

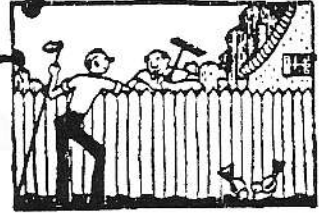


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

July 1999, Volume 57, Number 7



July Member's Garden Tour

South of the River Tour
Tuesday July 13

Gardens on Tour

- Jackie & Tim Overom, 14024 Frontier Lane, Burnsville
- Warren & Beverly Nordley, 14001 Frontier Lane, Burnsville
- Dave & Renada Moehnke, 16385 Interlachen Blvd., Lakeville
- Soni Forsman, 4640 Dodd Road, Eagan

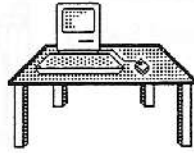
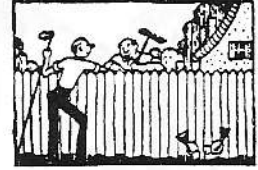
Details

- Buses will leave Lake Harriet Church at 6:00 p.m.
- One bus will stop at the Burnsville Park and Ride at 6:30 p.m.
- Guests of members welcome but not open to the public.
- **Limited bus space.** First 80 reservations received will be accepted
- Dinner in the garden at Overom's
- Reservations must be received by July 9
- Cost is \$16.00. Includes dinner and tour
- More details on page 10
- Reservation form on page 11; mail today



Permanent Reservation List is not in effect.

You must send in your reservations and checks. See page 11



The Editor's Desk

Chuck Carlson
Managing Editor

Education

The tour committee has been working to make July and August two good touring months. I have found that going to someone else's garden is a good learning experience. Every garden is different, but each gives lessons that serve to impart to visitors ideas that can be used in their own gardens.

Most people that join MGCM say the reason they joined is to learn more about gardening. The tours will give you that opportunity. Enjoy each garden, but make sure you learn from each garden. Maybe it will be construction techniques, new plants, garden layout, color combinations, water features or some other element. Ask questions and take pictures.

Photos

The pictures you take can be used to remember a particular attribute or to enter the photo contest. You will still have time to enter those taken at the July tour. The submission deadline is July 22. I am also looking for pictures of members gardens for a slide show.

Convention

I am sorry that I can't be with you on the July tour, but Marion and I will be in Green Bay for the MGCA/TGOA convention. I know we will have some tours there also. I have heard by the grapevine that Russ and Janet Smith, Mel and Vivian Anderson, Lee and Jerry Shannon and Howard and Ruth Berg will also be attending. Watch for a report next month.

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Coming Attractions

Tuesday, July 6, 7:30 PM

Board of Directors meeting
Tim McCauley's house

Tuesday, July 13

MGCM Club Tour
(Details on page one)

July 14-17

MGCA/TGOA National Convention
Beauty on the Bay '99
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Tuesday, August 3, 7:30 PM

Board of Directors meeting
Dave Johnson's house

Sunday August 8

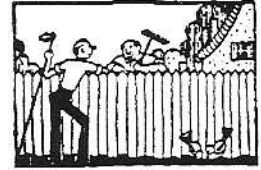
MGCM Club Tour

**Saturday & Sunday, August 14
& 15**

MGCM Flower Food and Foto Show
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

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.

Managing Editor Chuck Carlson
Production Manager ... Andy Marlow
The committee....H. Berg, M. Brummer,
S. Curry, C. Cutter, D. Hendel, M.
Maynard, R. Olson, and R. Van Sickle

