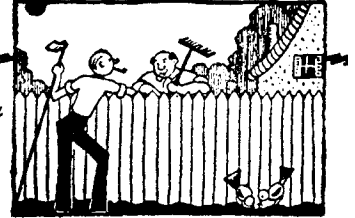


The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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	Secretary: Phillip H. Smith	Treasurer: Nathan S. Siegel
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Notice Meeting Place Change

Judson Memorial Church - 4101 Harriet Avenue
Tuesday, March 14, 1967 - 6 PM - \$2.00

"Delphiniums" will be discussed by Phil Smith. This will be the speech Phil will deliver at the convention.

Bud Christenson will give a quickie on "The Poor Man's Fertilizer."

Your photograph will be taken at any time after 5:30 sharp. Wear whatever you wish for that purpose.

An appropriate seasonal message.....

Within our beds awhile we heard
The wind that round the gables roared,
With now and then a ruder shock,
Which made our very bedsteads rock.
We heard the loosened clapboards tost,
The board-nails snapping in the frost;
And on us, through the unplastered wall,
Felt the light sifted snow-flakes fall.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Congratulations to Al Hubbard and St. Clair Beeman for the work they are doing with the Water Research Foundation. In a recent publication of this group, appears an article by each of our members. Al, as chairman of the board of managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, writes on "Watershed Districts." St. Clair, as chairman of CLIC's Parks Task Force, writes on "Water and Environment." CLIC is, of course, the Capital Long-range Improvements Committee of the Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. Idea: Why not have these two men give us a brief resume of the resources and problems of water in our county?

At the Board of Directors meeting, MGCA, in Kansas City in January, directors signed up indicating sixty of them including wives would be here at our convention. Notes on Christmas cards and letters easily bring that over the first 100, not including special buses tentatively being planned from Reidsville, N.C.; Des Moines, Ia.; and Jackson, Mississippi. Almost every day I receive a new note from someone saying, "We'll be there." I still think this will be an exceptionally large convention -- but you will decide that. Syracuse wisely registered everybody in sight and totaled 700 people. We'll need to do the same, with part as well as full registrations.

Morning glory seed psychosis. The narcotic effect of eating morning glory seeds can cause mental derangement, unless you're already deranged to be so stupid as to eat them. Some doctors studied three male patients, thus imbibing, and noticed that the most striking effect was upon the ego. "Subtle changes in integration and synthesis of conflicting ideas may persist for months. Memory, intelligence, and orientation typically impaired in organic changes appear less affected. Unmasking of homosexual impulses and oral regression may occur, along with paranoid ideas of reference and delusions of persecution." (Modern Medicine, Jan. 67) Certainly sounds like a very dangerous thing to do: eat morning glory seeds. I have a musical friend who has a better idea. He goes out at night fit as a fiddle and comes home tight as a drum.

Some people say the elms can be saved. A non-profit privately financed organization called Elms Unlimited is waging a fight to preserve the elms. For the first time in twenty years, they tell us, the elm count shows a gain, due to the effort of 15,000 people who planted elms last spring. The group publishes a bulletin, rightly called "Elm Bulletin," distributes seedlings at a low cost, and tries to fight Dutch Elm ravages. For full information, a free copy of the bulletin, write Elms Unlimited, 60 West Prospect St., Waldwick, N.J. Seedlings of elms, from the same address, cost 50c for 1-10; \$7.50 for 25' 50 for \$10, and 100 for \$15. Undoubtedly a fine organization but all we know personally is from their release. They certainly have a praiseworthy goal in saving elms.

Let's consider removing our membership limit. Why not? With about 110 members we are having trouble meeting our dinner guarantee of 50 men. Our winter attendance is down, partly due to vacations, bad weather for driving, etc. With under fifty present in January and again in February, we have a problem. Sure, you say we have a few vacancies which need filling now. How can we get more members? It wouldn't be so difficult. I propose that the Board of Directors consider proposing that we abolish our 75 limitation on active members and, with the doors thus widely opened, we'd have fifty new members by July 1. We are too complacent. Fifty new members would bring us a great many advantages and we can get them.

YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Frank Vixo

Bud Christenson has a real gardener's program for March. It would be a good time to invite a guest. We have a new supply of applications! Let's make arrangements to use them. Phil Smith, your Secretary, has them.

If you didn't get your copy of the new constitution last meeting, pick yours up at the March meeting.

Don't forget that the meeting is at the Judson Memorial Church this time.

I had a nice visit on the telephone with Paul Burt. Says he hopes to be well enough to come to the March meeting. Welcome back, Paul. Hope you make it.

Come dressed in the "finery" you would like to see yourself draped in for the Convention Roster as pictures will be taken at the March meeting.

The Club's committees for 1967 are listed below. Thanks to each and every one of you for accepting these responsibilities. We can't help but have a good year.

Program - Bud Christenson, Chairman (Board Ex Officio members)
Membership - Sherm Pinkham, Otto Erickson, Don Berne
Telephone - Otto Nelson
Cheer and Visitors - Charley Wasley
House and Badges - Harold Kaufmann
Speakers Bureau - Charles Proctor
Historian - Elwood Swanson
Publicity and Advertising - St. Clair Beeman
Spray - Editor, Bill Hull
Food - Jack Peterson
Plant Auction - Bob Smith, Al Nelson co-chairmen, Bill Brooks, Bob Sicora
Garden Tours - Bill Swanson, Manly Jackson
Monthly Flower and Garden Shows - Les Johnson, Evald Johnson
Legislation and Civic Affairs - Appointment as needed
Industrial and Civic Awards - Ev Haedecke, Dwight Stone, Vic Lowrie
Lehman Trophy - Archie Flack, Phil Smith
Christmas Party - to be appointed
Club Property - Charles Proctor
Club Auctioneers - Doc Stillman, Ev Haedecke, Louis Dorweiler
Club Photographer - Wally Carlson
Big Pumpkin Contest - Dale Durst, Vern Carlson
1967 MGCA Convention Chairman - Dwight Stone
Lyndale Garden Lighting - Ron Twite, Larence Bachman, Inar Johnson
Delegates to North Star Region - Nate Seigel, Otto Nelson, Fritz Holzman

The first name listed after each committee is chairman except where co-chairmen are indicated.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

by Dwight Stone

The tuberous begonia is probably the one flower that gives me the most enjoyment of all flowers in our garden. It can be planted in the ground or will do equally well potted and placed in strategic spots on your patio.

Tuberous begonias come in many forms, colors and varieties; namely rose, ruffled, camelia and the newest introduction, the picotee form. For those who enjoy hanging baskets, the hanging begonias will give a breathtaking show. The culture for all varieties is generally the same.

To have success in growing tuberous begonias I have found it imperative to start with good stock and my experience dictates the purchase of domestic tubers rather than imported varieties. Next in importance is to keep the plants healthy with proper feeding and watering. A properly fed plant seldom needs spraying for insects, mildew or blight.

Location: The tuberous begonia will grow with profusion on a northern exposure. Location of planting according to light is very important. Too much shade will produce abundant foliage and few blooms. Too much sun will stunt and burn the plant. The ideal situation is good morning sun, plenty of light during the day with short evening sun. This can be accomplished by planting on the north side of a building, in the light shade of trees or in a lath house.

Starting: As important as the above may be in the growing life of the tuberous begonia, the start the plant gets in its growing cycle is equally important. They can be started from seeds, cuttings or tubers. For the amateur gardener the easiest and most sure method is to purchase good dormant tubers.

Before starting the dormant tubers bring them out into the bright light and warmth of the basement or any other room where these elements will be achieved. When the tubers show pink buds, which will usually be in a week or two after exposure to the light, they are ready for planting in a starting medium, which can be any material that works for you. If this is your first venture in raising tuberous begonias use a mixture of coarse hardwood leaf mold (or peat moss) and sand. If you do not have a source of leaf mold you can purchase enough to start several tubers for a nominal amount from your garden supply store. It is important to use a substance for starting tubers that will not pack and become soggy. 100% peat moss is generally not considered a good starting medium as it holds too much moisture.

