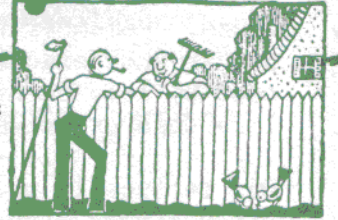




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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Club Officers: President - Phil Smith Vice Pres. - Dave Johnson
Secretary - Roger Anderson Treasurer - Vern Roufs
Directors - Clif Brisco and Carl Holst
North Star Region Delegates - Verner Carlson, Dale Durst

AT JUDSON

APRIL 14 MEETING

AT JUDSON

Do pay particular attention to the meeting place: Judson Memorial Baptist Church, 4101 Harriet Avenue S. Time remains 6 PM and dinner at the usual price.

Program: Dave Johnson leads us onward to three more member talks, which have been so successful this year. Vinton Bouslough will get to give his talk this month on weather and gardening, as a weather official. Leon Snyder will talk on Wild Flowers. Henry Halverson will tell us about Iris.

Sounds like a good meeting. Your editor has been out of town so much this year his attendance record is rotten. But he promises to be there this month so why don't you other absentee members join him and really surprise the good guys who are always there.

In Memoriam

GLEN G. CERNEY
1896 - 1970

We regret to announce the death of Past President and honored member, Glen Cerney, who died recently after a long illness. President in 1946, Bronze Medal winner in 1953, Glen had been a member of our club since 1943. The club extends its deepest sympathy to his family. We shall long remember him for his dedication to garden perennials and for his valued friendship.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Spring is here. Oh, sure, we'll have some wet, cold days, maybe even another snow, but it's here nevertheless. There's one way sure way we can tell. The woodpecker comes back. I mean that # + *xxx woodpecker that pecks away on our house. Remember the article in a previous GARDEN SPRAY? How does that woodpecker know exactly where to go - or is he a new woodpecker lured to the same spot by some scent his predecessor left? Do woodpeckers mark their territories like dogs or wolves?

Our lettuce is up. Maybe we should put that in headlines and send this issue to other garden clubs all over the country who think we're still snowbound. (Date: March 20).

Are you familiar with the Minnesota Organization of Blind, Inc? This is the group that sponsors the Fragrance Garden at 1605 Eustis Street, St. Paul. This garden was started in the spring of 1968. The first year the garden consisted mainly of shrubs, fragrant annuals and a few garden accessories. It had an area of about 4500 square feet enclosed by a rail fence. So much work was done in 1969 that it placed first in Sears-Federated Garden Clubs State of Minnesota Beautification Contest. First, in its division, that is. Contributions are welcomed and I'm sure appreciated. Phil Smith kindly sent along this story. Wonder if this wouldn't be a special trip some of us should make under our club's sponsorship? I'd sure like to go and would be willing to contribute to this tax-deductible service. Wouldn't you?

The Hort. Society has a membership program that is of interest too. Every member who brings in a new member through his affiliated club can earn a dollar for his club, the club keeping one dollar of the two-fifty dues. This applies only the first year of course. This sounds like a good plan and might help both us and our official state society which means a lot to all of us. Of course individual memberships (non-club-affiliated) are also needed and the same situation and rates prevail. Incidentally, this might be a good time to say a good word for our Hort. Society. A lot of our members have worked in its various committees for many years and several have been state president. We are fortunate to have such a group and also fortunate that it is partly state-sponsored or it couldn't exist on a \$2.50 membership dues situation. (See story regarding other garden clubs in this issue.) Can we help with members?

The board of our Minneapolis MGC has approved a \$35 contribution to the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden (Eloise Butler). This proposal will be presented to the club at the April meeting I am told. They have recently completed a \$25,000 building at garden and need some help in completing payment for the same. Several of our member have individual memberships but the board believes the project is worthy of our club support.

Welcome: New member Dave Goddard, owner of Avon Acres, a nursery near Elk River. Dave specializes in daylilies and iris and has spoken to our club on occasion.

A SPECIAL PUZZLE FOR GARDENERS

An enemy country has decided to wipe out the USA by sending over a missile to explode way up there in the air and drop a new and horrible fungus spore so it drifts all over the USA. We are aware of this and send up an anti-missile missile to wipe out the enemy missile over the ocean. In trying to program the point of impact, the experts find out that the enemy missile is travelling at 12,000 mph while our USA intercepto is travelling at 18,000 mph. They are 2,789 miles apart. How far apart are they at

BUGS FOR "THE GARDEN SPRAY"

by Phil Smith

It was good to see a large attendance at our March meeting. Al Wittman, the new Planning Director for the Minneapolis Park Board, presented an interesting talk on the future of the park system and showed several slides of new construction projects for the parks. Thanks also to members Ken Burger, Harold Dickinson, and Harry Sova for their varied and interesting contributions to the program.

