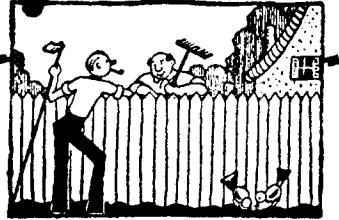




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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August 9 Meeting is a Tour

We will tour four gardens starting with a 6 o'clock, \$2.00, dinner at Bill Brooks' home at 6 Mill Road, Hopkins. (Directions below.) From Bill's our stag group will adjourn by bus to Bob Smith's, Floyd Ashley's and Bob Bryant's. You will see lovely general gardens, a twenty-ton-of-manure-per-year vegetable garden, two-and-a-half acres of garden, and orchids and delphinium. Don't miss this superb tour arranged by the committee headed by Vern Carlson.

Directions to Bill Brooks: Leave highway 100 at highway 7 and go to county highway 18. Turn right to Minnetonka Blvd. At Minnetonka turn left and 3/10 of a mile away is Mill Road. This is in the Bellgrove section.

And again---BRING YOUR SPECIMENS.

How can we have a monthly flower show without you? Bring those specimens. Don't forget like some of us did in July. Three flowers per person would be superb.

On August 15-16-17 approximately ten of our members gardens will be included in the PARADE OF MEN'S GARDENS which is a display of about twenty or twenty-five top gardens in the area. Included will be some in Richfield, and some in Minnetonka. Most of these will be gardens you will not have a chance to see otherwise this summer. Nate Siegel, vice-president of the region which is sponsoring this tour, and Ed Graupmann of Minnetonka, president, have worked hard to make this tour successful, and want only a little help from each of us. We will each be sent a few tickets. Simply sell them and return the money as indicated. The ticket is basically a ladies ticket, with her husband being admitted free. This could be you. It is hoped it will be. But it could also be anyone in the state. Men attending any garden will be registered and later we will contact them to join or start a men's garden club. This is so little to do to help the cause of men's gardening. Won't you sell those tickets to someone? Or give them at your own expense to fellow office workers under the pretense of them letting their wives have them.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

The Special Interest Rose Group met at Jack Peterson's on July 14, two nights after our regular meeting of the whole club. Cutting, grooming, and conditioning of specimens for show purposes will be discussed. Al Nelson heads this group.

I've been playing assassin in my yard, squirting noxious weeds and woody undesireables with an oil can full of 2,4,5-T. Cut off a tenacle and then Blooey on the cut end. It's a deadly material though. The oil can isn't labelled. A bad mistake. My wife discovered her car door squeaked and oiled it with that oil can. The engine immediately died.

Al Hubbard had a good idea, for durable stakes. He bought metal reinforcing rods from a building materials supplier and had them cut to proper lengths for stakes. He uses a pressure can of Rustoleum and paints them green. Suggests one might also paint them by dipping into a hollow pipe filled with the paint. His rods cost him 24¢ each in four-foot lengths.

"A surprising thing has happened to the American male. He outnumbered the women in the flower gardens of the country for the first time. An estimated 53% of all gardeners in the United States are men, according to L. E. Moyer, North Hollywood, Calif., president of the Men's Garden Clubs of America." Home gardening has progressed from "cookoo jar" financing to big business, he said, because men spend far more money on their hobbies than women do. A report by the federal reserve bank of Philadelphia estimates the national market in gardening supplies and equipment doubled in the last decade, reaching about four billion dollars annually." (Los Angeles Times News Service story reprinted all over the country. This one was from the Milwaukee Journal.)

Everybody has troubles. The Street Cleaner confessed to his psychiatrist. "I don't know what's wrong with me, Doc. I just can't keep my mind in the gutter."

A good letter from Joe M. Woodard, Men's Garden Club of Dallas, who asks "Bill, how is your supply of Minneapolis bottled water holding out? That was a good promotion stunt. I haven't cracked mine yet -- waiting for a drought."

Want to know how to bathe a loon? Might come in handy. We read part of the description in THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER. It's from a book by Ronald Rood, "A Loon in My Bathtub," Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vermont, \$4.50.

The Minnesota Department of Conservation recently announced that all state tree nurseries are spraying pine seedlings with a fungicide to control a possible outbreak of a fungus called Scleroderris Canker, which resembles winter kill in result. It hasn't been confirmed as yet but the spraying must be undertaken anyway. It may have already killed between four and five million Norway pine.

