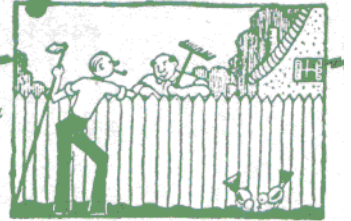




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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Ed Culbert, asst. editor. Charlie Proctor and Phil Smith, associates.

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

LADIES AND OTHER GUESTS INVITED TO

ANNUAL AUGUST GARDEN TOUR, 5:45 P.M. TUESDAY, AUGUST 11th

Meet at: Home of Bob Smith, 3210 Chase Drive, Minnetonka Mills, at 5:45 to tour Bob's garden and for dinner (served at 6:00). We will then tour three other gardens in the west side area, namely those of Roger Anderson, Floyd Ashley and Bob Bryant.

Directions to Bob Smith's home: Turn north on McGinty Road off of Minnetonka Blvd., then right on Chase Drive (second road to the right). Roads are narrow so park on one side only.

Cost: \$2.50 per person, including dinner, bus fare and rental of tables and chairs. (For our next meeting, we will return to the usual cost of \$2.00).

IT'S FLOWER SHOW TIME AGAIN

Dale Durst reminds us that on Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16, we of M.G.C., Mpls, Inc. participate in the North Star Region of Men's Garden Clubs Flower Show. The show will be held at the Hardware Mutual Insurance Company Building, 3033 Excelsior Boulevard, overlooking Lake Calhoun.

Entries must be in place before noon Saturday, August 15. Enter the building through the main doors on Excelsior Boulevard but park your car on the company parking lot.

The show will be open to the public from 4:30 to 8:30 P.M. on Saturday. Sunday hours for public viewing will be noon to 5:30.

THE SUMMER GARDEN: HOW SWEET IT IS

by Phil Smith

"What is so rare as a day in June?", the poet said. June means that summer is here at last, and the warmth and brightness of the summer sun and June flowers make us soon forget the long and bleak Minnesota winter.

The early spring bulbs and flowering shrubs have faded and June serves as a transition into the fullness of the summer garden. Spring and early summer seem to give us sort of a pastel feeling and impression of the garden. Many of the early flowers and even the new leaves of trees and shrubs are light of color and texture, but June brings us the dark greens and brighter colors. We know that summer is for sure. The rains and humidity of June produce a verdure which is wonderful to behold.

July brings us not only hot days and nights, mosquitoes and aphids, but also the color and full bloom of many of our best perennials. Most flower gardens are at their best in mid-July with the spectacular bloom of the delphiniums, lilies, phlox and other perennials, along with the added brilliance of the radiant annuals. Foliage is heavy and verdant after a summer shower, and we enjoy nature's tapestry of plants.

Fruiting trees and shrubs are beginning to ripen the berries which will be feverishly sought after by the birds and wildlife in months to come. Raspberries are producing a favorite crop and when they are covered with the morning dew, they radiate a nearly florescent glow.

When August comes, we all seem to relish the fruits and vegetables of the summer garden (almost as if there might never be another crop). The tomatoes, sweet corn, early apples and other fruits and vegetables surely play an important role in our summer activities and our enjoyment of the summertime. At this time in late summer, we seem to have our greatest awareness of the many characteristics of plant life and multi-forms of nature. We become more cognizant of the shortness of summer and soon realize that the children will be back in school before long and the main flowering season will have passed.

Summer is usually a time of doing and going, of flower-cutting and harvesting, of watching and enjoying, of dreaming and building. But, by summer's end we reach a real fullness and sense of completeness and begin to think of plans for the next year. These are the "dog" days or "lazy, hazy days" of summer. In another way, however, we rekindle a sense of urgency. We realize that summer may actually be no longer than spring or fall, and about half as long as winter. We begin to earnestly cherish the sunshine, the last summer evenings and days that should not be wasted, because we now realize that another growing season for the gardener has nearly reached its end.