FRAGRANCE GARDEN PROJECT APPROVED BY PARK BOARD

I am pleased to report that the Park Board, at its March 18 meeting, approved our request for help in supplying maintenance services for the garden project at 19th and Aldrich Avenue. The State Highway Department offered in writing to transfer title to the site to the Park Board. This approach was accepted by the Park Board and their staff has offered its cooperation in completing the project.

At the March 18 meeting, Supt. Ruhe was quite complimentary of past contributions of our club to the Minneapolis Parks and suggested approval of our request by the Board. The State Highway Department has offered to have a chain link fence installed around the property and we may be able to obtain water service from an apartment building located adjacent to the property.

Sooo, get out your working gloves, fellows. We have a job to do and the club will need the help of every member for this project. Chairman Nate already has a committee working to obtain the professional preparation of a proposed plan, and there have been several offers of plant materials. We should be able to make this site a worthwhile addition to the beautification of our city. There will be more information available at the next meeting.

PLAN NOW FOR MAY PLANT AUCTION

We hope you are planning and planting for your contribution to the May plant auction to be held at the Park Board Greenhouse at 38th and Bryant. This is an annual event for the club and the primary (only?) fund raising activity for the year.

We have several members who are the lucky owners of greenhouses, and many more fellows grow substantial quantities of plants under lights. Every member surely has a few choice perennials that will need dividing this spring. It's an easy deal to save the divisions and bring them in plastic bags to the auction. Ninety year old P. W. Young always makes a significant contribution of plants in this manner.

Cliff Briscoe will chairman this club function and we look forward to a successful auction. Let's not depend only on our professional members for their much appreciated donations. Keep your club's auction in mind this spring when you are planning your own garden. It's always fun to visit another member's garden in the summer and notice a planting which he obtained at the auction through your contribution to the club.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA IN TROUBLE FINANCIALLY

Every organization I belong to is complaining of financial trouble it seems. Our inflationary economy gets national attention but I doubt if government leaders realize how it hurts all of us, particularly the retired people on fixed incomes. My wife complains that prices are jumping rapidly at the grocery store, the highway commissioner of our state wants another 2½ cents gasoline tax and a 15% increase in auto licenses.

Gardening organizations are all in trouble again, too, it seems. The American Horticulture Society has gone to \$15, the American Rose Society to \$10.50, the Soil Conservation Society and the American Orchid Society, \$10 each, the American Camellia Society \$6, and the following are \$5: American Hemerocallis Society, American Peony Society, American Daffodil Society, American Iris Society. I can see why MGCA says it has to have \$5 or close its doors.

MGCA moved into its new building at a time of sudden high escalating costs of living and it is in trouble financially. When I attended the board meeting I wanted to come back immediately and discuss this with our club, but haven't had a chance yet. MGCA's physical move from New York to Iowa wasn't that much of a burden. Its costs of going into the building aren't that much greater, because really it's a modest, but nice, building. And the building and site are furnished at no cost to MGCA. As Harold Parnham, acting executive secretary, said, "We, here at headquarters are buying NOTHING that is not absolutely necessary. We are working on a \$6,000 deficit budget this year and about a \$7,400 accounts payable left over from 1968 was NOT considered in that budget. So, believe me, we here have a real, real problem to keep afloat and serve at the same time. And believe me, we are trying to serve. How many lodges, churches, luncheon clubs, country clubs - yes even bridge clubs - you belong to operate for \$2.50 a year."

So, the special finance committee has reported to the Board that there are only a few alternatives as to how more money can be received. The alternative to no more money is probably just close shop, and no one wants to do that. We're a non-profit organization so we can't go into money-raising schemes. We can't sell more advertising space in THE GARDENER because that's been tried by too many capable men (and the big gardening journals are complaining of that problem anyway).

MGCA is not paying its executive secretary a lot of money. It is without a full time man now and is paying Harold Parnham much less than the \$10,000 budgeted for a man. \$10,000 sounds like a lot of money to a retired man but it isn't to today's working man. I know a 23 year old boy fresh out of the university with one year's work behind him who is making \$16,000. The problem is that MGCA like all such organizations want more than a record keeper. We could get a record keeper for - maybe \$7,500 - but we want and expect an expert letter-writer, public relations man, and everything else. The job is a man-killer and right now practically nobody wants it judging by the few applicants.

