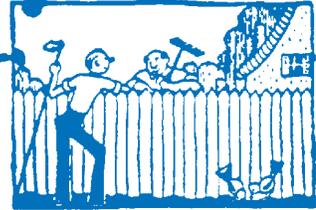




Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.
Affiliated with The Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society
July 2001, Volume 59, Number 7



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis Hosts National Convention July 17-22



Future Club Events

July 17-22: National Convention
August 12: Club Tour
August 18-19: Flower, Food & Foto Show
September 11: Dinner meeting
October 9: Dinner Meeting

**November 13: Dinner meeting---New
and unusual perennials
by Debbie Lonnee
from Bailey's Nursery**
December 4: Holiday Party



Editorial Enticements

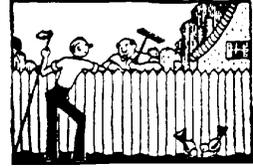
By Chuck Carlson, Editor

Yes this is the convention month. The convention this year is the fourth convention hosted by The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis (1949,1967,1988 and 2001). I could find no information on the 1949 convention but, I did find a few bits and pieces on the 1967 and the 1988.

In 1967 it was held in July and Dwight Stone was the chairman. The hotel was the Pick-Nicollet which has since been demolished. I wonder if the convention had anything to do with that. The two main speakers were Dr. Leon Snyder (professor, author and a promoter of the arboretum) and John Nash Ott (known for his time-lapsed pictures of flowers). Some of our present members gave seminars, Jerry Olson, Phil Smith, Roger Koopmans and Lloyd Bachman. Also two other clubs in the area participated. These were the Men's garden clubs of Richfield and Minnetonka. Both of these clubs are defunct and some of their members are now part of our club.

The 1988 convention also held in July was the highest attended convention held, 572 registrants. The Minneapolis club had 70 % of it's members registered. Bill Hull was the chairman and the convention was four years in planning. There were five different garden tours and 26 gardens involved. The weather was hot, one day at 95 degrees. It was held over the 4th of July so, of course, one on the sights was a fireworks display.

We know we cannot compete with the attendance but hopefully other aspects will be on par. The gardens selected should be great and we hope for cooler weather than in 1988.



Everybody please volunteer, attend and help wherever and whenever possible. If you haven't signed up see Duane Reynolds.

Future Board meeting

Tuesday, July 3, 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
at Warren Nordley's house.

JULY



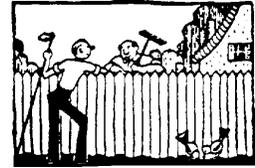
**Work @ Perennial Garden
July 14th & 28th
MGCM Board Meeting June 3rd
Independence Day July 4th
National Convention July 17-22**



President's Column

MGCM President Carole Ann Brekke

Summer is finally here, but, how was your Spring gardening? Was it all you had hoped or was it a bit too soggy? Did you spend all the time in your garden you had planned or were you busy with other needs? Do you still have containers waiting for plants and plants waiting patiently to get in the garden? Are you running out of time and wishing like me the daylight hours were getting longer, instead of shorter? In many ways, not only the record rainfall, this has been an unusual Spring for me. I have been pulled in many directions, as I am sure you have been, too. Since my father's death in January, there has been much to take care of for my Mom. Two full sunny Sundays were spent with my sister and our husbands cleaning up and tending to her grass, garden and the places in their yard that Dad just hadn't tended to for the past 5 or 6 years. Another couple of days, I helped my daughter (who has probably delivered our second grandchild by the time you read this) in the new garden spaces we made last fall. Then there were the four, 22 year old Yews. They took up the entire space between the front of my house and sidewalk, and were winter burned except for a few branches. They were definitely ugly, the brown clashing with the lush green of Spring. Doug and I moved aside the rocks and pulled back the black plastic and started to dig. Then we realized how big the root systems were and moved some more plastic and rocks. Eventually, we hooked a come-along to the truck and worked at it some more. It took three different evenings,



