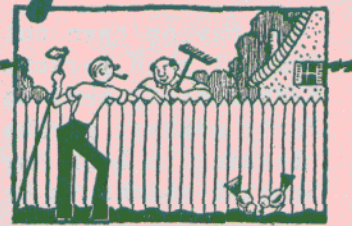




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



May 1961
Volume 19, No. 4
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

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

May Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 9, 1961
Place: Park Board Greenhouse
38th & Colfax - Dupont
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp
Price: \$1.75 - Dinner will be obtained
from same source which
supplied the excellent meal at
Arnold Brastad's last summer.
Remember that succulent food?

Officers

Les Johnson	President
N. W. Christopherson	Vice Pres.
Dwight Stone	Secretary
Ev Haedecke	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary
4620 Hampton Road

Office of the Exchange Editor
G. Victor Lowrie
401 Essex Building

ANNUAL FUN AUCTION

Emphasizing again, having fun while we support the club. Material presented is raised by members. If you have anything you can spare, it would help the committee if you dropped it by the greenhouse early in the day, perhaps on your way to work.

The committee (Messrs. Proctor, Vixo, Kelly, Fackler, Holzman and perhaps others) has several surprises up its sleeve. DOOR PRIZES. Also something called THE PEST HOUSE. Perhaps even a FISH POND. A fast moving auction is promised, with limited quantities of each variety.

GUESTS ARE MORE THAN WELCOME -- YOU ARE URGED TO BRING THEM.

THIS IS IT! SEE YOU TUESDAY THE NINTH.

NEW MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS

Bill Brooks, member of both regional and national New Clubs committees, is interested in learning where there might be a nucleus of men about which he might build a new men's garden club. Let's spread the word and keep Bill posted if we run across any interested men gardeners anywhere in the state.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Having been out of town for the Shrub Auction, my information is more factual than personal, but it was obviously a success. With a check for \$285 already sent to the Minnesota State Arboretum, we can be pleased. Forty members purchased for themselves and others, and the results must be pleasing to Leon Snyder and others who have worked so hard on the Arboretum. Special thanks to Leon for making this material available and for working so hard before most of the members had reached the meeting place.

Several people have commented favorably on the fifty-cent items, so priced because their hardiness was unknown. Also heard that a couple of gentlemen from Faribault were bidding against each other on the clematis. Too bad when a man's son-in-law bids against him.

Also heard that Past President Bill Swain gave a masterful talk - wish I could have heard it.

Happy to hear that Henry Bachman is home, feeling better but taking it easy. Good health to you, Henry, and your dear wife who has also been ill.

When we're remembering sudden Spring snowstorms, let's not forget the one of April 15 which dumped $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches of unwanted snow on the Twin Cities and 19 inches on Duluth.

Amchem Products, Inc., (the ROOTONE people) have patented this last month, a chemical spray which causes apple trees to yield a large amount of fruit each year instead of every other year. The patent owner claims that solutions of various derivatives of trichlorobenzoic acid sprayed on the apple trees when the fruit buds bloom during the "on" year, produces the annual instead of the biennial bearing of fruit. The inventor said that if the chemicals were applied to fruit trees during a certain period in a tree's growth, "the growth is so altered that fruit buds are formed where one would normally expect to find vegetative buds."

A chemical spray which prevents early blight disease on tomato plants has also been patented recently, the patent being assigned to Colgate-Palmolive Company of New York. The spray contains a metal salt (alkyl benzene sulfonate) which maintains a high resistance to the blight disease even after a heavy rainfall, the patent claims.

MGCA is making quite a study of industrial beautification practices of each club. Our able chairman, Joe Witmer, will want to write the national chairman, as outlined in the April Newsletter.

Anybody interested in becoming a tester of Annuals? If so, write Harold Hepp, National Chairman this committee, Wapakoneta, Ohio. Harold's particularly interested in starting a round robin letter amongst testers. Would be fun for someone and not too much effort.

Anyone interested in working on any national MGCA committee, please see or call me at once. We need more participation. Those already on such committees; Fred Holzman, roses; Bill Brooks, regionals.

LET'S GET BETTER ACQUAINTED SAYS FREDDIE RODDA

I would like to visit many of the Club member's gardens for pleasure, inspiration and to learn more of the art and techniques of good gardening. But, it is not easy, especially for the newer members, to barge in on a host unannounced nor to phone for an appointment.