Fill a flat with your starting mixture, space the tubers about three inches, edge-to-edge, in the flat thus allowing sufficient space for root development, which is important to the future growth of the plant. Cover the tubers with the starting mixture approximately one-half inch as the tuber not only sends out roots from the bottom and sides of the tuber but also from the top. The more root system the better the mature plant will become. Water the planted flat carefully to maintain constant moisture, but not a soggy condition. Place the planted flat in bright light (or under fluorescent lights), but not in the direct rays of the sun and in a room where the temperature will be 65° to 75°. I have found it beneficial to cover the flat with a newspaper for a period of several days or until the buds have reached about 1/4" in height. One of the painful duties during this period of the growth is to nip off all buds but one. Leave the bud nearest the middle of the tubers or the healthiest bud if it is located near the middle of the tuber. Whereas at the time you may not wish to remove the excess eyes but in the complete growing cycle you will have better results if you have just one stem on each plant.

Tuberous Begonias (continued)

Potting: The time of the year you start your plants will depend upon when you plan to set your plants outdoors. I find it best to start the tubers the last week in March or the first week in April. The tubers should be removed from the starting flat about the time the first two leaves are of equal size. At that time you may pot the plants or if weather conditions are favorable you may place them in a permanent bed. I have potted the plants and also planted directly into the ground. Pots should be at least 8" in diameter, and 10" pots are even better. Almost always I pot several in redwood planters which I can use on the patio as accent points of interest. When planting directly into the ground, set the plant with the leaves pointing out as it is this side of the plant that will develop the bloom.

When removing the plants from the starting flat don't disturb the root system anymore than necessary. The begonia is not a deep feeder but requires ample feeding. When planting in permanent location or in pots mix in a generous amount of fish meal in the ground or in the bottom two-thirds of a pot. When potting the hanging type, it is a good idea to use three tubers in a redwood tub.

Feeding: If you use organic fertilizer such as compost or manure, spade this into the ground about a month before planting and water heavily several times. Permanent beds should be one-third leaf mold, one-third sand and one-third garden soil - sandy loam, if possible. Or, add just sand to your bed to provide ample drainage. When planting take care to keep soil away from the stem of the plant as contact with the soil may cause the stem to rot at the point of contact.

As you water the plants during the growing season, avoid over-watering or watering directly into the hollow of the tuber as this also may cause rot. The begonia is a heavy feeder and will require food about every ten days or two weeks. Fish emulsion or fish meal may be used. Over-feeding may cause as much or more damage than under-feeding. If the leaves have a bluish-green color or curl under, you can be sure the plant is over-fed. In this case, eliminate the food in watering until a natural color and formation of the leaves returns. Chemical nitrogen, if used in excess, will burn the plant, stunt the growth and reduce the size of the flower. Therefore, on begonias use the organic-type fertilizers as this seems to be to their preference.

Maintenance: If the plant appears to have an excess of leaves and few flowers, remove some of the upper leaves leaving at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the leaf stem attached to the main stem. This short stem will wilt and drop from the main stem in due time thus healing before dropping. A stem cut directly from the main stem may cause the main stem to rot and ruin your plant.

The begonia is fairly free from insects and disease. The most prevalent disease affecting begonias in this area is the powdery mildew. Good healthy plants will not have this problem. If your plants should become infected beyond control, cut the stem off about an inch above the tubers and hope for better luck next year. I have used a fungicide to a degree of success but find a well-cared for plant will take care of itself.

