



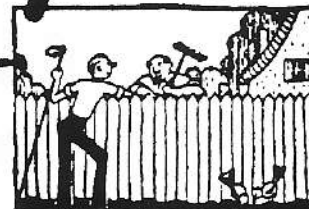
The Garden Spray

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



Affiliated with The Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

September, 2000, Volume 58, Number 9

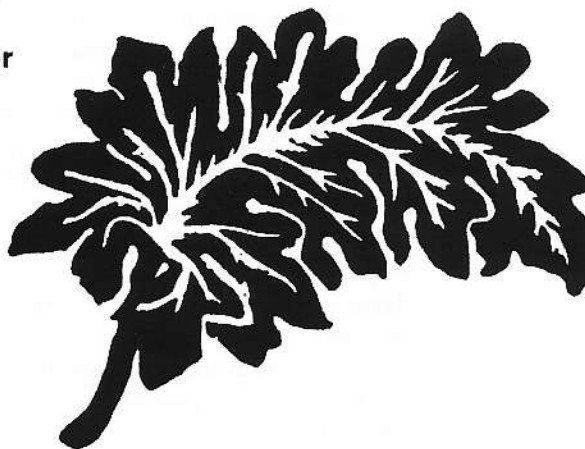


This Month's Program

ANYTHING BUT GREEN: VARIEGATED PLANTS

by Chuck Levine

Most garden plants bloom for a short period of time. By using plants with foliage bicolor, tricolor, splashed, marbled and mottled with colors, the gardener can literally 'paint' the perfect picture in sun or shade. Whether indoors or outdoors, variegated plants beautify with their myriad of color. In this slide presentation we will look at some of the newest and best (as well as a few old standbys) variegated plants available today.



Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2000
Dinner: 6:30 PM
Business: 7:00 PM
Program: 7:30 PM
Location: Lake Harriet United Methodist
49th and Chowen Avenue South
Cost: \$9.00 if reserved in advance,
\$10.00 at the door if extra meals
are available.

Reservations are necessary.

**Call in your reservation if you are not on the permanent reservations list.
See page 11 for reservation and cancellation details.**

Future Club Events

October 10 -----Dinner Meeting--

November 14 --Dinner Meeting-- Orchids by Steve Gonzalez, pres. of Orchid Society

December 5 ----Holiday Party

Editorial Enticements

Chuck Carlson Editor

The month of August was a busy month for our club and it was an enjoyable month, thanks to all who worked to make it so. The tour was great, the flower show again showed off the works of our members and the photo contest brought some wonderful views of garden photography. We now go back into a more normal routine.

I am referring to our dinner meetings. Carole Ann Brekke has some wonderful programs planned, I have seen Chuck Levine give a program and he makes whatever the topic very interesting. I also hear that Steve Gonzales is a great presenter and an advocate of the orchid.

I also want to remind you of the request for table flowers or plants to decorate the tables. See Lens article for this request.

See you at the meetings and remember the more you participate the more you get back.

My last reminder is for you to consider the Regional meeting in September. It is in Des Moines and I know they have worked hard to make it an informative and enjoyable experience. Maybe you could add another day or two and have a short vacation. Eldon is from Iowa and says its a great place to be from. You can take that comment anyway you like. In any case consider September 26 as a part of your gardening experiences.

I once made a request for sayings referring to your neighbors grass being greener. I only heard from one person. So I make the request again if you have some send them on to me and I will print them in the Spray. Here are three I have col-



lected.

- If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, move next door!
- The grass may look greener on the other side of the fence, but it still has to be mowed!
- If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, fertilize!

This could also be phrased 'Why is grass greener on the other side——'. I have solicited a few comments on that question from some notable people.

Dr. Suess says: "The grass is greener at the neighbor's abode. It did cross over the road. Yes! The grass crossed over the road, but why it is greener I've not been told.

Saddam Hussein said: "This is an unprovoked act of rebellion and we were justified in dropping 50 tons of Roundup on it."

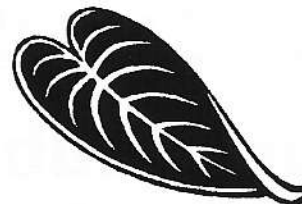
Captain James T. Kirk says "To boldly go where no grass has gone before."

