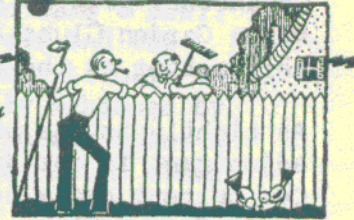




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



September 1965
Volume 23, No. 9
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Wm. H. Hull, Neil Barry

September Meeting

September 14, 1965
Judson Memorial Church
4101 Harriet Avenue South

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.

NOTICE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE

Due to a conflict with other activities at our regular meeting place, we will be gathering for this one time only at the Judson Memorial Church, 4101 Harriet Avenue South. This is the church home of Doc Stillman, Phil Smith, Dwight Stone and Phil Anderson and they tell us we can expect a good meal in a pleasant atmosphere.

Program

Eng Hoyme, our own lily hybridizer, will speak on "Lilies."

Archie Flack will talk on "Fall Preparation for Spring."

Two or three other members will discuss their gardens briefly.

DON'T FORGET! DIFFERENT MEETING PLACE.

CLIPPINGS

by Charlie Proctor

On another page we are reproducing a letter from Phil Conrath, President, Men's Garden Clubs of America. It will be necessary to reach a decision on this matter at the September meeting.

As tightly as our budget operates, it will be necessary for us to make some adjustment if our dues to MGCA are to be increased from the present \$1.50. Our current costs per member are: Spray \$2.25; Minnesota Hort. Society, \$2.00; Men's Garden Clubs of America, \$1.50; North Star Region, 10¢; contribution per member to Arboretum, \$2.50. These alone account for \$8.35 of your \$10 dues. This allows only \$1.65 per member's dues to pay all other expenses.

The \$1.65 per member for 120 members leaves about \$200, to which we add approximately \$250 from the plant auction and about \$110 from interest, to give us a balance of \$560.

Our other expenses are: programs and shows, \$260; Christmas party and awards, \$270; and cheer, \$50, totaling \$580.

As you can see, we are running a close race with a deficit, with no possible way to squeeze another dollar per year per member out of our current budget except for these alternatives: (1) Raise the dues to \$11 (2) Reduce expenses, which could be accomplished by reducing expenses of programs and shows, donation to the Arboretum or subsidization of the Christmas party, the latter costing the club treasury approximately \$200 annually.

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The American Hemerocallis Society periodically makes awards to the introducers of new, outstanding day lilies. At the August tour Cortis Rice had a plaque reciting "Honorable Mention by the American Hemerocallis Society to Dr. Ezra J. Kraus for the 1964 introduction of the Daylily 'Cortis Rice.' This plaque was presented by the society to Dick Lehman in consideration of the fact that he has worked very closely with Dr. Kraus. And, certainly there could be no more fitting tribute to Cortis, who has done much for our club, than to have a variety names after him.

* * * * *

We are missing several of the vases which were used for extra decoration at the flower show. If anyone took one home with glads, please return it to Bud Christenson.

* * * * *

After the White House Conference on Natural Beauty which our own Bill Hull attended, four bills were introduced with Presidential approval. They also need our support and MGCA President Phil Conrath suggests we write our senators and congressman urging support of them. H.R.8491 provides for the control of junkyards along certain Federal-aid highways. H.R.8493 provides for landscaping and scenic enhancement of Federal-aid highways and for other purposes. H.R.8487 broadens the purposes for which Federal-aid secondary highway funds may be used; and H.R.8489 provides for the control of outdoor advertising along certain Federal-aid highways.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

We have had a good show and President Charlie and his crew can take a bow. Considering the generally different growing conditions this year and the terribly hard rainstorm the night before the show, we were lucky to have a show at all. Although it seemed somewhat small, it was greatly enhanced by the displays which added to the uniqueness of our particular show. Shows in general are having difficulty maintaining as wide participation as in other years. I've heard this from many sources; two of the biggest shows of the Twin Cities note a gradual decline of entries in recent years.

Dale Durst and I were talking of some of the problems of the show and we agreed on the following two proposals we'd like to make for next year. President Charlie has already wisely called a meeting to rehash the show and we strongly commend him for this action. These ideas will be proposed there, but given here also to share our thinking with you.

