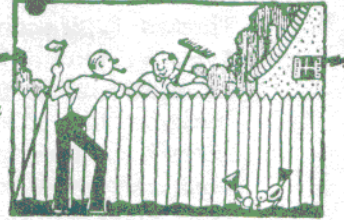




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society

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Proctor and Phil Smith.

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APRIL 8 MEETING

NOTE THE DATE -April 8 - second Tuesday comes early this month. April 8

Time, place, price the usual--Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church. 5:45 P.M.
Why not try to get there by 5:30 in order to have time to chat with all.

VP Phil Smith has another good program - a three-ring circus without the dancing girls. A Mystery Man, a Host Committee, lots of activity, with...

LeRoy Peterson - telling us about Dianthus, including the lovely old-fashioned garden pinks grandma liked so well. LeRoy is a member of the Minnesota Valley MGC and a past Regional President.

Dick Lehman - will tell us about the Peony. Will Dick agree with the old statement that the best thing to do with a peony is to plant it and leave it alone for twenty years?

Archie Flack - will give a pruning demonstration. How to prune a new young tree. Important that a tree be shaped correctly at the very start. Come see Arch. He knows his business.

EXCELLENT RESPONSE TO MEMBER SURVEY

Be sure to read about this on page five. Thank you for sending in the returns.

SEE YOU APRIL 8 - LET'S MAKE THIS THE BIGGEST ATTENDANCE YET IN A FINE YEAR.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Thomas E. Warth, we welcome you as a new member. Tom lives at 3844 Thomas Ave. S, phone 926-4370. Tom is an agent for Classic Motorbooks and was sponsored by Charlie Proctor.

John Stuhlfeier, we also welcome you. John lives at 5532 James Ave. S, phone -business: 825-2471. residence: 922-1374. John is a machine operator for Dayton Rogers Mfg. Co. and is sponsored by Otto Nelson.

HELP HELP HELP HELP

We need it. You may have noticed that Spray typing has been different lately. We've been trying to locate someone to do it, with varying degrees of success. The March job was poorly done but we didn't have time to retype it. Doesn't anyone have a good office typist who can do this ...just seven pages maximum a month? The editor simply can't do it all, fellows. Just not that many hours.

Remember John Nash Ott, the Minneapolis convention speaker on light effect? John is pictured in the Sarasota newspaper preparing geraniums for the Barbra Streisand movie "On a Clear Day..." Thanks, Walter Menzel for telling us this.

The MGCA convention, July 20-27, Fort Collins, looks like a fun trip. Chuck-wagon dinners, housing at reasonable prices in the university's new dorm, each room having twin beds and a wash basin with the bath shared only by adjoining rooms. Let's help them beat our Minnesota all-time attendance record.

A recent poll at a Minnesota Indian reservation revealed that 6% thought we should get out of Viet Nam. 94% thought we should get out of the United States.

Reduced ad rates in THE GARDENER. Classified advertising is now available at 25% off to members. A minimum insertion of twenty words to members or clubs costs \$4.50. Thirty words for \$6.75--additional words 25¢ each. This is indeed low-cost advertising for a national publication with a selected audience.

Minnesota Air Pollution a Problem?.....

For the first time, to my knowledge, we are hearing about air pollution as being a problem here in Minnesota. Have you noticed those mornings of air inversion when it has been smoggy? Did you hear the authorities in St. Paul when they asked us not to do any burning? It seems to us that this is an entirely new development here and maybe we club members should move into this situation to lead our community quickly away from pollution. We are not so pure. There are about 12,000 burning dumps in the U.S.A. and about 1,000 of them are in Minnesota, according to the U.S. Public Health Service...and the Minnesota Pollution control agency.

A friend of ours complains that now he has taken a speed-reading course, the fellow on the bus next to him doesn't turn the pages fast enough.

Show me a woman who irons while her husband pickets and I'll show you a woman who irons while the strike is hot.

NOTES FROM NATE

(President Nate Siegel, that is)

Our membership is growing. This month the board approved for membership Thomas Warth and John Stuhlfeier. At our March meeting we were introduced to new members Paul Lindstadt and Robert Willow. In January, George Smith and Kenneth Burger. Again a most hearty welcome to these new members. This month you still may bring a prospective member without charge if you wish.