Storing tubers: The begonia tuber is not hardy in this climate so it will be necessary to harvest the tubers for winter storage. Generally the tuber will carry through the winter in better condition if it is lifted before the first frost. About two weeks before the time the tuber is lifted, discontinue the watering schedule. Lift the tuber leaving the foliage and stem attached to the tuber and remove them to an area free from frost. In about two or three weeks remove the foliage and wash the

ROSE TERMINOLOGY AND CLASSES

PART II

by Bill Hull

Other old roses are: Scotch Rose (*Rosa spinosissima*), dwarf-growing compact plants which are thorny and suitable for forming thickets and hedges; the Musk Rose (*Rosa Moschata*), a little Rambler which "was a strain of *mimulus moschatus* which ages ago developed this fragrance and which it has since lost." The Musk Rose is quite different and distinct from *Rosa Centifolia muscosa*, the Moss Rose. There is also the Chinese or Bengal Rose (*Rosa chinesis*) from which most perpetually flowering varieties have been developed -- the blooms are intensely fragrant. The Japanese Rose (*Rosa rugosa*), widely used today for root understock, and good for hedging because they are perpetual flowering and fragrant. There are Banks Roses (*Rosa banksiae*) which are more tender and need shelter. Strong growing with few thorns. And another group is the Bourbon Rose (*Rosa bourboniana*) which Edland recommends as fine shrubs.

But, of course, it is the Hybrid Tea Rose that most of us grow in our gardens today. By this term we actually "embrace all bedding varieties of roses which produce shapely full-petalled blooms, a few exceptions which are semi-double, or with five petals, which were among the first so classified and can be ignored" as exceptions. "...other classes of roses have since been merged into the hybrid teas as for example, the pernetianas, named after Pernet-Ducher who raised them." (Edland). As a rule the buds of hybrid teas are long and pointed. "The flowers vary from singles with one row of petals to fully double blooms with many rows. In most of the more recent varieties, the centers of the blooms are high. They are borne single on a stem or in clusters of usually not more than five. Colors range from pure white through tones of red and yellow, and there are various admixtures of red and yellow. Hybrid tea plants grow from two to six feet, depending upon climatic conditions, culture, and the method of pruning." (Allen) "The hybrid tea came into being during the latter part of the last century and resulted from crossing the two groups then popular, the hybrid perpetual and the tea rose." (Edland).

The hybrid perpetual appeared more than a hundred years ago, "reaching their peak of popularity in the Gay Nineties with American Beauty, which made America rose conscious through publicity given the four-foot stems and the twelve-dollar-a-dozen prices. Even today, American Beauties are ordered in flower shops, although some other red rose must be substituted, since the variety is now rarely grown. At the turn of the century there were, besides this famous variety, about four thousand other hybrid perpetuals, but the hybrid teas with their greater floriferousness have gradually superseded them." (Allen). It might be interesting to know that hybrid perpetuals are believed to be the result of the "intercrossing of a number of species, particularly *Rosa centifolia*, *Rosa Gallica*, *Rosa damascena* and *Rosa chinensis*. They are vigorous, hardy roses but lack purity and brilliance of color, refinement of form, and the continuous-blooming habit of the hybrid teas. The term 'perpetual' implies longer flowering than occurs but, when the name was first applied, the hybrid perpetuals came as near to being ever-blooming as any rose of the time. The French called the group 'remontant' indicating repeated bloom." (Allen). Examples are Frau Karl Druschki, Baroness Rothschild, American Beauty.

The floribundas or hybrid polyanthas are one and the same, with both names sometimes being used. The word 'Floribunda' "is the more recent having appeared about 1935, and it has the merit of suggesting the main characteristic. This name was not officially adopted by the American Rose Society because 'floribunda' had been previously used as a species name (*Rosa floribunda*) and the hybrid polyantha class was already established and defined. Of the two names, 'Floribunda' is more often seen in catalogs and

Rose Terminology and Classes - Part II
(continued)

varieties they resemble the hybrid tea type of bloom in size and form. Flowers are borne in clusters as in polyanthas but there are fewer florets and these are more widely spaced. Examples are Betty Prior, Fashion, Carrousel and Chatter.

The grandifloras are a "new type of rose which as yet has not been fully accepted (1956). It's general aspect is that of an unusually vigorous floribunda. The flowers are more widely spaced in the cluster and closely resemble hybrid tea blooms in size and form. While individual stems are not so long as those of hybrid teas, they are much longer than those of ordinary floribundas. In brief, the type may be described as a hybrid tea with floribunda habit of growth and mode of flowering." (Allen). I find Edland's discussion even more interesting: "As a result of intercrossing the floribundas, which already have hybrid tea blood in them, with other hybrid teas, a few varieties have appeared on the market which, whilst still retaining in the main the cluster habit of flowering of the floribundas, also produce stems which carry fewer but fuller blooms of similar substance to the hybrid teas, even though as yet not of equal shapeliness. These varieties are presenting a problem to the authorities. In America the nurserymen have adopted for them the term 'grandiflora'...in England they call them 'floribunda'-- hybrid tea type."

