

Celebrating Our 55th Year

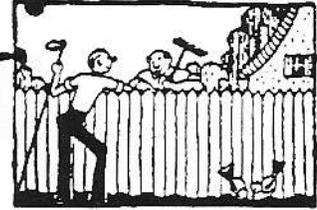


# The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

July 1997, Volume 55, Number 7



## It's July Garden Tour Time!!

Event: Club Garden Tour and Supper in Burnsville and Eagan

Date: Tuesday, July 8, 1997

Time: Approximately 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Meet the bus at one of two stops:

6:00 p.m. Lake Harriet United Methodist Church parking lot, 49th & Chowen, Minneapolis.

6:20 p.m. Burnsville Transit Station, Highway 13 & Nicollet Avenue (Bus will stop at bus pickup station on south side of building facing Highway 13. Be there—bus can not wait.)

Cost: \$13.00 per person, includes bus & supper.

### The Tour

#### Scherer Family Garden

Beautiful formal gardens with annuals and perennials, Japanese garden, gazebos, and bridges. Box suppers will be served here. The former Richard Scherer was a MGCM member. Scherer family members still maintain the gardens and grow many plants in greenhouses on the property.

#### Garden of Gary Geister

Wonderfully creative plantings! A charming front garden leads to a rear lot that widens and borders a pond. Terraces lead up a hill to an upper garden from a pergola covered deck. A path leads through a woods to the pond. Imaginative planters and sculptures made from grape vines are everywhere!

#### Garden of Walt Muehlegger

Mature pines create a serene north woods setting around this home and garden. Brick walks lead through an abundant perennial garden full of sculptures. Colorful hanging baskets surround the house. Annuals grow in the shade of the pines that border the property.

#### Garden of Carole Anne Brekke

Charming perennial gardens and prize specimen trees totally surround the sloping back lot of this home. Two level deck, pergola, ponds with fountains, and a rock garden you can walk through add to the beauty. The hostas are the size of shrubbery! A beverage will be served at this stop.

Guests and spouses are invited to attend this event. The permanent reservation list is **not** in effect. Please mail your reservation with payment to Kay Wolfe by Thursday, July 3. (Sorry, we cannot refund the bus portion of the tour if you drive your car.)

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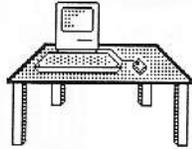
Please reserve a Box Supper and Bus Tour for me and my guest(s) for the MGCM July Tour on Tuesday, July 8. Enclosed is \$13.00 per person.

Member name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I/we will meet the bus at:     \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Harriet Methodist Church parking lot  
  \_\_\_\_\_ Burnsville Transit Station

Return by July 3 to Kay Wolfe, MGCM Tour Chair, 2740 Florida Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55426.  
Phone: 922-0762.



### The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

It doesn't get any better than this!  
 As I write this, the cool, dry spring has magically transformed itself into an adequately moist, warm summer. Everything that should be blooming, is blooming. The annuals have dug in and have either just thrown out their first magnificent blush of color—or are just about to. The spring ephemerals have done their job and disappeared. The perennials are each running through their own cycle of blooming or merely looking stately in their green plumage. I've rolled up the hoses (at least temporarily) and gotten out the cultivator. After all, not even summer is perfect—weeds and a few pests must be tolerated along with the really good things. Summer is a really good thing!

As soon as I finish the *Spray* for this month, I'm going to try out a digital camera. I got a coupon for 2 hours of free digital camera use from a big copy shop chain—the one that claims it is “the new way to office”. I've been anxious to add some new hosta pictures to my web page. In order to use pictures, they must be in digital form. It seems intuitive that it is easier to take digital photos and transfer them directly into the computer rather than take the photos, get them developed and then use a scanner to digitize them. I'll let you know how it works out. The only drawback is there is no “digital” category yet for the Flower, Food and Foto Show. I'm sure that's just a matter of time, though.

Don't forget that the Foto Show entry deadline is July 21. Get your shots to Lloyd Wittstock before then.