In a talk by our Dr. Leon Snyder at the March meeting of the Minnesota Rose society, mention was made of the special interest group headed by Archie Flack years ago that was the beginning of the arboretum as we know it today. Bob Smith, our co-ordinator of special interest groups has five good groups organized. Each one has a capable leader who can give a lot of good garden fun and know-how. We might not be able to create another arboretum but the work done in our vegetable group, for example, should be of great interest.

Your board has approved another project, suggested by Les Johnson. It will be on garden visiting with CliffBrisco as chairman. All members who feel their garden is putting on its best show will call Cliff. On Saturdays during the summer those interested will start from Cliff's to visit as many gardens as possible. We also have two projects that will bring gardening enjoyment to the elderly folks at the Harrison Home and also the A.F.D.C. mothers in south Minneapolis. Henry Halverson and Carl Holst will be in charge. Your board welcomes the suggestions that have lead to these projects. However, it might be misleading to inform anyone outside our own membership of a suggestion made until your board has acted upon it.

Cliff Barnes was our Mystery Man at our last meeting. Who will be next?

Don't forget that we will need all the plant material you can bring for our May auction.

Cortis Rice has been in the hospital. I understand he is now at home. I am sure he will welcome cards from his friends here in Minneapolis.

The Richfield Men's Garden club has extended an invitation to our members to join them on a tour of the Bachman's facilities on April 28 at 6-6:30 P.M. The tour will take about an hour or so to be followed by dinner at the Richfield bank. Dinner is \$2.00 and, if you can make it, you should call Jack Bucholz at UNION 9-9524, 7310 Bryant Avenue S. by April 25 deadline. This is a most interesting tour and certainly those who didn't make the tour with Otto Nelson's groups should take advantage of this opportunity.

Information received on our national con vention at Fort Collins, Colorado, surely looks good. A vacation in that area along with the convention, sounds ideal. Let's have a good number of our members going.

REMEMBER THE MAY AUCTION.

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A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT SPRING PLANTING

Busy Lizzie will be seen around again this year. That is Fliessige Liesel or impatiens if you prefer. Claude Hope of Costa Rica has developed a new impatiens called Elfin, a free-blooming vigorous dwarf strain and excellent in the shade. Elfin sounds great for those darker areas which we may have. Colors range from white through red-rose shades and orange, even purple.

Petunias ... the backbone of a lot of annual gardens. Perhaps that's too strong a statement but petunias belong in every garden. They are versatile, will take more neglect than many plants, can easily be massed for effect, and the color choices are increasingly widened. If you didn't grow yours under lights, shop around at the various sources and ask for color prints of what colors are available. You can fit the colors to your exact needs.

Pot gardening, sometimes called mobile gardening, is an important factor in gardening today. Some of us, like Dwight Stone and Bill Hull, have found it an effective solution to various problems. I have about 16 big planting boxes which can be moved (on my extra strong days) to desired sites. Cascades do extremely well.

By this time you've undoubtedly dreamed through the rose catalogs and listed the varieties that captured your fancy. Surely such a list will include the 1969 All-America selections - pink Gene Boerner and lavender Angel Face, both floribundas, as well as Comanche, scarlet grandiflora, and Pascali, a white hybrid tea.

You or your wife can whip up dramatic quickie arrangements in no time with annuals because their varied size, form and color make them so adaptable. Cut the flowers in the early morning or early evening, placing them in water immediately and preferably leaving them overnight. We subscribe to the theory that flowers should also be inside the home. We'd rather see a big basketful of Wild Cherry or some other good zinnia in the house, than not see any flowers at all inside.

Plan now to enjoy your garden this summer. Don't be a slave to it. No one does a full day's work anymore. No one else, that is.

Besides, America is a land of plenty, which means not quite enough of a little too much.

Which reminds me of when I was gardening to the radio last summer and on came Lawrence Welk, the champagne bubble musicman. He was asked what he thought of violence. Welk replied that he liked them, but he also likes flutes and cellos

BIG PUMPKIN CONTEST TO CONTINUE. There were some problems because of a complete crop failure of Big Max this year but the national committee is going ahead with the program anyhow, because there are other big cucurbits which also grow large. The contest is open, anyhow, to any cucurbit. One of the most successful enterprises MGCA ever attempted, it is good that it isn't permitted to drop.

SURVEY BRINGS SURPRISING RESULTS TO OUR ATTENTION

Many have asked the results of this survey. A few highlights are shown here but the entire report has been bound and each officer given a copy. It has been our pleasure to do this constructively to assist our excellent board.

