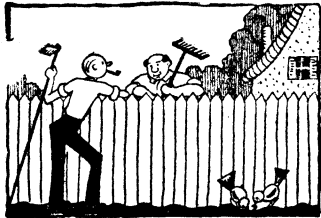


THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

MEMBER—MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 6
Number 2
Victor Lowrie, Editor

February, 1948
Associate Editors
Jack Cohen, Ed Montgomery

FEBRUARY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 10
Place: Fountain Terrace,
Medical Arts Building
Time: 5:30 P.M. sharp
Dinner: \$1.50 per person

PROGRAM

- 6:20 Meeting called
Stanley Lund presiding
- 6:30 Dwarf Fruit Trees for the Home
Garden - Archie Flack (Archie
has done quite a lot of research
on this subject and is very en-
thusiastic about the possibili-
ties. He has a plan and a pro-
position.)
- 7:15 New Things in the Seed Catalogs.
Ralph Sherman
- 7:25 Digest of Current Garden Maga-
zines - Harold Wright
- 7:40 Correct Names - E. C. Culbert
- 7:50 Musts for February - Leonard Bies
- 8:00 Questions & Answers - T. E. Swain

Officers

Stanley D. Lund,
President
William E. Swain,
Vice-President
Rene J. Dufourd,
Secretary
Cortis N. Rice, Jr.
Treasurer

Office of the Secretary

5020 Second Avenue S.
Minneapolis 9

\$4.00 DUES ARE DUE NOW

Those who have not sent in their
dues should do so at once - or
plan to pay them at the February
meeting.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON "THE STATE OF THE CLUB"

Continuous enthusiasm is as necessary in an organization as it is in a winning football team. Common interests, problems, failures and successes in something as basic and fundamental as gardening are the real reasons for the consistent growth of this club. Much credit is due and is gratefully given to the past officers who have so capably directed the various functions of this group. I am sincere when I say that I accept the office of President in a most humble manner, but at the same time I feel sure that with the continued support of all members in the various activities, we will enjoy another good year.

Complete relaxation and peace of mind are no further from you than your garden, and while this poem may not prove it, it will serve to emphasize it:

"He who makes a garden and spades the fragrant loam
And sees the rain and sunshine bring beauty to his home,
Is building health and pleasure for self and for his neighbor
And he will rest content when night brings surcease from his labor."

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

There were 41 present at the 1948 business meeting. New officers elected were as follows: Stanley Lund, President; Bill Swain, Vice-President; Rene Dufourd, Secretary; Cortis Rice, Jr., Treasurer.

To enable officers to do a better program job in 1948, dues were increased from \$3 to \$4.

A few terms were clarified: Active members are those who have a home garden and who attend four or more meetings of the Club during the year. One who fails to attend four meetings may be classified as an Associate Member (see below); only privileges lost are that they cannot vote nor serve as chairmen of committees.

Active and Associate Members

Article III. Membership. Section A of the Constitution shall be deleted and the following shall be inserted:

"(a) Active members shall include all those who have been duly elected to this grade and who maintain a home garden.

"The names of active members who have failed to attend at least four regular meetings during the year last past may be presented by the secretary at

the annual meeting. On motion and by a majority vote of the active members present, such named members shall be transferred to Associate Membership.

"Any active member may be transferred to Associate Membership upon his own request in writing to the secretary, who shall present same to the Executive Board. The Board shall confirm or deny said request and the member shall be so notified."

Approved January 13, 1948

R. J. Dufourd

The Main Course

With business out of the way, we settled back to enjoy an interesting talk by George Luxton on "What Happens to Your Garden in Winter" as follows:

The frosting and killing of vegetation in the garden and the little damage done to other plants subject to the same amount of frosting is, and always has been, a good deal of a mystery to the gardener who has an inquiring nature. This natural phenomenon the average amateur gardener has always had with him as far back as he can remember, and he just takes it for granted. A frozen apple means to him that in a few days it will be a rotten apple, but according to Herb Kahlert when he called me, the members of this garden club are not satisfied with just everyday or every year "rotten apples", and he called on me to tell them something of the "why" of it.

I have been intending for several years to look more thoroughly into this subject and, if possible, have a Sunday newspaper article on it. Herb caught me off guard. I am really not prepared to give you a thorough report. All I can do is tell you a little of my own experience and observation in my own garden and read you some of the data I have been accumulating. It is far from complete and I do hope when I'm through that you will have a round-table discussion, and from your accumulated wisdom I will be able to gather enough material for the garden article and my editors will say, "Gosh, I guess that man Luxton does know something about something sometimes - and I will be putting a fast one over on you fellows.

