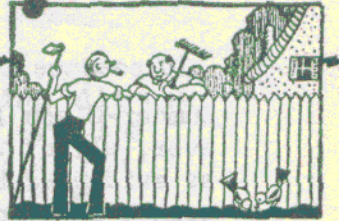




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



June 1965
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G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Wm. H. Hull, Neil Barry

June Meeting

June 8, 1965

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
50th Street and Knox Ave. So.

5:45 p.m.

\$1.75

Officers

Charles Proctor	Pres.
R. E. Smith (Bob)	V.P.
G.R.Christenson (Bud)	Sec.
S. F. Pinkham (Sherm)	Treas.

PROGRAM

- (1) "You, too, can win ribbons," by Cortis Rice.
- (2) Lawn Care and New Grasses - by Northrup King Lawn Specialist.

Annual Flower Show - American Hardware
Mutual Building - August 21 & 22

CLIPPINGS

by

Charlie Proctor

Sumner-Olson low-rent housing project is pretty plain and bare. However, all of the occupants are not resigned to having it this way, as evidenced by the fact that many of them have indicated a desire to grow a few flowers to beautify their place. Some have had some experience, many are complete novices. The project manager has asked the Men's Garden Club to encourage them with a little advice and guidance. I would think we could help in this effort to make a small segment of America a bit more beautiful. If you would be willing to devote a few hours to this project, please give your name to Bert Zats or myself.

Les Johnson, ably assisted by Sherm Pinkham and Don Berne, have the Fulton School children's garden project organized and ready to go into high gear. At this reading it looks as if seventeen of us will be working with about 114 children.

The Garden Show is set for August 21 and 22 at the American Hardware Mutual Building. A committee will be meeting soon to get the initial planning off the ground. Our aim is to make this show bigger and better than ever. This is going to mean lots of assistance as the time approaches. We know, by the answers to the questionnaire two months ago, that we will not lack help.

Will all past presidents plan to gather with Dwight Stone for a brief meeting following the June meeting.

June 5 and 6, Southdale Center, is the Twin City Iris Society Show.

And, another date to remember, June 15, 16 and 17 at Amarillo, Texas: the national convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America. I certainly hope we are going to have some representation.

Made any garden visits yet? Some of the fellows must have plantings of tulips, etc., which should have been putting on a show the last week or so. Lilacs are just coming into their own; peonies not far behind.

Bill Hull is in Washington to attend the President's White House Conference on Natural Beauty. He is one of approximately eighty at this two-day conference.

Another date has come to my attention: Minnesota Rose Society Annual Rose Show at American Hardware Mutual, June 26 and 27. Any, and, all are invited to exhibit. I will have a copy of the show schedule at the meeting.

We are saddened to hear of the death of Arvid Ahnert. While Arvid belonged to the club only a short time, those of us who knew him appreciated his quiet friendliness.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Congratulations to Bob Kelly and his auction committee for a successful event. It looks at this writing as if returns for the evening will net over \$260 which is more than satisfactory. We were pleased with the rejuvenation of the Country Store, the success of the raffle of the edger-trimmer, and the fact that the whole shebang was kept to an hour as promised. And as President Charlie said, we had fun. In spite of the wide selection, we had holes; we needed good tomatoe plants and could have used more perennials. The sale of petunias by flats was a novel idea. Wonder if we could take advance orders for flats of such next year and sell on contract to our members?

At this writing the Minnesota Roadside Council is pleased to announce that the Senate highway committee recommended to pass and sent to the floor of the Senate two bills dealing with billboard control, one on the interstate highway system and the other dealing with all state trunk highways. Both are considered acceptable, although perhaps a little liberal. They would establish a scenic area commission and scenic areas which would be free of any billboards. No sign could be erected without a permit from the commissioner of highways. Outside of the scenic areas, control would be regulatory, meaning that the highway department would not have to buy up scenic easements, other than in scenic areas where federal funds would pay 90% of the cost of such easements. Another desirable feature (speaking of state trunk highways now) is that it would allow the state over a period of years to clean up some of the billboard clutter which now exists, thus eliminating row signs and billboard alleys. If you wish to contact your senators on this measure, do so at once. In fact, by the time this is read it may only be informative.

I mentioned that I had received an engraved invitation to attend the White House Conference on Natural Beauty, the invitation issued by the State Department in the President's name. This is the meeting which has been discussed so much in newspapers in the last four months or so. It occurs on May 24 and 25 in the State Department Auditorium in Washington. Mrs. Lyndon Johnson gives the opening remarks followed by Laurance S. Rockefeller. Then the group breaks up into three sessions with panels discussing such items as underground installation of utilities, interstate highway program, the federal-state-local partnership, scenic roads and parkways, etc. A luncheon in the State Department, and an evening concert by the U. S. Air Force Band completes the first day. The second day starts with an open meeting of the Recreation Advisory Council with questions from the conferees. Secretary of Agriculture Freeman is chairman of this council and will be presiding. Others are: Secretary of Defense McNamara, Secretary of Interior Udall, Secretary of Commerce Connor, and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Celebrezze. Then more panels throughout the day dealing with billboard control, education, landscape action program, the junk problem, etc., followed by reports of the panels to the general conference and a report to the President. The whole event terminates with a reception at the White House. It will be an interesting two days, and I'm honored to receive the invitation.