## Coming Attractions

**Tuesday, July 1–7:30 p.m.**  
 Board of Directors' Meeting  
 Bill Jepson's house

**Tuesday, July 8–6:00 to 10:00 p.m.**  
 Members' Garden Tour to  
 Burnsville and Egan  
 Bus leaves Lake Harriet Church at 6:00  
 and Burnsville Transit Station at 6:20

**Tuesday, July 17–7:00 p.m.**  
 Flower, Food and Foto Show Committee  
 Duane Johnson's house

**Tuesday, July 24–10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
 Edina Garden Council Tour and Tea  
 begins at Arneson Park  
 Highway 100 at 70th Street  
 Edina

**Sunday, August 3**  
 Members and Guests Garden Tour

**Tuesday, August 5–7:30 p.m.**  
 Board of Directors' Meeting  
 Chuck Benson's house

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Editor.....Andrew J. Marlow  
 Staff.....Chuck Carlson,  
 Richard Coldren, Sher Curry and  
 Robert Olson



# Maury's Musings

by Maury Lindblom, President, MGCM

Despite a cold spring with late frosts and snow, and a rather dry June, our gardens are progressing either ahead of

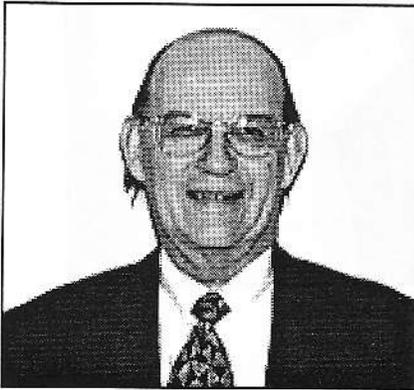


Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

schedule or are right where they should be. Nature has a balance that in the long run keeps things on an even keel. Some of the aberrations of nature are caused by things that man has done to the environment that, in turn, upset this delicate balance of nature.

I, like many of you, lost Tulips this spring that may be lost to us permanently. The balance, however, has been growing conditions that seem to be ideal for a lot of plants in the garden. My Peonies have never before achieved the height they were at this spring, nor were their colors ever brighter. I don't have a lot of Hostas, but they are putting on a magnificent display with

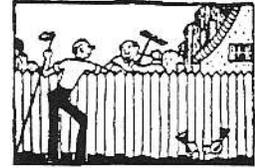
their lush foliage. Other years that were supposed to be better from the weather standpoint have never rewarded me in this fashion. I could go on with many other examples, Lupines, Trollius, Shrub Roses, Astilbes, Daisies, all putting on a great growing show. I am sure many of you have had the same experience.

We will all have a chance to see a lot of beautiful gardens this summer on our club tours. The first is on July 8 and the second on August 3. Both of these opportunities will not only give us a lot of pleasure in viewing the gardens, but also a lot of chances to talk gardening with fellow members of MGCM.

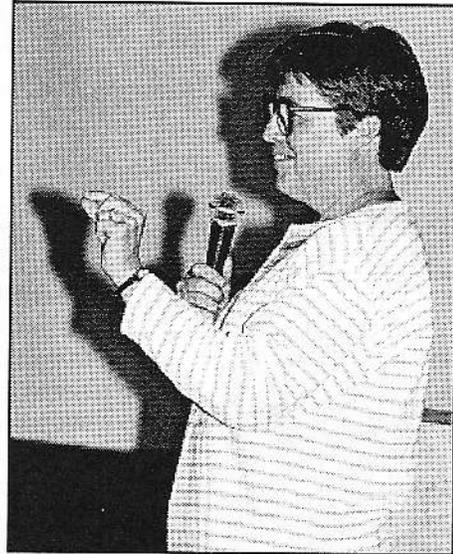
At the last meeting we learned a lot about showing flowers. As you tend your gardens this summer, seek out plants that are doing especially well and keep them in mind for the flower show. It has been said that, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever"—how true of the beauty of flowers! Even though they fade away, the memory stays with us and continues to enrich our lives.



## June Meeting Report....

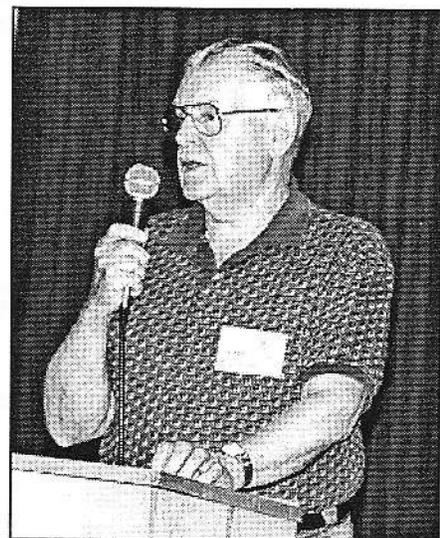
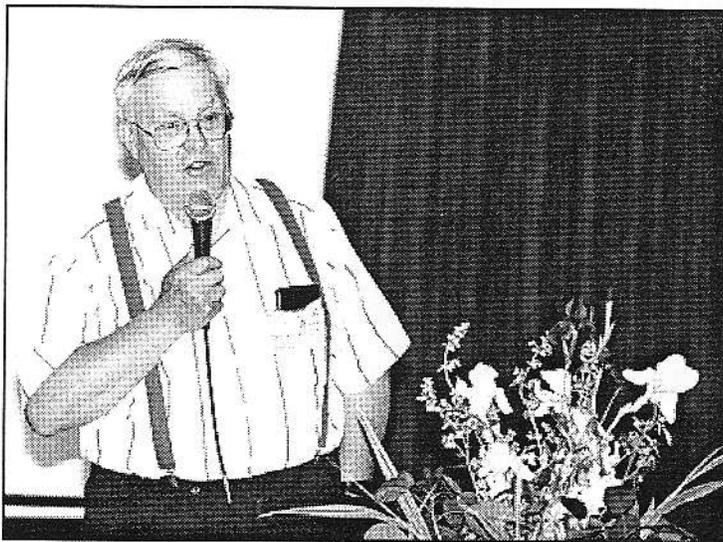


