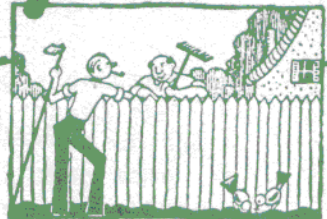




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

PARADE OF TURKEYS

PUNCH BOWL

DECEMBER 8, 1970

Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
50th and Knox Avenue South

Dinner: 6:45 PM Sharp (Punch Bowl: 6:15)

Price: \$4 per person

Reservation only. Still time to get the word to  
Dwight Stone. Call him at  
330-5903

GAY BACHELORS - EXOTIC SCENES (of gardens) - DANCING GIRLS (mature)

(All for \$4 each ? )

THE GARDEN SPRAY, December 1970 issue, Volume 28, Number 12  
c Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota  
William H. Hull, Editor, 7017 Dublin Road, Edina, Minnesota 55435  
Ed Culbert, Asst. Editor. Charlie Proctor and Phil Smith, associates.

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

BUGS FOR 'THE GARDEN SPRAY'

by Phil Smith

This is the last month that I will be responsible for writing a column for each issue of this publication. Having nearly served my tenure as the nominal leader of your club, I do feel some pleasure with some of the things we have accomplished; at the same time, I am regretful that some of the earnest plans I had at the beginning of the year did not see fruition. I am most appreciative of the cooperation I have had from so many good members. Several of you have expressed appreciation for my efforts. For my omissions or shortcomings, I apologize. Thanks for much good help throughout the year, fellows. I'm sure Dave Johnson will ask for more of the same.

When we planned the program for our last meeting, we wondered if some members would criticize a bird program as being unrelated to gardening. Our fears were unfounded, as Dr. Horace Scott presented a highly interesting color sound film which he had personally produced. His pictures were all of birds seen in Minnesota, many of which were rare to the casual observer. Included were the amazing pictures of an African bird with long streaming tail feathers several times the body length of the bird. This creature was beautiful in flight, and was a bird that had apparently NEVER before been seen in America. Nobody knows how it got to a St. Paul suburban area. Dr. Scott told of a new type of sunflower grown near Red Wing (I think) and which is small with a thin hull. He indicated it was a better variety for feeding birds, and suggested that our club could purchase the seed in quantity as a money-making project. Was anyone interested enough in this suggestion to inquire of Dr. Scott? Would anyone manage such a venture for our club?

Thanks also to Merv Eisel for his interesting talk, demonstration and show on terrariums. Merv's containers were nicely arranged with a variety of plants and I particularly appreciated his helpful suggestions concerning these plants and the materials most suitable for glass containers. Everyone cannot afford the luxury of a greenhouse, but everyone can easily enjoy a miniature greenhouse or terrarium if one follows Merv's suggestions.

I have received a good selection of slides from about 35 members for showing at the Christmas party. We would like to show at least a couple of slides from the garden of each member, but some fellows either don't take any or else don't get them to the committee. However, we should have a good slide showing this year, perhaps even better than average. Some of our members apparently feel that this tradition should be replaced at the Christmas party with something different. One suggestion for a change was to show travel pictures taken by our members on trips. Several members commented at our last meeting that Dr. Scott's bird movie would have made a good program for the annual party, and this might be a suggestion for next year when Dr. Scott will have had an opportunity to further edit and synchronize his film. What do you think?

I personally have always enjoyed the slide showing since it gives me a chance to see pictures and obtain ideas from many of our gardens, certainly many more than I can ever get time to see in any one summer. Maybe I just like to continue traditions. What do you like? Please let your club officers know your desires and wishes on this and any other club matter.

A letter came to me recently from a member and its contents made me feel good even though it contained a criticism of the Fragrance Garden project. The member said he did not agree with the project since he thought the highway department spends much money foolishly and could easily pay for such a project, and also since he thought blind people would not be able to enjoy flowers. However, he said he appreciated the effort I have expended for the club this year in view of the difficulties I may have encountered. He enclosed a check for \$25 payable to the Community Garden Fund (Fragrance Garden project). That is what you call real support. Such an attitude is indicative of a strong organization, or at least I certainly felt so when reading the letter. Although we sometimes may differ with one another, most of us continue to show our support for the club, its purposes and activities. I sure did like the response of this member who gave generously for a club project for which he does not have a lot of enthusiasm. Have you made a contribution? Please do if you are so inclined. Contact Cliff Brisco.