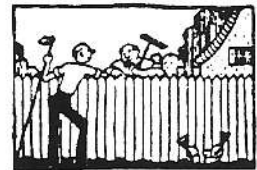
Einstine hypothesized: Did the grass really cross over or did the ground move beneath the grass.

Bill Clinton's comment: I did not cross the road with that grass. What do you mean by grass? Could you define grass please.

The Bible could have been written: And God came down from heaven and said unto the grass, "Thou shalt cross over." And the grass crossed over. And there was much rejoicing.

See you at the September dinner meeting."



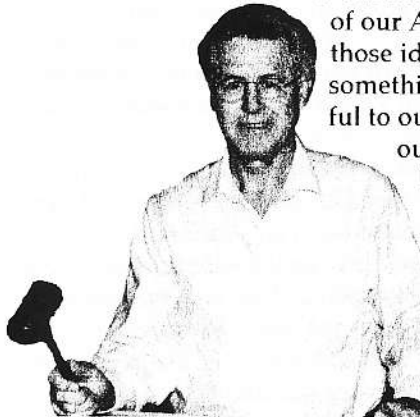


President's Column

MGCM President Richie Miller

Ritchie's Ramblings

I hope that you're having a wonderful summer. It's amazing what happens when the committees of our club put their minds to their tasks. The new ideas and the nuances of old ideas bring excitement to our members. The "high tea"



*Ritchie Miller
Photo by Chuck*

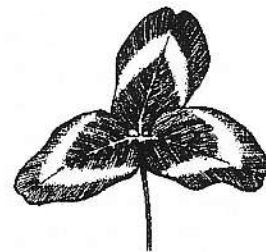
of our August tour is one of those ideas. It brought something new and wonderful to our club tour. I thoroughly enjoyed it as I believe everyone on the tour did. Congratulations to the tour committee.

Lloyd Bachman has been a member of our club for fifty, yes 50, years. To my

knowledge, this is only the second member of our club to achieve such a milestone.

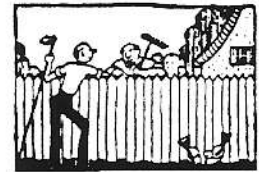
I'm finally ready for summer, the plant maintenance season. The planting is completed so I can now kick back and enjoy the garden. All that should be required is some basic care and maintenance. This evening my mind was jogged because I have a whole lot of acorns all over my yard and I think of those as fall items. Is summer really winding down? The state fair is just around the corner. Fall is coming upon us a bit too soon for me, but I haven't figured out how to mess around with the passage of time. If you know how to change it, please let me know.

I've had oak trees for many years and have never really acquired an appreciation for walking on acorns. So what do I do about them? If I was truly a lazy gardener, I'm sure that I'd just let the squirrels clean them up or bury them in the lawn. I choose to clean them up. I'll tell you how I do it, but you must understand that my way may cause neighbors to think you're a little less than lucid. I vacuum them up with a large wet/dry vacuum. Do you have a neighbor that vacuums his lawn? Wow, maybe a lot less than lucid. This should really give you cause to reflect on your President's mental processes. Nevertheless, I've found that the vacuum is faster and surer than other methods that I've tried. This should be enough rambling for this issue. I do want to thank all the people working on our committees. They really do all the work of the club and that's a lot. Thanks to each of you.



New Member

We welcome our newest member member, Marte H. Hult. She is a lecturer and a assistant professor of Norwegian at the University of Minnesota and at St Olaf College. She must have liked our gardens because she joined two days after going on the public tour. Welcome to the club.



Last Month Gardens in the Park Tour

By Maurice Lindblom, Sher Curry and Axel Troedsson

Editors note: I received three sets of written comments for the August tour so I decided I would combine them. It must have touched many since so many good comments were voiced. Congratulations to all who planned the event.

