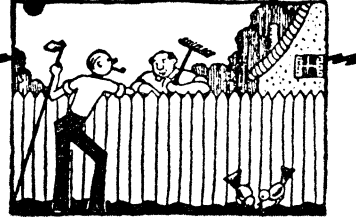




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



January 1964
Volume 22 No. 1
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

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

January Meeting

Date: January 14, 1964
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
50th Street and Knox Avenue South
Time: 5:45 p.m.
Price: \$1.75

Officers

Dwight Stone	Preside
Paul M. Kroeger	Vice-Pr
G. R. Christenson (Bud)	Secreta
R. E. Smith (Bob)	Treasur

Office of the Secretary
8300 Sheridan Ave. S.

President's Report

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report
Audit - 1963
Budget- 1964

Installation of 1964 Officers

PROGRAM

Hennepin County Park System - Clifford French
Superintendent of Hennepin County Park Reserve District

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by
Bill Hull

A fine letter from Al Blackburn who retires after fifteen months as president of the San Diego MCC which Al had been instrumental in starting. He had extended best wishes to all of you, and asked me to deliver his greetings at our Christmas Party which I simply didn't get a moment to do. Al is a great booster for the beautiful Southern California area, and we can't blame him, but we can't help quoting Mrs. Walter Menzel, who, the night of our Christmas party said, "I feel sorry for people who leave this gorgeous country; there must be times when they miss such awe-inspiring sights as our beautiful world tonight with its covering of new snow." (Quoted from memory.)

A beautiful colored spread in the December 8 issue of Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, and a good accompanying story by Joe Witmer. We must appreciate this coverage, which makes good reading for the public, too, but we can't expect it every year. Well done, Joe.

I won't rehash the entire Christmas Party, but we certainly do want to congratulate Les Johnson, winner of the "Oscar" (Bronze Medal) for this year. A member since 1954, sponsored by P. W. Young, Les has contributed a lot to our club and no one deserved this award more than he. Also, we're proud of Phil Smith for winning the coveted Lehman award for improvement in landscaping. It's fine to see our younger members like Phil and Dale Durst, who won the Blackburn Cup at the flower show, take such honors in our club.

The surprise of the evening to me personally was to receive the very lovely engraved gavel which the club gave me, presented by President Ev, as an expression of confidence and faith in my coming year as national president of the Men's Garden Clubs of America. I assure you the January 3 meeting in Chicago, at which time I receive the President's diamond pin and duties, will be conducted with the use of this gavel; it will also be used at the national convention in Atlanta in April. Hope some of you will be there. Thanks again. Let me repeat, though, that my interest and activity in our Minneapolis club will never cease. One cannot be an officer of our fine club for six years, hold committee chairs, and help edit Spray for eleven years without holding dear all associations with such a group.

In addition to the other Green Thumb recipients at the Christmas party, we want to call to your attention that Eng Hoyme has completed five years of perfect attendance, our highest and longest record since we started this program only five years ago. When Secretary Bud Christensen went through the records, Eng was not recorded as having been present at the auction,

OVER THE GARDEN GATE
(Continued)

so he did not receive his all-green glove at the Christmas party. We'll make a special award of this at our January meeting.

It is very difficult for the secretary to get everyone's name on the roster at such meetings, where we move about a lot. We suggest that each member be sure he either signs the roster or calls the secretary's attention to his presence, particularly if he should have come in late to a meeting, or if he should have missed signing the roster when it is passed around.

So our Green Thumb recipients were: 5 years, Eng Hoyme; 3 years, Bud Christensen and Bob Smith; 2 years, Bob Adams and Bill Swanson; 1 year, Les Johnson, Rog Koopmans and Bert Zats. Good going, fellows.

The complete list of awards, with the exception of Green Thumbs previously listed, are:

1. Engraved gavel to Bill Hull to be used during his year as national president, MGCA.
2. Gift to Mrs. Flack and Mrs. Witmer "for putting up with Archie and Joe devoting time to the club on Industrial Awards and Lehman Trophy inspections."
3. Gift to Mrs. Lehman for courtesies and work extended club members, when visiting with the Lehmans this summer.
4. Lehman Trophy to Phil Smith. Honorable mentions to Bill Swanson, Les Johnson and Thor Salem.
5. Bronze Medal to Les Johnson.
6. Industrial Awards: First National Bank (Downtown); First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Richfield branch; Hoffman-Callan Printing and Publishing Company.
7. Past president's pin to Ev Haedecke.
8. Mention made of Gold Medal of Men's Garden Clubs of America going to Dr. Leon Snyder this year; of The Spray being one of the best M.G.C.A. bulletins, and recognition to Editor Vic Lowrie therefor; and Certificate of Merit of the Minnesota Horticultural Society going to Al Nelson.
9. The following men were given Certificates of Merit (Outstanding service for the Club).

