

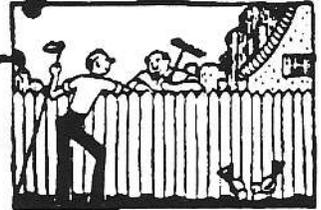


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

September 1994, Volume 52, Number 9

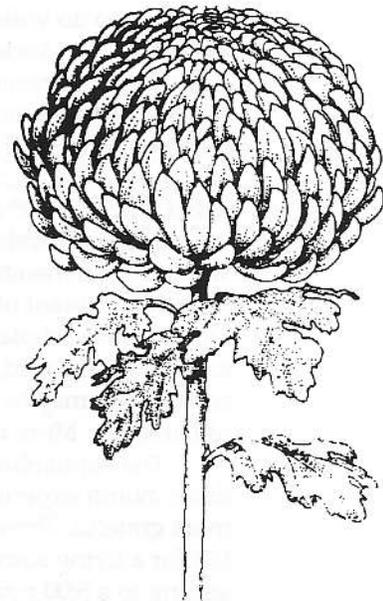


September MGCM Dinner Meeting:

"Mums: New Developments from Plant Research?"

with Professor Neil Anderson
University of Minnesota
Department of Horticulture

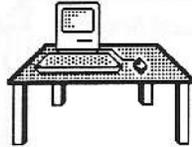
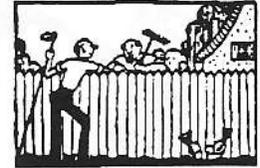
For eleven years, Dr. Anderson has been at the University of Minnesota, where he received both his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. His Bachelor's degree is from Cal Poly. Dr. Anderson, despite his Minnesota sounding name, is originally from Vermont. While his research focuses on plant breeding, he also teaches courses in floral design.



- Date:** Tuesday, September 13
- Time:** Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Business Meeting 7:15 p.m.
Speaker 7:45 p.m.
- Place:** Lake Harriet Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenues South
Minneapolis
- Cost:** \$7.00 if you reserve in advance
\$8.00 with no reservation

Reminder...

This month's dinner meeting begins at 6:30 p.m., half an hour later than in the past. The new start time will be tried for three months and then members will vote on which time they prefer.



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

You may notice that this issue of the *Garden Spray* is a bit lighter than normal. Due to a death in his family, Merle Pulley was not able to finish part two of his report on the July Garden Tour in time for the early deadline for this issue. Merle's father Elmer, a prize-winning violin maker, died in early August after a long illness. Part two will appear next month.

Hats off to everyone who had anything to do with the July tour. As Treasurer Mel Anderson reports on page 4, the financial results were outstanding. I did not think it would be possible to improve on the 1992 tour, given the great energy and excellent publicity that coincided with our 50th Anniversary.

The Scholarship Committee, of which I am a member, has met to nominate the recipient of the 1994 MGCM Horticulture Scholarship. Due to the great success we enjoyed, more than one scholarship may be awarded by the Board of Directors. More in the September *Spray*.

The September meeting begins a three month experiment for which I am most grateful. Those of us who still must toil for a living sometimes have difficulties getting to a 6:00 p.m. meeting, so the September, October and November meetings will start at 6:30 p.m., and at the end of the year we'll vote to see which time most members prefer.

Given a choice, I think I would prefer to retire. Then I could make a 6:00 p.m. meeting and I would have the quality time to devote to my garden that it really deserves. Although from what I know of our retired members, they are often busier now than when they were "working."

Coming Attractions

September 6 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board of Directors
Bob Stepan's House

September 13 - 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South

October 4 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board of Directors
Clyde Thompson's House

October 11 - 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South

October 22 - 9:00 a.m.
Fall Cleanup
MGCM Fragrance Garden

November 1 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board of Directors
Bob Voigt'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, Carolyn Hayward, Mary Maynard, Derrill Pankow, Merle Pulley



The President's Report

Clyde Thompson, President, MGCM

I smell Fall in the air. That is a good name for the season. Everything I've got growing straight up will soon come tumbling down. People with lots of trees will soon be inundated with more mulch falling from the sky. The veggie growers of course are happy. Their fondest dreams of last spring when they dropped some seeds around have now grown to fruition, and with a little luck, they got some blue ribbons at the garden show.

Show time is a little tough on the flower growers the third week of August. Maybe a better flower show would be in July, and the vegetables could be shown and judged at the September meeting. ('95 Show Committee, please note.)

Now for some announcements:

The MGCM Board will meet at Bob Stepan's house Sept. 6th.

The regular Fall schedule at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church on 49th and Chowen will be at 6:30 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.. This was a suggestion from some of the working class who find it difficult to make the 6:00 o'clock schedule. I can still remember when I worked and drove 30 miles through Saint Paul and Minneapolis to get home. I was perpetually late for dinner. We will try the 6:30 hour for the rest of '94, then take a vote.

It's time to get ready for Sunday's garden tour and look for some rare flower specimens to wow the judges at next week's Flower Food and Foto show.

