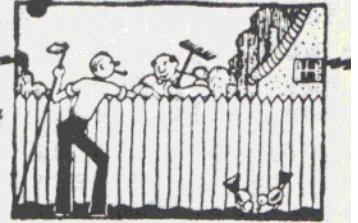




BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



The Garden Spray

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

April 1977, Volume 35, Number 4

IT'S APRIL! IT'S SPRING AGAIN (Maybe)! IT'S MEETING TIME!
for MGCM members and guests
at MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th Street at Knox Avenue South.

THE DATE: Tuesday April 12th. THE TIME: 6 PM. THE MEAL: \$3.00.

A DOUBLE BARREL PROGRAM (Should we say fusilade?) ON OUTDOOR GARDENING.
HOWARD KLIER and a movie on SPHAGNUM MOSS; plus
our HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE on EVERYTHING ELSE.

SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION CARD AT ONCE

* * * * *

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT

The March rains have come! Never have I talked to such happy gardeners. They are absolutely glorying in the mud and runoff of these early spring days. If the old adage, "April showers bring May flowers" holds up, our summer hobby will have a good start.

April is seeding month and I hope each gardener grows at least one little flat for his garden. There is something about starting your own plants from seed that makes you feel that each plant is truly yours. Blossoms come as a final crescendo to add fulfillment to the day to day enjoyment of growing a plant. Gardeners, like parents, enjoy seeing growth begin and young life grow strong under good care. Each has an intense love for life that demands expression.

Our April meeting will be the official grand opening of the 1977 outdoor gardening season. We closed our indoor season with a very interesting program on bonsai trees which grow both inside and outdoors. In April we'll have member Howard Klier and a short movie then a group of our club members, the horticulture committee, will give us a fresh spring start with a look into new gardening items and old, tried and true gardening practices that we can put into use. A question and answer period will provide us with opportunities to give and get help from our fellow member. There is a great wealth of grass roots knowledge in our membership which we can tap to provide mutual aid for each other, and especially for our new members, who have joined our club just to gain this knowledge.

Just a few weeks ago, one of our charter members, Henry Bachman, celebrated his 85th birthday. We all wish him many more happy days in the years to come. I have been fortunate to know many fine people in my life but our friend Henry has to be one of those truly "beautiful people", who are always delightful to be with and to learn from. He surely has been one of

willing to help and radiates his kindness and concern to everyone. This individual concern has helped to create one of our area's outstanding nursery enterprises and has also added a dimension to the lives of all of us who have been privileged to know him.

Action for the May auction is underway. Dave Johnson and his committee are working hard to make this 35th anniversary plant sale the very finest we have ever had. The club will gather the night of May 10th at the Linden Hills Park Center for a dinner that we hope will please the palate and pry open the purse. So many of our commercial nursery members are so generous in gathering their best plants and materials for this occasion that it would be hard to find better quality at any price. Don't forget to bring a gardening guest that night to take advantage of the super values and fellowship.

--Fred Glasoe

PREVIOUS MEETINGS REVIEWED

THE FEBRUARY PROGRAM opened with a showing of the film "Plant Life and Work" done in time lapse photography following which Mel Sather with the aid of color slides described a wide range of gesneriads which can be grown as house plants.

Sinningia speciosa, the florist's gloxinia, dies back and becomes dormant for a period of weeks after the blooming season, but will sprout again and renew the cycle. There are many other tuberous gesneriads worth growing in the home. Available are *Chrysothemis*, *Lietzia* and *Sinningia*.

Another group of gesneriads grows from scaly rhizomes. The plants that develop from them are grown in the same way as gloxinias, including the rest period. *Smithianthas* are aptly described by their common name of Temple Bells. *Kohlerias* and *Achimenes* also grow from rhizomes.

Still another large group of gesneriads consists of those with fibrous roots. These grow all year long, without a rest period. The familiar African violet belongs in this group. The *Streptocarpus*, or cape primrose, has many varieties and species. The *Episcia*, also known as the flame violet, is a vine with runners like a strawberry plant. The *Columneas* are also generally vining, with spectacular flowers. The Lipstick Vine, a species of *Aeschynanthus*, is also a rewarding plant to grow in the home.