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

(Continued)

Dwight Stone - Club officer for years, chairman of many committees and now Vice-President and Program Chairman.

Charles R. Proctor - Club officer for years, chairman of several committees, twice flower show chairman.

G. R. Christenson - Club officer for years and chairman of several committees.

Manly Jackson - Outstanding job as chairman of the garden tours and flower show.

Thomas Z. Krumm - Outstanding job as chairman of telephone committee and outstanding dahlia exhibitor, being a great credit to the Club.

J. D. Durst - Outstanding job as chairman of the plant auction; this year's winner of the Blackburn Trophy.

Dolph Bezoier - Program chairman of 1962; outstanding job in 1962 and 1963 in the Christmas program.

Robert E. Smith - Chairman of several committees in 1962; winner of the Blackburn Trophy in 1962 as the outstanding exhibitor of the 1962 flower show; chairman of 1962 Christmas Party.

F. J. Holzman - For outstanding work for several years in the National Rose Testing Committee of the M.G.C.A.; as exhibitor of roses in local and national competitions - a great credit to our organization.

Among the wonderful Christmas greetings we've seen is one from Sherm and Harriet Pinkham, discussing their European trip this year. Too long, of course, to reproduce here, but most charming. Many countries were included in their tour. Such interesting spots as the Castle of Chillon where they could still see Lord Byron's initials carved on the dungeon wall. Many wonderful sights, but one gathers from the conclusion that none was better than seeing the Statue of Liberty when returning home on the Queen Elizabeth, for they quote from Van Dyke:

"So it's home again, and home again, America for me,
My heart is turning home again, and there I long to be,
In the land of youth and freedom, beyond the ocean bars,
Where the air is full of sunlight, and the flag is full of stars."

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF DR. FRED

It happened quickly, but as Fred remarked after hearing from his doctor that time was crowding him, "I've lived a good, full life, thirteen years beyond my threescore years and ten, and got a lot out of it - what more can one ask."

Fred started gardening in earnest when he retired from the practice of medicine on his seventieth birthday. Ten years later he tore up a beautiful lawn on a lot adjacent to his house and built in its place a charming house.

After moving into his new house, I remember going out to Bachman's with him in quest of evergreens for foundation planting. He was looking at some rather young plants, so I called to him and said, "Fred, you don't want to buy anything that small." Fred turned abruptly, and, with his infectious smile, replied, "I can wait." Typical of Fred's optimistic outlook on life.

A lovable character was Fred. He is going to be sadly missed by a host of friends throughout the Middle West, but by none more than the members of his garden club. To his wife, Ruth, we extend our deepest sympathy.

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BUG SCIENTISTS STEP UP THEIR SEARCH FOR NON-CHEMICAL KILLERS

The furor over the dangers of chemical insecticides, stirred up by Rachel Carson's book, Silent Spring, helps boost research on non-chemical methods of killing harmful insects. Five years ago, the Government devoted two-thirds of its insect control work at the Beltsville, Md., research center to chemical pesticides; now only one-third goes for chemical methods.

Developing crops resistant to insects, such as a new wheat not affected by the Hessian fly, is one of the more promising approaches. Scientists recently isolated a substance in female moths that attracts the male moth; now they study how to use it to control this tree-destroying pest. Researchers try attracting bugs with blue light and sound waves. They hunt for natural enemies of insects. One insecticide, now on the market, is made of living bacteria that paralyze worm-type insects.

Chemical insecticides, of course, undoubtedly will continue as the major method of controlling insects for many years.

* * * * *

A modern mead, made from honey, has been developed by Cornell University researchers. This type of honey wine dates back to Biblical times and was the national drink in England around 1400. Ancient mead was highly variable in character. But the new version is made with a special yeast, vitamins to stimulate its growth and rigid controls to insure uniform quality.

Reprinted from Wall Street Journal

HEALTHY HOUSE PLANTS

You should have little trouble keeping your house plants healthy if you will apply these four simple ingredients:

1. Adequate water
2. Proper nutrition
3. A cool, moist base
4. Sufficient light

Light: All house plants need light for energy and continued beauty, so place in a good window that will afford the plant maximum light all day.