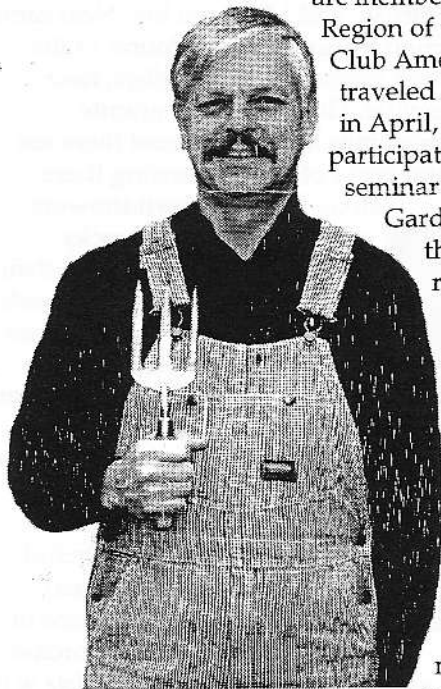


Overall In The Garden

by Eldon Hugelen, President MGCCM

I'd like to take you away from deadheading your gorgeous daylilies and spraying for those bugs and have you think Iowa and Nebraska. Yes, as the song goes, "Everything is Beautiful".

Here in our Minneapolis club we're not used to thinking in Regions. But we are members of the Mid America Region of the Men's Garden Club America. Some of us traveled down to Mason City in April, and enjoyed and participated in a fine garden seminar the North Iowa Men's Garden Club prepared for the six clubs in our region.



The North Iowa club has about 50 members. Their main fund raiser is selling bags of cocoa bean mulch during the year. Each spring their club gets an entire semitrailer filled with bags on pallets. They profit more than we do from our May plant sale. This year their club ordered two semitrailers.

Another club in Fort Dodge, Iowa, owns a two acre garden. This club actually grows and sells produce at a farmer's market to raise funds for their club. They are a club of about 70 members. I spoke with their president and he said he was president for the sixth time; I guess they have no term limits.

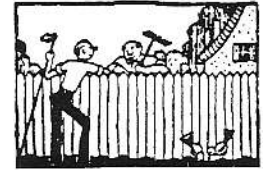
I don't know too much about the Des Moines club, except that they are very active in maintaining the national headquarters in Johnston, Iowa. They are a big club, over 150 members. Their president is a good photographer and you'll see his daffodils next March in the 2000 calendar, (You will also see Henry Orfield in July and Lloyd Wittstock in August),

The other two clubs need more investigation since I don't know much about them. The Indianola club is a few miles south of Des Moines and has a membership of about 40. The sixth club is in Freemont, Nebraska, north and west of Omaha. It has about 25 members.

So, listen up when the region's vice president, Clyde Thompson, prepares for the second regional event. If he asks for your help, please lend him a hand. This seminar is here on October 2. More information forthcoming. Maybe some of these good people will wear their overalls.

New Members

- George and Merryn Flavell
6105 Portland Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417
Phone: 612-861-4206
- Daryl Lamon
2409 Maple Avenue
Bloomington, MN 55431
Phone: 612-888-6672
- Wayne and Lois Engelman
11311 Oakvale Road South
Minnetonka, MN 55305-4359
Phone: 612-933-2369
- Aija Vijjums
3128 Edward NE
Minneapolis, MN
Phone: 612-789-0315



Monthly Program Report

by Mary Maynard

Did you miss the June meeting? If so, you missed an excellent program presented by Janet and Janice Robidoux. Many of you may remember them as the twin sisters who were featured in the *Star Tribune's* Home and Garden section on New Year's Eve of last year. They have recently "retired" and purchased a large lot on the Mississippi River in Coon Rapids, and they have a multi-year plan to develop gardens, which sound spectacular already.

But the program topic was not their own gardens, but Early Summer Wildflowers. It was a great production: they had multiple slide projectors, their own sound system (with two microphones, so they could both comment on the slides), and restful, soothing background music. And the photography was fabulous. I'm no expert, but the slides were wonderful and presented the tiniest wildflowers with great clarity and detail.

Janet and Janice enjoy camping and canoeing as well as gardening, and they are admitted "techno-nuts". They have visited all 64 of the State Parks (there are now 67), and many of their photographs come from state parks and scientific

natural areas.