In a normal autumn, hardy plants prepare themselves for the coming cold winter. They withdraw their sap gradually from the top growth into the roots. In woody plants the new growth is hardened and dehydrated of excess sap, so that when freezing weather arrives, it will not burst the cells, causing death. On some shrubbery, the buds for next year's leaves form scales and frequently a covering of gum or protective wool, and all go into a state of suspended animation.

With most evergreens the process is different. Evergreens never sleep; they are alive twelve months of the year, although the circulation of sap is tremendously slowed up. Strange as it may seem, the sap, so far as we know, never entirely solidifies. Although the winter temperature may be many degrees below freezing point - and even zero - there is a slow movement of sap within the tree, and there is a constant transpiration from its needles. That is one of the reasons why evergreens should be given an abundance of water before the freeze-up. The roots draw on this reserve all winter in the comparatively warm earth. With insufficient moisture in the branches, the needles will dry and fall. When it has been 15° below zero outdoors, I have stuck a thermometer between the branches of large evergreens and found the temperature near the trunk 50° above. Sometimes I am almost led to believe that evergreens have a secret antifreeze solution in their sap. Wouldn't it be great, fellows, if we could get hold of some of it for our cars?

Hardiness Versus Heartiness

The Agricultural Journal says that hardiness should not be confused with heartiness. Hardiness is usually defined as the ability of plants to endure extremes of climate; it is a term used principally to indicate the ability to withstand the winter cold. Plant physiologists often define hardiness as the ability to survive ice formation within the tissues. Tender plants do not possess this power, and we know of no method of causing them to do so. Hardiness is often used as a relative term; plants may be hardy in New York but not in Canada. Hearty plants are of strong growth, but the term carries with it no idea of cold resistance. Geraniums are not hardy, although they are extremely hearty. As we harden off our plants, acids and other chemicals are formed in the tissues. The plants become darker green in color, the growth is stiffer, the leaves thicken, and they become resistant to cold and even frost.

There are numerous hypotheses as to the actual cause of death from freezing; the most probable is that as water rapidly escapes from the cells, the nitrogenous complex compounds (proteins) on which cell vitality depends are salted out; that is, precipitated, and that once this process has been set up, recovery is impossible because the vital mechanism has been destroyed.

Hardening, on this hypothesis, is due to a change in the composition of the proteins of the cell. During the slow process of hardening, these substances give rise to other proteins of simpler construction which are less apt to be salted out - that is thrown out of the vital mechanism.

Plants Are Like Humans

Really, plants are a good deal like humans. Children are not always like their parents. Seedlings resemble closely what is termed "the emotional makeup" in man. Many seedlings vary greatly in resistance to frost even though they were gathered from the one parent plant. Hence the reason why after a heavy frost in a bed of lusty seedlings, many will be killed and others will survive even though they were all growing under similar conditions.

Hoar frost, contrary to many beliefs, is our friend - really a protection. It acts like a snow or blanket and actually protects the plants from freezing. Black

quickly. Actually more damage is done in the garden during the early spring when we have heavy thaws followed by hard freezes than through the whole winter.

The ground is a vast reservoir of heat which is accumulated during the summer; the frozen earth in winter acts as a cap to hold in this heat. Shallow freezing results with a covering of early snow.

There is some evidence that plants store up their own heat - ever notice the melted snow around trunks of trees? Tulip bulbs, especially, seem to create their own heat after sprouting under the snow. Other bulbs apparently freeze solid.

Yes, we could go on and on and the deeper we get into and solve some of the mysteries in a garden, we are led to wonder how anyone could be an atheist. Henry Ward Beecher said, "Flowers are the sweetest things that God ever made and forgot to put a soul into."

Round Table Discussion

Walter Menzel: It would appear that failure of freezing is due to salts or antifreezes being generated and present in dormant plants. For example, an experiment proved that proper fertilization of corn will help resist freeze. In corn grown in peat soil, where rows were fertilized, the day following a heavy frost the canes were fresh and green. In the rows without fertilization, the stalks were black. Assumption is that the fertilized corn built up a resistance or an antifreeze.

Herb Kahlert: What makes plants die? It's the alternate thawing and freezing of cells. Rose stems for instance will stand but one freeze and thaw if the frost is heavier than 20°, but will stand many freezes of not more than 10°. On the other hand, cover roses with 10 inches of protection and they will be protected against zero weather freezes and alternate thaws.