Of course the polyantha is gradually being displaced by floribundas. "The distinguishing characteristic of the true polyantha...is their small flowers (usually under two inches in diameter) borne in large clusters or trusses. Polyanthas, continuous blooming and excellent for color massing, are related to many climbing varieties, having been derived from a dwarf form of *Rosa multiflora*. Hardy and vigorous, their colors generally range through red, pink and white, with some yellow, salmon, and orange varieties. Few varieties have much fragrance." Examples are Cameo, Cecile Brunner, Chatillon Rose and The Fairy.

Ramblers are the oldest climbing roses "but they date back only to 1895, when Crimson Rambler, a form of *Rosa multiflora*, was introduced to America. The other really climbers were selections of wild species or botanical varieties, such as *Rosa Wichuraiana*, *Rosa Banksiae*, a species adapted only to mild climates, forms or *Rosa Odorata*, the tea rose, and others. With the advent of Crimson Rambler which was widely distributed throughout the eastern part of the country, the interest in climbing roses increased and numerous hybrids were developed. The true Rambler, as we know it today, was derived by crossing varieties of *Rosa multiflora*, the Japanese Rose, or *Rosa Wichuraiana*, the Memorial Rose, with the leading bush roses of the day. The first sensation was Dorothy Perkins. No other climbing rose has been so widely planted as Dorothy Perkins...it formed the base on which the Rambler class was founded. True ramblers produce dense clusters of small flowers...are rampant growers....often developing fifteen to twenty foot canes during a single growing season. They bloom but once each summer on wood that was produced the year before. They send up vigorous canes from the base and it is on these that the best flowers appear the next year. Only a few are available today, many fine ones having been lost or forgotten, although amazing collections have been preserved in some old rose gardens." (Allen) Other examples are Chevy Chase, Minnehaha, and Francois Guillot.

Large-flowered climbers began to appear early in the twentieth century when men like Dr. Walter Van Fleet of the U.S. Department of Agriculture did so much pioneer work in developing climbers with larger flowers and looser clusters than the ramblers. Dr. Van Fleet's "originations were mostly crosses of *Rosa Wichuraiana* and *Rosa setigera* with hybrid teas and hybrid perpetuals. They have but one period of bloom early in the summer and are hardy and vigorous with canes much larger and sturdier than those of the ramblers. Each year the tendency of an established plant to produce new canes from the

Rose Terminology and Classes - Part II
(continued)

base is less marked...blooms are produced on two-year-old canes developed during the previous season." (Allen) Examples are Paul's Scarlet Climber (sometimes called a rambler), Dr. W. Van Fleet and King Midas.

Of course we could continue almost ad infinitum, but let's take a quick look at the remaining classifications which intrigue us, doing so most briefly.

Pillar roses are actually a subclass of the large flowered climbers. Originally they were all grown on pillars or posts and the name was synonymous with the LFC. Today pillar roses are considered to be more slow growing ones.

"There are several types of everblooming climbers and for convenience, some are considered as separate classes, such as the hardy everblooming climbers, the climbing hybrid teas, the climbing floribundas and the climbing polyanthas. With most varieties the term everblooming should be interpreted with reservation. Recurrent or repeat-blooming would be more accurate...the hybridizing work of Eugene S. Boerner has produced a number of varieties with outstanding continuity of bloom and hardiness. The Brownells have also developed a strain of repeat-blooming climbers." (Allen). Examples are Blaze, Aloha and White Dawn. Examples of climbing floribundas are World's Fair, Climbing Cecile Brunner. Examples of climbing hybrid teas are Climbing Crimson Glory, Climbing Charlotte Armstrong.

