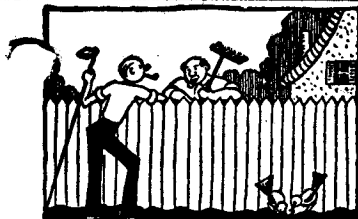


# THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

January, 1953  
Volume 11, Number 1  
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:  
Don Methven; Wm. Hull

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R !

## JANUARY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 13th.

Place: Hasty Tasty Cafe,  
50th & France Ave. So.

Time: 5:45 P.M. sharp

Dinner: \$1.50

### PROGRAM

6:30 P.M. Business Session, including:  
the Annual Reports of  
The President  
The Secretary  
The Treasurer

7:00 Demonstration of amateur photography  
by our photographic committee -  
presented by "P. W." Young.

7:30 Annual Report of Special Interests  
Group.

## Officers

R. J. Dufourd President

A. H. Flack  
Vice President

C. G. Harkins Secretary

T. P. Hughes Treasurer

G. "Vic" Lowrie  
Past President

Here we are already into another year. If the modern day prophets can be relied upon, it looks like a busy year ahead. I hope we shall not be so busy in the counting houses that we will not hear the dove of peace should it hover near. It could be an eventful year, one in which the free men of this world will take the initiative and place the anti-free on the defensive; an opportunity for us all to be ever more tolerant of those in different walks of life; more understanding of the other fellow's problem. May 1953 be a good year for all --- it will be if we all try and make it so.

Let's at least start off our gardening year right by getting together for our first meeting on Tuesday, January 13th. We have some interesting annual reports for you and we promise to wade through them in no time at all. The piece de resistance of the evening will be a "How-to-take-them-in-color-in-your-garden" program, arranged by popular request. "P. W." Young tells me he has everything he needs to put on a good show for both those who take pictures and those who don't.

## OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

What could have been more fitting than to close a year of exceptionally good gardening and fine fellowship with so lovely a Christmas Party as Bob Adams and his crew of workers provided for us on the evening of December 11th.

It was truly a merry occasion, made doubly enjoyable by the presence of our fair ladies -- by far the fairest and sweetest flowers in our gardens.

Even though the attendance this year surpassed all previous records, we still missed every absent member and were more than a little annoyed with the weatherman for robbing us of the company of quite a few members who were kept away by the storm.

We extend our heartiest thanks and sincere appreciation to all those who helped make the party so successful, including the cheery table settings arranged by Harold Kaufmann; the delicious dinner served so well by Stauffer's; the unique interpretation of Rene's "true to life 'across-the-fence'" portrayal of amateur gardeners at work" by Walter Quist and Frank Janes; the interesting talk and colorful presentation on "How to Attract Birds to our Flower Gardens" by Dr. W. J. Breckenridge; the showing of member's 1952 gardens on color films, together with pictures of some of the highlights of the Club's activities during the year by "P. W." Young, Bill Block and Vern Roufs; the plastic watering cans that made such a hit with the girls, furnished by Cargill, Inc., plus the pencils and matches by Toro, and the garden booklets by Northrup King...all due to the efforts of Bill Hull; the wide variety of door prizes donated by Bachman's, Les Johnson of Donaldson's, and Chris Mosberg of Danish Seed Co. Also thanks to Mrs. R. C. Adams for her home-made caramels, and to Mrs. Kaufmann and Mrs. Dufour for their potted African violets.

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### DUES - DUES - DUES

The last call for DUES. If you want your name included on the 1953 Roster be sure your dues are paid not later than at our January meeting. Be sure to furnish the Secretary with your correct home address and telephone number, and your business phone number.

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### M.G.C.A. CONVENTION Memphis - April 8-10

It is not too early to start making plans to attend the annual convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America to be held this year in Memphis, Tennessee, during "Azalea Time", April 8-9-10.

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### DON'T BE A SUCKER

At the Boston meeting of the MGCA, present day advertising of great bargains in bulbs, plants and trees was discussed freely and a bit bitterly. The trend toward playing gardeners as a bunch of suckers was condemned and all were warned against this wild bargain advertising. Recently one of the oldest and formerly most reputable companies, from whom we have bought many roses and plants, has been advertising the Christmas rose or *Helliboris Niger* with claims that cannot be supported by the experience of anyone we know who has grown them. They tell how dreadfully easy they are to grow and that they may be planted just about any way in any soil, and will bloom profusely the first year all winter long, or words to that effect. We have never seen them bloom under two years after planting. They require careful planting in a proper place and thorough protection to get them to bloom during warm spells in the winter. Don't be a sucker. Don't buy radio and newspaper advertised plants on their wild claims. We refuse to

The President Elect says:

I appreciate the honor you have conferred upon me by electing me your president for 1953.