At our last meeting, there was some discussion (in connection with the dues increase) as to our club requiring automatic membership in the Arboretum as a part of our new dues rate for next year. This was only suggested as a possibility. The idea had been suggested to me previously after our debate on the national dues matter in September. By checking with the Arboretum office, I learned that 30 of our members bought a membership in the Arboretum this year. (Eight of those were for \$25 or more, twelve were for \$10 or more, and ten were for the usual fee of \$5.) With our annual budgeted contribution of \$300, plus at least \$370 from our individual memberships (not counting the "or-mores"), our members have contributed at least \$670 to the Arboretum this year. In view of these figures which show good individual support from our members, it was the decision of your officers at the November board meeting not to consider Arboretum membership as a part of our club's dues. The Arboretum would get little, if any, additional funds, our club budget would again be very tight, and we would remove the personal commitment which so many of our members apparently derive from their individual support of the Arboretum.

As the newly-elected VP of the state Hort. Society, I attended their board meeting on November 16. I learned that there are many national horticulture organizations planning national shows or conventions in Minneapolis in the next couple of years. Sounds great. Dr. Snyder gave a progress report on the Arboretum, and I obtained a copy for this issue.

I've said enough. Thanks for an opportunity to serve as your president.

P.H.S.

## OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Congratulations to our new officers who will take office in January! Dave Johnson will be our new President; Roger Anderson our Vice President; John Lillibridge, Secretary; Clifton Brisco, Treasurer. The new directors are Carl Holst and Art Johnson. Phil Smith remains on the board as Immediate Past President. We know these men will be superb leaders for us and we're all prepared to back them to the hilt. Spray will probably carry more about them in the January issue.

Ed Culbert reports a fine meeting in November, which your editor had to miss. Mervin Eisele's talk is reproduced in this issue. Dr. Scott's film on "Birds That Can be Seen in Minnesota" was superb. He commented on sunflower seeds saying they are cheaper if broken--and maybe more attractive to birds. One club, the Red Wing Bird Club, has ordered four tons of Hungarian sunflower seed which is smaller, darker and contains a higher oil content than what is usually available. "The birds really go for it", we are told.

You may want a note of the two source books he recommended: Robert S. Lemmon, How to Attract Birds, American Garden Guild (Doubleday), 1947, and U.W. Dodge and W.J. Breckenridge, Cultivate Your Garden Birds, Minnesota Museum of Natural History, pamphlet series No. 2., 1957.

Dues were raised to \$15 with only a few no votes cast. This is important to us because we have been operating on a deficit basis for several years. It has been a long time since we remember a board that didn't have to use at the least the interest from our investment to get it through the year.

All Men's Garden Clubs in the North Star Region have voted favorably for the dues increase. Minneapolis, North Suburban, Sioux Valley, Minnetonka and Richfield. This makes it 100 percent for this region. These are sad days for all of us to see prices escalating everywhere. White collar workers, retirees, anyone with a fairly fixed income can tell that his/her money doesn't go as far.

We had occasion to visit the Minnetonka MGC on November 17 and again were impressed with the good activities of this small club. Dan White and Andy again grew 247 or 248 pounds of potatoes from two pounds of seed potatoes. Last year Dan grew 474 pounds and 12 ounces from two pounds. That must be a record. The new officers for 1971 are Everett Clausen, president; Roland Maskey, vice president, Frank Rosekrantz, secretary and George Frederickson, treasurer. Stanley Crist remains as Immediate Past President.

One of the Minnetonka men is very impressed with a blackberry called "Smooth Stem" which he obtained from Ackerman Nurseries, Michigan. Recommended it very highly. Heavy crop, very long runners, huge berries and not a thorn on the plant. He's buying more Smooth Stem.

