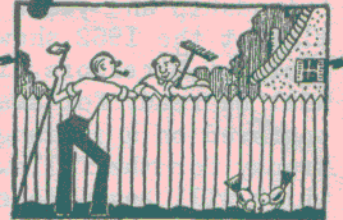




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



August 1962
Volume 20, No. 8
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

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

August Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 14, 1962

Place: Joe Witmer, 255 Oakwood Road
Hopkins, Minnesota

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Price: \$1.75

Food: Delaria's Barbecued Ribs

N. W. Christopherson President
Ev Haedecke Vice-Pres.
Dwight Stone Secretary
Charles Proctor Treasurer

Office of the Secretary
4620 Hampton Road

P R O G R A M

Bob Adams, Chairman of the Food Committee, will serve us a tasty Barbecued Rib dinner at the home of Joe Witmer. From there we will tour the gardens of Cortis Rice, Archie Flack and Harold Kaufmann. Bus transportation will be provided by the club for this tour.

Tables and chairs will also be provided by the club.

Plan now to attend this meeting and enjoy an excellent barbecued dinner and the beautiful gardens to be visited on the tour.

A. W. "Bill" Kelley, who was recently transferred to Clearwater, Florida, has established residence at 417 Baker Boulevard there. Bill writes of the pleasure gardening has given him, invites us to look him up when in that area, and particularly expresses his thanks to Cortis Rice, Dick Lehman and Witmer "who gave me encouragement, suggestions and helped analyze my gardening problems." We will miss you, Bill, and keep your thumb green!

BLACKBOURN TROPHY TO BE AWARDED AT FLOWER SHOW

A perpetual trophy to be awarded to the sweepstakes winner in specimens of our flower show and donated by member Al Blackburn as a token of his friendship and years of membership in our club, will be awarded for the first time at the 1962 show. This new trophy, just accepted unanimously by the Board of Directors, is being prepared in California under Al's direction and will be ready for award at show time. Each year the winner's name will be engraved on a rectangular gold plate thereon and the winner may retain the trophy for the following year. The club will retain ownership of the trophy, which will have space for about twenty annual awards. Thank you, Al, for this generous offer.

RICHFIELD EXTENDS INVITATION TO HEAR LAWN AND ROSE EXPERT

Sue Adams, Home Service Consultant for O. M. Scott & Sons, will speak at the Richfield MGC meeting on Monday, September 24, and Richfield president, Don Morton, has kindly extended an invitation to all of us to attend. Miss Adams is a well-known personality who informs consumers across the country about a program for lawn and rose care. Let's take advantage of this friendly offer and have a big contingent to hear this good talk. If interested, please call Dwight Stone (FE 8-7792 or JU 8-5692) before 8 p.m. September 20. The facts of the meeting: Richfield Bank & Trust Co., 6625 Lyndale Ave S., Monday, September 24. Dinner, \$1.65 at 6:30 p.m. Program, no charge, 7:45 p.m.

WELCOME, BRUCE JOHNSTONE, NEW MEMBER

Bruce Johnstone, whom many of you know because of the many times he has been a guest speaker at our club, joined as a professional member recently. Head of the seed department of Northrup King and Co., Bruce lives at Route 5, Box 255, Excelsior, Minnesota, where he also does his home gardening. Sponsored by Archie Flack and Joe Witmer. We extend you a most cordial welcome, Bruce and invite you to participate to the maximum in our club's activities.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Have just returned from our national convention of MGCA and must tell you what a good meeting you missed. A lot of fun with over 1,100 other gardeners - the largest convention we have had - enlightening speeches by men like Dr. Emsweller of the USDA - tours such as the splendid one at Jackson & Perkins. Well worth the \$25 registration which included all tours, all speeches and five meals.

Next year's convention will be at Rockford, Illinois, the 30th and 31st of July and August 1. One of our best MGCs is there and you'd have a whale of a time at this nearby convention. This is the one for which we should plan, since it'll never be closer unless it's right here at home.

Never have I missed as many meetings of our club as in 1962. Considerable business travel has kept me busy plus a few other problems such as daughter Judy's graduation. Timing trips to be here for that necessitated missing one of the meetings. Without meaning to be maudlin may I say how much I value my Minneapolis MGC affiliation and the friends therein. It will always be my

OVER THE GARDEN GATE (Cont'd)

first garden love. Even should ever get to be president of MGCA, this will be so and sometime I must thank properly Vic Lowrie for sponsoring me in our club many years ago.

Did you hear about the man gardener who lives in Connecticut but owns a compost pile which came from Illinois via Kentucky? When he packed his furniture he said his compost pile was just too darned good to leave behind. Like taking starter dough for bread across the prairies in a covered wagon, only more expensive to ship.

Usually we've been able to visit enough gardens beyond those covered in the tour to carry a few notes about them in SPRAY. Would someone like to help us with this problem this summer? Who will visit a few friends and write us a few words about eyecatchers and changes in their gardens?