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OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Continued

Our club needs an inventory system to record where some of its possessions are located. For example, P. W. Young is kindly storing our silverware, which at least half of the members probably don't know we own. Where is the club's MANAGEMENT TRAINING MANUAL? What record books do we have and for which ones should the treasurer and secretary be held responsible? What other properties such as signs do we have and in whose possession are they? I for one would like to see the secretary prepare such a list with every member's help and we'd publish it in SPRAY.

Why have such a list? For example, we had for years a fine photo book of all past officers, many of whom are deceased, and the photos cannot be replaced. That book has disappeared. How could it happen? The last I heard of it, the photog committee consisting of Vern Roufs, Bob Sicora and Eng Hoyme had it to past some photos in. Perhaps one of them still has it and doesn't realize it. But such valuable properties should be located and properly retained. It is too easy to lose things.

LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM NOW OPEN FOR THE SEASON

The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is now open to the public according to an announcement from Leon C. Snyder.

The opening is several weeks later than usual because of the delayed spring. Variations in weather, Leon points out, make it impossible to predict the exact date specific plants will bloom. However, visitors are encouraged to check at the arboretum office to find out what is of special interest on the day of their visit. The office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

The following June flower calendar will give visitors an approximate timing of bloom at the arboretum:

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 6-12 | White fringe-tree, catalpas, rhododendrons, weigelas, hawthorns. |
| June 13-19 | Peonies, potentillas, roses, mockoranges. |
| June 19-26 | Mockoranges, Japanese tree lilac, daylilies. |

A new publication, A Guide to the Arboretum, contains a map of the arboretum and lists points of interest to see, including the woodland garden and bird-food area, the bog trail and the various plantings. Copies of the guide are available from Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 or at the arboretum.

The 322-acre arboretum is located two miles east of Victoria or four miles west of Chanhassen on State Highway 5. Planted in a natural setting, the arboretum provides an opportunity to study plant materials in natural landscape groupings.

THE MILWAUKEE ROSE SOCIETY

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Fellow Rosarians:

The Milwaukee Rose Society cordially invites you to visit the City of Milwaukee, the truly outstanding Alfred Boerner Botanical Gardens and AARS Test Gardens, and the breath-taking geodesic domes of the Mitchell Park Conservatory.

Occasions: North Central District Convention and Rose Show
Dates: June 18, 19 and 20, 1965
Headquarters: The Hilton Inn, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Show: Mitchell Park Conservatory
Registration: Friday, June 18, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and
Saturday, June 19, from 7:30 a.m. to Noon - Hilton Inn

There will be a Judging School conducted by Mr. Dave Goden, with a staff of prominent accredited judges serving as instructors.

Mr. John Voight, Curator of Whitnall Park, will personally guide visitors on a bus tour of the Rose Gardens and AARS Test Gardens of the Alfred Boerner Botanical Gardens on Saturday morning.

A box lunch will be served at the Mitchell Park Pavilion, which is surrounded by a lovely rose garden. Here you can enjoy a quiet and relaxing lunch beside the Mitchell Park Lagoon, near the unique sunken gardens.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Arthur Maegli, President
Milwaukee Rose Society

STRAWBERRY YIELDS, QUALITY IMPROVED BY FUNGICIDE APPLICATIONS

Even though spring is later than usual this year, once strawberry plants start growing they will follow a regular growth pattern based on accumulated heat. This means that disease control treatments should be based on stages of growth as usual, says H. G. Johnson, extension plant pathologist at the University of Minnesota.

He points out that fungicide applications can do wonders for the yield and quality of strawberries. Timely sprays of proper fungicides can considerably reduce yield losses caused from fungus infection. By proper sprays he means fungicides that have been cleared for use by the Food and Drug Administration and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and which will do an effective job on disease control.

In addition to fungicide spraying, another way to help reduce the incidence of disease in strawberries is to make a new planting each spring for a berry crop the next year.

Johnson says that the bud stage of strawberry growth - the stage just before blossoming - is the most important for fungicide and insecticide application.

RESEARCH SEEKS ANSWERS TO WINTER HARDINESS QUESTIONS

A way to protect a popular evergreen tree against Minnesota's rugged winters is one recent outcome of a long-term research project on plant hardiness at the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota.

The recent finding concerns the arborvitae, a small tree coveted by homeowners and landscape planners, but susceptible to winter injury if exposed to open sunlight all winter. Arborvitae on south sides of buildings often show heavy winter burn-killing of branch tips.

In the past, the most common explanation was that the injury was a result of excessive drying out. But in the university's department of horticultural science, W. C. White and C. J. Weiser found such was not the case. They studied desiccation in the field and laboratory, finding that reducing it ordinarily did not reduce winter burn. And where they produced desiccation injury in the laboratory, in controlled growth chambers, the entire plant would die--not merely the branch tips. The explanation, the research showed, was that the principal factor was rapid changes in temperature--rather than drying. In an exposed area, the temperature may drop as much as 15 to 20 degrees within a minute when the sun goes behind an object during winter. On the north side of a building, where the shrub is in the shadows all day, such quick temperature changes are avoided.