Trailing roses are not technically a class, but a group of varieties which Allen says is "well adapted to slopes, the top of retaining walls, and other situations where a ground cover or a drooping habit of growth is pleasing. Trailing roses produce long, flexible canes that hug the ground or at least do not grow obviously upright."

The other two terms we wanted to mention are Miniatures and Tree or Standard roses. The former is obviously the recently popular six to twelve inch plants with half-inch blooms, among which are Bo-Peep, Tom Thumb and Pixie. The latter - tree roses - really refers to a plant form. Any bush variety may be developed in tree form. Even some climbers "also make good standards, although their stems tend to hang down rather than to grow up so the resulting tree resembles a small weeping mulberry." (Allen).

But whatever its class there should be roses in your future.

- Dr. Ray C. Allen, "Roses for Every Garden" - M. Barrows & Co., Inc.
New York, 1956
- Richard Thomson, "Old Roses for Modern Gardens" - D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc.
New York, 1959
- Henry Edland, "Encyclopedia of Roses in Natural Color" - St. Martin's
Press, 1963

"A House Without A Tree Ain't Fit For A Dog." - so says Marlin Gilhousen, editor, The Garden Gate, MGC Richfield, quoting a sign seen in a nursery.

NORTH STAR REGION OF MGCA ROSTER

Full name of member _____

First name of wife _____

Club membership _____

Office held, if any _____

My garden is on tour Yes No

Home/Telephone Number/Business _____

Garden interest or speciality

I plan to attend all three days of the convention

I plan to attend part of the convention

I have a convention job assignment

I do not have a convention job assignment, but would like one

Signed

Received from _____

The sum of _____ dollars as (partial - full) payment for registration fee for 1967 MGCA. This money is not refundable.

MGCA Mpls. Conv. Treasurer

March 6-

CONVENTION NOTES

by Dwight Stone

414 or Better

414 is not only the address of NSP located on the Nicollet Mall but also the total registration at the 1949 convention of MGCA held in Minneapolis.

From all reports, the 1949 convention was at the time the best ever. In the following years reports are that not many have surpassed it. We have that chance in 1967. With your help we can and will give MGCA something to talk about and another high level for future conventions to shoot at.

Highlights of the convention will be the welcome to Minnesota by Governor Harold LeVander at the luncheon on July 12; the industrial award winner tour the day preceding the convention on July 11; the garden forums on July 13 when all conventioners can choose from 15 subjects, two hours of garden and horticulture know-how; Roses-by Jerry Olson, Dahlias-by Thor Solem, Flower Borders-by Archie Flack, Clematis-by Dick Lehman, Growth Regulations-by Lloyd Bachman, Club Civic Activities by a noted Florida gardener, Cortis Rice. These are just to mention a few. The featured speakers, John Nash Ott speaking on time lapse photography and Dr. Leon Snyder, the other featured speaker; a tour and luncheon at Northrup King Trial Gardens; a personally guided tour of the Arboretum by Dr. Leon Snyder; a new movie "My Garden Japan"; a Minnesota Dinner and reviving of the MGCM tradition of the "Parade of Turkeys" led by a German Band from Belvidere, Illinois. If this isn't enough add to it several tours of gardens of members of the Richfield and Minneapolis clubs - 22 gardens in all. This should all add up to the best yet.

North Star Region Roster

When the convention in 1967 of MGCA becomes history the memory of you can go down in the annals.

The NSR roster will contain pictures of every member of the Richfield, Minnetonka and Minneapolis Clubs that registers now for \$5.00. The \$5.00 registration fee will insure you of the advance convention total registration fee of \$27.50. It will also allow you to take part in any of the events at the convention that are not ticketed and to go on the tours and attend the banquets and luncheons by paying the ticket price for each event.

In addition to your picture the roster will also contain a two-line description of your garden, your wife's name and a two-page disertation about each of the three clubs and special pictures of the club officers.

Enclosed is a registration blank. Please fill this out and bring it and \$5.00 or \$27.50 to the next meeting. Be sure and wear your best smile as we will be taking your photograph.