Cool and Moist: The base of the plant should be kept cool and moist. This can best be achieved by placing plants in a shallow, water-tight tray filled with wet insulation-type vermiculite. Keep the vermiculite moist, but never add so much water that the pot base stands in water.

Proper Nutrition: Let the plant tell you when it needs help. Watch the lower or oldest leaves. When they begin to change color, that means the plant is suffering from malnutrition, providing the roots haven't been damaged by drowning or extreme drying. If it's a nutrient the plant is lacking, the addition of a mild solution of a soluble fertilizer will soon bring back the natural color of the leaves. But be careful in applying a fertilizer. Add not more than one-quarter teaspoonful for each gallon of water used, and reduce that amount to one-eighth teaspoonful after the first three applications. Stop this treatment as soon as the leaves return to their normal color, and repeat the procedure when the lower leaves so indicate.

Since all plants need calcium and most soluble fertilizers supply very little, if any, spread tiny pieces of crushed eggshell evenly over half the surface of the soil, and stir them into the soil. Repeat about every six months.

Adequate Water: Intelligent watering is essential, not too little, too often or too much. Wait until the surface of the soil is almost dry, then add water slowly until all the soil in the pot is wet and a little starts running out of the drain hole. Plants in large tubs are more difficult to gauge, unless proper drainage is provided, and water can be immediately detected when it drains out of the tub. Never allow pots and soil to stand in water for more than ten or fifteen minutes, because saturated soil quickly loses oxygen, and without oxygen, roots suffocate and are injured. If the soil becomes "bone dry", roots are usually hurt, and are then even more easily killed, if allowed to stand in water too long.

THE PINE TREES TALK

by

Wilfred A. Peterson
Bellingham, Washington

Have you ever listened to the Pine Trees?

Have they whispered to you their philosophy of life?

By a quiet lake in the moonlight, I paused and listened,

And this is what the Pine Trees said to me:

"We have grown tall, because we have grown straight;

"We have grown big because we have reached toward the stars;

"We have learned that the way to increase our height is to keep growing;

"We have grown strong because we have rooted deep in the good earth;

"We have been patient for we have learned that it takes time to
grow a great tree;

"We have faced life bravely as it came, sunshine or storm, snow or rain;

"We have filled our sphere with the sweet aroma of our needles and
have given shade to those who came our way;

"We have known the joy of service by sheltering with our branches
the nests of birds;

"We have been still and listened to God, and we have seen His face
in the dawning of each new day."

The Pine Trees were silent then, swaying as though in benediction,

And I walked away beneath the stars meditating on their message.

-- American Christmas Tree Growers' Journal

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MANLY JACKSON ...

has recently returned from a trip to the Orient, including the lovely
Japanese cities of Kyoto and Tokyo. We understand he has quite a few
garden pictures. How about a program?

JUNIPER BLIGHT (PHOMOPSIS JUNIPEROVERA)

This appears to be a disease that does more damage to the junipers and is less frequently recognized than any other that comes to the mind of the writer at the moment. Heavily sheared, dense growth is more susceptible than open growth. This accounts for a condition where the base of some pyramids and heavily sheared trees may shed foliage while the tops of these same pyramids and more open, loosely growing trees will retain their foliage. Dense foliage tends to retain the moisture from dews and rains, providing a moist surface on which to allow the spores of the disease organism to germinate; hence the disease spreads to healthy tissue and other parts of the tree.

The organic mercury sprays, such as Tag-R and Puratized Agricultural Spray applied in the spring as the new growth starts, have been used for control with considerable success. It may be advisable, depending on individual problems and seasonal work loads, to try spraying your junipers in the fall with a dinitro compound such as a DN-289, Elgetol 318 or lime sulphur at about 9 to 1. These materials have dormant fungicidal value and will aid in the control of other pests, such as spider mites and scale insects.

C. Gustav Hard
Minn. Nurserymen's News Letter

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ARBORETUM NOTES

With the development of an "on-going" arboretum, it is well to review the goals for which it was established.

Our goals are to:

1. Provide a living library of plant materials.
2. Create interest in existing plants and the development of new varieties
3. Intensify woody ornamental research and education.
4. Encourage testing of new materials in many locations.
5. Demonstrate use of landscape plant for the promotion of Minnesota's vast potential for beauty and better living.

C. Gustav Hard
Extension Horticulturist
University of Minnesota