On a perfect August 6 day, a large number of MGCMM members toured six exceptional members gardens in St. Louis Park. Because the gardens were all close to each other, the travel time was at a minimum and the members had a lot of time to savor the delights of each garden. -- Morrie

What a delightful tour we had today. The weather was better than ever for an August tour. There was a great handout of all of the gardens but I thought I would share my favorite things with you. I love going on the member tours and picking up ideas for my own garden. I find new plant materials, new layout ideas, different color combinations and get to enjoy garden ornaments I have not seen before. I also enjoy getting to know the members better. -- Sher

The Tour

The tour started at Junelle Hanks which had a wonderful mixture of color, plant material and garden ornaments. My favorites were her angel sculpture which overlooks the perennial beds and the unusual bamboo tree behind her privacy fence. -- Sher

Junelle Hanks' beautiful and well tended perennial beds as well as a small water garden in one corner lent a special charm. Another exceptional feature was the beautiful angel sculpture, keeping

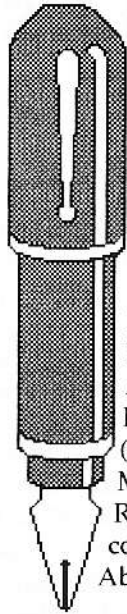
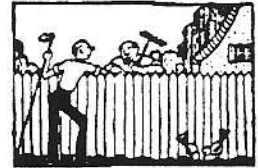
vigil over the garden. Behind the back fence was a bamboo tree! There was a lot of interest in this seemingly exotic specimen, that was obviously thriving in our temperate climate. -- Morrie

Next on the tour was the garden of the infamous Lazy Gardener, Mary Maynard. Despite her "nom de plume", seeing her garden belies the idea that she is lazy. The variety of perennials, roses and foliage was truly amazing. It starts with a beautiful boulevard garden, progresses up a slope and then flows into the back yard full of color and variety. All was carefully maintained, with none of the weeds that we hear her brag about. I have heard her talk about her "Robusta" rose, but I didn't imagine it was as robust as it was. -- Morrie

I heard many comments about how much Mary had been fibbing about her weed collection. Her place was well groomed and I could only find one weed. She has garden statues and fun pieces hidden amongst the gardens. The front yard is well blended with the neighbors creating a very harmonious continuation. The most impressive botanical specimens for me were the Joe Pye Weed and the Russian sage up front, and the wonderful collection of potted *Alocasia* on the back patio. -- Sher

Mountebank Unmasked! Mary Maynard who shamelessly presented herself as "The Lazy Gardener" in countless by-lined columns in "The Spray" was "outed" when the MGCMM Members' Garden Tour visited her meticulously honed garden last month. This was not the property of a lazy gardener, even the grass by the sidewalk was lovingly hand edged! Not only was the garden as bereft of weeds, but there were carefully mulched (cocoa beans no less) mass plantings of choice perennials on the

(Continued on page 9)



Board Meeting Summary

Margaret Hibberd, Secretary

Meeting Date: August 1, 2000
Present: Howard Berg, Carole Ann Brekke, Margaret Hibberd, Eldon Hugelen, Dave Johnson (Fridley), Tim McCauley, Ritchie Miller, & Jackie Overom. Duane Reynolds, chair of the 2001 convention also attended.
Absent: Kay Wolfe

Presidents Report: It is time to think about action by the nominating committee for 2001 officers. Carole Ann should start thinking about her committee chairs for next year. We need to consider if we should still participate in blanket MSHS membership for all members in light of the MSHS dues increase for 2001. We will again discuss it again at the September Board meeting.



*Margaret Hibberd
Photo by Chuck*

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were given an approved

Committee Reports

- Calendars: 500, 2001 calendars have been delivered
- Plant sale and Auction: There will be a wrap-up meeting after the September 12 monthly meeting.
- Nominating Committee: Dave Johnson(Fridley) will take over as the Club Treasurer, so Howard can be the 2001 Convention Treasurer.
- Public Tour: There was less money made from this tour than 2 years ago when the tour was huge.
- 2001 Convention: Tour committee

chair, Duane Reynolds, attended the Board meeting to report on what the committee has done. The hotel is the Holiday Inn Select in Bloomington. Food prices are available and the committee can work toward a schedule and registration fee. There will be a committee meeting August 10. Needed a person to work on fund raising to get donations to offset the registration fee. It was questioned if there could be advertising in the handbook to reduce the printing cost. Donations of door prizes are also needed.. They are looking for speakers. July 30 has been set aside for a day at the Arboretum.