I see a way to avoid this difficulty. It is made feasible by the generosity and cooperation of Vic Lowrie in allowing the Club to us, his secretarial help in editing a section in each issue of the SPRAY devoted to the listing of gardens, open for visiting at the owners invitation and convenience. The listing would include owners name, address, date and time (all you do is call FE 9-8836 and ask for Miss Mein)

Now Certain Details

- (a) Types of garden - all sizes - special features - location, design. Every garden will have some points of interest. Few, if any gardens are static. Change of design or plan, the starting of new gardens, as reported by 7 of our new members at our March meeting, would be of interest to all of us.
- (b) Dates depend on type of garden - early - mid-summer or Fall. Also this calls for a prediction of the state of the garden for the month following date of issue of the SPRAY. But (barring something catastrophic, such as a mail or wind storm) this should present no great obstacle.
- (c) Time - over the weekends or long summer evening. Also several members might combine on the date and hours and so increase attendance and save extra driving.
- (d) Duration of the visit should be limited so that the hosts' time might be conserved; several gardens might be visited in one jaunt and larger groups of members might be thrown together. This latter point I wish to emphasize. Charter and older members, through long association, are Buddies - they have social contacts. Also, during the year they may have to welcome 3 to 6 new members and the only opportunity to do so is limited to some 10 or 15 minutes before the meal is served before our monthly meeting. Smaller groups thrown together more often in our garden visits might well lead to better acquaintanceship and good fellowship in our Club.
- (e) Members might be hosts on one or several occasions - the more, the merrier.

Girl Scout Council
Minneapolis Area, Inc.
346 Citizens Aid Building
Minneapolis 4, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Lowrie:

We believe that you, as editor for the official publication of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, will be very interested in knowing about an exciting garden and flower project which the Girl Scout Council-Minneapolis Area is about to undertake and which might prove of interest to your reading public.

There are two phases to the project, actually. First, in honor of the 50th birthday of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. in 1962 - our Golden Anniversary - the national organization has launched a program to urge Girl Scouts to "serve the future" by beautifying their surroundings with plantings of green and gold flowers and plants. As part of this, we are urging Minneapolis area Girl Scouts to undertake planting and flower projects throughout their communities at branch libraries, parks, playgrounds, schools, etc. When one realizes that this could involve some 20,400 Girl Scouts, it is easy to see the significance of this project. This would be in Spring of 1961 and Fall of 1961 and Spring of 1962, by the way.

Secondly, a new yellow floribunda rose has been developed by Jackson-Perkins Company and has been named the "Girl Scout Rose." Many Girl Scouts and volunteers in our area have ordered the rose and will be planting it this Spring. The council is also giving 35 rose bushes (Girl Scout Rose) to the Minneapolis Park Board for planting in the Minneapolis Rose Garden in May. This plot will serve as a symbol of our 50th anniversary. These special Girl Scout roses, by the way, will be available to the public next year and may be ordered from Jackson-Perkins Co.

It is our hope that your publication might be able to give information on both phases of this project and that Men's Club members might consider serving as consultants to local troops who could use advice on what types of gardening projects they might attempt, when and where they might do the planting, etc. Perhaps some of the members know of special spots within a community which could use beautification through flowers, etc. Interested members who might want to help with the project may contact Mrs. Starling Price, 212 S.E. Warwick, Minneapolis, FE 9-1031, who will post their names and phone numbers in our council bulletin so that troops within the appropriate area can get in touch with them.

I am sure that through our cooperative efforts, we would be able to do much to bring flowering beauty and color to many community areas.

Please feel free to call me at any time if you wish further information or if I can be of help in any other way. We'll appreciate any coverage which you can give these events. I have sent a similar letter to your President, Mr. Johnson.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Audrey W. Evans

DAYLILIES ARE REWARDING

by Joseph Witmer

With many gardeners who love ease of gardening, the Daylily has been designated the number one favorite. Though easy culture might be the primary objective because of certain native characteristics such as hardiness, freedom of disease, absence of insects and care-free attitude toward soil conditions, their current high level of popularity is generally due to recent developments which have produced massive blooms with heavy substance; wider, longer petals; branching growth habit and in a few varieties two seasons of bloom. Color breaks also have shown market advancement. Noteworthy are those colors approaching the greens or chartreuse; also the tendency toward cream colors and white though none as yet can be put in the category of white. Dick Lehman, who worked very close to the late Dr. Kraus in the genetics of Daylilies, has expressed the belief that we won't get a white until we get a blue; and we are a long way from blue even though lavenders have been hybridized. I am of the opinion, however, that sports or mutations cannot be ruled out. Another of the newer developments is the spider type with long, slender petals.

The time to plant Daylilies is not too important. I prefer Spring if divisions were made the summer before. This gives the young plant the benefit of an entire growing season to become established and good bloom can be expected the following year - you might even get a bloom or two the first year. Established clumps can be transplanted any time although it's wise to wait until after the blooming period.

Cultural requirements are few. Daylilies seem to be indifferent to the quality of soil whether it's rich or not so rich; whether clayey or sandy. Being a 'root crop', that is having a bulbous root, they respond to a treatment of potash with taller and sturdier scapes. I use the same fertilizer as in the vegetable garden which is a 3-12-13. Incidentally, this ratio is excellent for tulips, glads, daffodils, iris, acidanthera, hostas and peonies. Daylilies will thrive in half shady areas.

In making a selection color-wise, go easy on the reds. A good proportion is one red to four other colors - yellows, melons, pinks.

