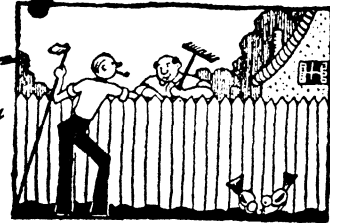




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



August 1964
Volume 23 No. 8
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

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

August Meeting

Date: August 11, 1964
Place: Glen Cerney
1927 East River Terrace
(Via Franklin Bridge, proceed one block
past bridge on Franklin, turn right at
Barber Oil onto East River Terrace)
Time: 5:45 P.M. (Long tour - come early)
Price: \$2.00
Food: DeLaria's

Officers

Dwight Stone	President
Paul M. Kroeger	Vice-Pres
G. R. Christenson (Bud)	Secretary
R. E. Smith (Bob)	Treasurer

PROGRAM

John Pulver and Bill Swanson will again serve a delightful catered dinner. Tables and chairs will be provided by the club. From Glen's place, we will travel by bus to visit the following gardens:

Jerry Olson
2513 - 28th Avenue South

Al Nelson
3404 Snelling Avenue

Fred Holzman
5125 - 30th Avenue South

Verner Carlson (new member)
5613 - 26th Avenue South

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Most of us have no comprehension or appreciation of the money and effort being spent by hybridizers to develop new plants which may appeal to us. Last week, as your national president, and as a director of Garden Writers of America, I took a day off and visited the annual Field Trial Days of George J. Ball, Inc., at West Chicago, and Vaughan's Inc., at Cantigny and Downer's Grove, Illinois. It was enlightening, not only to see the countless different annuals, but also the thousands of growers, who come there annually looking for the latest plants. It was a circus or carnival atmosphere in appearance, with huge tents, big masses of balloons, etc., but the serious and thoughtful expressions quickly showed that these people were here on business. They wanted to know what to grow to appeal to you and me.

While there, I also visited both All-America Trial Gardens in which plants are grown for judging. Hybrid marigolds apparently do much better here than they do in Illinois; those I saw there were much smaller per specific variety than when we grow them here in Minnesota. I saw new spurless nasturtiums being tested, listened to the experts talk of how they had changed the throat colors of some of the old reliable petunias, saw the under-six-inch celosia lots of beautiful things.

Our own Northrop King field day hasn't come around at this writing, but I'm hoping to go there, because it will be another opportunity to see what's new. I highly recommend it.

I took lots of photos in Illinois. Sometime will put the best ones with photos of other gardens I've visited all over the USA in recent years. May make a good meeting. From California to Florida, to New England to Texas and back home.

Dale Durst has some ideas worth copying. He grows lettuce in small containers and transplants into small areas of the gardens as needed. Just the other day, I saw a wire pin effect which he uses to keep soaker and mist hoses in place. Good ideas, Dale. Those should go with P.W.'s gadget for holding bamboo stakes erect in the friable soil in which we pot begonias. They're fine, too.

Several of our gardens - I believe the same ones we toured last month - were toured by the MGC of Richfield. I know they went to Otto Nelson's and Harold Kaufmann's. Very pleased, and the ladies, too, enjoyed the tour. Some of our men have said publicly they'd like to reciprocate. Why not? Some good gardeners there, too. The more different gardens I see, the more I can challenge myself.

A heck of a summer. It's too hot. It's too dry. It's too wet. My begonias are burning. I have more bugs than usual. The mosquitoes are worse. Someone says the crabgrass is worse in their yard. Fire blight causes trouble. South African houseflies crossed with bumble bees bite my ankles in the early morning. But- it seems to me gardens are all beautiful right now. Many lawns are outstanding. I suppose it's only natural we all gripe a little.

SPROUTS FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

by Dwight Stone

How did you manage during the long hot spell? It was nice that we had our July garden tour before the heat set in. The welcome rain that fell on Monday morning really was a pleasant sight.

Paul Kusy of Moline, Illinois and a member of the Tri-Cities Men's Rose and Garden Club, was a visitor at the July tour. I hope you were able to meet him. Paul said he is planning to move to some acreage outside of Moline where he will have more space. He is interested in hibridizing roses.

Thanks to Mildred and Harold Kaufmann for making their lovely yard available for the dinner at the July tour. It surely is nice of Harold to have his own parking lot for such occasions. Thanks, too, to Les, Nate and Archie for inviting us to see their gardens - all were very nice.

Joe Witmer is still in Methodist Hospital and is getting along fine. Joe would enjoy receiving a card, and can have a few visitors. Better call first, as Joe may be home by the time you read this.

Now is the time to start selecting your specimens for the flower show - August 22 and 23. I think you will enjoy the show at Powderhorn Recreation Center. The building is completely remodeled and will provide about the same amount of space as we had in the exhibit hall at American Hardware Mutual.