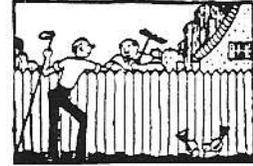
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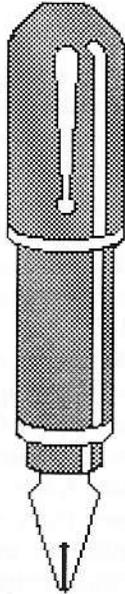
## Growing and Showing

During the June MGCM dinner meeting program, several of the members shared their expertise, experiences and ideas on exhibiting at the Flower, Food and Foto Show scheduled for August 9 and 10 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Above, Mel Anderson talks about showing vegetables and Mary Maynard relates her experience as a novice exhibitor (which she is no longer!) Below, Chuck Carlson talked about entering photo exhibits and showed last year's winning slides. Jerry "Mr. Rose" Olson told members what judges look for when evaluating roses. Maury Lindblom (not pictured) talked about preparing flowers for exhibit and Duane Johnson (also not pictured) participating in the design division.





**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. on a motion by Bob Stepan with a second by Chuck Carlson.



# Board Meeting Minutes

*Walt Muehlegger, Secretary*

June 3, 1997

The meeting was called to order by President Maury Lindblom at 7:30 p.m. All officers and directors except Bill Jepson were present.

## Reports

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the April 20 Board meeting were amended to indicate that more light is needed in the preparation area at the Flower, Food and Foto Show. The minutes were approved on a motion by Mary Maynard, second by Chuck Carlson.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Bob Stepan, second by Kay Wolf.

**Arbor Day Committee:** Chuck Benson reported that four trees were planted at Lyndale Park on May 10.

**Perennial Trial Garden:** Chuck Carlson reported that Roundup has been applied once at the site, but that planting will not take place until the end of June.

## New Business

Bill Jepson requested permission to resign as Director due to illness.

Mary Maynard sent a check for \$125 to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society to purchase a brick in memory of Charles Proctor MGCM Honorary Member who passed away recently. Mary also sent a letter to Mrs. Ruth Proctor informing her of the memorial.

## Snapshots

*by Lloyd Wittstock, Cochair  
Photography Committee*

Those who have been at the meetings know that the deadline for turning in prints or slides for the annual photo contest is July 20. Get those to me or to any member of the photography committee by then. Lots of additional interest has been evident, and there is even a new optional category for first-time contributors. We look forward to seeing all your favorite photos from this year, last year or anytime. Remember, prints can be no larger than 5 x 7 inches.

The committee met recently and we are asking for your participation in not just the contest, but in any of the following activities:

- Bring in a group of prints of your garden, your vacation landscapes or any garden-related material and put them up for view on the bulletin board at a club meeting. We've had some fine displays already, so have your own exposition soon.
- If you don't indulge in photography, invite a member of the photography committee – several have volunteered – to come and take your garden portrait.
- Participate in a clinic later this summer at Henry Orfield's house. Learn or teach techniques while photographing Henry's fine roses. (Call me for details.)
- Contribute some prints of club activities for a club yearbook or

*(continued on page 7)*



# Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

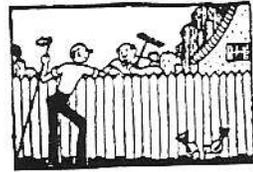
## The Chestnut

Cut, Slash and Burn. You have probably heard this about the reclamation of the rain forests for farming. All indications are that it is not working. Runoff, soil erosion and other things have created problems that were never anticipated. But, this is not the case with the cry of the *deadheaders*: "*snip, shape and shear*" which was coined by Diane Schaub of the Conservatory Garden in New York. What is a *deadheader*? It is not a follower of a defunct rock group. A *deadheader* is a gardener who removes faded blossoms in their garden.