Their presentation was divided into sections based on where the flowers could be found. The first section, entitled *Meadows*, featured penstemons, spiderworts, butterfly weeds, St. John's Wort, goat's beard, etc. This was followed by *Roadsides*, which included some invasive non-natives (crown vetch, bird's-foot trefoil) that are crowding out some of the natives, thanks to the seed mixes formerly used by the highway department, and natives such as "Stinking Mayweed", golden ragwort, wild radish, Indian paintbrush, and Michigan lily. Next came a section featuring plants found in the *Bigstone National Wildlife Refuge*, near Ortonville. There are large granite outcroppings in this area, and there are several types of cactus growing there,

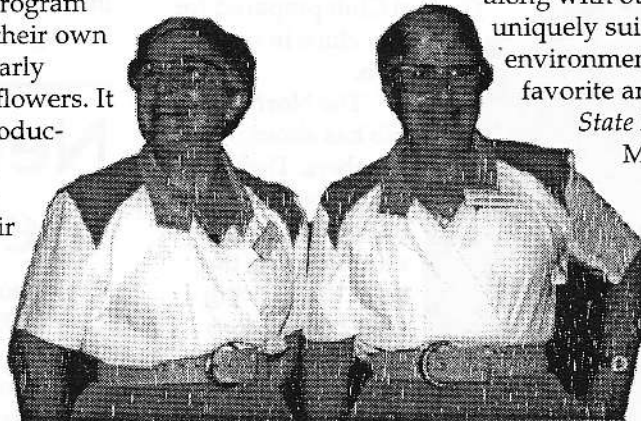
along with other wildflowers uniquely suited to a rocky environment. Another of their favorite areas is *Blue Mounds State Park*, in southwest

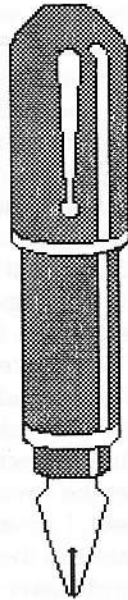
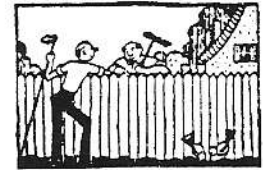
Minnesota. Along with prairie clovers, milkweeds and rue, this area also has the Western Prairie White Fringed Orchid (*platanthera praeclara*), one of the 40 plus orchid

species that grow in Minnesota. *Hole in the Mountain Scientific Natural Area* and *Schaefer Prairie Scientific Natural Area* were sources for more prairie natives, including purple coneflowers, prairie phlox, cinquefoils, primroses.

The *Wetlands* section had many slides which were taken from a canoe. One of the most spectacular, was the American Lotus. It is the largest American

(continued on page 9)





Board Meeting Summary

Margaret Hibberd, Secretary

June 1, 1999
Present: Howard Berg, Chuck Carlson, Margaret Hibberd, Eldon Hugelen, Dave Johnson (Fridley), Mary Maynard, Tim McCauley, Ritchie Miller, and Kay Wolfe

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were submitted and approved.

Committee reports

Arbor Day: Perennial garden/Arbor Day planting is on June 5

Flower, Food and Foto: Judges selected and ribbons received. There will be another meeting in July. The show schedules are ready to hand out at the June meeting.

Auction: Finances not all complete, but we appear to have made more money than last year. The Country Store made much more than ever before. There will be a wrap-up meeting of the committee and a few changes need to be made in procedures.

Tours: The July tour will be limited to the first 80 to sign up. The Board is a little concerned about this, but it is due to lack of buses on that day.

Spray: Deadlines are June 15 and July 8 for the next issues. Andy still wants out by the end of 1999.

Old Business

Bylaws: We will discuss the Board

of Directors article at the July Board meeting and the next parts in August and September.

New Business

Eldon prepared a thought provoking Club Dues Review Worksheet. The local dues barely cover the cost of the newsletter, so most other expenses are covered by money raised, the vast majority of which comes from successful auctions. After much discussion on a motion by Tim and a second by Chuck, the discussion was tabled until the July board meeting.

100 gladiolas leftover from the auction were given to Ruth Bannerman who will have them planted in public garden areas.