Several of our members' wives have been in the hospital lately. Just to name a few - Mrs. Fred Paul at Methodist; Mrs. Cortis Rice, Abbott; and Mrs. Joe Porter. Joe Porter is one of our associate members that I always expect and look for at the summer tours. Joe is associated with the Minneapolis schools and is unable to attend our meetings during the school year. This year, because of the ill health of his wife, he is also unable to attend the tours.

Welcome to Dave Johnson - the newest member of MGC of Minneapolis. Dave, his wife Marilyn and daughter Molly, live at 1633 Xerxes Avenue North. Although Dave is a new member, he has a very well-developed garden, and I am sure you will be welcome to visit it, if you should be in the area.

Along about the middle of August is a good time to spray to kill next spring's crop of dandelions. The dandelion is a biannual, and the little plants are sitting there under the grass getting ready to show their ugly faces along about May next year. Don't ask me what to use - I haven't come to that chapter yet.

We still need and can use a few more new members. The National Convention will be here in 1967, and we will need many workers. A new member now will make your work easier at convention time. If you have a potential member in mind, invite him to the August tour or to the September meeting at Mount Olivet. A member coming in now pays only \$5.00 for the balance of the

SPROUTS FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

Continued

Our annual Christmas Party is a long ways off, but just as a matter of interest, it will be held at the Thunderbird Motel this year. It looks like a good place - plenty of parking space and good food. The date is December 8.

Have you taken a drive in the country this summer? The landscape is beautiful. A nice trip about now is to drive over to Stillwater, cross the bridge to Wisconsin, and drive to Hudson. From Hudson, take the county roads and just feast your eyes on the fields, meadows, farm buildings and the river valley. It is a sight to behold.

A quote to remember -

"There is a close connection between getting up in the world and getting up in the morning."

* * * * *

ROBERT FULTON SCHOOL GARDEN PROJECT

Over one hundred students from the Robert Fulton School are enrolled in the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis sponsored garden project.

Many of these boys and girls will be exhibiting their products at the Flower Show on August 22 and 23 at Powderhorn.

If you are a sponsoring member of a group of these gardeners, it may be advisable to make an inspection tour of the gardens a few days before the show.

At this time, advise the school gardener on how to pick his bloom and harden it off for exhibition. If he has a vegetable garden, advise him to choose vegetables of uniform size and representation of the variety. These little tips will be valuable for these youngsters in exhibiting in the show.

We would like a color slide of each child enrolled in the project.

If you, as a sponsoring member, are unable to take a picture before September 1, please advise Les Johnson, and he will arrange to have a picture taken.

FALL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW AND FAMILY PICNIC

August 22 and 23, 1964
Powderhorn Park Recreation Center

This time it is for real. We will have the Flower Show at Powderhorn Park on August 22 and 23.

The recreation center is located at 34th Street and 14th Avenue South. The building is newly remodeled, and it looks like an ideal place for us to hold our show.

Spacewise, we will have as much exhibition area as we have had at our previous shows. There is ample parking space, both on the street and in the parking lot adjacent to the building. The committee is very enthusiastic about this location, and feels we will have an excellent show.

The show will be open to the public on Saturday night, August 22, from 7 to 9 P.M. On Sunday, August 23, the show will be open to the public from 12 noon to 6 P.M.

Paul Kroeger will have invitations for you to mail or give to your friends. These cards will be available at the August 11 tour. Please do your part in advertising the show as we would like a good attendance from the public.

At a later date, we will advise you where and when you can pick up exhibit bottles and tags.

The committee requests that all members exhibit at least one entry. At previous shows, only about 50% of our active membership has exhibited and we hope we can increase the participation.

Picnic - 5 to 7 P.M.
August 22

It will be a potluck dinner. Bill Swanson and his committee requests that each family bring its own meat and one passing dish. Coffee and pop will be provided.

As mentioned above, this is a family picnic, so all members of your family are invited.

You will be called prior to the picnic date to state your intentions, as it will be necessary for us to know how many will be coming so we can provide sufficient tables and chairs. Please bring your own eating utensils.

Do your part to make the show and picnic a success.

Gardener Fired, Fined

"I S P A N K E D H E R B O T T O M"

LONDON (AP) - Viscount Portman's head gardener admitted Thursday he gave Lady Portman a severe spanking to show her who was boss in the Portman greenhouse.

"I soundly spanked her bottom," Frank Klingenspor said in a magistrate's court in the Buckinghamshire village of Beaconsfield.

* * * * *

The judge fined the 61-year-old gardener 30 pounds (\$90) on a charge of assault, put him under a bond of 50 pounds (\$150) to keep the peace for the next 12 months and ordered him to stay at least one mile distant from the Portman estate for the next three years.

The prosecution said the dispute, which culminated in the spanking of her ladyship, who is 47, occurred May 30 in the greenhouse of the Portman estate, Burtley House.