1) Many of our members do not participate in the show at all. The number showing has traditionally been between 27 and 33; I believe it was 28 this year. Why the others don't participate may be due to many reasons. If we assume that one of those reasons might be that a member doesn't want to be embarrassed by entering specimens which don't place, we could avoid public display of his name by leaving off all names from entry tags. On each tag simply would appear the exhibitor's number. Then, after judging has been completed, the committee could very simply go around and write the winner's name on some or all of the ribbons. I'd suggest blue and court of honor winners only. The more Dale and I tossed this idea around, the more we were convinced it would bring in more participants. Another idea might be to ask certain ones of our members pointedly and directly why they do not participate. Of course, it is not a requirement, but it shows interest when one supports this club activity.

2) Dale proposed that the Sweepstakes winners (and, of course, he was hort-sweepstakes winner again this year, as he was two years ago) be given a handicap for the next year. That he be penalized perhaps twenty-five points, which could make him work harder the next year and would also give the runner up a greater opportunity to win. There is merit in this thought and it deserves serious consideration.

3) Another suggestion, made by several at the show, was that we reinstate arrangements. Why take them out simply because last year was a poor arrangements year? Admittedly, I didn't show last year, but it was probably the only time for many years. I believe we need arrangements as part of our show and should be replaced therein. To add vegetables as a separate class is also a fine idea but there is need for both. I'll bet a plugged nickel that arrangements reinstated next year will draw more members showing than will vegetables.

It's difficult to make suggestions without appearing critical. I don't mean to be, not at all; but where we can improve our operation, let's consider doing so. These are all meant constructively, simply to bring more members into the picture and thus ultimately have a better show. I've been show chairman and have worked on the show for years, with many others, and it is a difficult job.

1965 FLOWER SHOW - A SUMMARY

There were 532 flower specimen entries and 45 vegetable entries by twenty-eight different individuals. Not a record number, certainly, but a very acceptable showing. The quality of the entries was first rate and in general a winner of a blue ribbon really earned it. The largest number of entries by any individual was 59 and the smallest was four.

The Grand Champion in flower specimens was a tremendous red dahlia entered by Thor Solem. Grand Champion in vegetables was a Savoy King cabbage entered by Bob Smith.

Dale Durst was sweepstakes winner in the flower section and also winner of the Lehman trophy for this year. Bob Smith won sweepstakes in the vegetable section.

Court of Honor winners were:

Dale Durst	perennial aster	Thor Solem (2)	two dahlias
Bill Hull	hybrid tea rose	Dwight Stone	marigold
Al Nelson	flor. rose "Fusilier"	Frank Vixo	ruffled petunia
Phil Smith	amaranthus		"Blue Lace"
		Bob Smith (3)	Savoy King cabbage, Globemaster tomato and Eastern Butterwax beans

Here are the top scores in the flower specimen section:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Entries</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>Total Ribbons</u>	<u>Points</u>
Durst	59	14	10	8	32	70
Vixo	43	9	12	3	24	54
O.Nelson	41	8	6	6	20	42
V.Carlson	36	6	9	5	20	41
Stone	18	9	2	5	16	36
L.Johnson	21	8	1	7	16	33
O.Erickson	26	6	6	3	15	33
Sub Total	244	60	46	37	143	
Grand Total	532	112	90	70	272	

My sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make the show a success - those who helped get set up Friday night and Saturday morning - those who planned and arranged the special informational tables which contributed so much and evoked much favorable comment - everyone who turned out Sunday night to break up the show and set up the cafeteria in one hour and fifteen minutes.

A special word of thanks to our members from the professional ranks who provided and arranged the very decorative tables in the halls and exhibition room -- Bob Bryant, Dick Lehman, Ron Twite for the Park Board, Bruce Johnstone for Northrup King, Thor Solem and Bob Smith with their dahlias and vegetables. The Fulton School table attracted a great deal of favorable comment. Thanks, Les Johnson.

- Charlie Proctor

LETTER FROM MGCA PRESIDENT CONRATH

The following letter is from our national president, Mr. Phil Conrath, and will require action by our club:

Webster Groves, Mo., July 19, 1965

Dear Mr. President:

I request, if you please, that this letter be read in its entirety to the members so that they will understand what we are asking them to vote for and why.