Mary Lerman wanted us to advertise the St. Anthony Park Public Tour and Mary Maynard had a request to advertise the Kenwood Tour, so we will post them at the June meeting.

Ballots for National officers will be distributed at the June meeting.

New Members

The board voted to accept new members: Daryl Lamon, and Wayne and Lois Engelman.

Next Board Meeting

The July meeting is July 6 at Tim McCauley's house and the August meeting will be at Dave Johnson's. (Note: this is a change from the directory.)



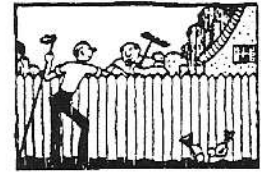
Who was the father of the Shasta Daisy?

Luther Burbank

What tree bark do we eat?

Cinnamon Tree





Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

It seems like many people believe that growing roses is virtually a full-time job, with all our leisure hours taken up by spraying, fertilizing, protecting, pruning, and generally defending roses from the forces of nature. Well, I'm here to say, definitively, "Maybe—but maybe not!"

While it may not be possible to have spectacular rose gardens like Jerry Olson's or Bob Churilla's (not to mention Dave & Delores Johnson, Henry Halvorson, Bob Stepan, Henry Orfield and many more) without devoting a fair amount of attention to the task at hand, it is possible to have perfectly fine roses with a minimum of work. Here's one way:

Plant selection

In general, of course, the hardy shrub roses are going to be a little less work. They're supposed to be hardy, for heaven's sake, so winter protection should be less of a pain. But it's a good idea to check some of their other characteristics. If a catalog listing says something like "susceptible to mildew" or "protect from blackspot", move on to the next listing. There are plenty of good shrubs that are quite disease resistant. But I hesitate to recommend that lazy gardeners limit themselves to the hardy shrubs. Hybrid teas and floribundas can be so wonderful—and they aren't that much more work!

Winter Protection

Any gardener worth his or her salt knows that the best way to protect tender roses in this climate is the "Minnesota

Tip". Even I, who have never used it, agree that this is the best way. But it's way too much work for me, so I take the "Bag Lady" approach. Each fall, when serious gardeners are digging trenches everywhere, I am mounding up a little soil around the bud union, then arranging three bags of leaves in a triangle around the bush, then filling in the center of the bush with about two bags of loose leaves.

In the twelve years I have lived on Dart Avenue, I have never lost a rosebush. Now, I only have six tender roses, not hundreds, so this only takes about 30 bags of leaves, carefully collected from the neighbors under the cover of darkness. For hardy shrub roses, I generally pile some leaves loosely around the base of the bush. Many hardy shrubs have some dieback over the winter, and a little mulch can help keep the crown protected.

In the spring, I remove the leaves by about April 15. If it's still kind of cold, I remove the bags of leaves but not the loose leaves until it looks the danger of a hard frost is past.

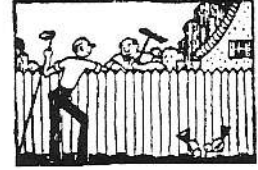
Pruning

Many people are nervous about pruning roses. This is not rocket science. In the springtime, I cut off the dead stuff. Try to cut at an angle just above a bud that's facing outward, but there isn't much more to it. Then wait to see what leafs out and what doesn't. If the bush needs more pruning, do the usual stuff: take out weak canes, canes that cross each other, or are too crowded, and provide for good air circulation within the bush. I suggest you wear glove—big thick ones.

Fertilizing

This can be a full-time job if you want to do weekly applications of fish emulsion, foliar fertilizer sprays, etc. This gets great results, but I don't do it. I use the commercial Ortho rose fertilizer that includes a

(continued on page 9)



Nominate a Business

by Andy Marlow
Chair, Awards Committee

The MGCM Awards Committee is looking for a few good businesses that have done a particularly good job of landscaping their property. We'd like to present one of them with the 1999 MGCM Industrial Beautification Award.

If you notice a commercial venture—industrial plant, commercial building or retail store that has put some special effort into making its environs attractive, please nominate them for the award. You don't have to know who owns the property, or who does the landscaping. The Committee will find those things out. Just tell us the name of the company and where they are located.