50% of our active membership responded, which makes it a very projectable and reliable survey, so we cannot ignore the wishes of our members - what we mean is that we can depend upon the results.

75% of our members say they can't identify most of the other members. The question was "Can you personally identify 95% of our members?" When the question was asked in reverse, 60% said they didn't believe 95% of the members knew them personally by name. So we know what we have suspected, that we need to put more emphasis upon getting acquainted.

The members are not unhappy with the dues situation but leave the door open to various possibilities for the board to consider. 55% said they thought the once a year dues would strengthen our club and that by paying for meals and dues all at once would be of value to us. Some will be surprised at that.

The members generally like the programs. Most like the length and the degree of technicality while only 50% think the subject variety is about right and only 50% say they are interesting. On the other hand 28% think they are either too simple or too technical. Everybody feels they are glad they don't have the tough job of program chairman which Phil Smith is doing so excellently. Two-thirds want to hear about annuals and borders annually but two-thirds do not want to hear annually about the latest in roses, vegetables or fluorescent gardening.

There is simply too much to summarize herein. The actual report to the officers is twenty-four pages long. The report includes:

- 16 members' suggestions for other program subjects.
- 26 members' suggestions of how to make programs more interesting.
- 28 members' tell why they joined the club.
- 25 members give ideas of how to get more members involved.
- 28 tell what they like best of our club.
- 19 tell what they like least of our club.
- 17 make special comments...all good---like this one:

"I have never belonged to a finer group. Any man who grows even one tomato is missing a bet by not belonging."

All of the comments are tabulated anonymously with no person being identified. We know the board will give much thought to these suggestions and that the report will be passed on to 1970 and 1971 officers. Perhaps we should even process the report for everyone to have a copy. Doubtful, but possible.

THE SILLY SIDE OF LIFE

Since a couple of fellows who had promised our editorial committee articles but didn't get around to them this month, we're forced to run here a special page which will deal with the silly side of things.

We may see an end to the war between sexes this year. With the miniskirt being little more than a broad belt, the girls obviously have us outflanked.

A drunk fell on his pocket flask and smashed it, naturally lacerating his posterior. Arriving home, he was afraid to awaken his wife, so he procured band-aids and a mirror and proceeded to apply first aid. Came the dawn and his wife angrily accused him of being drunk last night. When he tried to talk her out of it, she replied "Then what are those band-aids doing stuck all over the mirror?"

Two Greeks were watching their first football game. One said: "This is all American to me."

Two hospital orderlies were bored but found a set of patient diagnostic cards and began to play poker with them. They shuffled, dealt, picked up and looked their cardsover. "Looks like I win" said one, "I've got three pneumonias and two gallstones." "Not so fast," said the other. "I've got four enemas." The other replied "Okay, looks like you take the pot."

Cowboys out west now wear red blinker lights on their saddles for night roundups, to spot each other easier. They call them Communication Saddle Lights.

Someone asked Nate Siegel who is responsible in this club. He said he didn't know but if anything goes wrong he gets the blame.

Up North around our cabin, one of our lumberjack friends set a record. He recently fought and killed seven grizzly bears single-handedly and barehanded. Unfortunately he was fighting eight at the time.

Some fellows have wives who are outspoken - but not by many people. But of course any man should be boss. Why just the other day I won an argument with my wife. Of course we were laying carpet and she had a mouth full of tacks.

Quickies: The bookkeeper's entry for "Running Expenses" turned out to be the \$10,000 he left town with. The young gal who intends to teach school from here to maternity. The fellow who finally believed in flying saucers when he pinched the local waitress. The Las Vegas bartender who painted his bar counter with silver paint so the customers couldn't find their change. See-through blouses for the girl who has everything. Happiness is finding the owner of a lost bikini. And it is indeed true that glasses can effect your vision - particularly when filled and emptied several times.

NOW WILL YOU FELLOWS GET GOING ON THOSE ARTICLES YOU PROMISED US ?

GARDEN DESIGN
by
Archie Flack

(Transcribed from Archie's talk at our February meeting.)

My subject is garden design and arrangement of flowers in the border. I believe that your garden is a very personal affair, and I am somewhat at variance with some of the landscape architects on this point. A garden should represent a person's own landscaping desires, just as a person's home is purchased to suit one's budget, family circumstances and decorating desires. I believe that one should lay out and plan his garden in the same way, following his own particular ideas and desires.