Jim Smith of North Suburban MGC puts out a whale of a fine bulletin in THE COMPOST PIT. Looks as if it's set in type. Very handsome. Jim reprinted P.W. Young's article on "Too Much Nitrogen" from THE GARDEN SPRAY, with our permission. Their slate for 1971 consists of the following nominations: Lloyd Wernecke, president; Gary Park, vice president; Donn McCoy, secretary; Edmund Peszynski, treasurer; and Harold Cragg, immediate past president. We hope some of this club can join us for our Christmas party this year.

ARBORETUM PROGRESS REPORT - IN BRIEF  
by Leon C. Snyder

1. Education and Research building. Architectural plans are about completed. We will be submitting these plans for bids in the near future. We now have about \$1,000,000 for the building. As soon as bids are in, we will know how much more money we will need.
2. Land payments. A recent gift of \$100,000 from the Bush foundation will cover the remaining payments on the land now under contract. This will give us 525 acres.
3. Special projects.
  - A. Dwarf conifers. A recent gift of \$20,000 from the Margaret Rivers fund will enable us to develop a dwarf conifer collection. This will be south of the Education and Research building and will consist of plantings on raised berms. Large rocks and retaining walls will be special features of this planting. Construction has started.
  - B. Pond and stream development. Three ponds are planned, one at the headquarters of the stream, one in the meadow below the main parking lot and one below the dwarf conifers. A deep well will provide water for the headwaters pond and will provide a steady flow of water through the stream. Money for these projects will be provided by Richard Gale and by the Margaret Rivers fund.
  - C. Extension of the azalea planting. Memorial gifts totalling about \$4,000 in memory of Mrs. John Budd will be used to develop a nature trail bordered by azaleas and natural bird food shrubs. This trail will be just east of our present azalea planting.
  - D. Paving of picnic area parking lots. Black topping completed on the entrance road and parking lots in the new picnic area.
  - E. Other projects. A memorial chrysanthemum planting in memory of Florence Aschenbeck was established this year. Negotiations are under way to develop shade covers for ground cover beds. Other memorials have enabled us to add memorial trees and construct benches.
4. Autumn Festival. About 7,000 people attended the third annual event. Gross receipts from this activity, sponsored by the Arboretum Auxiliary, grossed about \$6,000. We had a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed the event.
5. Spring plant sale. The spring plant sale was a huge success and showed a net profit of over \$4,000. The auxiliary has been busy with plans for next spring and has about 3500 plants potted and tucked away for winter. These will be ready to sell next spring at our plant sale.
6. Visitors. Approximately 100,000 people visited the arboretum this year. Tours were given to 315 groups totalling 16,000 individuals. Nineteen classes on nine subjects were presented to an average attendance of 45 people for each class. Four college courses were offered for credit.

TIME PASSES ON.....

by Bill Hull

....and so this is the last issue of THE GARDEN SPRAY that I'll be editing. It's been a busy and fun job of these many, many years and I again want to thank the many men who helped in this labor of love. I'm not relinquishing the job because of any lack of love for the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. There are just many other reasons...and perhaps I can help again in the future.

Please help Ed Culbert. He is a capable man, has been in training for this editorship for about 18 to 20 months and is well qualified, but don't let him do all the work. Call him with news. Drop him a line. Write articles for him. Do leg work. Take SPRAY in the printers for him. Help him mail the issue. It is a big job.

Thor Solem is off on a European multi-week trip that sounds like fun, including a visit to the Smithfield Show. We wish you bon voyage, Thor, and let us hear from you.

A hunter and taxidermist is Henry Bachman. We just recently heard that Henry was a taxidermist many years ago and has done some beautiful work. We'd like to see it, Henry. And he's still hunting. Recently, with his son-in-law, he got his limit. Good going, Henry.

Phil Smith gets our congratulations for his election as VP of the Minnesota Hort. Society. We're proud of you, Phil, and let us know how we can help.

We're sorry to hear that Archie Flack hasn't been feeling too well lately. Maybe too much gardening. We doubt that because it's a real labor of love for Archie. Had another beautiful border this year. Take care, Archie, and get to feeling better.