Why do we deadhead? The main reason is to prolong bloom, but there are other advantages. We get better looking foliage, a fuller and shapelier looking plant, and a healthier plant that has a better chance to overwinter. I even consider trimming shrubs and evergreens to be deadheading even though it is not always flowers we remove. Deadheading can make a nice garden look fantastic.

A plant's mission is to produce seeds in order to have a new generation of plants. But, if we remove the spent flower before it starts to set seed, many plants continue to produce more flowers in an attempt to complete its reproductive cycle. It works for both annuals and perennials. Some plants don't respond with a new set of flowers. They may be programmed to have one bloom period only. But, remember the garden will look better even for these plants.

There are two reasons for not deadheading. One is if we want to collect seeds for propagation, and the other is to



create some winter interest for us northern gardeners.

The first rule of deadheading is: decide what you want the garden to do. Are you seeking repeating blooms, beautiful foliage, nice plant structure, propagation, a clean garden, winter interest, dry seed pods for arrangements or something else? Let the answer to these questions be your guide. When you decide to deadhead...

*Snip* those flowers that have few blooms, flowers that bloom sporadically over a long time period plus those whose flower heads have mature flowers and buds at the same time. A few that fall in this category are roses, Platycodon, pansies, petunia, gaillardia, tulips, Lobelia, Salvia, Zinnia, Phlox, Echinacea, Echinops, Begonia and Geranium. The snip cuts off the spent flower just above the next lower node. For roses this is just above a five leaf stem. For those plants that have both flowers and buds on the same stem, snip off the flower. Flowers that have a stem growing right out of the soil, pansies for example, cut off at ground level.

*Shape* plants on which flowers bloom and fade at the same time. Many of these plants have bushy forms. They may not bloom again after shaping, but their new shape should be pleasing to the eye and add structure to the garden. These plants are mostly perennials. Some are Amsonia, Cushion Spurge, many herbs, Oenothera, penstemon and some Campanula. Campanula, 'Clips' responds wonderfully with a shape—mine gave a complete second flowering.

*Shear* a plant that looks unkempt or leggy. This is a drastic operation that some might call heartless. Their hands may not even coil around the pruners. Usually you shear to the ground, but in some cases it is best to use a two-thirds cut. Use a two-

(continued on page 7)

# A NEW ARRIVAL

by Chuck Carlson

MGCM has a new video, given to MGCM by our parent club, the Gardeners of America (GOA). It is a video of pictures entered in the GOA photo contest and shown at the 1996 convention. It will be

available for checkout by any club member. See Chuck Carlson to reserve a time.

The club also has musical slide shows. These are also available to club members if they are not being used for one of our presentations. We give presentations to groups around the area. If you know of a group looking for a slide show or you

want to give one, contact Chuck.

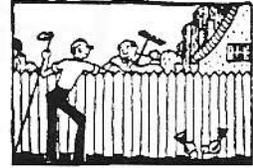
A slide projector is also available. The shows available are listed below:

## Slide Shows

- We Find God in the Garden—No. 1
- We Find God in the Garden—No. 2
- The Birds Sing—The Flowers Bloom
- America the Beautiful—No. 1
- America the Beautiful—No. 2
- Winners

## Video

- 1996 Gardeners of America Photo Contest



## Snapshots

(continued from page 5)

slides for the various slide presentations that Chuck Carlson does for senior citizens. These could be meetings, tours, plantings, and so on involving members or their gardens.

If any of this looks good to you, call one of the committee members. We can offer you practical advice on choosing or preparing your photos for the contest, as Chuck discussed so capably at the June meeting, or we can get you started on any of these activities.

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## Chestnuts

(continued from page 6)

thirds cut on petunias, for example. Give petunias the snip right after the first big flush of blooms when they start getting leggy. Cutting back drastically then will cause new growth and new blossoms.

Others which benefit from the shear are Lady's Mantle, Hardy Geranium, Catmint, and Pulmonaria. Some gardeners use selective shearing. They leave all the little leaves and sprouts and shear the others. This is fine but it takes longer to do.

Cutting or sniping flower stalks or damaged leaves is also done merely for appearance and won't result in new blooms. Some plants this applies to are Hosta, Peony, Bergenia and Aruncus.

## The Tip

Be a *deadheader* for a more prolific and beautiful garden. Remember to *snip, shape and shear*.

## Inside:

Page 2/	Editor's Column Events Calendar
Page 3/	President's Column
Page 4/	June Meeting Report
Page 5/	Board Meeting Minutes Snapshots
Page 6/	Chuck's Chestnuts
Page 7/	A New Arrival

## MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

### CLUB OFFICERS:

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**Treasurer:** Howard H. Berg  
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# The Garden Spray

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