At THE MARCH MEETING Kevin Oshima after defining bonsai as "the art of dwarfing trees or plants" went on to tell us, Bonsai trees are not starved - not grotesque - not stunted - not dehydrated - not unhealthy - not distorted; but they may be centuries old. They are a beautiful and artistic reflection of nature in miniature and they must have seasonal change--be outdoors part of the time. "Treat a tree like a tree....Go easy on the watering....If you treat (trees) like house plants they are going to die."

Some must have the soil renewed every year; others can be quite happy with repotting every second or third year. Fruit and flowering trees require yearly repotting. Pines, junipers, and oaks can wait longer. At repotting time the root ball is reduced in volume but not all of the soil is removed. The plant is then returned to its container and new soil of the type favorable to that particular variety of tree is carefully tamped in around it. Tops are pruned to balance root pruning loss. In addition some pinch-

DON'T SAY "POT" SAY "CONTAINER GARDENING"

By Dwight Stone

Several years ago pot gardening became popular and as an experiment I tried a few plants in pots. Now that I'm a little older and that type of gardening resembles me I've changed it to "container" gardening.

Container gardening takes more care than planting directly into the garden. When planting directly into the garden the plant roots can seek moisture and food, whereas in container gardening the plant roots are confined and depend upon you to supply the moisture and food necessary for life.

It is important to keep the dead bloom and damaged foliage removed from container grown plants. By removing the dead flowers and damaged leaves the plant will work harder to supply new bloom and new foliage.

Almost any plant can be grown in a container with success. Some of the plants I enjoy most grown in containers are passion flower vine, blue bird althea, cannas, begonias, cascade petunias and geraniums. There are others too: marigolds, corn, tomatoes, fuchsia, various vines. Yes almost anything.

This past year I had in containers the following: Six baskets of cascade petunias; six baskets of geraniums; two containers of canna; six hanging baskets of begonias; two tomatoes; one passion flower; two marigolds; an thirty tuberous begonias. Some of the material turned out real good, to In fact a specimen from the passion flower vine and a bloom from the can were entered in the August 21 and 22 Flower and Vegetable Show and each won a blue ribbon.

If you should experiment with container gardening be sure to remember that regular watering is a necessity - It might be necessary to water the containers every day and sometimes twice a day. If a weekend away from home is in order, be sure to arrange for a plant sitter because if you don't it may be the compost heap for your plants Monday morning.

So when you think "Container Gardening" think of me. When someone says "Dwight's garden is going to 'pot'", don't be alarmed, they mean contain

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Containers in the form of hanging baskets can, indeed, add a new dimension to your summer landscape. Often the open, vertical space of the indoor garden, carport, patio, balcony, porch or under trees goes unused. Hanging baskets in these areas help to create a delightful atmosphere of color, summer coolness, and interest to open spaces or bare walls. They are most useful to the gardener whose planting areas are limited.

Due to summer heat, baskets do best in shade. Popular basket plants include ferns, garden mint, Swedish Ivy, airplant or spider plant, wandering Jew, impatiens, and many others.

Dwight is right, baskets require good watering. Some say it is best to take the baskets down and soak in a tub thoroughly.

For a more detailed listing of plants suggested for container gardening sun or shade and the size container needed turn to the next page.

APPROXIMATE SIZE OF CONTAINER NEEDED FOR SELECTED

VEGETABLES

Lettuce, leaf...1 in 6" pot
 Lettuce, head...1 in 8" pot
 Radishes...15-20 in 10" pot
 Pepper...1 in 2½ gal. container
 Eggplant...1 in 3 gal. container
 Tomato, Tiny Tim, Small Fry...1 in 10" pot
 Tomato, Pixie, Patio, Presto...1 in 12" pot
 Tomato, Tumbler Tom...3 in 12" hanging basket

HERBS

Basil...1 in 4" pot
 Parsley...1 in 4" pot
 Thyme...1 in 4" pot
 Chives...1 clump (2-3 plants)
 in 4"-6" pot

SIZE CONTAINER NEEDED FOR CERTAIN FOLIAGE AND FLOWERING PLANTS

Foliage type:

☀ **FOR SUN**

Agave (8")
 Aloe (6")
 Crassula (jade plant) (6")
 Haworthia (4")
 Sedum (4")
 Sempervivum (3")
 Vinca vine (var.) (4")
 Yucca (P) (8")