P. W. Young must be off soon for his winter in California. We'll miss you, P.W. Another one of our staunchest members and good friends, the club won't be the same this winter without you, P.W.

The Eckbo plan for the Minneapolis park board was discussed at the last meeting. Most members were in disagreement with publicized portions of the consultant's plan, such as islands in Lake Calhoun and swimming beaches for Lake of the Isles. A motion was passed of our club's opposition to the plan and our secretary was instructed to write such a letter to the park board. We are told this has now been done. It was expressed that our club has always favored improvements to the park system and additions to the landscaping and garden areas, but our members were generally opposed to the publicized features of the Eckbo Plan. For this reason, a motion was passed opposing the plan.

A million signatures needed. We'll report on this activity soon but are you doing your part? Please, fellows, we aren't expected to get a million here in Minneapolis, but let's get a few thousand--won't you get in there and make our club look good in this national project. It's so easy. Send them around your building. Take the forms to other meetings. People quickly sign this when given a chance.

Arboretum dues. See Phil Smith's column. If we as a club donate \$300 a year, why not give our members a chance to add another \$2 minimum and be members of the Arboretum (minimum membership \$5) so they don't have to pay when they visit the Arboretum? It would probably bring in more money to the Arboretum and would let our members in for a mere \$2 more a year. Our club as such (not counting individuals) has contributed many thousands of dollars to the Arboretum -- and I'm sure we want to continue doing so for this worthy cause--but this would be a simple way of letting our individuals benefit from the club membership. Let's apply this \$300 toward individual memberships.

#### WHAT IS A GOOD MEMBER?

He is an initiator. One who comes up with good ideas to help run the club more smoothly and efficiently. He compliments his fellows for a job well done. He lets his officers know what he likes in the way of meetings and tours. He never criticizes destructively.

He's active. He doesn't just pay his dues and expect to be spoon-fed at a meeting just to sit around and jaw with his friends. He digs in and contributes of himself. His money is the least of his contributions. He works and exhibits in flower shows. He helps on tours. He is a host and not a guest. He does what needs to be done without waiting to be asked.

He's friendly. He likes the guys in the club or he probably wouldn't be there. He welcomes the stranger. He remembers the fellow who has been ill, or away. He doesn't wait for someone to come over to him to say hello. He goes the extra mile himself.

He's understanding. He ignores imagined slights. He knows how difficult it may be for one fellow to talk on his feet but he doesn't care because he's more interested in what he's saying than whether he's a polished speaker. He knows that human foibles make us all do silly, stupid, thoughtless, "human" things that we wish we wouldn't.

Without him, our club, any club couldn't exist.

WHH

THANKS, PHIL SMITH

Thanks for being our president. A good president. It's a job that nobody wants but when a fellow accepts it, he seems to rise to the job. You've brought us through a year of which you can be proud. You've initiated some good activities completely new and different. You've brought us back at Christmas time to a beloved Parade of Turkey dinner. We thank you and your entire board for all of your activities in our behalf.



## TERRARIUMS

Mervin C. Eisel

Terrariums can add much beauty to our home or offices and require only minimal care. We can view a bit of green landscape even in the dead of winter. Often we are able to grow plants in a terrarium that would not survive because of the low humidity in many of our homes. It also allows gardeners to keep their green thumb active when they can't work their gardens.

Terrariums make attractive gifts. They would be especially appropriate for a grandson or a business associate.

The container used should be clear glass and have ample room for the plants to grow. Tools useful in constructing a terrarium in a bottle should include: a spoon attached to a bamboo handle, a hook bent from an aluminum rod to hold plants in place while planting, and a gadget for weeding. Phil Smith says he has a pruning device which enables him to prune in the bottle. This would be a useful tool. A funnel is helpful when adding the soil to the container.

Before the soil is added, the container is lined with moss secured from the woods. (It is available from some greenhouses but is dead; however it is more attractive than soil.) Internal drainage must be provided. A mixture containing equal parts of charcoal and buckshot (about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " pebbles) has worked well. An inch to an inch and a half of this mix should be used.