Then, one day we notice a yellowing or perhaps even reddening in a few leaves, and nature begins to tell us that our feelings and senses have not misled us. The fall season and all of its glory is now arriving, but it cannot replace the sweet lush days when we enjoyed our summer gardens.

CLUBS TO VOTE ON DUES INCREASE

The dues increase proposal made in the May-June issue of "The Gardener" was taken up at the Thursday, July 23 business meeting of the M.G.C. delegate body. After extended discussion sometimes calm and collected, more frequently vehement and acrimonious, generally pro rather than con but no less heated, the delegates went on record with but few dissenting votes as favoring raising the national dues to five dollars. The officers were instructed to poll all clubs in good standing as of September 15, 1970 for a yes or no vote ratifying this action. There was a further provision that the directors cast an affirmative vote for any club failing to get its vote in by October 15. Polling and deadline requirements received unanimous approval.

This issue should be decided at the M.G.C., Mpls, Inc. September 8 meeting for our October 13 meeting is too close to deadline. Now is the time to do your thinking.

Acquaint yourself with the facts and the needs. Look up the gardener for May-June 1970. Read the President's Message, p. 43; From the Editor, p. 44; Notes From the Secretary, p. 44; 1970 Budget Report, p. 56; Special Note From Our President, p. 59. Talk to your delegates Sherm Pinkham and Ed Culbert or to Bill Hull past national president. Study the issue - be knowledgeable - be ready to vote.

AREA PUBLICATIONS WIN AWARDS

The national reviewing committee this past year "in order to give small clubs a better chance" established criteria by which club bulletins were classified in one of four groups ranging from the very modest (group I) to the most pretentious (group IV).

The bulletin of the Sioux Valley club was top-rated in Group I. The Garden Spray won top honors in Group IV.

This is the third successive year the spray has been honored. In 1968 it received first place among all bulletins. In 1969 it was runner up. This year, 1970, with the new divisional set up it was first in its division.

Dale Durst has asked to have fifty sample copies of back numbers available for distribution at the North Star Region flower show to interested visitors. We are glad we are able to oblige.

MISTER M.G.C.

At Des Moines in 1970 clearly Mister M.G.C. was William H. Hull of Edina. Wednesday morning he was honored for the garden spray. Wednesday noon he gave the keynote address, "A Turning Point in Time - The Destiny and Goals of the Men's Garden Clubs of America." At the Thursday business session the major suggestion in his keynote speech was adopted as a national project.

He gave the major talk, "Dreams and Realization of Our Own Headquarters Building" at the dedication of the national headquarters Friday morning. At the Friday luncheon with his comments and introductions to awards, he was a central figure.

BUGS FOR 'THE GARDEN SPRAY'

by Phil Smith

If we didn't see you at the July meeting, you missed a fine barbecued rib dinner and tour planned by Bert Zats and Carl Holst. It was good to see the many improvements in the Arboretum as Leon directed our tour on two large "hay" wagons. Boy, what loads of hay! In addition to the many plantings, Leon pointed out a picturesque red barn situated on a distant piece of new arboretum property. This is one red barn that will surely not create a controversy for the "U". The new picnic area is a major improvement and we also saw the site for the new research building.

We went on to tour the large (3 acres) home gardens of Leon and Bruce Johnstone, and also stopped at the fine lily patch of Merv Eisel. There must have been at least a half acre of lilies of all types, many grown from seed.

Assistant Editor Ed Culbert and I are getting out this issue of The Spray since Bill Hull has been out of town. Bill says this is the first time in nearly 20 years that he has failed to edit our club bulletin. That's quite a record! It is a real job to be responsible for the monthly publishing of this bulletin and we will be glad to see Bill continue with the job next month.

