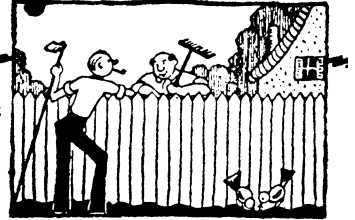




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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

September 1964
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G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

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

September Meeting

Date: September 8, 1964
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
Time: 5:45 P.M.
Price: \$1.75

Officers

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

PROGRAM

"Gardening All Around America" by Bill Hull

This is an illustrated talk our National President has been giving to clubs throughout the United States. It is something we should all enjoy.

Summer is over now, and it is time for us to get busy and start working on next year's projects.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Continued

Since that 1960 night, of our charter members we have lost Bill Addy, Joe Cohen, Herb Kahlert, George Luxton and Fred Paul. It is our job to keep alive the tradition of gardening camaraderie and community service they initiated.

Nine large gardening journals every month mail out a total of over eleven million gardening magazines. Here, the Audit Bureau of Circulations supplies figures showing what a tremendous market gardening must be. (It is usually said to involve over thirty million people). Figures here are supplied to the nearest thousand: Better Homes & Gardens (over six million); House and Garden (over one million); House Beautiful, Sunset and Flower & Garden (each over 500,000); Flower Grower, Popular Gardening and Organic Farming and Gardening (each over 300,000); and Horticulture (under 100,000).

Congratulations to Bob Smith for winning Sweepstakes in the specimen division of our fall show, and to Dale Durst and Glen Cerney for their next positions. One can easily see why we chose Bob as chairman of our national MGCA committee on vegetable growing. If he can lead others as he can grow, he will set a torrid pace.

It was a good show. Thanks to President Dwight Stone and others who assisted him, but it does sometimes seem we need to take a serious look at our participation or lack of it as individuals. I have apologized to Dwight for not showing this year, which is the first time I have ever missed. I believe he understood. But we all have a very serious responsibility to support this club activity and all of us who didn't get at least one entry there, well, fie on us.

To see what is some of our problem in our show, I went back over the records for the last 13 years. If we take the men who were among the top winners in our shows five to thirteen years ago, we find that it boils down to nineteen men still in the club. Of these nineteen, seven entered the show this year, while twelve didn't participate. This seven is, of course, in addition to the other newer men. But what about the twelve who were formerly top winners?

Someone said, "Well, I've got so many ribbons ..." But it isn't ribbons or cups for which we enter the show. We enter to participate, to share, to support the group activity. If we want the privilege of having such an enterprise, to see it, to host it, we've got to have a wider participation. You and me.

The largest number we've ever had participate in a show was 44 in 1960, when Otto Nelson was chairman and I happened to be president. We also broke all records to have 747 total entries. But in 1962, that 747 was replaced by 791, when Al Nelson was chairman and Les Johnson president. As opposed to 28 members participating with 591 entries this year.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Continued

I've presented all these figures to give you the facts, knowing that our club never shirks a responsibility when we're aware of it. I, for one, think it's time we all share our part of the show.

Among those men who deserve signal honors for being there consistently for many, many years are Messrs. Erickson, Al Nelson, Gerney, Reif, P. W. Young, Pinkham, Lowrie, Brooks, and in more recent years, Hoyme, Les Johnson, Burt, Germain, Hull and probably many others, for which errors please forgive me.

J. Peter Grace, president of W. R. Grace Co., says, "Nitrogen is the key that can unlock the latent productivity of the world's vineyard. It is the over-all governing fertilizer element in plant growth wherever you go. One ton of nitrogen as fertilizer equals fourteen acres of good farmland. ... This year our company will produce sufficient fertilizer nutrients to feed thirty-five million people for one year."

We should remember that our society with its problem of overweight is an unusual situation. At present, one billion human beings suffer from malnutrition ... one billion people. Not me.

* * * * *

LANDSCAPING SUGGESTIONS GIVEN IN U PUBLICATION

What kind of shrubs will do well on the shady side of the house?
What small trees or large shrubs are recommended for sandy soil?

