



The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

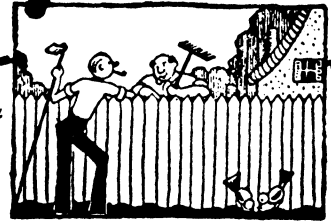
Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society

April 1972, Volume 30, Number 4

New Members

Robert Campbell
1806 West 50th Street
Minneapolis, Mn. 55419
Phone: 926-6385

Julius Wadekamper
Route 1
Maple Lake, Mn. 55358



Addition to Published Membership List

Schoenleben, Dr. L. A. (Thelma)
Route 4, Maryview Addition
Hutchinson, Mn. 55350
Phone: (Res) 879-5946

Dr. Schoenleben's renewal letter postmarked January 8, was found in the mailbox of the vacant house next to the spray editor's home on March 15.....the same day the papers carried the news that a carload of mail missing since 1970 had been found on a sidetrack somewhere in the East.

Mark Your Calendar - "I Must Attend"

Saturday, April 8: Kermit Olson Memorial Lectures by Dr. Arthur Hellyer British gardening writer at the North Star Ballroom, St. Paul Campus, U of M. (Mr. Olson was a valued professional member of MGC Mpls.)

Tuesday, April 11: Men's Garden Club Monthly Dinner Meeting at:
Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, Knox Ave. S. at
50th St. 5:45 pm

Carl Holst has again arranged a two part program featuring: (1) Pete Ascher of the Horticulture Department of the U of M who will discuss "Lilies for Minnesota"; and (2) Harold Nelson of the Richfield MGC who will tell us "How to Grow Dahlias".

Tuesday, May 9: Annual Plant Auction, MGC Mpls. (See Page 2)

All Summer: The Community Fragrance Garden Needs You. (See Page 7)

Next Year: Minnesota State Horticultural Society Convention. MGC member Phil Smith, vice president of the Society, tells us a two-day convention in mid-June 1973 is currently in the planning stage. The site, not yet chosen, will be in the Twin City area in order to take advantage of the Seventh District Flower Show or the Minnesota Rose Society Show and of the proximity to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The Viermit Olson Memorial Lecture will be a first day feature.

Robert Schwietz has been named convention general chairman. Sherman Pinkham of MGC Mpls. is to be finance chairman.

THE GARDEN SPRAY, April 1972, Volume 30, Number 4
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota
Edwin C. Culbert, editor, 5315 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417
Editorial Staff: Robert E. Smith, Phillip H. Smith, Donald Wilson.
Deadline for material the 22nd of each month.

Club Officers:

President: Roger J. Anderson Vice President: Carl J. Holst
Secretary: John E. Lillibridge Treasurer: Clifton Brisco
Immediate Past President: David W. Johnson
Directors: Henry Halvorson and James E. Perrin

LATEST NEWS FROM PLANT AUCTION COMMITTEE

Club members are demanding more from the Plant Auction this year according to a recent poll. This is great!!!

WE INTEND TO MEET THESE DEMANDS

If you haven't voiced your demand, let
CHARLIE PROCTOR hear it right away!!

The Plant Auction Committee is demanding more from you, too:

Material for the auction
(Let CHARLIE know what you have to offer)
Loose pocketbooks
Guests galore

\$\$\$While prices are going up, we intend to hold the line or reduce our prices. You can't afford to miss this auction\$\$\$

Big things will be sold by the foot, bigger things by the yard.

THE SURPRISE OF THE CENTURY----If you're not there you'll miss it!

And all these other pluses besides -

Big raffle of valuable items.

Special drawing for members who bring guests
one chance for each guest -

also

Special drawing for the guests.

Free lucky bucks for donating saleable material.

Spend 5 bucks and get 6 dollar's work of lucky bucks.

In Addition

Chances for free prizes - one chance for each dollar's worth of lucky bucks purchased.

The Date: May 9

NEW LOCATION: Pearl Park-Diamond Lake Road near Portland

ROG'S REFLECTIONS

In March, I had the opportunity as your representative, to attend a C.U.E. (Committee on Urban Environment) meeting where many of the City leaders met to discuss present day urban problems. At this particular meeting, five civic leaders who were in charge of community development projects gave progress reports from their respective areas of the City. Ed Peterson gave a presentation on the Loring-Nicollet Community Council where our Fragrance Garden is located. He gave a good description of the MMGC's efforts in developing the garden and showed before and after slides. Upon seeing the results of our efforts in bloom, the audience interrupted the presentation with an approving applause. I thought you might be interested in knowing how some of the concerned leaders of our City reacted to the fruits of our labor. It was certainly a pleasure for me to be present to witness this spontaneous testimony.