but we finally had a system and the fourth shrub was a bit easier. Ever since, I have been removing the rocks from the dirt. Our back yard garden is lush and keeps growing as the rain and sun provide all its needs. I miss the time to tend it and I take occasional breaks from the rocks to catch up on what is blooming, etc. The hostas are lush, with some hail holes, the wisteria is climbing, some of the clematis are in bloom, summer blooming perennials are standing tall, the pond is disrupted from the ducks and the lily pads are battered from the hail but the fish are happy to be outside. All is well enough for now. Doug and the neighbors think I am crazy to separate all the dirt from the rocks. Maybe I am! But, when I eventually plant that space, I don't want to hit rocks, and I want that dirt that has been mixing with the rocks these past 20 years. My back yard has 2 feet of black dirt. Eldon says I really don't know how to garden, I just have great dirt! I want to create similar soil in the front yard, so in between the rain, I work in the rocks. Last weekend, my brother-in-law took about 45 - 5 gallon buckets or rocks to their acreage in Red Wing. While sitting in the rocks, it has been a good time of reflection and problem solving.

My conclusion; do what I can in the garden, be glad I have the energy, enthusiasm and desire to help those that need it and this year, the garden is good enough for me. Soon the rocks will be gone and the bags of peat, compost and top soil can take their place. Soon too, the chores of the Convention planning will be done, our guests will be here and we will be able to enjoy the fruits of our labor as we host the National Convention. See you there!

If I'm missing...

.... check my garden,

(I will soon be out of the rocks!)

Carole Ann



Last Month's Program

by Lloyd Wittstock

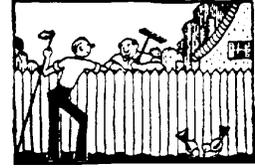
If one of these spring storms which have grazed our neighborhood were to deracinate all our annual plants and smash all our containers, I could start over with considerably more insight thanks to Anita Marie Kerper of Bloomsapes Inc. in St. Paul, presenter at the June meeting.

She presented two topics in the usual time of one, combining information on the choices for containers and as she put it, "Creative Container Combos," with the equally ambitious topic "New and Unusual Annual for the 21st Century." In the process she covered a variety of design basics, color considerations, and the details of over 100 slides.

At the outset, we were shown containers in places usual and unusual—sitting on patios and decks, climbing steps, resting on benches, hiding in gardens, and standing along curbs. And not just any old containers, but manufactured ones of plastic, clay (good for the over-watering gardener), cast iron, concrete, papier-mache or resin, or resurrected ones that started out as whiskey barrels, baby carriages, boots or minnow buckets. Once you have selected your type of containers, Anita had lots of advice on design within the pot and among groups of three.

She laid out these general principles to consider:

- Group three containers of slightly different sizes or types
- Group containers with massed, line and mixed plant design
- Try bushes or grasses, herbs, house plants or vegetables in the container along with annuals



- Mix different textures in each container if you are going to view them close up
- Keep one texture per pot if viewed from a distance
- Rainbows of color are not the only choice today—try monochromatic, analogous or contrasting colors

Moving next to the new or rediscovered annuals, we saw slides of plantings with these themes, starting with unusual foliage from the variegation of coleus to the tropical-appearing size and shapes of elephant ears. So on the retro-plants of the '60s (cosmos and asters), the heirlooms (cleome), the scent of alyssum, the bright hue of salvia Victoria blue.

Along the way, she put in a particularly good word for datura and its downward-facing twin, brugsmania; for the wave series of petunias, for sweet potato vine, for the larger flower of rudbeckia Indian Summer, and for the cooler shades of pentas as a change from geraniums.

More general principles:

- Put bright colored plants near your entrance to get attention
- Place the cool colors in the private areas of the garden to relax you
- Blue, chartreuse, white and red are always in
- For unusual plants, skip the end caps of the big nurseries and visit the back shelves of small nurseries.

Barring a big wind that might make all these points important at once, I plan to compare them to what I have done so far and possibly make a few changes next year. And, Anita Marie Kerper certainly added some talking points as we look at the tour gardens this summer.