These are among numerous questions on woody plants that are answered in a newly revised bulletin, Landscaping Your Home, published by the University of Minnesota's Agricultural Extension Service. Author of the publication is C. Gustaf Hard, extension horticulturist at the University.

In a section called "Woody Plants for Minnesota," Hard lists trees and shrubs adapted to Minnesota and suitable for lawn specimens, for screens, for border, foundation or background plantings, for hedges and for a variety of conditions. Many gardeners will be interested in the listing of woody plants that attract birds.

Main purpose of the publication is to provide the amateur gardener with information that will lead to a functional, attractive landscape setting. The personality and needs of the family, the lay of the lot and the architecture of the home are all significant in determining the design, Hard says. He gives detailed suggestions for planning the landscape design, beginning the planting and using the landscape for family living.

Copies of Extension Bulletin 283, Landscaping Your Home, are available free of charge from Bulletin Room, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn. 55101

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SPROUTS FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

by Dwight Stone

Another successful August tour is history. I couldn't wait until I got home so I could spray my roses with 2-4-D. When it comes to growing roses, Jerry, Al and Fritz don't need to take a backseat to anyone. And, also, wasn't Verner Carlson's yard nice? How soon will the apple cider be ready, Vern? As usual, Glen Cerney had a display of perennials that is hard to beat. Thanks to all of you for letting us visit your gardens.

The Johnny Appleseed Drive is still on. M.G.C.A. has pledged to supply funds to restore the gravesite of Johnny Appleseed at Fort Wayne, Indiana. It is to be a national shrine and labeled as an M.G.C.A. project. Ev Haedecke, as a national director, urges all of us to send in a donation to help support this project. If you feel so inclined, send your donation to George Spader, Executive Secretary, M.G.C.A., Morrisville, New York, but make your check payable to Johnny Appleseed National Memorial Foundation, Inc. Your donation is deductible under the Federal income tax laws.

For you green thumbers, if you wish to make up an attendance, why not attend a meeting of the Richfield Men's Garden Club. They meet the fourth Monday of each month. Ron Hanson, president of the Richfield club, says you are welcome anytime.

Yours truly will have his name on the ballot for Vice-President of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. The ballot will be in the next issue of the Hort magazine. Cut it out and send it in. Bruce Johnstone is my competitor, so vote for one of us.

Received a nice letter from Paul Kusy, the garden clubber from Moline, Illinois, who visited our club and went on the July tour with us. He sends his thanks to Harold, Les, Nate and Archie. These men were the hosts on the tour. On his return trip to Moline, he stopped to see Roger and Dick and loaded his car with mums to plant in his garden.

Congratulations to the new members of the club who exhibited in the Flower and Garden Show - Don Berne, Vern Carlson, Dave Johnson, Evald Johnson, Bob Kelly, Clyde Thompson - who did I miss? These boys are a real asset to the gardening world.

Our sympathy is extended to the Fred Paul family. Fred passed away on August 20. Fred was dearly loved by all of us and will be missed very much. He has been the club historian, and in a later issue of Spray, we will print his recent story of our history.

SPROUTS FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

Continued

Be sure to read Al Nelson's article on his method of protecting roses during the winter. It is a very good article, and can be found on another page of Spray.

A quote to remember -

"Always begin somewhere. You can't build a reputation on what you intend to do."

* * * * *

A THANK YOU FROM JOE WITMER

When one is virtually strapped to a hospital bed with oxygen tubes up the nose and forbidden even to wiggle the ears, the mind is just a muddle of needles being stuck in, bed pans stuck under and thermometers stuck up in what appeared to be the wrong place, and then finally in a more conscious moment, the eyes behold what is really a gorgeous creature in white - not the Grim Reaper - it is then that the thoughtfulness of friends becomes tremendous therapy.

I wish to thank, sincerely, each and every member for the many cards, letters and phone calls, as well as those who braved unbearable heat to make a visit during the weeks of confinement.

* * * * *

GIVEAWAY DEPARTMENT

Two-row crop push cultivators, one with complete seeding attachments.

Any Garden Clubber with long rows of vegetables can use one of these.

First come, first served. Come and get them.