Some people will want a play area for the children, others will want to raise their own plants and will therefore need a nursery border, and we all need space for a compost pit. Many gardeners will need a coldframe. If arrangements for these facilities are made early in your planning, they can be incorporated in most any garden or lot, no matter how small it is. Some people may want to feature a patio, or other facilities. The point is that there are no fixed rules, and the design should depend upon what suits your own purposes.

There are a few architectural or design matters that should be recognized in any layout, and thought should be given to the location of the public areas of the lot, as opposed to the private areas and service areas. The public area is the approach to the house from the front, and this area should not be cluttered with so much planting that it hides the view. Foundation plantings should match the type of building. For example, if you have a low building, low foundation plantings should be used around the front of the house. You should not try to frame a low house with tall trees. The trees should be of the smaller type if they are used in the front of a low type home. Also, plantings should not hide the windows. When planting any shrubbery or evergreens, it is imperative to know and recognize the mature size of the plants so that they can be properly arranged and spaced to harmonize with the house and lot.

In the private area, it will be assumed that you are going to feature a flower border, and that will be the main topic of my talk from here on. The location of the flower border is most important. Speaking generally, it should follow the property line, and there should be a background of flowering shrubs, a hedge, or fence. The border should have as much depth as possible in relation to the size of the lot. You should avoid long narrow borders, since you cannot get the desired effect in planting thin borders. The lawn should be given the fullest expanse possible in front of the flower border, and one should not clutter up the expanse of lawn with a lot of little flower beds here and there. You should try to give as much depth as possible to your main feature border.

In planting the border, my ideas are different than you will read in most garden books. I do not mean to criticize the type of planting usually illustrated by diagrams showing the location of each plant variety. However, I do think that the type of border usually illustrated by diagrams is much better for a large estate or in parks. My ideas are intended for the home gardens in the city where we have smaller lots and our space is limited and we want the maximum amount of flower

The flower border is a permanent part of the landscape and should be properly and very thoroughly prepared before one even begins to think about planting it. Proper preparation must include the use of a lot of compost or manure which should be trenched and dug into the soil. You should take out a trench the depth of a spade and approximately a foot wide and move this soil to the other end of the border. A liberal amount of compost or manure is put into the bottom of the trench and spaded or dug into the soil in the bottom of the trench. Then, the soil from the next one foot trench is put on to the top of the preceding one and manure or compost is worked into this. This procedure is followed by next digging the humus into the bottom of the next trench, and so on until the job is finished. The top soil removed from the first trench is used to finish up with on the top of the last trench. This will give a foundation for a flower border which will give good results over a long period of time, if compost, manure or other humus is added and dug into the top soil each year. This type of preparation will change even the heaviest of soils and make them loose and of good condition for good growing. If you have a heavy clay soil, in a couple of years the soil will be friable and in good loose condition, and the same is true if you start with a light sandy soil.

In planning the plants to put into the border, a mixture of annual and perennials gives the best results throughout the entire season in providing maximum flower and color for the longest period of time. But instead of planting the perennials in groups around the border as you usually see in a diagram, I suggest that you plant them singly about equally spaced along the border until it is full with perennials spaced about three or four feet apart. Of course, the tallest varieties are put to the back of the border, with the shorter ones in the front. Annuals are then planted in groups of only three plants. If you have a dozen red snaps, for example, this will make four groups of three plants which are spaced about equi-distant along the border. They can be any color you like and it doesn't matter what color they are in relation to where they are planted or their order of planting. If you follow this system, you don't have to worry about blending the colors because they will automatically blend into a good arrangement of color. If this system is used, there are no worries about the blending of the colors.

All the plants should be arranged according to height. For example the tall rocket snaps would go toward the back, and the dwarf snaps would be placed in front. Wire cages made of chicken wire are useful to elevate petunias so that they can be placed further back in the border. Three plants are placed inside the wire cylinders.

The important thing is that the border in this type of planting is entirely versatile and one can use the different types of plants you have on hand without running all over town to find a certain plant or a certain color to put into a certain spot. This versatility is what you need in the home garden, since if this system is followed one cannot make any serious mistakes. If you have made a little mistake in color balance here or there, no one will know the difference since you will still have a very good looking flower border.

(Archie then showed slides of his fine flower border to illustrate the points outlined in his talk.)