Board Meeting Summary



*Margaret Hibberd,
Secretary*

Meeting Date: June 5, 2001

Present:

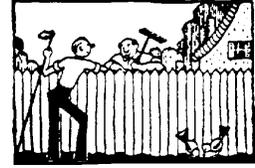
Howard Berg, Carole Ann Brekke, Wayne Engelman, Margaret Hibberd, Dave Johnson (Fridley), Tim McCauley, Ritchie Miller, Warren Nordley, Jackie Overom, Duane Reynolds

2001 Convention Update

Duane Reynolds attended and gave us a lot of good info. The hotel is the Holiday Inn Select Airport. As of this meeting date there were 91 registered guests including only 2 from our club. They are requesting our members bring cookies for the hospitality area and while the hotel is not nuts about this, it saves a lot of money over having the hotel provide them. The hospitality area will be on the second floor by the pool. Help is needed to get these prizes free from garden centers. The Minneapolis Convention Bureau will provide tourist information materials we can have available at the registration desk. There will be a Convention Committee meeting at the hotel next week. Our member prices are close to cost. The Saturday afternoon speakers will be Mary Meyer, our own Dr. Bob Olson, and Deb Brown. Peter Olin will be the Sunday night banquet speaker. It would be nice if members brought cut flowers in water to the hospitality area.

Presidents Report

Our non profit 501 (C) (3) status paperwork did get sent in the end of May. Eight members worked on planting at the



Lake Harriet Methodist Church with a mixture of plants purchased, donated, discounted, or from the gardens of members. There were 5 for work at planting at the Perennial Trial Garden on June 2.

Vice Presidents Report

Debbie Lonnie of Bailey Nursery and her presentation on new and unusual perennials was moved to the November meeting. September and October as open and he is working on ideas for garden lighting, structure and ornaments or less pesticide use.

Secretary's Report

The report was amended and accepted.

Treasurer's Report

The report was given and accepted

Membership Secretary's Report

The Board voted to accept new members Audrey Grote, Mary Oelke and Larry Larson.

Committee Reports

Plant Auction— This year was really successful. It went well, was fun, faster and the presale of flats excellent. It was the best yet financially. There was discussion of our need to save money to pay taxes in case our 501 (c) (3) alerts the taxing authorities that we have not been paying taxes in the past. Ritchie, with a second by Dave, moved all donations be stopped until after Oct. 1, 2001 and that each of the donations then be acted upon by the Board. This was passed.

Old Business

MGCM Handbook— Still waiting for it.

New Business

None



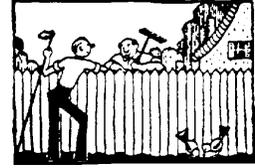
Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

Well, this has been the darndest spring! I took the week before Memorial Day off to get ahead of the gardening game. (You remember that week? When the high temperatures were in the 40's and it rained every day? I got a lot of reading done.) Instead of being ahead, I'm farther behind than usual: I still have three flats of things to find homes for. There are 60 bags of un-shredded leaves in the garage (very fragrant, I might add). The weeds are everywhere, and the warm-season annuals are just sitting there, waiting for their cold wet feet to dry out. As I scramble to catch up, I constantly remind myself of one thing: At least I'm not on tour this year.

My garden has actually been on MGCM August tours twice — once in 1994, and again in 2000. Here's what I have learned.

1. Don't bother to paint the house unless it's really, really bad. Gardeners do not come to your garden to look at your house. I'd bet the most visitors to my garden can't remember much about the house at all. Quick quiz: Do I have a double or single garage? Do I have a garage all?
2. It is important to repair sidewalks, since you don't want visitors to trip and fall. Injuries take a lot of fun out of garden tours. If you're going to pour new sidewalk sections, measure and calculate carefully before starting to avoid frantic trips



to the nearest cement source partway through the process. Helpful hint: if you're about a pint of concrete short, push small rocks into the concrete to bring up the overall level. (By the time I thought of this, it was too late, but maybe someone else could benefit.)