I tried to duck it, because my plans, made many years ago, call for turning my back to this snow and ice. I really am tired of battling snow drifts and slippery roads, and now that I have some leisure time, I am going to take advantage of it.

I told your nominating committee all this. However, they were a tough bunch and insisted. When they told me the rest of the slate, I could no longer refuse. Frankly, I am happy to be your Executive Officer this coming year and will do my best to keep up the good work that all the past presidents have so nobly carried on. In this I hope to have your hearty cooperation.

Thanks again for all your kindnesses and may you all have a very healthy and prosperous New Year.

R. J. Dufourd.

#### NEWS AND VIEWS

Have you heard about the new plastic plant food called "Uraform" which will probably be on the market come Spring? Uraform is a combination of urea, an organic form of nitrogen and formaldehyde. It is slow dissolving and releases its nitrogen at a constant rate over several months. It is reported that a single application in Spring will feed a lawn or border for an entire season. Because the nitrogen is released slowly there is no danger of burning. A single pound of Uraform is supposed to be sufficient to cover 500 square feet of lawn.

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Dr. Milton Carleton reports in the December issue of Better Homes and Gardens that much work is going on among vegetable breeders in an attempt to produce hybrid spinach. Some parent plants have already been bred although much work remains in crossing and testing varieties.

## MORE NEWS AND VIEWS

Scheduled for the February issue of The Garden Spray is a "how-to-do-it" article by Archie Flack on propagating under artificial light. For those hard pressed for satisfactory space in which to germinate annuals, and for those who want to get a head start on a late Spring, the use of fluorescent lights is your answer. Now it's not quite that simple since it's use is still in the experimental stage, but if you want to join up with the other pioneers in this fascinating art you'll learn a lot, maybe meet with a few disappointments, but I'll wager you'll have fun and it won't cost you much cash. However, to take advantage of whatever success should be yours, a cold frame is a requisite, so get busy and build one in your basement this winter.

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While mentioning basements, I'm wondering how many of you have set up a paint schedule, which, if diligently followed, will find stakes, markers, flower boxes, veranda and garden furniture, and tools shining like new come Spring. You'll be surprised how much ground you can cover by consistently devoting one or two hours a day or evening throughout the winter months to scraping, painting, stitching and fixing.

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And speaking of "fixing", our good friends on the Park Board, thanks to Greg Lucking, have fixed up our flowering crab trees for the winter by protecting them against attack by rodents. Each and every tree has been surrounded by a piece of wire netting. Many thanks boys. We are indeed grateful to you for the work you have done in helping to bring these young trees along, not only for this protection, but the watering, pruning, and general care you have afforded us.

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No doubt you have heard that Harold Kaufmann bought himself a new house for Christmas, with a yard that could well be the envy of most of us as and when he gets it landscaped and planted. Should you have difficulty reaching him by phone at the office this Spring, call around at the house. He'll be there from sun up to sun down.

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The editors of The Garden Spray are indeed embarrassed and most apologetic for neglecting in an earlier issue to congratulate Joe Witmer on the spectacular rose show put on by "Roses, Inc." at Dayton's last fall. It was a sight we will long remember. Nothing could approach it in beauty of design, in breadth of vision, or in the perfection of execution. As Herb Kahlert recently wrote in a MGCA news letter, "it was just out of this world." If any of our members have a set of colored slides of that show, your editor would be most happy to buy a duplicate set.

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MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA

December 1, 1952

TO: CLUB PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES AND EDITORS:

Hi Fellows:

It sure is wonderful to receive the hundreds of letters of all kinds - complimentary, complaining, encouraging, etc., and it has been fun answering them. In an amateur organization like ours where all the work is being done on a voluntary basis it is difficult satisfying 150 clubs all the time -- but we try very hard to do it.

Right now I am doing a little worrying about our financial position. There are still a number of clubs that have not paid their 1952 dues and if your club is one of them I would appreciate it very much if you would give us some help in getting your treasurer to send us a check. Thanks. (Not applicable to us--your Ed.)

In reference to my statement in the September 1952 issue of MEGA regarding the Board's decision to accept small donations, I would like to quote from the Cedar Valley Men's Garden Clubs bulletin (Cedar Seeder):

"MGCA is NOT asking for any donations to keep on serving us. However, some men, realizing the constant expense of MEGA, conventions, secretarial costs, etc., have offered such.