I'd like to come before our club to show the complete financial report and to talk about it but I think each member should do his own thinking on this and not be led by firebrands who want to make sudden motions toward actions. This is our national organization and it needs our help. We are one of only three clubs in the nation that has provided a national president to this group. We are an old prestige affiliated Men's Garden Club. We have recently held an outstanding MGCA convention here in Minneapolis. Nobody wants to raise the dues to \$5.00 a year but that or something to be done to help if we want our national organization to keep afloat.

AN OUNCE OF SEED

I dropped an ounce of begonia seeds on the floor the other day (that's Begonia Semperflorens) and had to pick them up. I had a little time so I counted the ones I picked up. When I reached exactly a million seeds I gave up counting. How many seeds did I still have to pick up?

So I learned my lesson. I wanted to grow some amaranthus and decided an ounce was too much. I bought one-tenth of an ounce of them and had my wife count them just to keep her busy. When she got to a thousand she started complaining so I let her stop, with only a reprimand.

How many seeds are there in an ounce, anyway? Well, Mr. Sakata, the Japanese seed expert, says there's a lot. For example, I still had another million begonia seeds to go since there are two million in an ounce. The amaranthus seeds total 47,000 per ounce.

Of course it would indeed be rare for a homeowner to buy an ounce of any of these seeds. The particular commercial catalog I studied priced petunia seeds (280,000 per ounce) in quantities from an ounce down to 1/32 of an ounce or by packets of 200, 500 or 1000 seeds.

Of those flowers we might be most apt to have started in our house, or plan to start outside, here are the seed counts per ounce: Ageratum, 210,000; Amaranthus, 47,000; Antirrhinum, 190,000; Balloon Vine, 450; Balsam, 3,300; Begonia, 2,000,000; Celosia, 30,000; Cleome, 12,000; Coleus, 100,000; Dianthus, 28,000; Impatiens, 54,000; Morning Glory, 650; Pansy, 20,000; Petunia, 280,000; Phlox, 14,000; Portula 280,000; Salvia, 8,500; Vinca, 21,000.

YOUR EXPERT KNOWLEDGE NEEDED....

1. Who can write us a brief summary of pre-emergence chemicals for use in the home garden, flowers and/or vegetables? Tell us why we don't use these more, what's available, where obtainable?
2. Who can get us immediately a few paragraphs about soil preparation for a new flower bed some of our members may be starting this spring?
3. Who can tell us just exactly how serious and rampant Oak Wilt is in Minnesota, what are the dangers, is Oak Wilt going to be another Dutch Elm Disease, and is there anything a homeowner should do to prevent it?
4. Who can write us a few paragraphs on photographing garden plants? Tell us a few secrets about bouncing light, use of a few different film types, the whole story about the "free film" offers, other helpful hints.

THE GARDEN SPRAY is a little thin this month. We not only want your help. We need your help. Will you respond immediately? Probably not.

YES, I'M PROVINCIAL

Recently a friend accused me of being provincial. At first I interpreted this to mean narrow in outlook and I resented the statement. Since then I've decided that in some ways I am indeed provincial.

If it means being provincial to like the clean crisp air of the country, where one isn't nauseated by industrial fumes or where one's eyes don't water from automobile exhaust odors, whether this clean air spot is in the California mountains, the Minnesota lake country, the prairies of the midwest, or the beaches of the east and south, then I suppose I am provincial.

If it means being provincial to like those parts of the country where people aren't crawling over each other, living by spittle-covered sidewalks and riding in commuter trains whose chair arms are filthy with the print of thousands of hands....

If it means having the freedom of big public parks in which I hope to escape from man and his littered mess....

If it means living among clean, God-fearing, hard-working people of any race or color instead of being surrounded by those seeking to take advantage of me....

If it means living in middle-size cities and small towns where the residents somehow manage to get along without rioting, raping and robbing each other....

then I'm indeed provincial.

If it's provincial to want some privacy, to want to be among growing things--trees, vegetables, flowers, fields of grain, to be near the sweet smell of a lake on a crisp evening, the homey dampness of cattle at barnyard early on a frosty morning, the unbelievably quiet solitude of a remote lake with the eerie cry of a loon in the distance....

If it's provincial to provide the elderly with homes in towns where they know everybody, among friends where they can live out their lives with gardens and other activities instead of sitting on stoops, or being institutionalized....

then, Thank God, I'm provincial.

And we must preserve enough of this "provincialism" so our descendants can experience it to some limited degree. Today thousands have no inkling of life outside the concrete mausoleums in which they live, maybe happily and peacefully, maybe not, but some of us need these other benefits I've mentioned.

Yes, there's no doubt about it. I'm provincial---and I'm proud of it.

....William H. Hull