New Business:

- The treasurer was directed to pay the budgeted donations to the Arboretum, the Landscape Plant Development Center, the MSHS and the stipend to our national delegate.
- The Board voted to admit new member, Marte Hult.
- The board with help from Rich Van Sickle will pursue a non-profit status for the club.
- The board approved that our insurance expense be prorated between the club and public tours.

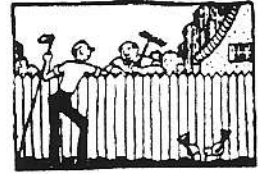
Future Board meetings & Locations

Tuesday, September 5, 7:30 PM

Board of Directors meeting
Kay Wolfe's house

Tuesday, October 3, 7:30 PM

Board of Directors meeting
Ritchie Miller's house



Food Flower and Foto Show

(The FFF Show) The Food & Flower The Foto

By Mary Maynard

By Lloyd Wittstock

The Food Flower and Foto Show for 2000 is history. The total entries were less than normal but the judges remarked that the quality was still there. Attendance on Saturday afternoon was very good. We had great weather and good publicity from the Arboretum. Our thanks to everyone who worked on and/or entered the show for making it successful yet again. But we do need more participation. New members need to be persuaded to enter. I am sure you all have specimens that are winners.

The following are this years winners.

- Best of Show and Champion Flower: Collection of three caladiums — Mel Anderson
- Reserve Champion Flower: Amaranth 'Hot Biscuits' — Henry Orfield
- Flower Sweepstakes (Albert R. Blackburn Trophy) — Henry Orfield
- National" Flower Award (Begonia) — Duane Johnson for his entry of tuberous begonia 'Rose Picotee'
- The Champion Vegetable: Container-grown chile pepper 'Tears of Heaven' — Jim Dzandzra.
- Reserve Champion Vegetable: Bush Bean 'Florence' — Mel Anderson
- Vegetable Sweepstakes (Tom Foley Memorial Trophy) — Phil Peterson
- National" Vegetable Award (Cucumber) — Phil Peterson, for his entry of burpless cucumbers..

The Robert L. Smith Memorial Trophy for the best showing by a first-time exhibitor was not awarded, since we had no new exhibitors this year.

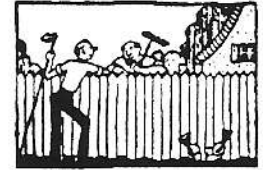
The judging is all over and was it ever enjoyable. The judges were treated to a premier photo show of over 130 prints and nearly 100 slides. Spring blossoms of the Magnolia gave way to asiatic lilies, followed by 'Autumn Joy' sedum, and January in the garden.

The photos transported us to the backyards of various members, to the tour gardens, and farther afield to view the cherry blossoms in the nation's capital, to the marvels of the Butchart Gardens in British Columbia, to California, the Ozarks, and back to the Green Bay club tour and Munsingers Garden in St. Cloud.

Five of the dozen participants were new contributors, and they did well, James Benda was a strong second in points, and brought us the best print and overall best photo, "Crab Apple Blossoms." Others contributed numerous firsts and seconds: watch for Jerald Shannon's print "Dog Lake, Yosemite Park," and for great prints and slides by Carole Ann Brekke, Ada Hegion, and Bob Olson.

Henry Orfield tallied the most points—look for his "Palms and Rock" print and his club activities winners. Chuck Carlson continues to produce quality photos, as do Ruth Berg, Mel Anderson, and Joe Stenger.

Besides the showing the prints at the Arboretum FFF event, we will make the prints and slides available at the September meeting. Come to refresh your senses "In the Shade of the Old (Crab) Apple Tree."



