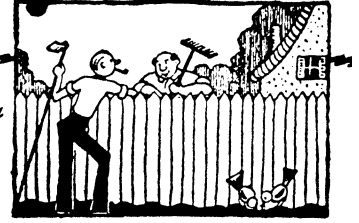




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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

July 1964
Volume 23 No. 7
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

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

July Meeting

Date: July 14, 1964
Place: Harold Kaufmann's
4127 Washburn Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Time: 5:45 P.M.
Price: \$2.00
Food: Delaria's

Officers

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

Office of the Secretary
8300 Sheridan Avenue South

JULY TOUR - LADIES' NIGHT

The food committee has arranged for another catered picnic to be served at the Harold Kaufmann residence. From Kaufmann's, we will travel by bus to visit the following gardens:

Les Johnson
3919 Pleasant Avenue South

Lyndale Rose Gardens

Nate Siegel
5004 Newton Avenue South

Archie Flack
4305 Mackey Avenue

Tables and chairs will be provided by the club so it will not be necessary to bring your own equipment.

Come early and have a good time.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

One of the facts brought out at our Atlanta convention is that club publications vary in cost from 7 cents to 35 cents per member per month. Ours costs 27 cents, including postage, of course. I believe we get our money's worth, but we're always open to suggestions.

I was sorry to miss the June meeting, but for some time had promised to be with the men at the meeting of the St. Paul MGC. We had a good evening with about 35 members present and brief talks by Leroy Peterson, North Star region president and me. If you haven't visited the Como Park greenhouses, do so, because they're always lovely.

Everyone comments on our crab apple plantings this year. They were among the top floral sights in the cities for a few days. Next year, why don't we have a meeting at that site, or even an assigned day to visit the tree site.

Incidentally, Leon Snyder says fire blight is very bad this year. It has moved in on my crab apples, and is defoliating some of the choicer ones. Apparently nothing can be done to combat it. There is a good challenge for the University of Minnesota.

Commercial spraying for mosquitoes seems to be an increasingly accepted practice in this area. We've had the same firm for years and no trouble until this year. Within 24 hours after they sprayed the first time in 1964, we started getting wilt on tomatoes, polyganum, roses, pachysandra, pumpkin (yes) and a few other items. They're all coming through it now, but were set back by the spray. What happened? I guessed a dirty hose, but the spraying firm admitted with embarrassment that a new man had taken an empty mixing tank which had always been used solely for 2, 4 D and had mixed the mosquito spray therein. The firm was very fair about it. I felt sorry for them because it could happen to us, too. Most gardeners keep entirely separate pieces of equipment, keeping the weed killers to themselves. A good idea to label material used for weed killers.

On June 1, we went to Princeton, and spoke at the annual Employee Recognition Night of the Chamber of Commerce. After the speech in behalf of MGCA, and the North Star Region, who had made the recommendation to MGCA, I presented a Certificate of Commendation "to the people of Princeton for beautifying their town with living flowers." A campaign there for four years or so, headed up by newspaper editor Hage, who has done his town a real service. Ev Haedecke, MGCA director, Neil Barry, North Star vice-president, and Joe Witmer, virtuoso of the typewriter and the garden, went along. We had an enjoyable evening. If you go close to Princeton this summer, stop. Lots of use of flowers downtown.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

(Continued)

Glad to see our Minneapolis club has bought a copy of MGCA's Management Training Manual. Now over 50 pages of material in there to help club officers and committee chairmen. More material being added monthly. Am sure Dwight will find it helpful with lots of ideas therein. Suggest you pass it on for other officers to read and return to you for adding more pages. Almost every club in our organization is finding this quite useful.

Who uses wood chips for a mulch? Not sawdust but chips. I'd like to use it, and am going to do so as soon as I get a chance to get some from the Park Board or elsewhere. I've seen them used in many bigger gardens, and they are not unattractive after a little weathering. They don't blow like sawdust and some of the peats. Anyone want to relate his experience with chips? Anyone know where there is a very old, rotted pile of sawdust? Drop me a line and we'll get your thoughts into The Garden Spray.

Do you like the new Gardener? Color on three issues in a row and this last one has two extra colors.

Lots of interest in the Big Pumpkin Contest which MGCA holds this year for the first time. Don't know of anyone in our club working with children on it except me. A neighbor boy is interested and hopes to grow one weighing close to a hundred pounds.

