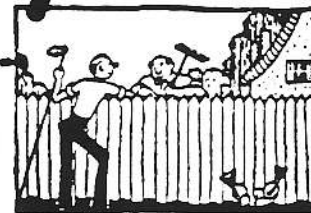


The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

August 1995, Volume 53, Number 8



AUGUST GARDEN TOUR & LUNCH!!

- Date: Sunday, August 13
 Time: Bus leaves at 1:00 p.m. sharp!!
 Return at 6:00 p.m.
 We will have a box lunch at about 4:00 p.m. at one of the tour stops.
 Place: Meet the bus at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church Parking Lot
 4901 Chowen Avenue South, Minneapolis
 Cost: \$12.00 for Bus Tour and Box Lunch

We're Heading South to the Gardening Mecca of Faribault!! Gardens We Will Visit—

Eldon Hugelen

Famous landscape architect and MGCM speaker! Perennial garden, rock garden, thyme lawn, and new experimental plants from Colorado and Canadian seeds. Eldon's garden is in Apple Valley (north Faribault!).

Roger Koopmans

Another MGCM member and famous landscape architect! Beautifully landscaped garden with lots of annuals and large hostas!

Borbeleta Gardens

Nation's largest grower of Siberian Iris! Also specialize in Asiatic lily, day lily, iris. Sells 1.5 million bulbs a year to U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia and Australia. Dave Campbell, owner and our host, has a room with tables where we can have our lunch!

Julius Wadekamper

Founder of Borbeleta Gardens and creator of stunning new varieties of Asiatic lilies, day lilies, and Siberian iris! His gardens—Japanese garden, water garden, experimental garden—are located next door to Borbeleta Gardens!

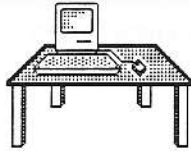
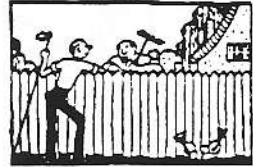
Spouses and guests are invited to attend this event. The permanent reservation list is not in effect. Please mail the attached reservation slip to Kay Wolfe by Wednesday, August 9 at noon to confirm attendance. Please include a check for \$12.00 for each person attending with the form. (Sorry, we can not refund the bus portion of the tour if you drive your car.)

Please reserve Box Supper and Bus Tour for my guest(s) and me for the MGCM August Tour on Sunday August 13.

Member Name: _____

Guest(s) Name: _____

Enclosed is my check for _____ Tours (Supper and Bus) @ \$12.00 for a total of \$ _____
Return by August 9 to Kay Wolfe, Tour Committee Chair, 2740 Florida Ave So, Minneapolis, MN 55426.



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

Beware of a bright green Honda Del Sol bearing the license plate MSHS 1! It belongs to MGCM member Duane Reynolds (current President of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and hence the license plate).

This car, with Duane and Patti inside, stopped by my yard in June and ended up costing me two days labor, almost \$80 in bedding plants and a two hour rototiller rental. Duane told us about a great deal—if we would try out a new soil amendment, our garden would be taken care of for us.

Well, the nice folks from N-Viro dropped off eight buckets of their product and left the rest to us. The four raised beds that were to lie fallow this year now are divided between impatiens and coleus, all acquired at considerable expense by me from Bachman's. Then there was the leaf mold I had to import for the *control* beds and my arms still vibrating from the tiller.

To be honest, the N-Viro beds are doing better than the ones treated with comparable amounts of leaf mold plus liberal handfuls of 10-10-10. N-Viro is an organic aglime produced from composted sewage sludge that has had heavy metals removed and been pasteurized to kill disease organisms. It beats Miloganite, also from sewage, because the heavy metals have been removed and N-Viro is more than just a fertilizer. It shows promise. I'll report on the season results in the fall.

Meantime, watch out for Reynolds and that hot green car of his. Who knows what he might talk you into!