2001 Calendars

By Dave Johnson of Fridley

It's that time of year again when our club offers the garden calendar for sale, as one of its annual fund raisers. The 2001 calendars will be on display and available to purchase beginning at our September meeting. The price is still only \$4.00, a remarkable bargain for calendars, especially one that features such great garden photographs. Last year less than two-thirds of our membership bought calendars and we certainly ought to do better than that. The club has 500 of them for sale and if each of our members would purchase three or four of them, we could easily accomplish our budget goal. 2001 is the year we host the convention which has the theme "Garden For Fun in 2001". Start off the fun in January with the inspiring garden photos and some timely tips featured in our calendar. They also make good gifts or Christmas cards for that someone special.

Guests in the Garden

By Sher Curry

This summer I have had the opportunity and pleasure of having many guests to share my gardens. Oh yes, it was craziness and a lot of work trying to get everything just so. Now it is late July and it has been three weeks since I have done much other than mow and dead head a few things. Once the weather gets so hot and humid my enthusiasm plummets. Now is the time of summer I like to get out and cut a bunch of flowers and do

my arrangements.

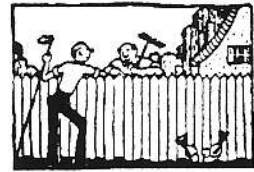
It seems like things change on a weekly and sometimes daily note. I had four friends from British Columbia drive down from Vancouver Island, home of the famous "Butchart Gardens" and spend a long weekend with me.

They were in a RV and were able to have the most private camp sight of their whole trip. They called it my "Garden of Eden". More commonly known to me as my "Garden of Weedin". Yes I make jokes and complain, but gardens are truly a nurturing and spiritual place to be at any time. We all enjoyed coffee in the morning on the patio with the east sun peeking through the neighbors trees. I had the chance to enjoy my new addition behind my garage which is a combination greenhouse, reading room, and screened in porch. It started out as a garden shed but things change.

Then next weekend I had about forty people over for a garden party. It was the hottest, most humid day of the summer but that is the way it always seems to go. The Men's Club Tour was the same weekend and I know the owners and guests of all those gardens were just as hot an uncomfortable as myself.

I survived, along with my guests, and all in all things went very well. We have no other choice as gardeners than to say "It could of been worse". My gardens were at their peak, and I must admit, they did look pretty darn good.

Even as I sit here typing away, I am thinking of where things are going to be moved for next year's performance. That is what our gardens are; a performance of color, textures, variety, and artistry. One of the biggest pleasures I have in gardening is to share my love of plants and nature with others. Now I have a chance to put a few new purchases in the ground, clean up a bit and head out to enjoy the members tour.



Club News

2001 Convention

Don't forget to put the 2001 convention dates on your calendar. Remember we will need everyone to help when we put on this convention. The dates for the convention are Thursday July 19 through Saturday July 22, 2001. You might even keep a couple weeks free for the last minute preparations.

Perennial Garden

The perennial garden again needs your help. Arrive from 8:30 - 9:00 AM on September 9. If enough participants come we will be done by 10:00 AM. As always bring some weeding tools. Other dates are September 23 and October 7.

Stepans Honored

Bob and Nancy Stepan were honored by the Mayor of Brooklyn Park for their garden. They received first place in their district and the city wide Grand Award for Brooklyn Park's Summer Blossom Program. This program recognizes their gardening efforts for neighborhood beautification. Our congratulations Bob and Nancy. We always knew your garden was great, now the mayor does.

Best in Burnsville

The garden and home landscape of Jackie and Tim Overum was awarded first place for single family residences. Out of 27 entries theirs was selected as Burnsville's best. Congratulations! It looks like their new water feature in the front yard paid dividends. It appears to be another must see garden.

Dinner Meeting Decorations

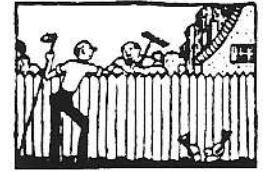
We are currently looking for table arrangements at our next meeting in September. If you would be interested in putting some flower displays, vegetables, or whatever together, please call Len Brenny at 763-786-5714.

Note: We normally have 8-10 tables, but, you do not have to make arrangements for all the tables. We are looking for 1-10 arrangements from one person or several persons. Vases and/or arrangements can be taken home after the meeting. Why not share your garden at our next dinner meeting!