I am pleased to report that Vern Carlson is making satisfactory progress after his heart surgery. We are all hoping for your speedy recovery, Vern, and that you'll be out in that beautiful garden of yours come planting time.

I came across an article in my reading this winter that I thought might be of interest. This article, "Be Kind to your Plants" came from The Wall Street Journal, February 2, 1972. It describes the work that Cleve Backster, the polygraph expert who has experimented with plants, has been doing in recent studies. Mr. Backster's experiments seem to indicate that plants, besides having some sort of telepathic communication system, also possess something closely akin to feelings or emotions. The polygraph indicates that they appreciate being watered, worry about a dog, faint when violence threatens and sympathize when harm comes to animals or insects close to them. He has made many observations and now has 25 to 30 universities conducting similar experiments.

Mr. Backster began his work with plants in 1966, and now has acquired some research money to carry out his studies. He is not sure of all the implications of his observations, but he has found that these reactions continue even after fruits and vegetables are completely cooked or rotted away. Similar reactions are found in eggs and right on down to the single cell level. What's even more interesting is that distance, lead shields, or electric field interference will not screen it out. Backster thinks he is getting into the scientific twilight area. As an agnostic, Backster also sees some very high level theological and spiritual implications of the studies which he thinks could open the way for scientific exploration of the concept of the soul and there might be some scientific justification for the power of prayer. Backster is continuing his research in the area of Pavlovian conditioning and thinks he might find that plants possess the ability to remember.

This all seems very interesting and makes one think he'd better give those plants a little better care. It might make a big difference in how they look, or would you believe, FEEL.

Remember to get your plant needs to Bob and Charlie so they can make the May auction a big success this year.

- Roger Anderson

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After hearing Carl Holst, those present at our March meeting voted to notify the Park Board that MGC Mpls. favor renaming the Lyndale Rose Garden the "Lake Harriet Garden Center".

NOTES FROM THE HOTBED

By Bob Smith

As winter wanes each year and store bought lettuce becomes tasteless and doesn't satisfy, the craving for a good salad of home grown Bibb lettuce serves to motivate me to plant some Buttercrunch seeds on February 10. It takes four days for the seeds to germinate and it's only ten more days and I'm left for three flats and enough soil to fill them. It usually happens that I have planned ahead and it's necessary to go out in the flower bed along the front of the house and dig some half frozen soil. It doesn't take very long to screen and mix with sphagnum moss and vermiculite and transplant the seedlings.

In no time at all, at least it seems that way, March 15 rolls around and the seedlings have developed enough to transplant into the 6' x 6' hotbed in the garage that is heated by a thermostatically controlled lead cable buried in the soil. I'm sure glad at this time that I remembered to dig in a liberal amount of fertilizer and some fertilizer last fall that will be needed to properly feed the lettuce and also banked leaves around the outside of the hotbed to insulate against unexpectedly cold March days that usually come so that now it's ready for transplanting. I'm really anxious for that lettuce, I'll also remember to turn on the electric heat several days ahead of transplanting time so that the soil is thoroughly warmed and hope I had turned it off last fall.

Three flats of 54 seedlings each sure fill the hotbed full of plants. They look kind of sad after transplanting. To help them get over the shock, a plastic cover is placed over the lids give some protection from the bright March sunlight. After several days, new leaves begin to appear and with the soil temperature at 60 degrees growth comes quickly.

On April 1, the day for that first salad arrives. It takes a lot of thinning to provide enough lettuce and, of course, it's not quite as good as it will be later on when the heads begin to form and produce the succulent tender centers but much better than what the store can offer. As selective thinning continues the remaining plants just seem to explode and before long, I'm wondering how many are going to use up all the Buttercrunch lettuce. That's when our neighbors come into the act.

As the last lettuce is pulled, about June 15, just think, from a 6' x 6' hotbed I have been able to supply my family with more than enough of the most delicious lettuce that can be grown for three full months.