Coming Attractions

August 1 – 7:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
Bob Voigt's House

August 13 - 1:00 pm
Garden Tour & Lunch
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
4901 Chowen Avenue South
Minneapolis

August 17 - 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Open Garden
Harold and Phyllis Gulde
5917 Chowen Avenue South
Edina

August 17 - 10 a.m. - 7p.m.
Edina Garden Council
Benefit Tour

September 5 – 7:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
Henry Orfield's House

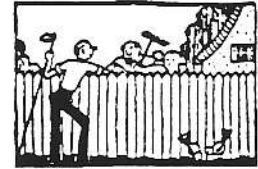
The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members and friends. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

Editor.....Andrew J. Marlow
Staff.....Ed Biren, Chuck Carlson, Dale Fisher, Mary Maynard, Derrill Pankow, Merle Pulley



Cuttings

by Bob Voigt, President, MGCM



Somewhere, at some time, someone called these the *dog days of summer*. I'm not sure what *Dog Days* refers to, but I presume it is meant to imply being lazy, sleepy and sitting around. That's not the case with our garden. This is a busy time and we are continually challenged with lots of things to do.

As I am involved in various garden activities, I have a chance to think about things other than weeding. One of the ideas that crossed by mind recently is "how does one put a dollar value on a garden?" I don't mean personal value, which I think is easy to appreciate, but a dollar value. I think it's more than looking at what it costs to put in plants, and you certainly can't add up all the hours spent and put a dollar value on that. Sometimes in the business world people talk about a "value added tax". That would be difficult to identify and assign to our gardens.

What value are public gardens? Parks? Even open space in a crowded metropolitan area? What responsibility do we as gardeners have to help our community maintain open space, green belts and room to move around to think, without being crowded into a cultural environment that is overwhelming?

Maybe this column is not the place to bring up this issue, but it's a question that has been plaguing me for a number of years. Several years ago I became aware of an organization called the Minnesota Land Trust that is helping to maintain private ownership of space in the crowded urban sprawl of a growing metropolitan area and to preserve wild and scenic space owned by individuals throughout greater

Minnesota.

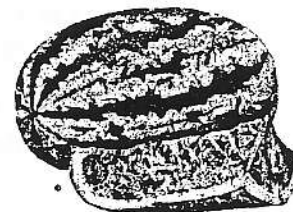
This organization offers an opportunity for individuals to put a conservation easement on property before development occurs and land value skyrocket, causing increased taxes and often forcing a sale. Quality open space can be maintained at its existing zoning and valuation.

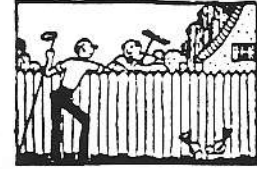
During the past year nearly 2,000 acres of pristine Minnesota land have been given the perpetual protection of conservation easements, and another 7,000 acres are being processed for easements or other protection tools.

While this organization focuses on the state of Minnesota, there are other local chapters being established in communities where individuals can participate in and learn more about the process. Not only is the preservation of open space a large form of gardening, but there are both personal values and measurable benefits that can be taken into account such as tax deductions, reduced property taxes and/or reduced estate taxes. This is a new way of measuring the value of gardening beyond the traditional emotional and aesthetic benefits that we all know exist.

While I am not totally conversant with the details involved, I would be glad to get more information if anyone is interested. Please let me know.

Happy Gardening!





July Tour Report

by Andy Marlow

The MGCM July garden tour began with a delicious box supper at the Pershing Neighborhood Center. Then it was on to the motor coach (Bob Olson told me to never call them buses) for the quick trip along Lake Calhoun to the medicinal garden at the Bakken Museum.

The full name is the Bakken Museum of Electricity in Life. It was the brainchild of Earl Bakken, founder and CEO of Medtronics. The museum houses a collection of publications and exhibits centered around the theme of medical uses of electricity.

The Museum was set up in a secluded mansion just a block from the lake. The next step, according to gardener and landscape designer Michael Swingley, was to convert the existing perennial gardens into ones for medicinal plants. This has been a 16 year process.

There are three gardens: a main garden circling a fountain with a statue of Hermes (the Greek god who brought the knowledge of the uses of plants to mortals), a shade garden on the north side of the house and a garden for larger plants near the street entrance.

All the medicinal plants are neatly labeled and a list of them, complete with common and botanical names as well as their uses, is available to visitors. The Museum and grounds are open Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by appointment.

Just off the busy Crosstown Highway we found the calm oasis of color and

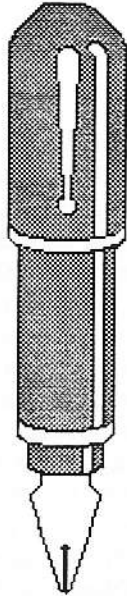
fragrance that is Henry Orfield's garden. The standard city lot was jammed with plants, roses and lilies predominating. Every corner of the yard is used, including a composting area under the back deck.