Pick from the following for a starter selection. These are chosen for good color, availability and moderate cost:

RED. Chief Joseph, Wyandotte, Mabel Fuller, Biretta, Red Dot.

SCARLET. Fairbo, Spencer Fuller, Scarlet Flame, Painted Lady, High Noon Flambeau.

DEEP GOLD. Aten, Nina Vineagar (spider), Goldensong.

PALE YELLOW. Atlas, Primula, Margeurite Fuller, Hyperion, Soledad.

BI-COLORS. Mrs. David Hall, Watchful Eye, Holiday, Friar Tuck, Howdy, Gay Troubador.

DAYLILIES ARE REWARDING (Cont'd)

PINK (or ROSE TONES). Evelyn Claar, Procelain Rose, Empire Rose, Rosada, Rosario.

MELON. Andros, Apricot (early), Elegy, Jessica, Nina Rebman.

There are many others obtainable from two of our own members - Bachman's or The Lehman Gardens in Faribault. Come around next July and see over 150 different varieties in my garden. I will be especially proud to show you the new Arlene Witmer, a gorgeous chartreuse, and the new Joseph Witmer, the biggest, brightest red you've ever seen. Also some of my own crosses, one of which I have named Heide after my dog - it's well named! Perhaps some of our members won't mind if I honor their dogs.

U of M PUBLICATION LISTS RECOMMENDED VEGETABLE VARIETIES

For disease-resistant, productive, high-quality vegetables for your garden, select some of the new varieties adapted to Minnesota conditions.

That's the suggestion of O. C. Turnquist, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota, and author of an Agricultural Extension Service publication just off the press, Vegetable Varieties. A revision of Extension Folder 154, it summarizes results of vegetable variety trials conducted by the Extension Service last year in various locations in the state in cooperation with both home and commercial gardeners.

Selecting vegetable varieties adapted to local conditions continues to be one of the most important steps to a successful garden, according to Turnquist. Whether you decide to plant old or new varieties, be sure they are dependable for Minnesota, he cautions.

Among the varieties of vegetables that did well in test plots last year, Turnquist recommends these to home gardeners:

Tendercrop snap bean, disease-resistant, high-quality and highly productive green bean; Kinghorn wax bean, yellow-podded wax bean with pure white seeds, excellent for freezing; Greenhart lettuce, light green, finely frilled, tolerant against going to seed; Bibb lettuce, loose-heading type; Red Boy radish, quick-maturing, bright scarlet variety especially suited to summer planting; Cherry Belle radish, bright red, globe-shaped variety acceptable for early or late planting; Fireball tomato, an early tomato that can be seeded directly into the garden in early May; Hybrid EE tomato, one of the earliest and highest yielding strains tested in the last few years.

Both old and new varieties that do well in Minnesota gardens are listed in Extension Folder 154, Vegetable Varieties. Copies of the publication are available free of charge from county extension offices or from Bulletin Room, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 1.

A GOOD BARGAIN . . .

.....in gardening fun and information would be the \$31.50 advance registration to your own national convention to be held at Detroit June 20-23 of this year. Fee includes everything except hotel expenses. Entire convention, plus travel time could consume five days, or even four if you wanted to fly.

You will meet and hear some of the top horticulturists of the country (see March THE GARDENER). You'd come back with lots of ideas for your own garden.

Also featured will be visits to outstanding backyard gardens in Michigan and Ontario, with lunch on the landscaped grounds of a famous distillery.

Paul Kroeger and Bill Hull, our official delegates leave shortly before June 20. Give them your mandates at once.

MGCA'S CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT STUDY

This year the MGCA is planning an experimental program using various fertilizers and studying the growth characteristics on one variety. This will also give information on insect and disease resistance, flower quality as well as over-wintering and the effects on propagating for the next growing season. The Jackson & Perkins Co. is sending out test plants again this year. The plan is to expand the test program, do further experimentation with the culture of mums, raise plants from seed and later on try some hybridizing. Final results will be published in The Gardener.

I would appreciate it if the Mum testers would give their names to him. Also let him know if you have been receiving J. & P. test plants. Reports go to: Wilford H. Hooper, Chairman, Chrysanthemum Plant Study, 7 Shadow Lane, Wellesley 81, Mass. Instructions for this year's work will be sent out very shortly.

GARDEN CENTER AT LYNDAL PARK

by Les Johnson

It now seems that a start may soon be made on the development of a Garden Center at Lyndale Park. For several years it has been in the planning stage but no money had been made available for it. Early this year we began talks with Howard Moon, Felix Dhainen and Greg Lucking to try to get some action that would make an early start possible.

We are glad to report that with the support of Howard Moore, Felix Dhainen and others the Park Board approved the plan and included a request for \$100 in their 1962 budget. While this is encouraging it does not yet mean success. The request must be approved by the City Council and it will be up to us and the Citizens of Minneapolis to do everything we can to assure their favorable action.