Fragrance Garden Report

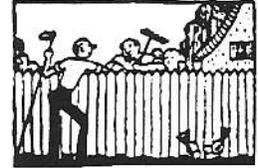
by Chuck Carlson, Fragrance Garden Chair

A few over twenty people attended a tour at the Fragrance Garden on August 4. I sensed a little lack of enthusiasm during the visit. Not as many questions were asked, maybe because a number of flowers have finished their bloom. The only two flowers that questions were asked about were Gomphrena and Joe-Pye-Weed. The lack of rain hasn't helped, and the occasional watering provided by the maintenance volunteers hasn't been enough to make up for the lack of natural watering.

Thanks to last month's maintenance volunteers. The following is a list of the remaining volunteers:

- Aug 27-Sept 2 Mel Anderson & Chet Groger
- Sept 3-9 Derrill Pankow & Kent Petterson
- Sept 10-16 Derrill Pankow & Sharon Parker
- Sept 17-23 Henry Orfield & Walt Gustafson
- Sept 24-30 Lee Gilligan & Don Nybo

The most important things to be done are watering, removal of dead material, cutting off spent flowers (dead-heading) and general cleanup.



Excellent Financial Results from July Garden Tour

by Mel Anderson, MGCM Treasurer

To: MGCM Directors and Members
Garden Tour Hosts
Tour Committee

Here are the financial results of the 1994 MGCM Garden Tour as of 8/12/94:

Tickets Sold	<u>Driving Tour</u>	<u>Bus Tour</u>	<u>Total</u>
Advance by Mail	53	16	69
Sold by Members	346	11	357
Sold at Gardens	<u>437</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>448</u>
TOTALS	836	38	874

Income

Bus Tour Tickets	\$960.00
Driving Tour Tickets	6,270.00
Donations	<u>77.70</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,307.00

Expenses

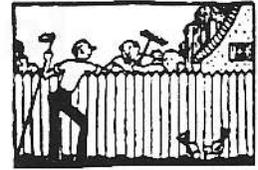
Printing, Mailing	\$341.07
Insurance	359.00
Hort. Society Ad	190.00
Bus	269.50
Bus Food	<u>263.33</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,422.90

NET PROFIT (added to Scholarship Account) \$5,884.80

Comparison with 1992 50th Anniversary Tour:

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Bus Tickets	38	72	-34
Driving Tickets	<u>836</u>	<u>860</u>	<u>-24</u>
TOTAL TICKETS	874	932	-58
Income	\$7,308	\$7,793	-\$483
Expenses	<u>1,423</u>	<u>2,266</u>	<u>+843</u>
NET INCOME	\$5,885	\$5,527	+\$358

NOTE: As of 8/12/94 seven members had not returned tickets or money for them.



Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

Successes or failures. This month I'm reporting on new plants or varieties I tried this year. Some were great and some I will not try again, but I expect to try something new again next year.

A Helianthus called 'Velvet Queen' was shown in one of the catalogs and I couldn't resist buying some seeds. This plant overtook the bed more than anticipated, but otherwise bloomed with some nice reddish-brown flowers with yellow tips. One plus I didn't realize would occur was that it attracted yellow finches. I have been trying to lure them to the backyard with sunflower and thistle seeds with no success. These bushes of 'Velvet Queen' did the trick. Though these sunflowers were acceptable, the variety I grew last year called 'Orange Sun' provided more spectacular flowers and a less branched under structure. Both are worth growing.

Another "queen" I grew this year is called 'African Queen'. It is the much ballyhooed yellow impatiens. It is the first yellow impatiens, but it left something to be desired. The flowers were a bit smaller and the plant a bit larger than I had expected. Also, the flower shape was something that left me wishing it was more like the other "Busy Lizzies". I much prefer the flat or rose type blossoms of the other cultivars. 'Swirl' is still my favorite.

Lavatera is another annual which puts on a nice show. When a new variety called 'Ruby Regis' failed to arrive from Thompson and Morgan, I looked through my seed horde and found some four year

old seeds of 'Mont Rose'. I liked it before so I decided to see if these ancient seeds would germinate. They did with the same vigor as the first year I grew them. I still like them and have a number of plants in bloom. One of them is two feet in diameter and filled with lovely pink nicely veined flowers. Next year I will try 'Ruby Regis'.

I chose another plant that the catalog said loves shade and has flowers. I thought I had a spot for it. The plant is 'Torenia', Clown Mix. Another name is Wishbone Flower. It grew well and flowered in the shade as advertised, but not very prolifically. It didn't provide the show I had anticipated and the plant was rather small. This was my biggest disappointment of the year.

I also tried 'Verbascum'. In fact, I tried two different varieties; a white and one which was very large with a stock of yellow flowers. The white one was okay, but the other one reminded me of the wild mullein found throughout the area. I wasn't too impressed. I do have a couple of smaller varieties started so I will have to wait till next year to give a total thumbs down response.

The Tip

Grow your tried and true varieties but try something new each year. It's enjoyable to see the results, and even the disappointments provide one with new ideas. Who knows, some of them might become the "tried and true" after a few years.

New Member

Donald M. Procke
10625 East Bush Lake Road
Bloomington, MN 55438
Home phone: 941-1677
Business phone: 881-5825

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