The city has finally decided to go ahead with the long delayed Nicollet Avenue Mall and the street is now blocked off downtown. It won't be completed at convention time but we will have the fun of having plenty of activity in the hotel area.

Someone who doesn't know the Otto Ericksons very well once told Otto he had probably "bit off" more than he can chew in undertaking the new garden at the new home a few years ago. I think I know how Otto felt. Anyone who has seen the Erickson's lovely place, know they not only chewed it but digested it well. It's a lovely spot. But, of course, it would be, as those of us know who remember the jewel of a garden they had in their other home.

PRESIDENT BOB SAYS

by Bob Smith

The tour committee, Verner and Evald, and the gardeners who displayed their gardens at the July tour gave us a wonderful showing considering the hot weather and storm on the preceding Sunday. Phil Smith has done a terrific job in developing one of the finest gardens in our club in the few years he has been a member. Archie's border was delightful to view because of the excellent manner in which he blends his plantings to give such a beautiful show of color all season. This was our first club viewing of the gardens of Ken Scoggin, Bob Kelly and Bill Hull at his new location and each of these gardens was excellent. We are sorry to hear that Bob will be leaving us to take a new job in Rochester, Minn.

Flower Show News from Ed Beery

We're looking forward to a real bounce-back after the withering heat of the July showing. As usual, several members said, "Heck, I had one at home better than that, why didn't I bring it along and get the ribbon?" Starting with this next meeting there is still plenty of time to put the old arm-lock on the trophy for this year. Also, you'r doing the other members a real service by telling them, "How you do it." They NEED examples of your culture so they can improve their gardens. Few of us have time to visit many gardens during a summer, so it makes sense for each to bring examples of his best efforts for others to admire.

WE HAVE SET A GOAL OF 100 EXHIBITS AT THE AUGUST MEETING

A word of caution. Watch the quantities and manner of display as indicated on the rules sheet. If there is any question about displaying your exhibits, BRING THEM ANYWAY, and trim quantity, etc, when you arrive. There will be rule sheets available at the meeting. Type of display containers are optional with the exhibitor and are not regarded in judging, except in the case of arrangements.

WE'LL SEE YOU AND YOUR EXHIBITS AT THE MEETING

Convention News from Dwight Stone

Methods of raising initial capital for the 1967 convention have been tossed about for several months. The first thought was to ask each member from all classes of membership in MGC of Minneapolis to advance an amount of money to be used as a guarantee fund. After the convention this money was to be refunded to the members that made the pledge. This appeared to be a satisfactory method.

A few weeks ago, Dr. Joseph Howland, president-elect of MGCA, called to converse about convention plans. Among other things he mentioned and highly recommended that we use advance registration of local club members as a capital raising scheme. This information was relayed to your convention executive board. After much discussion and deliberation the board decided the advance registration method of raising capital appeared to be a sound idea.

To present the best convention possible will not only require money but equally important, it will require manpower. We would like to have 80 members working and participating during the convention. Right now is the time to decide that you will be attending the convention so start thinking about your 1967 vacation plans and above all, reserve three days for the convention - July 12, 13 and 14.

The budget and program will require an advance registration fee of \$30.00. This will entitle you to several meals, bus transportation for the tours, business sessions, forums, etc. After the cut-off date the registration fee will be \$37.50. The September "Spray" will contain a registration blank for you to use in making your reservation. Please get your registration in immediately to assist the board in determining manpowe that will be available.

NATIONAL OFFICERS ADVISE ON 1967 CONVENTION

Our 1967 MGCA convention starts exactly one year from the night of our July meeting. Remember the flowers we saw at the four gardens we visited: roses, delphinium, gallardia, many, many annuals, some perennials. Apples were swelling on the trees, the Aquatennial is about to start, the radios were blaring tornado warnings, and we have had one of the hottest spells in years. In spite of the heat, lawns still look green and flowers haven't wilted. Vegetables are going great guns with green beans a-picking and the first crops of the lettuce gone. The second day of our convention minus one showed a wonderful drop in temperature from 99 to 75, which is what we hope for next year.

Lots of correspondence and help from national officers re the convention:

A letter from President Moyer suggesting a prominent speaker for our convention. A follow-up letter from vice-president elect Jim Wilson saying amen to the same speaker and proposing an alternate for us to consider.