I am pleased to note that Duluth member Joseph C. Priley was honored recently by his city fathers. July 26th was proclaimed Joe Priley Day by the Duluth Mayor, and there was quite a celebration in honor of the gardening contributions and beautification of Duluth presented over the years by the efforts of Joe Priley. The day included a garden party held at the Duluth Civic Center and the dedication of the new Priley Fountain. Congratulations Joe. Why don't you join us in Minneapolis for our August tour?

My garden has passed its peak now, although I'm looking forward to the blooming of this year's crop of delphinium seedlings. I was surprised to return home on a recent Sunday evening and find my front border of delphiniums completely devastated. A neighbor soon appeared at our back door to apologize for the actions of his and some other small children. They had pulled apart the plants (several pulled up by the roots) and torn them into shreds and then spread them over our whole front yard. Another neighbor said it looked like a tornado had passed through. The several children (ages 2-4) had completed the job before anyone noticed. One father had cleaned up the entire mess before we got home. What do you suggest? Did someone say I should get a mean dog?

It's good to know that P. W. Young is doing better at home as this is written in mid-July. I understand that five (5!!) of our members contributed blood for P. W. pursuant to the appeal made at our last meeting, and that several fellows have also stopped by his home to work in his garden, which still looks real nice. Makes me feel good to know that our fellows are always willing to pitch in and help out in a time of need. That's an important part of the purpose of our club.

Our convention delegates were Ed Culbert and Sherm Pinkham, as well as national delegate Bill Hull. We had only these three members in attendance at the convention. That's not a very good showing for such a close trip. Maybe our Minnesota summers are so short and family vacation times so precious that it becomes difficult for many members to leave their families for a convention trip. I don't know all the reasons, but I feel badly that we did not have more members in Des Moines. However, I would also have felt selfish in using my precious little vacation time away from my family.

Bill Brooks (and his wife Janet), long time member who now resides near Phoenix, was in town recently and spent an evening with our family. Bill showed us pictures of his cactus garden featuring native plants moved in from the nearby desert and attractively arranged around his home. Bill also has a bird and animal feeding and watering area near his patio, which provides them with many hours of watchful enjoyment. Even bobcats and coyotes have been regular visitors.

NOTHING DULL AT THIS ELECTION

Ordinarily M.G.C. elections like P.T.A. elections are quiet. A nominating committee brings in a slate and voting is over with in a hurry.

It wasn't that way in Des Moines. The up-state New York delegation cast a bomb shell following the nominating committee report Thursday, July 23 by nominating a Colorado director for president in opposition to the Ohio man who had progressed upwards through three vice presidencies as is customary. The seething and the recriminations didn't cease until Friday when just prior to taking the vote George Spader with the approval of those concerned and to the relief of many withdrew the Coloradan's name.

When ballots were cast for the two candidates for Third Vice-President each candidate received 66 votes. A new ballot was taken. There were, supposedly, only 132 delegates but 135 votes were cast. A head count of the delegate section confirmed the 132 figure. Then someone suggested that national officers aren't delegates but have votes. Hence, there could be 138 votes in the room.

Blanks unused in the preceding balloting were distributed and delegates were instructed to write the name of their candidate on the reverse. The tellers came back. Some delegates had by chance received the few remaining copies of the official ballot form for Third Vice-President and had checked their choices in the appropriate boxes instead of writing on the back as instructed. Ultimately the final count was 68 to 70.

Your new national officers are:

President: Fred M. Craig, Findlay, Ohio

First Vice President: Dr. John P. Baumgardt, Kansas City, Missouri

Second Vice President: Kim O. Roberts, Santa Rosa, California

Third Vice President: C. Hal Nelson, Rockford, Illinois

Treasurer: Raymond A. Blue, Denver, Colorado

WATCH THAT BANDWAGON

Hamilton Mason, Garden Editor Better Homes and Gardens in the course of his M.G.C. convention luncheon talk warned that there is currently untoward publicity about the environment; that your own garden can help improve this publicity and reduce the emotionalism that kills a cause.