Last year's recipient was Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park. They were nominated by Mel Anderson, who noticed the beauty of the grounds even though he

was going there to visit his critically ill son (who is since on the road to full recovery). Keep your eyes open. You never know when you'll come across some exceptional work!

Editorial

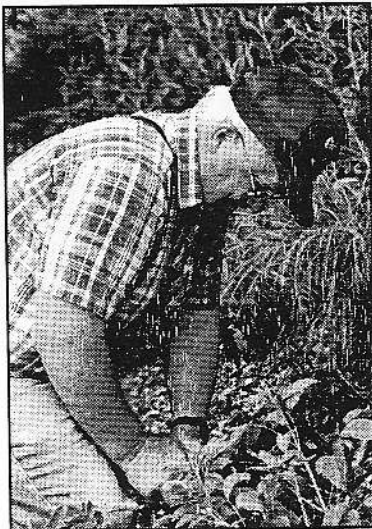
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Kudos

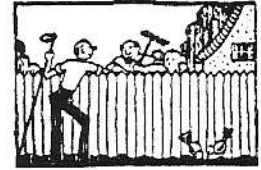
Dave and Delores Johnson have been cited again for their garden. This time through an article in *Midwest Home and Garden*, where their waterfall and pool was featured. Congratulations!

Congratulations also to Lloyd and Patti Weber. Rumor has it that they filled their wall with blue ribbons at the Iris Society Show.

Have a great July tour and I will see you in August. Also, remember the Flower, Food and Foto Show coming in August. It's another opportunity to learn about gardening. Try entering some of your garden specimens or at least come out to the Arboretum and view the show. Try it you may like it.

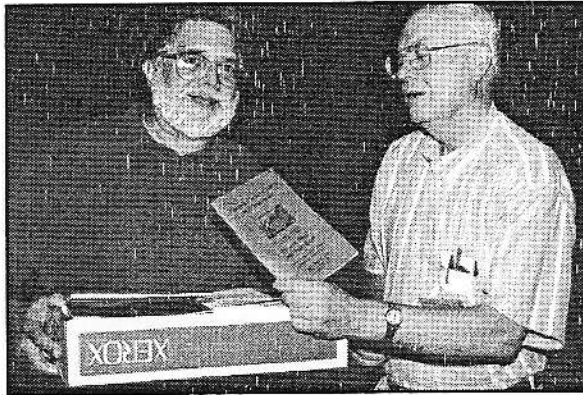


At work in the Perennial Trial Garden on Arbor Day: Chuck Carlson (l), Dave Moehnke (c) and Kay Wolfe (r).
Photos by Bob Olson



Scenes from the June Meeting

photos by Chuck Carlson



Andy Marlow and Duane Johnson at the June meeting with a box of Flower, Food and Foto Show schedules



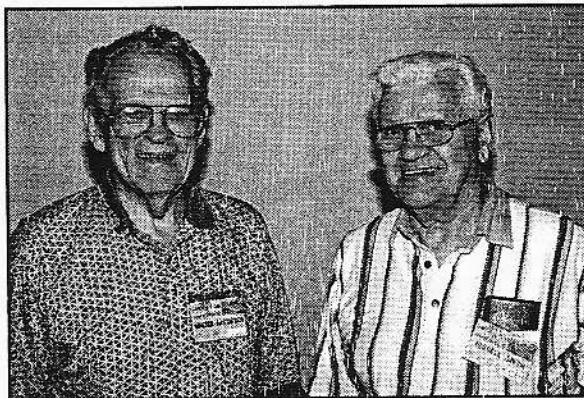
Tim McCauley at the Auction



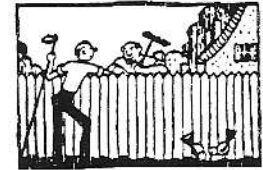
New Members Lois and Wayne Engelman



New members Daryl Lamon and Aija Vijums



Walt Gustafson and Russ Smith confer at the June dinner meetings.