The latest MEGA states that the officers have decided to accept any and all voluntary contributions to the cause.

If but one-half the national membership would contribute \$1.00 (only \$1.00) the treasury of MGCA would be enriched by over \$4,000.00.

During the November meeting, or by check before then, how's about handing Karl von Lackum \$1.00 and have CVMGC make a substantial contribution?"

Thanks, Roland B. Scull, editor of Cedar Seeder for your fine plug. As I have stated before, these contributions are 100% voluntary.

I have been speaking to many of the local clubs, putting on a one man campaign for more color in the front yards. Most men hide their beautiful flowers in the back yard of their home. I would like to see a movement started to plant more flowers in the front yard. In this way you can share some of the beauty of your flowers with the maximum number of people. Men work their heads off growing prize flowers in their back yard and most of the time their families are the only ones to see their beauty.

Often it takes just one home in a neighborhood to start a garden in the front yard and a lot of the neighbors follow suit. I think it would be fine if local clubs would have a contest for the best color in members' front yards.

Ray Tillman and I and possibly Woodson Jones are going to spend a couple of days this month in Memphis, Tennessee with the convention committee. Don't forget to make your plans for attending what will be our best convention to date on April 8, 9, and 10th, 1953.

I sincerely wish all you fellows and your loved ones have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

GARDEN BOOKS AVAILABLE AT M.G.C.A. BOOK LIBRARY

<u>Quantity on Hand</u>		<u>25% Disc.</u>
15	CARE AND CULTURE OF AFRICAN VIOLETS - Lloyd Lindsay	\$ .50
6	THE AFRICAN VIOLET - Helen Van Pelt Wilson	2.75
3	CAMELLIAS, KIND & CULTURE - H. Harold Hume	6.50
2	MANUAL OF CULTIVATED PLANTS - L. H. Bailey	17.50
3	FLOWER GARDEN FOR THE AMATEUR - Alfred C. Hottes	3.50
7	GARDEN SCRAPBOOK - C. J. Hudson, Jr.	1.00
1	KOSTER'S COLOR GUIDE - P. M. Koster	5.00
8	BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS GARDEN BOOK	3.95
1	OUR FERNS, THEIR HAUNTS, HABITS, FOLKLORE - W. N. Clute	5.00
2	WESTERN FLOWER ARRANGEMENT - Carl Starker	2.50
2	ALL ABOUT HOUSE PLANTS - Montague Frie	3.50
1	ORCHIDS ARE EASY TO GROW - Logan & Casper	6.00
3	LAKEWOOD LYRICS - W. C. Trimble	1.00
2	HOW TO INCREASE PLANTS - Alfred C. Hottes	3.00
2	ROSES FOR EVERY GARDEN - R. C. Allen	3.50
1	HOW TO GROW ROSES - J. Horace McFarland	5.00
2	HOW TO KNOW WILD FLOWERS - Alfred Steffenrud	.35
1	HORTUS - Bailey	10.00

All above books in stock at 25% discount. Prices correct for all books in stock only. First come - first served. Checks must accompany orders. Mail to Herb Kahlert, 124 West Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis 19, Minn.

TIPS FOR PRESERVING YOUR CHRISTMAS PLANTS

- Cyclamen:** Keep the plant in the coolest part of the home with a temperature of not over 60 degrees at night. Use plenty of water during the period and never allow it to wilt. An even more desirable temperature for the cyclamen is a range from 40 to 50 degrees, such as you might have on an enclosed porch.
- Poinsettias:** These require a warm and even temperature. Keep poinsettias well supplied with water but not continually soaked. Changes in temperatures, drafts or dryness will result in loss of foliage almost immediately. After the leaves fade, set the plants in the cellar until spring - when they can be cut back to 4 inches and set out in the garden. Although they will not bloom in the garden, they do produce attractive foliage and are a kind of curiosity.
- Azaleas:** The cooler they are kept in the home the longer they will last. They should have good light and plenty of water.
- Jerusalem  
Cherries:** Keep fairly cool, water moderately and set them in a window where they will receive all sunlight possible.
- Begonia:** Prefers moist atmosphere, moderate watering and some sunlight each day.
- Cineraria:** Requires abundance of water with a cool, humid atmosphere.
- Calceolaria:** These exotic plants are very short-lived under average home conditions. Keep them as cool as possible, on the dry side, and give them plenty of light.