A letter from Moyer discussing facts of Powerama. If we want it we may go ahead but MGCA having dropped it at Portland not too excited about trying to vitalize it. President-Elect Howland says he agrees. Both recommend we go after booth space here.

Another letter from Moyer discussing invitations to Garden Writers of America to attend our convention and who might want to host them. This group usually meets in part at our convention. Ferry-Morse hosted them at Portland.

Dr. Joseph Howland, President-Elect, who will preside in Minneapolis, writes of his plans to permit only national awards to be made at the convention, not local ones. A letter from Vice-President Elect Jim Wilson discussing same and agreeing in part.

Howland also writes of the fine side-trip to Salem at the Portland convention and gives a page of recommendations for our bus tour group. Copy to Ron Twite.

Another letter from Howland approving appointing all our convention chairmen and steering committee people to national convention committee, thereby making some of their personal expenses probably deductible. Same letter also discusses promotional ideas and publicity. Copies to Stone and St. Clair Beeman.

Umpteenth letter from Howland approving Ev Haedecke's idea of a group of local club presidents to meet at our convention. We tried to get this "in" at Portland but unable to do so. Hoping Ev Haedecke will take hold of this for our convention.

Jim Wilson reminds me of excellent speaker we heard at White House conference on Natural Beauty.

A letter from a nationally-known seed firm wanting to assist in the convention.

An exchange of ideas concerning inviting mayors, etc. I personally am not too impressed by the few words of welcome I've heard from most mayors, but I'm terribly impressed by the mayor who can't make it but sends his junior assistant scoutmaster to say hello. I'd prefer to drop the whole matter if he can't come personally. We were speaking in generalities for this and future conventions, not of our mayor personally.

And, of course, lots of activity locally. All of which no one of us knows about. St. Clair Beeman and Vic Lowrie meeting to discuss publicity. The steering committee meeting twice very recently to discuss budgetary problems. The necessity of changing one of our key personnel who will be unable to serve, the problems of incorporating and the necessity of awaiting printing letterheads for convention committee until that is completed. Ad infinitum. UNCLE DWIGHT NEEDS YOU!

TWELVE STEPS TO GROWING ROSES

by Carl Holst

No. 1. LOCATION OF ROSE BED. The location of a rose bed is the most important factor in growing roses. Rose beds should be located where they will obtain at least seven hours of direct sunlight a day and away from large shrubs and trees, which compete with the roses for food and water.

No. 2. TYPE OF SOIL. While roses are known to grow in nearly every type of soil, they should have soil with a large amount of humus mixed with the soil. This soil can be mixed the fall prior to spring planting. Excessively sandy soil or clay soil should be avoided and good planting soil should be used in its place.

No. 3. SELECTION OF VARIETIES. The roses in a rose bed should be carefully selected from a color combination. Colors that have a tendency to clash should be separated by neutral colors such as white and yellows. Another thing to bear in mind is to plant your roses and select them with the height factor. The taller varieties should be planted in the background and the smaller and lower varieties should be planted toward the front.

No. 4. ORDERING ROSES. If roses are to be purchased from out of this area, it is best to order before the first of the year and specify spring delivery at a time most suitable to planting. If roses are purchased locally, they can be ordered in advance and held for time of pickup.

No. 5. PLANTING ROSES. Dormant roses should be planted in a hole wide enough to spread the roots out and just deep enough so that the bud union is about one inch below ground level. After the soil has been filled around the roots the plants should be watered generously and then the canes should be covered with soil, wet leaves or wet burlap. Potted roses can be planted later in the season than dormant roses, and the pot is placed at the proposed location of the rose and then planted deep enough so that the bud union is one inch below ground level. Be certain to remove the plant from the pot, as some people have been known to plant pot and all.

No. 6. FERTILIZING ROSES. No fertilizer should be added when planting new roses, except bonemeal. After the roses have leafed out, a small handful of complete fertilizer is placed around each plant, cultivated in and watered. This fertilizer should be given in May, June and July, once a month only.

No. 7. WATERING ROSES. Most growers fail to water roses sufficiently and get small plants. Roses should be given a thorough watering once a week, whether it rains or not, making certain not to wet the leaves. A soil soaker is best for this purpose.