3. Do not start new projects, like ponds or major flower bed renovations in the year that you're going to be on tour. Yes, I know that Dave Moehnke put in a new water feature two days before he was on tour a couple of years ago, but I'm quite sure that Dave and Renada do not qualify as Lazy Gardeners. Lazy Gardeners are made of less stern stuff, and should focus on restoration rather than trying to add more complexity to their lives.
4. Prepare some extra containers to "stash" in bare spots at the last minute. I used bowls of coleus, begonias, salvias, impatiens, etc. to fill in bare spots that I normally wouldn't even have noticed. I don't know if people touring noticed them, but it made me feel better. This year, I have reverted back to ignoring the bare spots.
5. Do not allow any of your relatives to rope you into helping them move over the last full weekend before the tour. Make them change their closing dates if they need your help.
6. Gladly accept any assistance. I was very grateful for those who stopped by and helped weed, and then Margaret Hibberd came by the day before the tour and worked wonders on my patio and porch.
7. Try edging your sidewalks. It's kind of a novel experience, and they will look quite a bit neater. Don't buy

(Continued On page 11)



Convention Gardens on Tour

The convention tour committee thanks all the gardeners who agreed to be on tour during the convention. Below is a listing of those on the tour and a fine list it is.

The Southern Tour

- Carole Ann & Doug Brekke
- Gary & Joanne Geister
- Dave & Renada Moehnke
- Warren & Beverly Nordley
- Jackie & Tim Overom
- Jerry & Lee Shannon

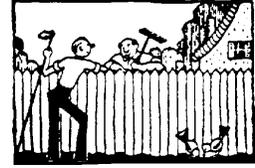
The Northern Tour

- Archie & Jean Caple
- Dave & Delores Johnson
- Bob & Karen Olson
- Bob & Phyllis Redmond
- Clyde & Virginia Thompson
- Kay Wolfe & Gary Opperman

Convention Banquet Speaker

The final act of the convention is the Presidents Banquet. The Speaker for this dinner is our own member Peter Olin. His topic is titled *The Future Role of Public Gardens*.

The abstract: A frank discussion of the future of public gardens. Why are they necessary and who will be the users of such gardens as we move into the 21st Century? What, in fact, will be the



component parts - gardens, collections, educational programs, information resources, research, entertainment, recreation? How will the gardens be maintained and who will fund them? In a time of increased competition for people's free time, is there a place for the public garden?

Finally, how can garden clubs such as The Gardeners of America play a role in determining the direction of public gardens and in keeping these gardens as a vital part of our society?



Convention Committee Meetings

Here is a list of committee meetings you may want to consider. Even if you are not on the committee you can attend just to learn about some of the operations of the national organization. They are held Thursday, July 19 between 8 and 11 :30 AM.

- Endowment
- Newsletter
- Photography
- Judging
- Web Site
- Convention site planning
- Youth
- Membership-- How To Attract new members
- Club Officers Guide
- Gardening From The Heart (GFTH)
- Awards



Convention Seminars

Remember all are invited to the seminars given on Saturday July 21, starting at 1:30 PM.

Landscaping with Ornamental Grasses by Dr. Mary Meyer

Abstract: Learn how to use grasses in your garden, and for special areas, such as shade, near water, and on slopes. See grasses in combination with other perennials and how to enjoy their changes throughout the seasons.

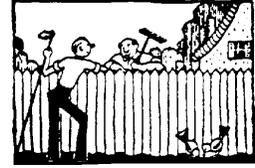
Hardy Landscape Plants from the U of M by Professor Deb Brown

Abstract: Ms. Brown will present an illustrated talk about reliably hardy landscape plants developed by scientists from the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. Many of these plants produce fruit, while others are strictly ornamental. They have all been bred specially for use in northern climates, but are often grown successfully in other regions of the country, as well.

Audience members will each receive a 16 page souvenir anniversary publication from the University of Minnesota, titled 150 Years of Hardy Plants, containing pictures of the plants discussed in this presentation.

Growing Hosta's in Minnesota by Dr. Robert C. Olson

Abstract: Secrets of dividing for maximum survival and increase of plants, when and how to fertilize, strategies for dealing with slugs, how to display your hostas to best effect and what is involved in getting ready for a shade garden tour.



Convention Dedication

Our club as hosts for the convention is dedicating the convention to our own member Bill Hull. The following is a short summary of Bill's club accomplishments.

With Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

- Bill Hull joined MGCM in 1952
- Editor of Club newsletter for 5 years (5 national awards)
- Club Treasurer 1956 - 1958
- Club Vice -president 1959
- Club President 1960
- Bronze Medal 1966
- Club Historian

With The Gardeners of America

- National Director 1952-Present
- Rejuvenated the national publication "MEGA" to become "The Gardener"
- National Vice-president 1961-1963
- National President 1964
- Started the Big Pumpkin Contest
- Awarded the Silver Medal 1966





Plant Sale Report

By Howard Berg

The plant auction of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis was a great success with Doug Whitney as chairman and his willing bunch of helpers. One change for conducting the auction was a pre-sale list of annuals available two months before the auction. Forty-three members bought 117 flats of flowers. All the flats were picked up the day of the plant sale. The auction lasted a little over an hour instead of 2 - 3 hours.

The auction grossed \$1,565.43 more than any other year and a profit of \$767.90 more than any other year.

The top three buyers each received a gift certificate from Malmborg's, Inc. for spending \$455.00, \$426.00 and \$318.55. The fourth buyer lost out by \$1.00 to the third place buyer.

The country store had a good selection of healthy and unusual plants from members gardens, that other members were happy to purchase.

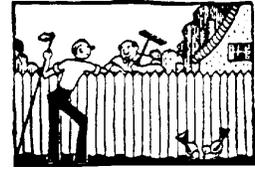
The Plant Auction, Country Store, Silent Auction, Raffle, Pre order and meal made this a very successful plant auction with many willing workers.

THANKS TO ALL.

Church Planting

By CaroleAnn Brekke

Early in May, Pastor Judy for Lake Harriet Methodist Church, where we meet for our club meetings, called with a request for plantings at the church. They wanted to make a statement that the entrance from the parking lot would



officially be the new front of the church. They had two areas in mind. Two large containers to be placed by the pillars at the door leading from the parking lot and the space surrounding the gateway arch over the sidewalk, west of the church door.

Eldon Hugelen, Dave McKeen and Carole Ann Brekke took a look at these areas on May 21, gathered the materials to be planted the following week. Eldon and Dave agreed on annual burgundy fountain grass (grown by Dave), sweet potato vine and Tapien Verbena for the containers. The area by the gateway included Russian Sage, Overdam grass, climbing hydrangeas, daylilies (from Eldon), Sedum Autumn Joy (from Eldon), sun loving coleus (donated by Eisele's Greenhouse) and wax begonias. The soil was some of the leftover from the Auction, along with some peat moss and perlite. Other material was purchased from Malmborgs and Bachmans at a discount. On Tuesday evening, May 29, Ruth and Howard Berg, Wayne and Lois Engleman and Warren Nordley joined us at the church. We planted the containers, an area by a retaining wall, trimmed the overgrown shrubs, sunk large containers into the ground around the shrubs and filled them with annuals, and planted the perennials. We all had a great time working together. Isn't that always the case when gardeners get together to work in the dirt? Just a few ideas and phone calls to gather plant material and club members, provided the church with evidence that the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis had been there, to do what they do best.....garden. Our next club meeting at the church won't be until September. Hope you notice the changes we have made. Stop by, take a look if you are in the area.



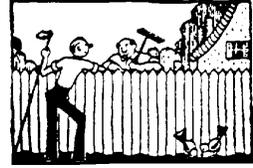
August Club Tour

By Margaret Hibberd

The destination for our Members Club Tour August 12 is St. Cloud where we will visit the adjacent Munsinger and Clemens Gardens. These gardens rank among the most beautiful in the Upper Midwest. Whether you have visited them before, or this is your first time, its always a memorable occasion to see all the annuals, perennials and roses. (We are starting our trip with a box lunch on the bus, so we have as much time as possible in St. Cloud to enjoy the gardens.)

Munsinger Gardens is an older, peaceful, 3 block long garden on the banks of the Mississippi. The tree planting started in the 1920s on the sight of an 1880s sawmill. Improvements were made with the WPA in 1934 and Joseph Munsinger, then superintendent of parks, directed more tree planting, digging of flower beds, construction of lily ponds and fountains, as well as construction of a greenhouse. In 1946 the city named the park in memory of Munsinger.