Ed Montgomery: The heavier the soil, the more protection against frost is required. Further, watch the sun on exposed plants; if new growth is started before frozen roots are ready to give support, it is best to keep growth down by adequate protection until roots are ready for it.

Howard Bishop: Remember the greatest danger to plants is after the snow has gone. That is when they need protection from spring frosts.

Harold Kaufmann: When should one put hay down, right now on the snow or after the snow has melted? Many Experts: Cover right away for safe protection.

George Luxton: A friend of mine has 100 tulips. He asked me to ask you boys what do do with them? Voice of Experience: One member planted his as late as February 12 last year and had wonderful blooms.

G. G. Cerney: Professor Longley and the Lehmans at Faribault report that a higher percentage of mums winter over when the ground is dry.

Walter Quist: Ever notice that snow disappears more rapidly on open-plowed fields than on meadows or grasslands? Colorchrome may have something to do with the absorption of heat. Colors seem to repel the sun's rays. Red covering for example protects better than black roofing paper.

George Luxton: Roses protected under dark paper died while those under light paper lived.

Herb Kahlert: If you haven't fully protected your plants this winter, there is

WHAT WE DID IN 1947

Rene Dufourd, Secretary

1947 was a year of continued success and achievement for the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. We maintained a list of active members at 70, with 8 associate members and one non-resident member. We received the resignation of 10 members: David Chatelaine, John T. Hanson, E. B. Jones, Wm. Kraft, Leslie Myers, Charles F. Noonan, John Peterson, Clayton W. Marrs, H. B. Whiting and Joe Schmitt. With sincere regrets we reported the deaths of Ralph W. Cornelison and of one of our charter members, F. A. Upsher Smith. Wallace Rowell transferred from active to associate membership; R. S. Bryant and Bradford Gregory were admitted as associate members.

These 13 vacancies were filled by the election to membership of 9 new members: Milan M. Evans, C. W. Kelsey, W. H. Lemieux, Cortis N. Rice, Jr., Ralph Sherman, Gordon Ballhorn, Charles Rief, Tom Foley and Carl Nelson. Gregory Lucking returned from military service and was re-admitted as an active member. We now have two vacancies which will be filled from a list of seven applicants on the waiting list.

Eleven issues of "The Garden Spray" were published. Copies of all issues are on file.

We maintained our membership with the Men's Garden Clubs of America and with the Minnesota Horticultural Society. We exchanged publications with 18 other garden clubs. One of our members, Herbert Kahlert, was elected on the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, and our esteemed and hard-working Editor, Jack Cohen, is on the Publications Committee of that same organization.

During 1947 we held eleven meetings and two flower shows, one in June and one in September. The June show did not turn out well, due mostly to the cold, wet spring. The Fall Flower Show, however, held on September 20, was an outstanding success. Thirty-eight exhibitors entered 462 items. The show was mentioned as one of the best in the Northwest this year.

The plant auction held in May was also an outstanding success. 177 different items were sold. The Club profited to the extent of \$140. The metal garden signs were introduced and sold to those members who desired them. These signs picture our well-known trade mark of two gardeners talking over the fence.

During July and August we visited 15 of the members' gardens. On November 21 by invitation of the Park Board, we visited their beautiful chrysanthemum show in the green houses. Special meetings were held during the year by the several project groups. As usual the rose, chrysanthemum and begonia projects were the most popular.

A Christmas party with the ladies invited was held in December. Over 100 persons attended and were entertained by Mr. Eugene Pfister, past-president of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, and by our own Bill Block and his pictures of outstanding flowers grown by our members this year.

During the year we had an average attendance at each meeting of 43 members. This is an average attendance of 55% and an improvement over previous years. Four members had perfect attendance: Glen Cerney, Harold Kaufmann, Stanley Lund and Walter Menzel. Nine others missed only one meeting.

Acknowledgement is here made of the excellent co-operation received from the officers and members of the Club. Special thanks are extended to Ralph Sherman and

his telephone committee, Victor Lowrie, Bill Swain and Stan Lund, for help during the summer, and to all others who helped during the garden tours.