☾ **FOR SHADE**

(Almost any indoor foliage plant could be used in shade outdoors.)
 Asparagus "ferns" (any) (5")
 Caladium (5")
 Coleus (6")
 English or Baltic ivy (P) (5")
 Ferns (any) (6")
 German ivy (Senecio) (5")
 Impatiens (5")
 Inch plants (tradescantia group, any) (4")
 Spider plant (Chlorophytum) (4")
 Strawberry saxifrage (P) (4")
 Swedish ivy (Plectranthus) (5")

Flowering type:

Ageratum (5")
 Chrysanthemum (6")
 Grape-myrtle (dwarf) (8")
 Daylily (dwarf) (8")
 Exacum (5")
 Geranium (6")
 Lantana (6")
 Marigold (5")
 Petunia (5")

Achimenes (5")
 Begonias (many) (5")
 Browallia (5")
 Episcia (5")
 Fuchsia (5")
 Hosta (P) (8")
 Impatiens (5")
 Lobelia (4")

PARTICULARLY GOOD FOR HANGING BASKETS
 (because of cascading habit)

☀ **FOR SUN**

Foliage type:
 English ivies (miniatures best) (P) (5")
 German ivy (Senecio) (5")
 Inch plants (tradescantia group, any) (4")
 Moneywort (Lysimachia) (P) (5")
 Sedum morganianum (donkeytail) (4")
 Vinca major variegated (4")

☾ **FOR SHADE**

Many house plant vines such as philodendron, pothos, hoyo, etc.
 English ivies (miniatures best) (P) (5")
 Golden archangel (Lamium) (P) (6")
 Rosary vine (Ceropegia) (5")
 Spider plant (Chlorophytum) (4")
 Strawberry saxifrage (P) (4")
 Swedish ivy (Plectranthus) (5")

Flowering type:

Alyssum (sweet) (4")
 Bougainvillea (8")
 Ivy geraniums (6")
 Petunias (cascade types) (5")
 Shrimp plant (Beloperone) (6")
 Verbena (5")

Achimenes (5")
 Aeschynanthus (5")
 Begonias (tuberous and many others with stemmy habit) (6")
 Browallia (5")
 Campanula isophylla (6")
 Columnea (5")
 Episcia (5")
 Fuchsia (5")
 Thunbergia (6")

COMPOST FREE OF CHARGE

Hennepin County will have compost available at its two sites this Spring. The south site is located in Eden Prairie, 2-3/4 miles south of the intersection of 494 and County Road 18, then one mile west on County Road 1; and the Maple Grove north site is one mile west of County Road 18 just off County Road 109. These sites will be open seven days a week, starting April 1 until all compost has been distributed. Hours of operation will be 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. On weekends a loading machine will be on hand to load trucks and trailers.

The compost will be free of charge. Distribution will be limited to non-commercial users the first three weeks (April 16 - May 9), then to all persons thereafter.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert G. Churilla, a production supervisor, Maxi Switch Company.
 John C. McGinty, an airline instructor, Northwest Orient Airlines.
 Bob Nelson, a salesman, 3M Company.
 Kevin Oshima, a bonsai specialist.
 Charles A. Paulus, Blue Cross-Blue Shield claims department.

In Memoriam

CLIFTON J. BRISCO

THURBER DAY

During the past month two of our long-time members, Clif Brisco and Thurber Day, have been taken by death.

Clif Brisco died February 21st after a gradual decline in health. He was born on a farm at Greene, Iowa. Most of his life was spent in connection with the automobile industry, eventually as head of his own company. As a young man he did some auto racing and he said he had broken bones to prove it. He was a director of the Central Northwestern National Bank for 23 years. Clif is survived by his wife, Dorothy, who has carried on the garden work admirably during his illness.

Thurber Day died February 28th after a comparatively short illness. He was reared on the family farm at Plattsburg, N. Y. He came West in 1912 and was employed by General Electric for 40 years, interrupted by service in World War I. He was one of G.E.'s top salesmen. Thurb had an interest in community affairs and served his church as Treasurer for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, two daughters and 4 grandchildren.

Both of these men had a keen appreciation of Nature and took delight in their gardens. They were good gardeners, our good friends, but above all, they were two fine gentlemen. They will be missed.

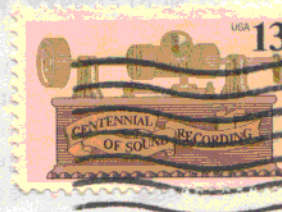
Return to
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FIRST CLASS

To

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1977 National Convention
Raleigh, N.C. June 29-July 1