Confessions

(continued from page 6)

systemic insecticide and is supposed to last about 4-6 weeks. I have found that fertilizing once a month or so is about what I'm up to. It seems to work fine. I have found, too, that stopping fertilizing in August (to promote hardening of the tender new shoots) is not all that hard for me.

Disease control

If the conditions are bad enough, even the toughest old shrub rose can get black spot. In a lazy gardener's garden, rose bushes can be almost defoliated. Ick! I think it's much worse than powdery mildew, which can also affect roses. It is important to do a little preventive spraying of a fungicide to keep blackspot and mildew from getting established. I use whatever fungicide I find at the garden store that's listed for roses.

Another important factor to managing fungal diseases is location. I have 20 roses, but they're scattered throughout the front and back yards, and there's a lot of space between them. So, when 'Robusta' was virtually defoliated by blackspot last year, there wasn't another rosebush close to it, and the blackspot didn't spread elsewhere before I got my fungicidal act together. Also, I keep a pretty thick mulch around each bush. Since some of these diseases can be spread by splashing up from the ground, the mulch keeps the splashing down to a minimum. Another thing that would help would be in-ground irrigation or soaker hoses instead of my overhead sprinklers. Not there yet.

Watching and Smelling

This is the important part. Roses are great. With just a little bit of attention, you can have great flowers but still have time to watch the grass grow and smell the roses.

Program

(continued from page 4)

wildflower (up to 10 inches across). There is an *American Lotus Preserve* at Lake Snelling, inside Ft. Snelling State Park. Next came a section called *Edge of Woods*. Poison ivy was prominently featured at all stages of maturity, which was instructional. Also, more of the many loosestrife's, Solomon's seal, wood lilies. Then came *Vines*. My favorite flower was "Carriion Flower", which has a unique aroma, I guess. (My least favorite was hedge bindweed, which I have in my own hedge, to my dismay.) Janet and Janice's flower is the Twinflower, *Linnaea borealis* (very appropriate).

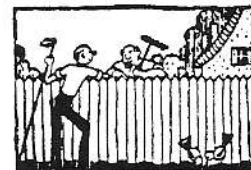
Two sections were from *Canoe Country* and *Around Lake Superior*. These areas showed flowers that made you want to get in your car and drive up there! The final section was the *Orchid Bog* in northern Minnesota, with some fascinating photos of bog plants and orchids, including our Showy Lady's Slipper, which were spectacular. A fitting end to a great presentation. It is impossible to describe this presentation in words. If you missed it, you missed something special.



What plant was responsible for the development of varnish?

Flax, because the by-product of linen is linseed oil, the major component of varnish.





July Tour

The Southern Tour – July 13

by Bob Olson

The first MGCM Garden tour of 1999 is going to three members gardens and to Soni Forsman's Water Plants. Soni Forsman has remarkable cultured water lilies and hard-to-get-but-cannot-live-without companion plants, especially for that rapidly growing subset of gardeners who have ponds, pools, or even moving water. It is also for those of us who just like to marvel at such things. Ms. Forsman was recently featured in *The Minnesota Horticulturist* for her expertise in the cultivation of aquatic plants. It will be a highlight of the evening tour.

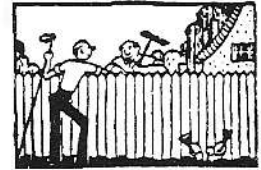
But the three members gardens won't take a back seat to any one. The tour has never been to these yards, so it will be a revelation to everyone. Carol Anne Brekke, the intrepid chair of the Tour Committee, drives a school bus by day and spotted two of these impressive gardens on her route. The inappropriately modest gardeners were overmatched when she and co-chair Mary Wahl announced they were going to be on the South Tour. The Nordleys and Overoms are neighbors with complementary gardening interests and skills.