For those who don't have hotbed space to devote to growing lettuce, the next best way is to start it under lights about March 20 for direct transplanting in the garden in April with harvest beginning in early May, much earlier than by seedling. A few clay pots or other containers should be handy, though, for protection in case of frost.

If you can't do either, by all means seed some directly into your garden in early April. Bibb lettuce is easy to grow and its quality is unsurpassed by any other type of lettuce. Plant it in your flower border if you don't have a vegetable garden. It will add early green color to your border, provide you with quick eating and be out of the way before your annuals and perennials have filled the border.

Phil Smith will spend a week in early April in Paris representing a client in wide trade mark negotiations.

Dutch Elm Disease and WHAT we are doing about it in Minneapolis

We are indebted to David DeVoto, Park Board Forester, for this summary of the illustrated talk he gave at the MGC Mpls. March meeting.

There is currently a serious threat to the elms which make up about 80-85% of our Minneapolis trees. This threat in the form of a fungus disease called "Dutch Elm Disease", caused by the fungus *ceratocystis ulmi*, has become the most serious shade tree disease in the eastern three quarters of the United States. It was introduced into this country in 1930 in elm veneer logs imported from Europe. Unfortunately, the American elm is the most susceptible of all elms to the disease. A tree may die in from a few months to three years from the time of infection.

The source of infection may come from dead or dying trees, dead elm wood in wood piles, or dead wood infected but still live trees. The fungus can grow in this wood between the bark and the sapwood as long as the bark remains tightly attached.

There are two means of spread; by insect or by root graft. A root graft is formed naturally when a root from one tree grows past that of a neighboring tree. As the roots grow in diameter, they can become so closely pressed that they eventually grow together forming, so-to-speak, one root. The fungus can then grow down one tree across the "bridge" and into the other tree. An Illinois study showed that such grafting occurred at a rate of 29% between street elms growing within 25 feet of one another.

A method of stopping root transmission is now available. A soil sterilant called "Napam" or VPM is injected into the soil in a line between the diseased and the healthy tree. It kills a short section of the root system effecting the same purpose as the old trenching method. The disease fungus cannot penetrate this section.

Insect spread is accomplished by two insects, the smaller European elm bark beetle and the native elm bark beetle. The disease spread takes place simply due to the natural life cycle of the insect. The adult female lays eggs beneath the bark of dead elm wood in early summer. She bores a central tunnel, laying 80 to 150 eggs along the way. In late summer, the eggs hatch and the young beetle larvae, or grubs, bore out away from this central tunnel producing the characteristic "brood gallery" beneath the bark. The larvae then over winter.

In early spring, they pupate becoming adults and the young beetles bore out through the bark. If the disease fungus was present, spores are carried out on the bodies of these young. The beetles then fly, or are carried by the wind, to healthy elm twigs. They feed by chewing a small notch in the small twig crotches and in so doing, rub the spores off into the sapwood of the trees. If conditions are right, the spores germinate and the fungal strands or hyphae then grow outward in all directions killing and plugging up the sapwood tissues, causing death of the tree.

The first external symptoms of the disease are wilting and curling of the leaves on one or more branches. Sometimes a typical "shepherd's crook" appearance takes place in the twig ends. Internal symptoms of brown discoloration appear just under the bark indicating fungus presence.

Some cities in the Midwest have lost 75% of their elm population to this disease in 10 years or less. DesMoines, Iowa, has spent over 14 million dollars just to

A good control program consists of two primary parts, Sanitation and Scouting. In some instances, spraying is also used.

Sanitation consists of removing all diseased trees as soon as they are discovered. All dead wood in brush and wood piles should be destroyed. The dead wood in live trees should be systematically trimmed out and disposed of. For many years, the street trees in Minneapolis have been trimmed once every five years. We have recently been able to shorten this to a four year rotation. We are including all park trees as well, and, due to better financing, are able to do a more thorough trimming job.

Scouting consists of searching for disease symptoms and then taking small samples of twigs showing discoloration for analysis in a laboratory to prove disease infection. Let me emphasize that infection can ONLY be determined by laboratory culturing techniques. We currently send out four men each summer to search out and sample many suspect trees.

As mentioned previously, in some special instances, spraying of healthy trees to kill beetles before they can infect the tree can be used, if done discriminately. Our current spraying program is of a very limited nature. We have not used DDT for several years, but have replaced it with methoxychlor. Methoxychlor can only be used in early spring when temperatures are above 40°, winds are less than 5 mph and rain has neither fallen for 24 hours nor is predicted for 24 hours. This doesn't give us much time to spray. Another reason for our de-emphasizing spraying is that there are still questions as to the effectiveness of methoxychlor.