The soil used can be any potting soil that is not too fertile. A soil mix containing 3 parts garden loam, 2 parts organic matter, 1 part sand can be used. If possible this should be sterilized to minimize insect and weed problems. Never fill more than one third the container with soil, otherwise it becomes too dominating. Many are filled to about half and generally speaking this is not good proportions.

To add interest leave the surface uneven rather than level.

In planting a terrarium we should try to duplicate only a single natural environment such as tropical, northern woodland, or southern woodland. Cacti and succulents are not appropriate plants. Included is a list of terrarium plants. Be certain your plants are free of pests before planting. The plants used should tolerate high humidity, medium to low light intensity, grow slowly and resistant to disease and pest problems.

Start with a large plant or clump of plants for the focal point of your planting. Additional plants should seem to grow naturally around this. Avoid too much color variety in plants. Rather than leave bare soil, a covering of native moss is more interesting and attractive. Accessories can be added. Be careful that they do not compete with the plants for interest. Bits of decaying wood, rocks, lichens and fungi are easier to use than ceramic animals. Brightly colored rocks and shells produce a cheap gaudy effect.

After planting is completed water sparingly. Use the water to clean the sides of the container and remove soil on the plants. Add a bit of water, let it penetrate the soil. Add enough water to slightly moisten the soil. OVERWATERING IS ONE OF THE QUICKEST WAYS TO KILL A TERRARIUM. It should then be placed where it will receive good light but not in direct sunlight.

As many gardeners know the size of the garden does not indicate quality. A terrarium is truly a mini-garden which produces maximum enjoyment.

PLANTS FOR TERRARIUMS

(Some of these grow fairly large and pruning will be necessary)

Sweet Flag - - - - -	Acorus gramineus pulchellus
Variegated Sweet Flag- - - - -	Acorus gramineus variegatus
Maidenhair Ferns - - - - -	Adiantum sp.
Chinese Evergreen- - - - -	Aglaonema commutatum
Ginger plant - - - - -	Amomum cardamon
Warnecki Dracaena- - - - -	Dracaena deremensis and selections
Spotted Dracaena - - - - -	Dracaena godseffiana " sanderiana
Rednerve Fittonia- - - - -	Fittonia verschaffelti
Silvernerve Fittonia - - - - -	" " argyroneura
Baby's Tears - - - - -	Helxine soleroli
Prayer Plant - - - - -	Marantha leuconeura
Showy Prayer Plant - - - - -	" " kerchoreana Pellionia daveanana Pellionia pulchra
Ovalleaf Peperomia - - - - -	Peperomia obtusifolia and selections
Watermelon Peperomia - - - - -	" sandersi
Aluminum Plant - - - - -	Pilea cadieri
Friendship Plant - - - - -	Pilea involucrata
Variegated Pittosporum - - - - -	Pittosporum tobira variegata
Ribbon Brake Fern- - - - -	Pteris cretica albo-lineata
Moses in Cradle- - - - -	Rhoeo spathacea
Strawberry Geranium- - - - -	Saxifrage sarmentosa
Selaginella- - - - -	Selaginella uncinata and others
Arrowhead Plant- - - - -	Syngonium podophyllum and selections
Piggy-back Plant - - - - -	Tolmiea menziesi
Wandering Jew- - - - -	Tradescantia fluminensis and selections
Wandering Jew- - - - -	Zebrina pendula and selections

NATIVE PLANTS SUITED TO TERRARIUMS

Pipsissewa - - - - -	Chimaphila umbellata
Bunchberry - - - - -	Cornus canadensis
Wild Strawberry- - - - -	Fragaria virginiana
Wintergreen- - - - -	Gaultheria procumbens
Rattlesnake Plantain- - - - -	Goodyera pubescens
Hepatica - - - - -	Hepatica americanum
Clubmoss - - - - -	Lycopodium sp.
Partridge Berry- - - - -	Mitchella repens
Shinleaf - - - - -	Pyrola elliptica
Violets- - - - -	Viola sp.