Said the prosecutor:

"Lady Portman made a normal and reasonable request for Mr. Klingenspor to leave the greenhouse unlocked in the afternoon as she and her husband wanted to use it."

* * * * *

"Mr. Klingenspor replied 'Indeed I will not. I am not going to have you mucking around my plants when I'm not here. ' "

When Lady Portman persisted, the prosecutor continued, Klingenspor banged her head against the greenhouse door, threw her down and beat her.

"Her ladyship," said the prosecutor, "suffered a considerable degree of bruising and abrasion."

His lordship fired the gardener forthwith.

* * * * *

Testifying in his own defense, Klingenspor said he was only defending his flowers.

He conceded that he lost his temper with her ladyship.

"I put my arms on the back of her neck to get her out and in the struggle pushed her to the ground," he said. "I then soundly smacked her bottom. She may have had cuts and bruises, but it wasn't malicious on my part."

Contributed by Archie Flack
From Victoria Colonist
Victoria, B.C., Canada

LAWN CARE IN AUGUST

The 45-day period from mid-August to October is the most important time of the whole year to fertilize your lawn.

It's during the 45 days from mid-August to early October that grass plants in this area tiller. This is nature's process for adding 25 to 50 additional leaves to every grass plant before winter.

Tillering thickens the lawn dramatically. Plants that consisted of a single shoot and a few leaves now become thick enough to cover the ground completely. The result is a thick lawn that looks good -- and that feels great underfoot.

But Tillering occurs only if the right nutrition is available. It can stop completely when only the first 2 or 3 new leaves have started if the food supply gives out or goes out of balance.

Fall fertilizing is so important that the research director of Scotts, the lawn people of Marysville, Ohio, has long said that if there's money enough for only one feeding a year, he'd make it in the fall.

"Organic" doesn't mean what most people think it means.

The word "organic" used to mean that the fertilizer was derived from bonemeal, peat, manure, sewage sludge or some other natural organic waste. Today most fertilizers are processed from chemicals. The word "organic" has come to mean that the bag contains man-made or synthetic organic materials. These may or may not make the fertilizer long-lasting and non-burning, the main reason for buying "organic."

To save yourself disappointment, just remember that when you see a bag labelled "60% organic", it means synthetic chemicals, not what the maker hopes you will think it means.

Reprinted from Scotts
Lawn Care

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HARDINESS RESEARCH TO BE CONDUCTED AT U

Research on plant hardiness by University of Minnesota horticulturists may mean a drastic reduction in the millions of dollars now lost each winter in the state from cold injury to fruit and ornamental plants.

The research, started several years ago, has been given a new impetus with a \$195,065 grant from the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation, according to L. C. Snyder, head of the University's Department of Horticultural Science. C. J. Weiser, associate professor of horticultural science will be research leader of the project.

HARDINESS RESEARCH TO BE CONDUCTED AT U

Continued

The project will involve basic and applied research on the nature of cold injury and acclimation in plants, the development and testing of adapted varieties and the promotion of cooperation in hardiness research in the plant sciences.

For more than 200 years numerous investigators have worked on the complex problems of cold injury. The University Department of Horticultural Science has had a continuous research program in hardiness problems since 1912, but critical research has been limited up to this time because of lack of facilities. Much of the early hardiness work was of little practical application because there was no real understanding of the basic factors involved in either winter injury or a plant's inherent ability to avoid injury, according to Weiser.

Furthermore, up to the present horticulturists have had no way of scientifically assessing the exact causes of winter injury, Weiser says. The procedure has been to observe winter injury to plants in the spring, then go over temperature records and make a conjecture as to the cause of the damage.

Now, with the use of growth chambers recently acquired by the horticultural science laboratories, it will be possible to characterize the basic nature of winter injury and the natural mechanisms by which plants become acclimated to cold. In the chambers the plants will be exposed to various degrees of cold and heat to learn their precise reactions to specific temperatures.

These findings will then be applied in the programs of the Fruit Breeding Farm and the Landscape Arboretum at Excelsior in developing and testing hardy plants.

Ultimate aim of the project is to find a practical means of reducing winter injury on a field scale. Practical field treatments to reduce winter injury could save millions of dollars on horticultural crops in Minnesota alone, Weiser believes. Frost damage to fruit blossoms and early planted annuals, winter burn on evergreens, winter killing of landscape, forest, orchard, perennial forage crops and winterseeded cereals account for a staggering economic loss.

Establishing laboratories for research on plant hardiness is of significance, not only to Minnesota, but to the whole continent, Weiser points out. No real center of plant hardiness research and graduate training exists in North America comparable to the institute of Low Temperature Research in Japan. The occurrence of winter damage to plants in the northern states would make the results of this project of potential significance to any field of plant science, including forestry and agronomy, as well as horticulture.

Reprinted from Bulletin
Institute of Agriculture
University of Minnesota