In 1983 David Morrien, nursery supervisor, started transforming the gardens, facing the problem of deep shade and poor soil. He replaced the old greenhouse with 4 new ones and now they grow 100,000 bedding plants a year in 2 shifts. These colorful annuals are used to complement perennials that are constantly upgraded with improved varieties, including All-American selections. An old log cabin acts as an interpretive center and near it the old city granite horse watering troughs have been converted to planters. As expected in a shade garden, there are many hostas, one of the largest collections in central Minnesota. The gardens have



also been expanded across the street, creating crescent-shaped beds for sun loving plants. This garden is so important in the lives of St. Cloud residents that to accommodate their desire to have weddings and other specials events at the gardens, a special events area was constructed on the south side that has a feeling of a private outdoor room lined with plants. Although this garden is supported by the city of St. Cloud, special projects are supported by plant sales, Rotary and private donations, and Making a Wish for Munsinger fund drives.

Across the street and up the hill are the younger Clemens Gardens and Virginia Clemens Rose Garden. Their full sun is a dramatic contrast to the shade below. This project began in 1989 when philanthropists Bill and Virginia Clemens purchased the lot across the street from their house and donated it to the city. The Granite City Rose Society started raising money for a rose garden on the site. When the Clemenses were asked to donate, they were so enthused they offered to fund the entire project. The rose garden project then grew rapidly and now contains 1100+ roses in beds radiating from a central fountain and surrounded with borders of low growing mixed annuals. Steve Gesell, head rose grower, has help in the fall burying roses and in the spring uncovering them and installing soaker hoses which are covered with wood-chip mulch. The tree roses grow in large wire baskets and are dug in the fall and stored in a root cellar. Shrub roses are sprinkled through the masses of hybrid teas and floribundas. A pale pink floribunda sport was found here in 1991 and named Virginia Clemens.

South of the rose garden, the colors and design of the Clemens Gardens appear first, a fountain surrounded by

(Continued on page 11)



Confessions

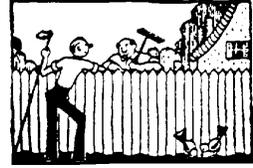
(Continued From page 6)

- more than two different edging tools for this, though, because you won't use them all that often, and they won't get worn out!
8. If you choose to use straight bleach to clean six white plastic Adirondack chairs, wear rubber gloves. Chemical burns on your fingers can take the edge off your fun.
 9. If possible, have a few refreshments for thirsty tourists. If you were saddled with leftover beverages from the tour the month before, that's ideal.
 - 10 Don't worry! Gardeners are a very kind lot, and will not embarrass you; at least not on purpose. I still remember someone telling me, "I really like your garden. It has weeds and everything, and I feel better about my own garden."

Just remember that we all enjoy seeing other people's gardens, even if they're not all perfect. Just share your garden and relax!.

- I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.
- I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.
- I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.
- I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.
- I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.
- I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
- I wish enough "Hello's" to get you through the final "Good-by."

Sent by Lois Engleman



August Club Tour

(continued from page 10)

colorful flowers, then a white garden, and finally, the one color planting areas. Morrien traveled to Europe for ideas and the world renowned White Garden at Sissinghurst Castle in Kent, England inspired the Clemens White Garden. From an inventory of Sissinghurst plants, those hardy in St. Cloud were selected. Annuals and perennial plants in the one color areas change with the seasons, but the color themes of red, yellow, purple and blue continue. This is a great place to get new garden color ideas. The color gardens are divided by a 104 foot treillage of cast iron and steel patterned after one in Essex, England.

After donating funds for materials and labor to build the gardens, the Clemenses also established a two million dollar endowment.

It's hard to express how much I have enjoyed seeing these gardens. After my first visit years ago returning from River Glen Gardens in Sauk Center on a club trip, we have stopped several times on our way back from "Up North" and find different plants each time. I found an article in the May 1997, Minnesota Horticulturist, by Stearns County Master Gardener, Carole Pike, with wonderful background material about the gardens and from it, I tried to select things about the garden to encourage you to come and also to enhance your visit. Hope to see you there! If our date is not good for you, pick your own day and drive yourself to St. Cloud. You'll be glad you did!

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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