In the laboratory these rapid changes killed tissues of arborvitae taken from outdoors. Thus, to protect arborvitae in locations exposed to the winter sun, the important thing is to somehow avoid sudden temperature changes. Nurseries are now experimenting with burlap as a winter shade for arborvitae, and a variety of adhesives which could be used to stick a reflective flocking material on plants are being studied by university horticulturists. Such flocking might be sprayed on in fall and washed off in spring by rains. They protect the plant through reflecting part of the sun's rays and thereby reduce the rate of temperature change.

The arborvitae research is one illustration of studies being done under a project currently funded by a seven-year grant totaling \$195,065 from the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation.

Weiser, who is in charge of the project, says the long-term intent is to learn more about what winter hardiness is. In spite of scores of years of research, much is yet to be explained.

Weiser says the problem may be stated in three general questions. How does low temperature injure plants? Why are some more resistant to cold injury than others? And how does a given plant change its resistance to cold stress from one time of year to another? Many Minnesotans would like answers for a number of plants and crops. Winter injury to fruit and ornamental and crop plants cost millions of dollars each year.

While those three basic questions still escape complete understanding, many things are known. One is that low temperature alone is seldom the problem. There must be ice crystals in plant cells for injury to occur in normally hardy plants.

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Winter Hardiness - continued

Yet, not all kinds of freezing are harmful. Ice crystals may form in areas between cells, draw moisture from within the cells and, in most cases, cause no injury. That is termed extracellular freezing.

If, on the other hand, the freezing is intracellular (ice crystals form inside the cells) the cell is invariably killed.

In studying plant hardiness, then, scientists such as Weiser and his colleagues are looking for any mechanism that may prevent intracellular freezing.

Is cold injury resistance in plants similar to such resistance in the animal kingdom? Some insects contain an antifreeze agent in their blood, but such compounds have not been found in plants.

Weiser and his associates are studying a number of theoretical leads. One hypothesis among scientists is that the plant changes some starch to sugar in the fall, thereby perhaps explaining at least one kind of winter hardiness. Sugar solutions do not freeze at as high a temperature as water.

Yet, the potato also undergoes a starch-to-sugar conversion if left in the cold, and it has little resistance to cold.

Working with the red-osier dogwood (a handy plant for plant hardiness experiments) Weiser and others looked more closely at the starch-to-sugar conversion. They found that the sugar content of this dogwood undergoes an overall change of under one percent during the entire period of acclimation to cold weather, which occurs during late summer and fall.

Such a small amount of change could hardly explain the fact that the red-osier dogwood, which in summer would be injured at 20 degrees Fahrenheit, can withstand temperatures as low as -125 degrees (shown in freezer tests) in midwinter.

Yet, Weiser has not ruled out the role of starch and sugar. Research has shown that adding certain kinds of sugars, such as raffinose, may reduce the temperature which a dogwood can withstand. The possibility, Weiser and others suspect, is that certain types of carbohydrates may somehow protect certain enzymes of plants, and that enzymes may ultimately explain how hardiness develops. Thus the conversion of starch to sugar may add to hardiness if certain kinds of sugars become more prominent in the plant.

Cold injury has been studied more than 200 years, and by the university's department of horticultural science since 1912. Why haven't more breakthroughs been made in the problem?

Weiser suggests that one problem has been that research in the early years centered on susceptible plants, rather than on the resistant ones. He intends to work intensively on plants such as the red-osier dogwood, which have effective hardiness and therefore contain the mechanism which scientists hope to discover.

Our local club president received the following letter from our national president, Phil Conrath, which should be of special interest to each of you. If any member has suggestions, please let's hear them - Charlie will lend an ear.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA

May 19, 1965

Mr. Charles R. Proctor, President
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis
4131 York Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410

Dear Charles:

It is a pleasure and a privilege to greet you and the members. Will you please convey this message to them?

We are on the threshold of a new era of great growth, increased activities and community service. Tax exempt status (benefits and obligations will be explained in The Gardener soon) affords new opportunities as well as added responsibilities to maintain MGCA as the outstanding educational, charitable and scientific organization. Our image is bright. We are recognized by kindred horticultural organizations, the Government and the public. President Johnson has asked us to participate in the White House Conference to Beautify America.

MGCA has followed the course set by its clubs in their community beautification projects. It is our clubs which are a force behind the President's new move to beautify America. MGCA is coordinating the clubs' ideas and efforts. It is the function of MGCA to chart a course nationally to carry out these projects effectively as could not be done by individual clubs alone.

Now we must give more of ourselves and our substance toward service to others and our communities. In doing so we gain even more friendships, fellowship and prestige as well as the values of "Better Gardening." MGCA wants to be of every possible help to each club and its members. George Spader has sent a list of services rendered. Please let your members learn what these are. I invite you to write me of your programs, plans, problems and hopes for MGCA.

With best wishes for a rewarding year and with hopes of seeing you in Amarillo, I am

Sincerely,

(signed)

Phil Conrath