Jerry Olson

Some of you may have known that Jerry "Mr Rose" Olson was hospitalized with heart failure. He is now home recuperating. We wish him well and hope for a full recovery. Our prayers are with you Jerry. A late flash---I heard Jerry is now getting up at 4 AM to water his roses and having coffee at 5 in the garden with his neighbor. It sounds like gardening is therapeutic. In any case Jerry, take it easy and we wait for your return at our dinner meetings.

The squeaky wheel may get the grease, but sometimes must be replaced. This is true also for the plant in the wrong place. So remember the slogan, "The right plant in the right place."



Last Month Program

(Continued from Page 4)

boulevard. It is true that she carefully selected disease resistant strains of annuals and garden proven perennial cultivars, but that makes her a sage and savvy gardener, not a lazy one. It's a lot easier to say you don't spray for disease when you grow mold resistant choice antique roses rather than hybrid tea roses (which is like adopting a troupe of small hyperactive children). The grass was totally free of crab grass and Creeping Charlie and was holding up amazingly well under the pounding it gets from garden tours. It was green and lush and set off her garden splendidly. Her only real flaw was that plants multiply so fast under her attentive (and doting) care that they must frequently be divided to prevent overcrowding. Lazy Gardener, Indeed not! *Axel Troedsson*

Moving on we toured Don Morganweck's gardens which were a spectacular splash of color in a stunning arrangement. I was very impressed with the many perfect Antigua large yellow marigolds in many of the borders. He had wonderful multilevel gardens which really added dimension to the yard. I also loved the window boxes of Purple Wave Petunia suspended from the white picket fence. -- *Sher*

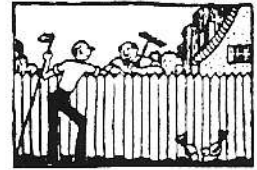
Don's garden was alive with vibrant color. Perennials and annuals combined in the red, purple, pink and yellow palette of the beds. The overall effect was heightened by the backyard being terraced. Partially hidden behind the flowers was an excellent vegetable garden. Beets, beans, tomatoes and cabbages all were thriving in neatly tended rows. The overall effect was one of a place of peaceful respite for people and wild life, as evidenced by the many bird feeders. -- *Morrie*

Next came the garden of Bob Olson, resident Hosta guru of MCCM. After a storm two years ago that shredded a lot of his plants, Bob redesigned the garden. The beds of hostas (250 different kinds), are arranged around the perimeter of the yard and numerous with individual vistas and paths enhancing the effect. Exceptional hosta specimens were seen. "Sum and substance" is known to be a large leafed hosta, but Bob's was enormous! Numerous annuals were interplanted as a foil for the hostas as were ferns for their contrasting foliage. -- *Morrie*

Bob Olson provided us with a spectacular shade garden. The hosta were plenty and in very good condition. He has not invited slugs to live on his premises but has allowed an unusually large black and yellow spider to reside on one of his large chartreuse hostas. This guest got a lot of attention and seemed mighty happy with his home. The garden was peaceful, cool and relaxing. -- *Sher*

Dave McKeen has a garden that just reaches out to welcome you as you walk up the drive. A beautiful bed of hybrid tea roses borders the drive. These roses were at the full height possible for hybrid teas, due to the ingenious watering system Dave has devised. The backyard displayed the use of raised beds for dahlias and shade loving plants. Featured were coleus, bergenia and elephant ears. The garden included an enormous Philodendron that rivaled the ones I saw in the rain forest of Peru last year! -- *Morrie*

Approaching Dave McKeen's place I first noticed a delightful oblong garden filled with wax begonias and bordered with rocks. Looking over the roof line you see a majestic elm which umbrellas the complete back yard. I came across the tiniest water garden I have ever seen as I entered the backyard. The gardens were many and trimmed in rock or large timbers, all slightly raised for a very nice