We are on the threshold of a great surge forward to provide not only increased services but also to have a greater and more influential voice in horticultural circles provided we have the foresight to grasp the opportunity which presents itself. We have passed the point of no return from the provincial organization of our formative years when our group was small and our voices carried no farther than our individual clubs. Our numbers have increased and our impress on flower and vegetable growers within and without our organization, on kindred societies, on municipal, state and national governments is recognized.

We have been granted a tax exempt status which affords us many advantages but which also imposes obligations. This makes us eligible to apply for grants from foundations. Bob Waln and Charles Lea attended a symposium on foundations in Pittsburgh in May and found that money is available that could provide us with the means to carry on a program of research, establish a school to train practical gardeners and provide us with a modern national headquarters. It would release more of our own funds to enlarge and improve our very excellent and popular publication, The Gardener. Enlarged services on gardening and related subjects would also be available.

In order to avail ourselves of such funds from foundations we would have to present a proper financial picture. Our present situation financially is satisfactory. We have been hovering between an actual deficit and the smallest of surpluses. The present dues of \$1.50 are totally inadequate to allow us to move forward.

In examining our financial status, foundations would be unfavorably impressed if we could not demonstrate our willingness to help ourselves by relying rather on other means to increase our income. They would not want to make available funds to an organization that is too timid to help itself.

Other organizations do not hesitate to increase their dues without consulting the membership and yet, they continue to increase their membership. However, MGCA being democratic, refuses to do this. Every member has his say.

The financial committee warned that our financial condition was too unstable, and that we need more income. The problem was referred to the Ways and Means committee for study. The study resulted in the recommendation that the dues be increased. Their recommendation was referred to the Executive committee which in turn approved. But the question had to be passed upon by the Convention Delegates. They likewise approved. The Board was not yet satisfied. It felt that since the clubs would have to pay the increased dues, they should be asked to have the final say. You are asked to have your club vote to increase dues by an additional \$1.00 per member. A majority of favorable votes by your club would record it as voting yes. A majority of clubs voting yes would ratify the increase.

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We believe we have been fair. It is your decision. We ask that you approve an increase of \$1.00 in dues per member. There has been no increase for many years. Necessity demands one now. Please mail your ballot to the Executive Secretary, George A. Spader, to reach him by October 1, 1965, Morrisville, New York.

Confidentially expecting a favorable vote, I thank you personally and on behalf of the Officers and Directors.

Horticulturally yours,

(signed)

Philip A. Conrath
316 Arbor Lane
Webster Groves 19, Mo.

The above seems like a reasonable request. For the small amount we send the national office, all members receive the fine magazine, THE GARDENER, six times a year, and the club officials receive THE NEWSLETTER six more times, plus a great deal of help being available for the asking. National officers contribute a lot of time and expense money, without expecting any return except the pleasure of seeing men's garden clubs all over the country grow and prosper. Of course, MGCA is unique in asking for only \$2.50 a year, total. Compare with a well known national specialty group which is raising its dues from \$5.50 to \$7.50 annually!

Many clubs have already voted favorably on this request.

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Someone is killed every five minutes ...

and another 100 are injured in that same time, according to the National Safety Council. Although we think of these as being highway accidents, many occur in the home and in the garden. Let's each keep a sharp, critical eye open for accident-prone areas in our gardens. Garden rakes, power mowers, dusts, sprays, hoses, cultivators, all have lethal possibilities, particularly items that can be tripped over, stepped on, used as gouges, etc. Tools should never be left to lay around. Poisons should always be locked away or placed very high from the ground. Power mowers and trimmers should never be left connected and/or running while we walk away from them for a moment. We all need to be careful.

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FLOWER NAMES (continued from page 8)

categories of mental illness: Eschschlotzia, schizanthus is a form of schizophrenia, and euphorbia is the high mood of a manic depressive. Nemesia has to do with loss of memory. Trachymene is an operation in which they open the windpipe. Gomphrena and gypsophila somehow strike me as being not quite nice. Nemophila is rather weird. Myosotis is a gum disease. Viscaria is obviously abdominal.

PROMISING ORNAMENTALS FOR MINNESOTA

by Leon C. Snyder

The following ornamental plants can be seen growing in the arboretum. They are believed to have the necessary hardiness and to possess ornamental characteristics that will make them useful ornamentals for Minnesota. You are invited to visit the arboretum to see these and hundreds of other plants of potential value. Valuable new ornamentals that have been included in previous lists are not included in this listing.