Walter Menzel
2656 Glenhurst Avenue
WA 2-8979

WINTER PROTECTION FOR ROSES

by Al Nelson

President Dwight Stone requested that I write an article for the Spray, detailing my method of winter protection of roses which I demonstrated for the club on their August 11th tour. Here are the essentials.

About October 20th of a normal year, I spray the canes with a fungicide to protect against stem canker, which sometimes develops during the winter. I use Mildew King, available only from Jackson & Perkins of Newark, New York, (not N.J.) Some growers use the same fungicide as that which they have used throughout the summer. Either method seems fairly effective. Then I tie the canes into a bundle as tightly as possible. I dig a trench from the base of the plant, extending it out far enough to accommodate the whole bush. The trench at the base of the plant must be deep enough so that one can see the roots where they join the thick part of the stock. Then the bush is bent down into the trench. If it is difficult to bend down, dig deeper at the base of the plant. One must not use much force - the plants are brittle. The bush is held down in the trench with a weight or fork until an inch or two of soil is placed over the plant. The soil used is that which was dug out of the trench. It is not necessary to bring in additional soil. There should not be much coarse, unrotted vegetable matter in the soil in contact with the canes. I have had reports that sphagnum moss, lying in contact with the canes was the cause of considerable winter damage. Also, one report that chicken manure, used as a mulch over the beds, was the cause of an unusual amount of stem canker. These reports need additional observation.

When all the plants in the beds have been buried with an inch or two of soil, I wait a few days, hoping to get a light crust of frost on the beds to slow down or stop winter growth under the covering. I seldom dare wait more than until the first week in November. The inch or two of soil over the plants may not be enough to protect them from zero to 10 above weather which we can get at that time of the year. Now, I apply six inches to a foot of leaves over the beds. If you have a foot of leaves, the plants are well protected. A light sprinkling of soil does wonders in keeping them from blowing away. If you have only six inches of leaves over the beds, it may not be enough. In such a case, I get some hay, wait for a few inches of snow, then cover the snow with the hay to protect it from those mid-winter thaws.

About the first of April, I remove the hay. When the leaves have thawed out, I rake them off. When the frost is completely out of the ground, I begin to raise the plants out of the soil. This should be about the 15th of April in a normal year. I place a fork under the top of the bush and shake a part of the soil off, but do not raise the plant off the ground. You can now see the outline of the plant and can use a spade to remove the earth from both sides of the bush. Then dig down close to the bush on the opposite side from which it was bent, and remove some of the earth there. Now the plant can be straightened up and the soil replaced around the base. They are now ready for pruning and the regular summer care.

The method is much easier than it sounds, if your soil is in good condition; and there is no comparison between the fine results obtained from the method outlined above and those from any other method.

GARDEN SHOW RESULTS

Twenty-eight members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis entered a total of 591 specimens and arrangements in the Annual Flower and Garden Show held at Powderhorn Park Recreational Center August 22 and 23.

Grand Champion of the specimens was a rose-type tuberous begonia entered by Bud Christenson. Sweepstakes Champion for the most points for specimens went to Bob Smith.

Both the Grand Champion for an all-yellow arrangement and Sweepstakes in the Arrangements Section went to Paul Burt.

The High-Point Scorers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Entries</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Bob Smith	49	103
Dale Durst	66	93
Glen Cerney	41	63
Otto Nelson	50	54
Frank Vixo	58	51
Dwight Stone	33	47
Paul Burt	12	45
Dave Johnson	27	39
Verner Carlson	21	39
Al Nelson	14	38
Les Johnson	38	38
Clyde Thompson	15	34
Fritz Holzman	21	32

The 11 most meritorious blue ribbon entries placed in the Court of Honor

Bud Christenson	Delphinium
	Tuberous Begonia (G.C.)
Fritz Holzman	Rose "Peace"
	Rose "Garden Party"
Frank Vixo	Petunia "Blue Lace"
	Marigold "Climax"
Al Nelson	Celosia "Toreador"
Bob Smith	Hybrid sweetcorn
Dwight Stone	Clematis Huldeen
Paul Burt	A library arrangement-an all yellow arrangement (G.C.)