It lay there writhing and dying in the dust. Each tenacle withering and shrinking while water was actually quite near. Brown spots appeared on its surface while the dusty smell of death took over. Neighborhood kids kicked it disdainfully, not caring that it died. But it didn't really die after all. It was only set back because the mower repairman had set the mower lower than the two inches I prefer, that situation being intensified by a heat wave and a village ban against watering. Now the rains have saved it again. Grass, that is.

Come up and see my new pool sometime. Not for swimming, it's decorative, has a statue with recirculating water. Instructions for the pump said it would also handle champagne or beer. What a thought!

Here we are fighting the problem of constant rain with storms trying to flatten our gardens, while other states are suffering from drought. In New York there are twenty-six counties which are disaster areas because of lack of rain. Wish we could send them some of ours, in exchange for sunshine. We'll need every man's cooperation to make our show successful this year; it could be a year when the flowers we fail to take from the garden would be blue ribbon winners.

JULY TOUR

It was 6:00 a.m. on July 10 and the weather forecast read "Partly cloudy with severe thundershowers toward evening." In spite of this forecast 116 brave gardeners, wives and friends were on hand when the food was ready to be served at the July garden tour. To reward them Mother Nature called off the rain, sent a light cloud cover to shield the sun and put the mosquitoes and flies to sleep. A special order would not have provided a more perfect evening.

The tour included a delicious chicken dinner at Dwight Stone's residence. From there the group traveled by bus to see Eng Hoyme's and Vic Lowrie's yards.

Seeing is believing, and to believe you would have to see Eng Hoyme's eight foot high lilies! Together with the lilies, some forty varieties of Clematis in bloom, and well-chosen plantings of petunias in Eng's garden brought about many questions, as "How do you do it?" "Do you raise them from seed?" "What variety is that pink one?"

(5/7/53) JULY TOUR (Cont'd)

Should trees and shrubs be to your liking to the Dwight Stone yard you should go. Dwight has a fine selection and most of them planted with feed for birds in mind. Dwight had the finest sweetpeas we have seen this year. We understand he has an unorthodox method of planting them. Maybe sometime he will reveal his secret so we too can have them in our gardens.

Of course, Vic Lowrie's yard was as beautiful as always. The result of good planning and more work than most of us are willing to put forth was everywhere in evidence.

The many interesting plantings and figurines that adorn the yard are each a work of art.

Remarks made during the tour leave little doubt that a new institution was born - this tour with the ladies.

FLOWER SHOW - IT'S HERE

In just a few days the doors will be thrown open to our annual Flower Show. Various committees have been hard at work ironing out the details which will insure:

1. The best Flower Show the Twin Cities have ever seen.
2. Maximum attendance.

What is necessary to assure the achieving of these two goals? First and foremost is participation by as many of us as possible. Quality, of course, is paramount, but quantity is also important. I am sure that any one who has entered exhibits in the past will tell of instances when items brought mainly to increase the overall mass display have taken ribbons. Probably an impossible dream would be to have each and every member enter at least one exhibit.

The show committee has been working on general publicity and have several items which need the cooperation of everyone. Enclosed are a supply of invitation cards. Mail them or deliver them personally but be sure that every one gets to some one who would be interested. More are available and can be had by contacting Charlie Proctor, WA 6-9408.

A supply of display cards have also been printed. It is our aim to have these posted in as many stores and business establishments in the city as possible, as well as any other likely spots. Any one who can get any of these posted please contact Charlie Proctor. They should probably be posted the weekend before the show.

In connection with the general decorations, we need a large supply of long stemmed cut flowers, such as aster, marigold and zinnia. All who can assist in filling our requirements please contact Les Johnson.

If you can assist on Friday evening or Saturday and have not already signed up, please contact Bud Christensen.

RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT

Continued from July issue

GROWING AND HANDLING ORNAMENTALS - Work is carried out at the Landscape Arboretum and on the St. Paul Campus. D. B. White (leader), R. E. Widmer, C. J. Weiser and N. Pellett.

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF LAWNS IN MINNESOTA - Tests of variety and strain selections of promising turf grasses are continuing. Experimental plots are to be established for thatch, shade, ecological, and other cultural studies. Post and pre-emergent herbicide studies in turf are continuing. Promising selections from the Bluegrass breeding project in Agronomy are to be evaluated for fine turf characteristics. Work is being carried out at the Landscape Arboretum, on the St. Paul Campus and at the branch stations. D. B. White (leader), B. C. Beresford (Crookston); W. H. Gray (Morris); N. Grimsbo (Grand Rapids); H. Hopen (Duluth); D. Turner (Waseca); W. Nelson (Lamberton); H. L. Thomas (Agronomy); R. S. Farnham (Soils).

FRUIT VARIETY STUDIES - A collection of standard fruit varieties that can be grown in Minnesota is being made at the Fruit Breeding Farm for reference and demonstration purposes. In addition, a collection is being made of tree and small fruit varieties, consisting of new and untried varieties in Minnesota, to determine their usefulness in this state. Desirable varieties from these trials are being tested further at the branch stations. Selections and introductions from our fruit breeding program are also included in these trials. E. T. Andersen (leader), L. C. Snyder, A. N. Wilcox, T. S. Weir, B. C. Beresford (Crookston); N. H. Grimsbo (Grand Rapids); R. S. Grant (Duluth); W. H. Gray (Morris); and Deane Turner (Waseca).