Recommendations

1. Members, on the average, should increase their attendance at meetings. Our average attendance should be at least 60%.
2. Each member should take up one new project next year.
3. Project chairmen should give more attention to the project assigned to them and co-operate closely with members on the same project.
4. Applicants for membership should be carefully screened, paying more attention to the garden. Recommend for membership gardeners who will be active in the Club, in shows, on new projects, etc.
5. The plant auction, garden tours and flower shows should be continued.
6. Closer contact between members should be fostered by interchange of garden visits during the growing season.

R. J. Dufourd, Secretary

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Program - Herb Kahlert, chairman
Milan Evans, vice-chairman
Membership - Fred Paul, chairman
Club Historian - Jack Cohen

Special Committee Chairmen

Consultants - Archie Flack
Photography - Bill Block
New Projects - Bill Swain
Social - Leonard Bies
Flower Shows - Harold Kaufmann

Special Interests Chairmen

Chrysanthemum - Bob Phillips
Dahlia - Harold Stephens
Delphinium - Jack Cohen
Iris - Herb Kahlert
Lily - Wallace Rowell
Rose - Ray Edlund
Rock Garden - Joe Witmer
Sweet Pea - Russ Bechtel
Tuberous Begonia - Jim Cristman
Shrubbery - Archie Flack
Viola - G. G. Cerney
Herbs & Vegetables - Bill Swain

MISCELLANEOUS

Freedom Gardens in 1948 are essential. Food prices are controlled by more home gardening.

Harold Kaufmann's recommendations for 1948: (1) See fewer gardens and spend more time at each in our Garden Tours; (2) continue project committees as "experimental pools" of what is done with each group of flowers; (3) members take more leadership in fostering home gardens and "block projects"; (4) restore importance of Arbor Days via school activities.

Shall We Be 1949 Hosts?

Shall we and St. Paul extend an invitation for the national meeting of the Men's Garden Clubs of America? Means a lot of work and a lot of satisfaction if we take on this job. Will probably be discussed at some future meeting.

The Editors of The Spray and the chairmen of the Entertainment and Membership Committees are invited members of the Board of Directors.

PERSONALS

Walter Menzel gave \$39.50 as a contribution for sending seeds to Europe. Other members also made contributions though none quite so generous. Archie Flack will accept any money you want to give to this worthy ASTA cause.

AUDITOR'S REPORT - December 31, 1947

Balance in treasury 12-31-47	\$162.37	
Gross Income		
Dues	246.00	
Profit from plant auction	140.61	
Profit from catering	19.50	
Profit from garden signs	<u>2.00</u>	408.1
Expenditures		
Dues to Minnesota State Horticultural Society	34.00	
Dues to Men's Garden Clubs of America	35.00	
Printing		
Roster	48.75	
Stationery (includes stationery purchased)	49.72	
Postcards	15.00	
Mimeograph stencils	8.00	
Postage	54.88	
Shows (ribbons, tags, caretaker and basket supper)	130.19	
Cheer Committee	19.00	
Program Committee	71.02	
Journals for Treasurer and Secretary	3.75	
Sundries (bank charge for checking account)	<u>2.00</u>	471.3
Net income		<u>63.2</u>
Balance in treasury 12-31-47		99.1

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Balance in treasury		
Checking account (Northwestern Natl Bank, Lincoln Office)	100.30	
Cash (advance payable to A. H. Flack)	<u>1.13</u>	99.1
Material and Supplies on hand		
Garden Signs (22)	22.00	
Show prize ribbons (approx 500)	60.00	
Stationery		
Stamped and printed postcards (approx 750)	10.00	
Top sheets printed for "The Garden Spray" (approx 1400)	10.00	
Letterheads (approx 1000)	7.00	
Addressograph plates	3.90	
Treasurer's record book	<u>3.25</u>	215.3

Recommended Budget 1948

<u>Revenues</u>	
80 members at \$4	\$320.00
Auction	100.00
Miscellaneous	<u>10.00</u>
(sale of signs etc)	\$430.00

<u>Expenses</u>	
Membership Minn. State Horti- cul. Society 80 at 75¢	60.00
Membership Men's Garden Clubs of Am. 70 at 50¢	35.00
Printing	
Roster	33.00
Envelopes	15.00
Postcards	10.00

<u>Expenses (continued)</u>	
Postage	\$40.00
Cheer Committee	20.00
Program Committee	100.00
Shows	50.00
Miscellaneous	14.00
Films	<u>25.00</u>
	430.00
Cash on hand	99.17
On hand: show ribbons for 2 years; 22 garden signs; postcards for 6 mo.; 1400 Spray sheets (1 yr.); 1100 second sheet (10 mo.); letterheads (enough for next	