No. 8. SPRAYING ROSES. All roses are subject to disease and insect damage and a well-planned spray program can eliminate these. Roses should be sprayed or dusted about every ten days or between rains, making certain to cover the under portion of leaves as well as the upper surface. There are some good all-purpose dusts and sprays on the market that can be used, and in every case read and follow the directions on the container.

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Twelve Steps to Growing Roses

(continued)

No. 9. MULCHING ROSES. A summer mulch applied to a rose bed reduces the amount of soil evaporation and prevents weeds from growing in the bed. It also serves as a means of keeping the soil cool in the hot summer months.

No. 10. WINTER COVERING. To grow roses successfully in this area, it is very important to cover the roses early enough in the fall. Roses should receive winter covering by November 4 in the Twin City area. The roses should be sprayed with a dormant spray and the canes then tied together. The plant should then be bent over and sometimes it is necessary to lift one side of the roots with a fork. The roses are then bent horizontally to the ground and held there by a stiff wire. A mason fruit jar with D-Con is placed among the roses and the plants are enclosed with a fence and covered with at least two and a half feet of leaves. Another alternate method is to tie the plants together, make a trench away from the plant and tip the plant into the trench and cover with a light covering of soil and then leaves.

No. 11. UNCOVERING ROSES. In the Twin Cities area the covering can be removed from the roses about the seventh of April. Some covering can be removed gradually, if one is afraid of late frosts. However, roses will stand temperatures down to the twenties when once uncovered.

No. 12. PRUNING ROSES. Roses should not be pruned until spring, usually after the canes are putting out new sprouts. Prune to an outside eye, using sharp pruning shears. Paint the cut edges with orange shellac to prevent cane borers.

THERE WILL BE NO SHABBY CABBAGE PATCHES IN FLITWICK

No, sir, the National Allotments & Gardens Society of England is working through its national headquarters at Flitwick, to up the quality of gardening. "There's little doubt that houses with the minimal in garden space have come to stay. Fewer gardens but more cars; more cars but--and consequently--fewer nice places to take them to. It seems possible that in a very short time there might be a growing number of people who will look around for a car 'substitute' at the weekend. The answer might--if a recent development catches on--be something most of us have forgotten--allotments. At the moment their image is a sad one; shabby cabbage patches covered with ugly shacks and apologies for tool sheds, tended by elderly men. But the image is changing. The 'weekend garden' is about to be born. Neat, orderly summer houses-cum-tool sheds with a patio and lawn outside, pleasant shrubs, a few trees and flowers separating them from tidy rows of fresh vegetables; an area for mothers to sit and read or sew, children to play--safely--and father to garden--away from it all." The society is laying out model allotments, the article goes on to say, in the September 1965 issue of House Beautiful (London).

Let's all take advantage of the opportunity to attend the Minn. Hort. Society Centennial celebration, Thursday and Friday, August 25 & 26 at the Pick-Nicollet. A fine program has been arranged for the entire two days including tours to places of gardening interest in the area. Banquet, Friday evening. See complete program in the August "Horticulturist."

MUCH FEDERAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

Because gardeners are interested in natural beauty, we all should be aware of the tremendous effort being put into the national beautification effort, as initiated by the President's White House Conference on Natural Beauty. As one who participated in that conference, I'm all for beauty, just a little open-mouthed at the extent of the federal efforts.

For example, the Department of Interior works through nine Bureaus, Services and Councils to assist municipalities and states. The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act provides for assistance developing outdoor recreation areas and facilities. It provides money for federal acquisition of areas within the national park, forest and wildlife refuge systems. The Federal Surplus Property Act (1944) helps transfer federal surplus property to non-federal agencies for use for park, recreation and monument purposes. The Recreation and Public Purposes Act (1954) provides governments and qualified non-profit organizations assistance in acquiring Federal lands for recreation use, on a lease rental basis of twenty-five cents per acre per year.

The Department of Agriculture, on the other hand, has about ten bureaus, none so labelled, offering assistance to states and municipalities. The Agricultural Conservation Program shares the cost of carrying out needed conservation work on privately owned farm lands, while the Economic Research Service has five major involvements which basically state that recreation is a qualified source of employment aid for people in low-income areas. This probably means we might pay a hillbilly to play mumblety-peg rather than tend his cotton.