Paths just wide enough for one swipe with the lawn mower and shady walkways lead a visitor completely around the house. A magnificent clematis on an arched arbor and a white, very tight, very double 'Fair Bianca' rose particularly caught my eye.

Water was in evidence here also. Both a fountain and a water garden graced the yard—and drip irrigation kept precious moisture flowing to the multitude of blossoms.

A hop on the freeway system and we were in Wayzata at the Russ and Janet Smith residence. Russ reminds me of the grandfather in the story of Heidi, both because of his kindly countenance and because he is a mountaineer. He must be to travel up and down (not back and forth) to his flourishing vegetable garden on the steep slope in back of the house.

The plantings in front of the house, including many hostas and hemerocallis, have been expanded since our last visit. And the high altitude vegetable and fruit garden was beginning to bear, as I sampled a perfectly ripe raspberry. Russ has taken extensive measures in his exurban setting to prevent premature harvest by the rabbits, deer and other hungry critters. He couldn't keep me out, though.



Board Meeting Minutes

Mary Maynard, Secretary

July 5, 1995

Present: Howard Berg, Chuck Carlson, Bill Jepson, Mary Maynard, Henry Orfield, Bob Stepan, Bob Voigt, Kay Wolfe. Not Present: Clyde Thompson.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Voigt at 7:30 p.m.

Old Business:

Secretary's report: The minutes of the June meeting were approved on motion by Bob Stepan, second by Howard Berg.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was approved on motion by Bob Stepan, second by Henry Orfield. Discussion: Some of the proceeds from the sale of Floyd Ashley's bequest will be used to purchase a brick in his name at the Minnesota Horticultural Society. Also, Bob Voigt and Howard Berg will investigate renewal CD rates for the money we have reserved for a bid for a national convention.

Plant Auction: Bob V. will check with Clyde about preparing a report for use by next year's committee.

Community Garden: The garden is included in the Center for Victims of Torture tour on July 15-16. Bill Jepson met with people from Minnesota Society of Blind, and MSB people would like to meet with Chuck, and make more use of the Garden for navigation practice. This is a good step toward renewal of the garden's original mission, which - among other

things - was to be of service to the sight-impaired community.

Flower, Food and Foto Show:

Everything ready to go. Bill Jepson has made two large easels for Foto display.

Tours: July tour is all set. August tour has a few loose ends to tie up, but no showstoppers at all.

New Business

Programs: October program still not nailed down. Hoping to find someone at Arboretum who will talk on dried flowers, everlasting, etc.

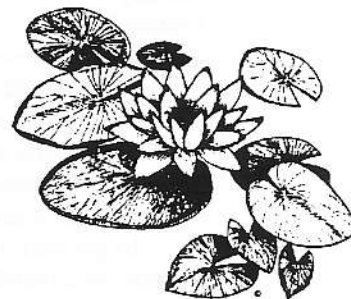
Membership: One new membership application was received: Diane Dahle-Koch Application was accepted on motion by Mary Maynard, second by Howard Berg.

TGOA/MGCA: Calendars are out. Henry Orfield is featured as Mr. June. We also received a list of books and publications available for checkout from the national library. This list will be at the September meeting for review.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 on motion by Bob Stepan, second by Bob Voigt.

New Member

Diane Dahle-Koch
11000 Pheasant Lane N.
Maple Grove, MN 55369
Home phone: 424-9588
Workphone: 931-4577





Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

Last month I wrote about a design contest for the community garden. Herbs are the medium of choice.

What are herbs? They are plants without any permanent woody tissue that die back to the ground after flowering. Herbs are usually grown for their aroma, taste and possible medicinal value. In the garden they provide color, form and, of course, scent.

In colonial times herb gardens were right next to the kitchen door, thus the name *kitchen garden*. The closeness was an obvious advantage to the cook but I am sure the fragrances would also drift into the other parts of the house.

There were and are many favorite herbs. Here is the International Herb Association's list of the 10 most popular today:

- Chive ----- Allium, schoenoprasum
- Basil ----- Ocimum, basilicum
- Rosemary ----- Rosemarinus, officinalis
- Lemon Verbena ----- Vervane
- Sage ----- Salvia, officinalis
- Oregano ----- Origanum, vulgare
- Sweet Marjoram ----- Majorana, hortensis
- Parsley ----- Petroselinum, sativum
- French Tarragon -- Artemisa, dracunculus
- Thyme ----- Thymus, vulgaris

The scientific names provide some interesting musings. The adjective *officinalis* means medicinal, *vulgaris* means common, *hortensis* means garden and *sativum* stands for cultivated..