Warren Nordley's yard is replete with unusual dwarf conifers and interesting, but little-known, perennials sprinkled among a well-appointed and artfully maintained, but ever-changing, garden. When the shoreline was being eroded by the elements, he commissioned Eldon Hugelen to design an environmentally friendly and effective shoreline garden to save it. Now there are grasses and attractive long-rooted flowering perennials (which can even withstand attack from savage muskrats) where there once was

erosion. When the fir tree went over in last year's storm he started a herb garden in the now sunny spot. In the midst of all this, huge stone statues of Chinese warriors arise to protect the bounty from locusts and snails. This is a must see place.

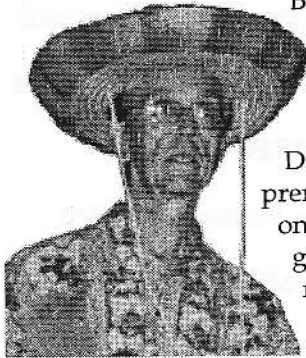
Jackie Overom's eclectic garden offers something for everyone. She is irretrievably attached to some wonderful old perennials (treasures from her mother and her grandmother) like the virtually carefree antique shrub roses. Some splendid new "designer trees" in now grace her front yard—grafted euonymus, dwarf willows, and columnar apple trees. A magnificent new cedar fence sets off a back yard displaying a plethora of mature roses, peonies and lilies. Delightful little bursts of humor and personality abound, like her annual baby's breath growing in an old boot on the patio. Her greenhouse boasts blooming orchids throughout the year. She has a newly started shade garden, adding to the natural ferns and the huge mature clumps of Blue Angel, Sum and Substance, Frances Williams and Krossa Regal (from her grandfather) with new additions from forays to Shady Oaks Nursery (in Waseca). You could spend all day here discovering things.

Finally, we return to Dave and Renada Moehnke's. The Tour has been there twice before, but it's always terrific and always different—because they keep moving to new homes. This is their latest (last?) move and those who have been there say it is the best yet. This garden was started three years ago from a yard full of sod. After removing eight inches of clay and adding 115 tons of rock, five truck loads each of composted soil and cypress mulch, gardens became a reality. As of now there are at least 700 perennials, numerous shrubs, roses and other treasures. Another "must see" garden.



Restoration

Most gardeners are very optimistic. They take a microscopic seed and expect it to turn into a fantastic blooming plant.



Bob and Mavis Voigt admit to this delusion and generally something magical always happens.

Bob grew up in South Dakota where trees were at a premium and he placed a premium on them. He always wanted to grow trees, but his technique did not include a formal or academic approach. He used the good old-fashioned trial and error method, and spent time watching others. Collecting seeds was the easiest way to start.

About thirty years ago Bob started buying all kinds of seedling and transplants from the DNR for land they owned near Cannon Falls and later for their farm near Hastings. Lately he has been planting black walnuts and blight resistant American chestnuts that were collected in

Wisconsin. In total they have planted more than eleven thousand trees as a land conservation/restoration project. Bob and Mavis do things in a big way, If you have seen their garden, you will understand. I just learned that this year's new project is planting Scarlet Runner beans climbing on 60 feet of fence. It should be a sight to behold, and they should have enough beans for the whole winter.

FFF Entry Tags

It's not too early to think about the Flower Food and Foto Show. And one of the things you can do ahead of time is fill out entry tags for flowers and vegetables. Blank tags will be available from Mary Maynard or Margaret Hibberd at the July tour. Or, call Mary at 612-883-6322 or Margaret at 651-644-8149 to have some sent to you.

Our judges continue to tell us that the MGCM FFF is one of the best shows they see each year. Mark your calendar now for August 14-15 at the Arboretum.

JULY 13 GARDEN TOUR REGISTRATION

Members Name: _____

Number attending _____ \$16.00 Per Person, Amount Included: _____

I (we) will take the bus: From Church _____, Park & Ride _____, or I will drive _____

Mail reservation and check to : Renada Moehnke
16385 Interlachen Blvd.
Lakeville, MN 55044

For information phone Renada at: Day (612) 701-6130
Evenings (612) 891-2939

Reservations must be received by July 9.

Limited bus space available (80) since there are no more buses available on this date.

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10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305
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