Last Months Program

(Continued from page 9)
effect. -- *Sher*

The last garden on the tour was Kay Wolfe's. Her front yard has more color and variety than I have ever seen. Walking through an arbor, covered with William Baffin climbing rose, we moved to the back yard. On the way we were greeted by Kay's husband, Gary, who offered us cool refreshing drinks. Variety again was the key in the backyard. Unusual perennials, shrubs and grasses teamed with the familiar for an extremely

the strains of Mouret's Rondo we were invited to find our tables with place cards as our guide. There followed a wonderful evening repast made even more pleasant by the solicitous service of Kay and her friends. They were all attired in the classical English garden style-long flowered dresses and large hats. Scones with jam and tea were followed by making our own sandwiches from a variety of meats, cheeses, tomatoes and onions. Next was a fruit cup and then a plate of an astounding variety of sweets. It was a wonderful conclusion to a wonderful day. -- *Morrie*

After taken in all of the visual

Tea Ladies +1
Barbara Allen
Sharla Aaseng
Kay Wolfe
Gail Wolfe &
Gary Opperman
Photo by
Lloyd Weber



pleasing over all effect. Classical music played in the background as we toured the garden. -- *Morrie*

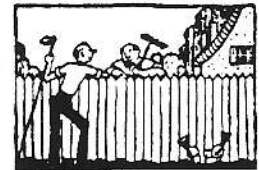
And, last but not least, the delightful enchanting garden of Kay Wolfe. Such a delight. I notice the golden plumes of "Karl Forester" grass from the windows of the coach. I especially enjoyed Kay's plant material combination and the very good placement of her ornamental grasses.

-- *Sher*

The Tea

Tables were arranged in Kay's and her neighbor's yards. All carefully set with china for our Garden Tea Party. Then to

botanical treats of the day, we had the opportunity to feast on a fabulous china collection and be seated to enjoy "High Tea" in the garden. What an awesome treat! I was unable to participate in High Tea at the Empress Hotel on Vancouver Island last fall, but I am sure the one I went to today, far exceeded the one I missed. Thank you so much to everyone involved in making this such a delightful day and a special thank you to Kay and her "Tea Ladies" for such a lovely "High Tea". -- *Sher*



Opportunities

Landscape Plant Development Center

Harold Pellett has invited the MGCM garden club to a fall tour of the research station on September 30th at 1:30 PM and meet at the new office building by the apple house. We will meet in the lunch room for refreshments and then go to the field. Reservations by September 27, 2000. Call Howard Berg before September 24th at 763-545-7290 After that call 952-443-1505, Teri Line, and leave a message.

New Zealand Tour

Join a tour to New Zealand with Ron Wienhold, Minnesota botanist from River Glen Gardens at Little Sauk, Minnesota as our guide. It will be the first two weeks in November. We will visit many private gardens, some public gardens and other sites. Look for wild flowers on Mt. Cook. The tour includes guides, air and land transport, meals and lodging. Limit 15. For a detailed brochure call Shirley at 651-631-2046.

Mid America Region Conference

The Des Moines garden club is putting on a regional conference. Saturday, September 23 is the date. It will be held in the Inn at Merle Hay from 8 AM to 4 PM. Included are seminars, lunch and a tour of the grounds of The Gardeners of America. You can leave Minneapolis on Friday afternoon and make it a mini-vacation weekend in Iowa. Our member Eldon Hugelen always says Iowa is good place, but I wonder why he left. Maybe you should attend the conference and find out for yourself.

Flower Shows

State Fair Dahlia Show September 3 - 4
Northtown Mall Dahlia Show September 16-17

Need Writers

The MGCM newsletter still needs articles. Take off your garden gloves and put on your thinking caps and write one. You know things the rest of us don't know. Let us benefit from your knowledge.

Reservation Details

Call Mary Maynard to make your reservation or to adjust the permanent list. Check your mailing label. If it has a "p" or "pp" (one or two reservations) you are on the permanent list. If there is no "p" on your label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must notify Mary Maynard by Friday, September 8 to be assured a place at dinner. If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Mary by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the cost of your dinner. Mary can be reached at 612-926-7506. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person or send her an e-mail at mary.j.maynard@healthpartners.com. If you have reserved a dinner and on Monday or Tuesday you have an emergency where you find you can't attend, call Howard Berg. If the reservation can be sold to latecomers or drop-ins, you will not be billed.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Ritchie Miller
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