The future: There is a great deal of research being conducted presently to find a cure for Dutch Elm disease or better, simpler, more efficient controls. Until such time as these are available, only intensive care of our trees now, can save our valuable elm heritage for the future.

WRONG WIFE

We've had some problems with the 1972 roster - wrong phone, no town, wrong town, wrong zipcode, wrong street and now wrong wife! Otto Erickson writes from Sun Cit "My correct phone number is 602-933-4740. It is incorrectly listed in the 1972 roster....The letter A should be added in front of my name to indicate associate membership....And, please don't ever call my wife Maria. She won't like it. Her first name is Thora.

What amazes us is that it took Otto a good six weeks to find out we'd substituted wives on him. You fellow who aren't retired, who work long hours or are out of town a lot better look carefully again when you get home.

LET'S TRY ONCE MORE

The Spray just can't get P.W. Young's address down right. Last time the street was correct but the town is North Hollywood.

Bring that fellow you had as your guest last month back this month as a new MGC Mpls. member.

Bring a gardener friend to the next meeting. Urge him to become a member.

Never plant a garden any larger than your wife can take care of!!

Community Fragrance Garden
Dave Johnson

Let's keep our Community Fragrance Garden the beautiful showplace that it was last year. The Society for the Blind is expanding their facilities to replace the unsightly apartments across the street.

Major Work Days:

1. Clean-up and leveling of beds with ten yards of black dirt - 10 men for 3 hours Saturday, April 8, at 8:30. Call me by Friday evening (522-0132) if this is one of your choices. Bring rakes, shovels, hoes and wheelbarrows.
11. Planting of garden is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, at 8:30 - 15 men for 4 hours. Equipment same as above.
111. Fall clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, at 8:30 - 15 men for 3 hours. Equipment same as above.

Saturday weekly maintenance of weed pulling, removal of dead flowers and clippings of grass at base of beds. Sign up with a friend or better yet...sign up and get to know another member - 2 men per weekend.

Please sign up for one of the 3 special Saturdays plus a Saturday for maintenance of the garden. It will only mean 7 hours per member if everyone does his part. Check your choice.

Name: _____

Major Work Days:

April 8 _____ May 6 _____ October 21 _____

Maintenance of Garden:

May 13 _____	June 3 _____	July 1 _____
20 _____	10 _____	8 _____
27 _____	17 _____	15 _____
	24 _____	22 _____
		29 _____
Aug 5 _____	Sept 2 _____	
12 _____	9 _____	Oct 7 _____
19 _____	16 _____	14 _____
26 _____	23 _____	
	30 _____	

_____ will work any Saturday in case someone else picks my choice.

Schedule will be listed monthly in Garden Spray. If you can't make it, please trade dates with someone else. Tear off bottom half and bring to April meeting. If you can't be there....please mail and save me a telephone call.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

Dr. John P. Baumgardt, 1972 president, MGCA, has just assumed the editorship of The American Horticulturist, the quarterly journal of the American Horticultural Society. Dr. Baumgardt is a horticultural consultant and writer living in Kansas City. His picture appeared on the cover of the November 1971 issue of Grounds Maintenance, the Technical Magazine of Landscape Design, Construction and Maintenance. He serves as technical consultant for this publication also.

MGC of Toledo gives out its roster at meetings: "None will be mailed according to "Green Fingers," the club bulletin.

It has been announced that the Zonta Club has presented a gift of \$1500 to begin construction of a Fragrance Garden for the Blind and Handicapped at Crosby Park Gardens, Toledo, Ohio. The development of a Fragrance Garden is one of the important projects scheduled under the Crosby Park Master Plan.

Don Wilson will edit the May issue of the Garden Spray.

The MGC of Dallas, Texas, membership 99, has increased its annual scholarship for a Texas A & M horticultural science student from \$250 to \$400 effective in 1972.

The North Shore MGC participated in the famous Chicago World Flower and Garden Show March 18-26 for the 14th time. They did a four season garden.

THE GARDEN SPRAY
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5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Family Plan



UNITED STATES

William H. Hull
6833 Creston Rd.
Edina, MN 55435