Let's put more flowers into our offices. My secretary, who says she doesn't have a green thumb, has done a splendid job of caring for a planter in my office. It has two violets, some ivy, etc. and peaked by a blooming Moses in the Bullrushes. Forgetting the botanist's description, it has long pointed leaves, green atop and reddish below. Little "boats" hug the stem. They are about one and one-half inches long by three-fourths inch wide, opening up to display many small white blossoms. Unusual and easy to grow.

Lots of house plants can be grown in the newer offices lighted brilliantly by fluorescent lights. African violets do well there for people who can't raise them at home.

Eighty-four percent of MGCA members feel adequately informed of MGCA activities and ninety-four per cent approve of those activities. Unrefutable facts. See the May-June issue of The Gardener. We now know our problems better, too, but read the editorial in that issue.

Let's have a round table sometime on Lazy Man's Gardening or Effective Short Cuts in the Garden. Would be fun. I'll bet we all have ideas we apply and have learned from experience which would help beginning gardeners. I've long been convinced that efficient use of a three-pronged, long-handled cultivator, and fast use of a half-moon edger, tied up with a lawn cutting can do more to change the appearance of a garden than anything. These tools and two hours of work can bring definite results.

SPROUTS FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

by Dwight Stone

The National Convention Fund of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis now totals the big sum of \$14.35. This is the receipts from the sale of the ismene bulbs sold at the June meeting, courtesy of Cortis Rice. This may be a means of raising additional funds for the National Convention. If you have gardening items such as tools, bulbs, etc. that are of value, bring them to a future meeting. The proceeds from the sale of them will be deposited in the convention fund. A meeting of the convention advisory board will be held soon to formulate plans for the convention.

Bob Smith enjoyed a canoe trip with his father and son in northern Minnesota. Bob said fishing was good, but the weather didn't cooperate. If you wish information on camping, Bob is the fellow to see.

Welcome to the two new members of the club. They are Charlie Wasley sponsored by Gar Anderson and Cliff Brisco sponsored by Don Berne.

Received a card from Otto Erickson. He was in Sweden at the time the card was sent and planned to be in Norway for a few days. Have a good time, Otto, we will be anxious to hear about your trip.

About 100 attended the Azalea Tour at the Arboretum on May 26. Thanks again, Leon. It was most enjoyable.

Jim Lowrie of Danish Seed, Dick Stiles and Dave Johnson were guests at the June meeting. All appeared interested in the club and may apply for membership. If you have a friend who is a gardener, bring him around. We still have room on the roster for a few good members. Perhaps the tour would be a good time to introduce prospective members to our fellowship.

Your president, Dwight Stone, spoke to the Rosemount Garden Club on June 17. If you are interested in speaking to garden clubs, please let me know. Also, if you have been doing some speaking on gardening, notify me for the record.

Bill Cowcill has been on the sick list. He is home again, but won't be going back to work for awhile. Bill says he hopes to be able to attend the tour on July 14. If you happen to be driving in the vicinity of 4265 Zenith Avenue North, stop in and see Bill.

Carl Holst has also been a hospital patient. City hall claims Carl had the operation in order to get out of some work. This is just rumor, of course. Good Luck - get well quick.

Good news for green thumbers. For the last couple of years, we have had requests from members for permission or a means of making up attendance. This was discussed at a recent board meeting and the decision was made to allow two such make-ups toward receiving a Green Thumb Award. You may make up a meeting by attending another Men's Garden Club meeting or by attending a North Star Region meeting. The make-up must occur after the missed meeting. In any event, it will be necessary for you to notify the secretary, Bud Christenson, when and how you made up your attendance.

SPROUTS FROM THE COMPOST HEAP
(Continued)

Manly Jackson and Paul Burt are busy getting the July and August tours lined up. Again this year, wives and friends are invited to the July tour. Buses will be used to transport us from garden to garden. Ladies - wear flat shoes - it will be easier walking.

Miss Nettie Moulton of the Walker Methodist Home wrote a very nice letter complimenting us on our crab apple plantings of some years ago. Many of the labels on the trees have disappeared through the years. She and her friends would appreciate it if we would again label the trees. This may be a good project for the club for 1965.

A quote to remember -

"Success has many mothers, but failure is an orphan."

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ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW - AUGUST 22 and 23

The annual flower show this year will tentatively be held at the Powderhorn Park Recreation Center - 15th Avenue South and 34th Street. A confirmation of this will be in the August Spray.