In general herbs grow best in a well drained soil (sandy loam) and most in full

sun. They are best used before flowering, thus keep pinching the terminal growth to hold back flowering. Harvest in late morning so the dew is gone and the sun has not dried any of the oils.

If you only use dried herbs you will be amazed at the difference when using fresh. Fresh has more flavor and scent. In fact, when using fresh herbs use only half of the dried amount.

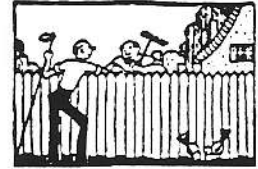
Drying herbs is a common way to preserve herbs for the winter but we now have another. Chop the herbs in a blender and freeze the chopped slurry in a ice cube tray, then bag the cubes. Use 2 cups of leaves with 1 1/2 cups of water in the blender. Make sure you label the bags as all herbs look similar after being frozen.

The Tip

I think everybody should have at least one or two chive plants. If you like the flavor of mild onions chives are great. And, the flowers are nice to look at.

My mother used chives from early spring to late summer. I remember them chopped and sprinkled on warm fresh baked, buttered bread. We also sprinkled them on homemade vegetable soup just before serving. My favorite, though, was chopped chives on golf ball sized new potatoes. When dug fresh from the garden these potatoes were left unpeeled, partially cooked and then sauteed in butter. Just before removing them from the buttery pan they were sprinkled with delicious chopped chives. My mouth waters just thinking about it.

Remember, do not cook or fry chives. They turn black and lose their delicate flavor. Use them fresh or just warmed. An Allium a day keeps many things away including, maybe, the doctor.



Open Garden for August

Saturday, August 19
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Garden of Harold Gulde

5917 Chowen Avenue South, Edina
Harold specializes in dahlias and says the best viewing time is in the evening! Also blooming will be tuberous begonias, lithiansis, and hibiscus. From the Crosstown Highway 62 exit north at France Avenue, go east on 60th Street, then north on Chowen.

Fragrance Garden News

by Chuck Carlson, Committee Chair

The garden is growing with most of the annuals still blooming. Some of the Snaps have dried up leaving a few blank spots but in most cases the garden looks pretty good.

The tour I mentioned last month was a benefit for The Center for Victims of Torture. The Fragrance Garden and 29 others each received a write up in their tour book. The Shannons and the Stepan readied the garden for the tour. The rains came but it still was presentable. Mary Maynard, Eldon Hugelen, Clyde Thompson, Lee Gilligan, and I acted as greeters. Maybe we will get a few new members out of the experience.

Volunteers for August

July 9-Aug 4 Hulls & Mary Maynard
Aug 5-11 Chuck Benson & Andy Marlow
Aug 12-18 Joe Stenger & Jan Johnson
Aug 19-25 D Pankow & Bob Livingston
Aug 26-Sep 1 W Gustafson & MAnderson

Jottings

Fred Glasoe is officially a star! The July issue of *MPLS-St. Paul* magazine did a somewhat tongue-in-cheek feature on Homes of the Stars in the Twin Cities. Fred's house was included along with other movers and shakers.

•••••

Garden tours seem to be all the rage these days. The MGCM Fragrance Garden and the gardens of members Kent Petterson, Jerry Shannon and Bob Redmond were on the tour benefiting the Center for Victims of Torture.

Jerry and Lee Shannon's garden will be on an August 20 tour to benefit Melpomene Institute for Women's Health Research. For more information, call the Shannons or Linda at Melpomene Institute at 642-1951.

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For those of you who are members of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the annual members' Ice Cream Social is coming up on Tuesday August 15 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. There will be ice cream, music, tours of the grounds and discounts on bookstore purchases. But, you must have a reservation. Call Membership Services at 443-2478 for more information.

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MGCM member Sharon Parker has written an excellent article on horticultural therapy for the *Southwest Journal* issue dated July 12-26, 1995. See if you find a copy and check it out.

•••••

Bob and Lorraine Churilla wrote an excellent article on roses for the *StarTribune Home and Garden Supplement* in early July. I hope you got to see it. This follows their earlier story on the same subject in the *Minnesota Horticulturist*.

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