Here are some other assistances available, picked almost at random and quoted verbatim: help to states in developing highways on "which the most popular form of outdoor recreation, driving for pleasure, is experienced"; "up to one-half of the cost of beach protection and stabilization projects for publicly-owned or publicly-used frontage" "a limited number of military-type rifles and pistols are available on a loan basis to authorized civilian rifle and pistol clubs ...Clubs may also receive limited amounts of ammunition and targets"; "The Federal Aviation Agency administers a Federal grant-in-aid program to help public agencies develop an adequate nationwide system of airports, including airports which provide access to out-of-the-way outdoor recreational areas"; "certain federal surplus real property may be acquired by state and local governments through the GSA for public park and recreational purposes at 50 percent of air market value." And, there is always the advantage of tax-deductible gifts of money, land, etc.

All of this does stimulate the imagination. We should build a privately owned public park on some of our public-domain doondock land in Northern Minnesota, after first getting ourselves listed as a nonprofit organization. This land must be lakeside so we can get some of that beach protection assistance money and, of course, we can rent the land at 25¢ per acre per year. We'll get some of those woodcutters the northerners call "gypos" and let the government pay them for working on recreation projects, like building our log cabins, because it certainly is a low-income area. To bring in customers, we'll con the government into building us an airport to provide "access to out-of-the-way recreational areas" and we'll buy some government surplus planes and bulldozers for equipment. For entertainment, among other things, we'll latch onto government rifles and use them during the deer hunting season as part of our Rifle Club activity, membership in which will be a little costly, but city folk won't mind because they'll bring business associates and deduct the whole thing anyway. When we've made a pile on the operation, with all salaries to us as officers of a non-profit group eating up all income, we'll give the whole thing back to the government as a tax deductible gift.

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A NEW ROW TO HOE:

MORE EXECUTIVES TURN TO GARDENING TO RELAX

by Steven M. Lovelady

The Wall Street Journal, March 30, 1966

CHICAGO - It's spring, and Bruce Krasberg's* fancy is turning to ajuga. Ajuga is a blue-flowered plant, and Mr. Krasberg is a gardener. He isn't a full-time gardener he also is president of R. Krasberg & Sons Manufacturing Co. here-but he does manage to spend 28 hours a week and \$4,000 a year on his plants and flowers. It's his hobby, he explains, and he readily admits: "You have to be a little screwy to get passionate about this stuff."

Maybe so, but if that's the case more and more executives are getting "a little screwy," for home gardening is making inroads on golfing and fishing as a way to get away from it all. "When I garden, the whole world disappears," says Joseph M. Gabriel, executive vice-president of Smeco Industries, Inc., here. "I'm completely relaxed, with perfect peace of mind. I'm in another world."

- Pleasing the Little Woman -

Besides transporting executives to Nirvana, hobby gardening has other advantages, advocates say. Grubbing around in the dirt is more creative than "run of the mill" hobbies, they assert, and it lets them spend more time with the family. His youngest child could "tell a vegetable from a weed at age two," boasts Mr. Gabriel. Mr. Krasberg added: "My wife is happy about it. It keeps me around the house and around the kids."

If Mrs. Krasberg is happy, though, it's nothing compared with the glee of garden supply companies, which have grown from seed package and hoe shops to major companies supplying books, catalogs, newsletters, fertilizers, fungicides, fluorescent lighting and a host of other goods. The average male gardener, companies figure, spends about \$600 a year on his hobby.

"We're very interested in this expanding market," says a spokesman for Wayside Gardens Co., a big mail-order garden house in Mentor, Ohio. "When these guys get to specializing-and most of them do-there are no bounds. They'll go to any cost to get what they want."

The Men's Garden Clubs of America, which now has 301 affiliates across the nation, says the average male gardener spends seven to eight times as much on his hobby as does his female counterpart. Industry sources say the rise in the number of male gardeners is a major factor in the growth of garden-supply sales to \$4 billion a year from a \$2.5 billion average during the past decade. In the decade, the number of men's garden clubs doubled.

Once a gardener gets started, there's no stopping him. On nights when it's too cold to go out and toy with his olive trees or 475 rose bushes, for instance, Mr. Krasberg descends into his basement to pamper the Boston ivy, orchids and geraniums that he is raising under fluorescent lights.

But the most common reason for gardening is a desire to get back to the earth, gardeners say. Says a Chicagoan: "You'd be surprised how many executives are secretly sick and tired of the skyscraper office. I bet a lot of them wish they'd gone into farming. Some of these guys get a strange gleam in their eye when they put on the tattered overalls and reach for the hoe."