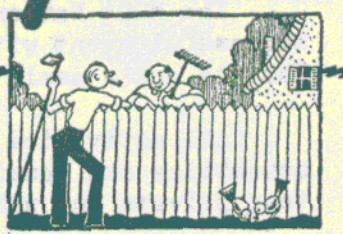




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
Wm. H. Hull, Otto Nelson,
Neil Barry

August Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 8, 1961
Place: Thor Solem
7100 Oakland Avenue, So.
Time: 5:45 P.M., Sharp
Price: \$1.75

Officers

Les Johnson	President
N. W. Christopherson	Vice Pres.
Dwight Stone	Secretary
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Office of the Secretary
4620 Hampton Road

Office of the Exchange Editor
G. Victor Lowrie
401 Essex Building

P R O G R A M

For our August Garden Tour a catered dinner will be served at the home of Thor Solem, 7100 Oakland Avenue, So. After dinner we will go by bus to the gardens of Bill Thorne, Les Johnson and Chris Christopherson. It is important that each member brings card tables and folding chairs to the meeting.

Now that we have a bus to take us from garden to garden these Summer garden visits are among the highspots in our monthly programs throughout the year.

Not only are they fun but we rarely see a garden without learning something. What better way to pick up new ideas. What better way to enlarge your gardening pleasure.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

The MGCA National Convention held recently in Detroit was another successful event with a good attendance of 600 from all over the nation. That is not a small convention for a hobby group.

All activities were centered in the Statler-Hilton Hotel with general assemblies and committee meetings there. From that point we took buses to tour private and public gardens in the metropolitan area.

Reports of national committees were most interesting, as were speeches by authorities like Jan de Graff and Dr. Ray Allen, lily and rose experts.

* * *

We enjoyed the tour of gardens of our own members in July and thank you for including mine in the tour. It is an interesting experience and I'm sure I've forgotten to supply answers to some questions I couldn't give at that time. Please contact me again if you had such an experience. The questions come pretty rapidly. It was thrilling to see Dolph Bezoier's expanding program, Dale Durst's beautiful borders, Louis Dorweiler's fine beds, Bob Adams gorgeous lilies and roses. We learn a lot on these tours.

* * *

The Saturday previous to our tour we also toured Richfield gardens with our Richfield MGC friends. Believe me, those boys have some beautifully landscaped homes and flower beds too. It will be interesting when the North Star Region can make a joint tour this Fall.

* * *

President Les Johnson has volunteered our assistance to the Fulton School PTA, as you will remember from the June announcement, to help judge children's gardens. About eight of us have made our first visits to these small plots and are having fun in the experience. Takes only a little time. The next time Les requests volunteers for this project; speak up. You'll enjoy it.

* * *

Did you see the beautiful lilies Eng Hoyme brought to the July meeting? Some of his own seedlings. He invited us out to see the blooms but we were out of town that week. Hope some of you others made it.

* * *

Remember Hrand Hampikian, our Christmas party speaker of a few years back? While in Detroit we visited his garden. A triple lot with an adjoining alley also landscaped by Hrand since it is no longer in use. A beautiful place where I took some photographs of ideas some of us might want to use. I'll use the slides in talks on landscaping.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE (Cont'd)

Another fine article in the La Jolla, Calif. newspaper of Al Blackburn's beautiful home and patios. I still think Al should start a Men's Garden Club there.

* * *

Went a-visiting the Sunday after our garden tour and saw some other very interesting gardens we could have visited. Archie Flack's meticulous borders with eye-catching color. Cortis Rice's lovely yard with sweep of lawn and much bloom, where for the first time I saw the new daylily Arlene Witmer. Then saw same plant in Joe Witmer's colorful garden - Arlene is Mrs. Witmer. Joe's many hostas and daylilies give color for a long period of time, his daylilies blooming all summer. Many of them he has hybridized, including some excellent ones. Then to Leonard McKee's garden where no one was home but took my own tour of a comfortably patio encircled by terraced beds. Very pretty. Then by invitation to Maurice Lifson's to see his riot of color, which was up to its usual excellence.

THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW

Al Nelson, Show Chairman

Our annual Flower Show will be held at the American Hardware Mutual Insurance Building on August 26 and 27. Begin early to nurse your prospective specimens for the show. We need a large number of exhibits to make a show worthy of the beautiful location where it is held. We also want one worthy of our club. We need more than a 30 or 40 percent participation by the group.

Membership in a club puts each active member under obligation to take part in the Club's activities whenever possible. A Flower Show is one of the most important events of a Garden Club. Each active member should feel obliged to exhibit and it is improbable that 60 percent of the members have a valid excuse for not doing so. It should not be necessary to prod each individual to do his duty.

If you do not have sufficiently good specimens try an arrangement. In arrangements the quality of the material is less important than the way it is put together, and it is not necessary to grow your own flowers.

Bring on the exhibits! You are under obligation to do so.

IRIS OF THE YEAR

Commercial iris growers have named five varieties for the title, "Iris of the Year." Home gardeners may wish to add them to their gardens this month, which is the time to plant these lovely easy to grow flowers.

The five are May Hall, a flamingo pink flower; Carmela, apricot rust; Sable Night, rich black; Mary Randall, rose pink and Lady Ilse, powder blue. Rhizomes of these and scores of other varieties are available at garden suppliers.

The iris May Hall is one of the renowned family of flamingo pinks developed by David F. Hall, retired attorney of Wilmette, who is one of the world's leading iris hybridizers. He named it for his wife. In the 44 years Hall has been working with iris he has originated about 100 varieties. We asked Hall what he considered the most common mistake the average home gardener makes in growing iris. "Overcrowding," he replied. "This iris requires good drainage and sunshine. The plants should be given lots of growing space to permit free air circulation and the sun to shine on the roots." When irises are overcrowded or when they are planted in locations that are shady or have poor drainage they develop rot. Rotted spots in the rhizomes should be dug out with a tablespoon and the rhizomes then should be left to dry and heal in the sunshine a few days.

New irises may be planted and old clumps lifted, divided and replanted anytime in July or August, although July is preferable. Hall recommends digging the planting holes eight inches deep and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter. The holes then should be refilled with loose soil mixed with compost or a heaping tablespoon of a complete plant food. Plant the rhizomes so they will be covered by about $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch of soil. Within a year or so they will work their way up to the surface, which is where they like to grow. Plant the rhizomes in groups of three, pointed inward to form a triangle and with their corners about eight inches apart. The clumps do not have to be lifted and divided until they become large and do not bloom very well. This usually is every three or four years.

It's a mistake to cut off the leaves of irises after the plants have finished blooming. As with tulips and daffodils, let the foliage remain intact as long as it is green so the plant can store up all the energy it needs for next year's bloom. After the leaves ripen and turn brown they may be removed.

Irises bring to the garden virtually every color of the rainbow and are among the most satisfactory and easily grown flowers for midwest gardens. They are natives of Asia, Asia Minor and hot, semi-arid countries.

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