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUIT MANAGEMENT STUDIES - This is a general project to establish new or modified practices which will aid the fruit grower in improving the yield and quality of the fruit crop, decrease costs of production, or otherwise improve production or management practices. Such studies include the use of chemicals for fruit thinning, soil management and fertilizer applications, disease and insect control, the use of mulches, and other cultural problems related to fruit growing. E. T. Andersen (leader), T. S. Weir, L. C. Snyder; T. H. King (Plant Pathology); A. C. Hodson (Entomology); B. C. Beresford (Crookston); N. H. Grimsbo (Grand Rapids); R. S. Grant (Duluth); and W. H. Gray (Morris).

PHYSIOLOGICAL STUDIES OF FRUIT CROPS - This is a study of physiological phenomena as they are related to growth and development of plants. These are fundamental considerations including cause, effect and change of hardiness in fruit plants; effects of growth regulators on plants and organs; effects of length of day on fruit plant behavior; and nutritional studies related to actual or potential disorders of fruit plants. Factors affecting the mobility of iron in the plant as related to the problem of lime-induced chlorosis are being studied. E. T. Andersen (leader), B. S. Shetty; A. J. Linck (Plant Pathology); J. M. MacGregor (Soils).

STUDIES ON THE CULTURE OF VEGETABLES FOR PROCESSING - Studies are in progress on the control of weeds in processing vegetables, particularly peas, squash, cucumbers, and beans, studies of the influence of various environmental factors on the susceptibility of peas to injury from MCPA, and studies on methods of delaying senescence in peas. Work is carried on at the St. Paul Campus and on fields of cooperating vegetable processing companies. R. E. Nylund (leader), Lloyd Ayres, W. Torfason.

RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT (Cont'd)

BREEDING DISEASE-RESISTANT VEGETABLES - This is a project to develop tomatoes resistant to late blight and to mosaic. A number of resistant lines have been found mostly in closely related wild species. This project also includes working for fusarium wilt-resistance in muskmelons. T. M. Currence (leader), P. Ito.

BREEDING HARDY ORNAMENTAL TREES AND SHRUBS FOR MINNESOTA - This is a project to develop hardy trees and shrubs for landscape purposes. Emphasis is being placed on dwarf shrubs and small-to-medium lawn trees. Hardy varieties of azaleas, weigelas, forsythias, crabapples and ornamental plums are receiving special attention. An extensive testing program to determine the hardiness and landscape value of over a thousand species and varieties of woody ornamentals is under way at the new Landscape Arboretum on the St. Paul Campus and at the branch stations. A. G. Johnson (leader), L. C. Snyder, D. B. White.

CULTURAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL STUDIES ON VEGETABLE CROPS AND POTATOES - Studies are being conducted on the chemical control of weeds in vegetable crops (particularly onions, carrots, beets, cabbage and potatoes). This project also includes studies on the influence of plastic mulches on vegetables, blossom sprays on tomatoes and the use of potato vine killers. Work is carried on at the St. Paul Campus, the Fruit Breeding Farm, and at the vegetable research farm at Hollandale. R. E. Nylund (leader), Lloyd Ayres, S. Mahadeva.

COLD INJURY AND HARDINESS IN HORTICULTURAL PLANTS - Low temperature is perhaps the single most limiting environmental factor to plant growth in Minnesota and many other parts of the world. The damage to horticultural plants each winter in Minnesota amounts to several million dollars. This project has been organized to study this serious problem. The purpose of the project is threefold: 1) To find how low temperatures injure plants, 2) To establish the basic physiological mechanisms by which plants become resistant to low temperature (fall hardening) and 3) To find practical means of reducing or preventing low temperature injury to plants. Field trials on winter burn on arbor vitae and basic laboratory and controlled environment growth chamber studies on the mechanism of fall hardening in woody plants are currently in progress. C. J. Weiser (leader), W. While, and R. van Huystee.

Viking Queen, a new floribunda type climbing or pillar rose, will be available for the 1963 planting season. This plant produces clusters of very large, fully double, fragrant pink flowers from late June until mid-October. Plants are very vigorous and hardy with normal winter protection.

This is the sixth rose introduced by the Department of Horticulture. Other varieties are White Dawn, L. E. Longley, Red Rocket, Pink Rocket, and Prairie Fire. Phillips.

The chrysanthemum breeding project continues to be highly productive. The introduction of Wayzata (yellow) in 1961 and Minn-Autumn (bright bronze cushion) in 1962 brings the number of University of Minnesota introductions to 41. Phillips, Widmer.

Poinsettias which are shorter, stockier, and more attractive may be obtained by applying the growth regulator CCC to the soil during the forcing season. Widmer.

(To be continued next issue)