In conjunction with the flower show, we will have a family picnic on Saturday, August 22 - 5 to 7 P. M. Bill Swanson and his committee will be contacting you soon, and will give you more of the details on the "Pot Luck" picnic.

The show will be open to the public Saturday evening, August 22, 7 to 9 P.M., and on Sunday, August 23, 12 noon until 6 P.M.

The August "Spray" will give you more of the details, but we want you to start grooming your specimens now so that we will have another fine show.

It is the aim of the show committee to have a larger participation in the show this year. If possible, we would like for every active member to exhibit at least one specimen. Every garden has flowers that will win ribbons - bring in your specimens and arrangements.

DO YOUR PART TO MAKE THIS
"THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH"

ROSE TESTERS EVALUATE NEWER INTRODUCTIONS

by Bill Hull

For several years, I've had the pleasure of growing a few test roses from a nursery, and for the last two or three years, I have been on an official MGCA rose test group. Fritz Holzman and I grow roses differently. He's more meticulous. He gives them greater care, more feedings, keeps excellent records of the number of blooms from each plant, etc. I treat mine more as an average gardener might. They get fed lightly and given quite a bit of water. It's important to know both types of treatment and results obtained.

This year there are a few unusual ones, including one that might be called green because it's off-white on the green side. Only a number, not a name at this stage. Come out and see them when I'm home. Give me a ring.

The official rose test report of MGCA for the year ending 1963 has been released, and below are some results of various roses.

Chicago Peace (Conard-Pyle) In 1962, 57 testers grew this rose and evaluated it for an average of 80.5 as against 82.2 for 33 testers in 1963. The two-year average was 81.3.

Columbus Queen (Armstrong) Two-year average was 79.5, running almost the same each year. Thirty-one testers.

Ginger (Jackson & Perkins) Two-year average of 79.4 by 59 testers, average three points higher the second year so must take time to get properly established.

Pink Masterpiece (Jackson & Perkins) Two-year average of 77.6.

Queenie (Jackson & Perkins) 54 testers, two-year average 75.6.

Royal Highness (Conard-Pyle) 55 testers, two-year average of 80.3.

Summer Sunshine (Armstrong) 29 testers, two years, 80.3.

Farmer's Wife (Jackson & Perkins) 57 testers, two-year average of 76.5.

Snow Fairy (Conard-Pyle) 54 testers, two years, 78.4.

Traviata (Conard-Pyle) 48 testers, 2 years, average 75.5.

Here are some interesting comments about those that have been tested for just one year. Ole (Armstrong) Average rating of 81.2 "A traffic-stopper." "Very colorful but bush too small." "Attractive and different." It's in my garden, and I feel it's a dandy. Last year got lots of attention."

On second thought, since so many are numbered and not marketed, there's no point in going ahead.

You may be interested in mulching habits of various testers. A sample: Ohio: Used 10" of soil for hilling. Wisconsin: Used mounded earth and marsh hay. New York: Used soil, burlap and pine needles. New York: Mounds with soil and summer mulches with cocoa shucks.

U ARBORETUM NOTES PROGRESS DURING YEAR
(Continued)

fashioned roses in the arboretum rose collection have been regrouped in a horse-shoe-shaped bed, backed by over 50 shrub and species roses.

Planted in a natural setting, the arboretum gives Minnesotans an opportunity to see and study plant materials in natural landscape groupings, as well as the variety of plants available for landscaping. Woodland trails make it possible to walk through the arboretum to study the plantings. College and high school classes use the arboretum as an outdoor laboratory for plant identification and for the study of birds in their natural habitat.

An account of the progress of the University Landscape Arboretum during the past year is contained in the University's Agricultural Experiment Station Miscellaneous Report 55, University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Single copies of the report are available from Bulletin Room, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

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IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT ...

A member of MGCA is the most important person we contact ... personally or by mail.

He is not dependent on us ... we are on him.

He is not an interruption of our work ... but he is the purpose of it. We are not doing him a favor by seeing or writing him.

He is not an outsider to our duties.

He is not a cold statistic ... but is a flesh and blood human being with emotions and feelings like our own.

He is not someone to argue or match wits with. Nobody ever won an argument with a friend or a customer and our members are both.

He is a person who brings us his wants .. and it is our job to handle them to his complete satisfaction.

He deserves our most earnest consideration, not because to fail to do so could bring dissatisfaction with us, but because he is a MGCA member, upon whose identity our organization is built.