Abies lasiocarpa arizonica (Arizona Corkbark Fir)

An upright fir with a bluish cast native in the mountains of Arizona. Color equal to the best of the Colorado blue spruces. Specimen in the arboretum is located on the east side of a natural woods, thus providing shelter from the west winds and late afternoon sun.

Acer ginnala (Red-fruited strain of Amur Maple)

Fruits of this selection are a bright red for about three weeks in July.

Aesculus arguta (Texas Buckeye)

A fast-growing small tree or large shrub. Similar to the Ohio Buckeye in general appearance. Appears to be fully hardy.

Aralia elata (Japanese Aralia)

An exotic tree with large, twice compound leaves, 2½ feet long. Flowers white in large terminal spikes in August. Fruits are black berries that are quickly eaten by birds. Appears to be fully hardy. The Devil's Walking-stick, Aralia spinosa, has not proven hardy in our tests at the arboretum.

Caragana aurantiaca (Dwarf Peashrub)

A compact, mound-shaped shrub of about four feet. Foliage dark green. Flowers small, yellow, pea-like in May.

Caragana brevifolia (Shortleaf Peashrub)

Similar to aurantiaca except leaves are smaller and the plant has a finer texture.

Chamaecyparis pisifera (Sawara False Cypress)

A fast growing evergreen that resembles the American Arborvitae. Foliage dark green. Several horticultural varieties are being tested and may prove hardy.

Clematis tangutica (Golden Clematis)

A very vigorous vine equally useful as a ground cover or on a trellis. Flowers are yellow and bloom from June until frost. Fruits are produced in plume-like clusters and are equally showy.

Cornus alba "Gouchaulti" (Mottled Dogwood)

A variegated dogwood whose leaves are bordered with a creamy yellow color.

PROMISING ORNAMENTALS FOR MINNESOTA

(continued)

Crataegus crus-galli (Cockspur Hawthorn)

The only fully hardy hawthorn that has any degree of resistance to cedar rust disease. The dark green leaves are quite glossy and hold on the trees until late in the fall. Horizontal branches and bright red fruits are other attractive features of this small tree.

Euonymus europaeus "Aldenhamensis" (Aldenham European Euonymus)

An especially attractive variety of the European Euonymus. The shrub has a good mound-shaped habit of growth and bright red berries. The leaves take on a good fall color.

Fraxinus quadrangulata (Blue Ash)

The blue ash is slow growing but appears to be fully hardy. A small seedling planted in 1954 is now a dense-headed tree about twelve feet in height. This species is easily recognized by its four-angled stems.

Fraxinus syriaca (Syrian Ash)

The foliage on this ash is finer textured than most species of ash and is a good green color. Our specimens are still small but have not shown any winter injury so far. May possibly be another good ash for this area.

Larix leptolepis (Japanese Larch)

Probably the most ornamental of the larches. Fast growing when young forming an open pyramidal tree. The bark exfoliates in narrow strips exposing a reddish-brown coloration.

Magnolia Xloebneri "Merrill" (Merrill Magnolia)

Selected from a seedling population from a cross between M. stellata X Kobus. A small plant set out in 1959 bloomed this year for the first time. These plants are in a sheltered location at the arboretum and may not prove hardy in more exposed sites.

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FLOWER NAMES -

Somehow onomatopoeia got lost in the rush when they were naming flowers. When you speak of variegated pittosporum, I always see a bird of many colors, rather a cross between the red-winged blackbird and a Baltimore oriole with a dash of parakeet thrown in. But the pittosporum (variegated) is at least pretty. Most other plants sound like diseases. If you stray in any direction from the safe realm of roses, pansies and daisies, you immediately get into something contagious. There is a beautiful flowering shrub in these parts, so what do they call it? Plumbago. Something a hillbilly has when he is down in his back. Torenia sounds like a kidney infection to me and salvia is a problem of the salivary gland. Coreopsis is a skin disease. Scabiosa must be catching. Coleus is one of those vague complaints when your doctor finds no sure evidence of colitis. Antirrhinum is an infection of the nasal passages. Calceolaria is more likely to hit an old man than the young. Oxalis and gloxinia may have to do with your eyes. And there is a whole list of flowers which fall into various