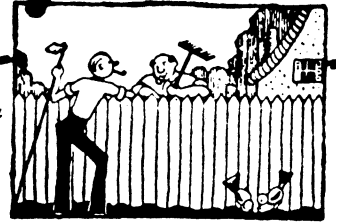




The Garden Spray

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

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



February 1975, Volume 33, Number 2

NEXT MEETING, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11th,
MT. OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th Street at Knox Avenue South.
Dinner \$2.50 at 5:45 P.M. Program at 7:00 P.M.

Don Wilson says, "For years MGCM members have said getting young people interested in gardening would be the best thing we could do. Now's the chance--an unprecedented opportunity to get in on the ground floor. Our speaker, FRED GLASOE, is an operating expert in the field. He is coordinator of the Horticulture Center and Plant and Animal Learning Centers St. Paul's public schools.

"The major part of Fred's talk, IF THE KIDS CAN DO IT SO CAN YOU, will be about children's researching for modern gardening. He will also discuss fluorescent and other light gardening. There will be slides showing the centers and 3rd and 4th graders doing our thing. Let's hope the kids become gardeners and ecology minded adults."

BOB LIVINGSTON SEZ:

Our January meeting was a great way to start 1975. We had a fine turnout to hear Dr. Fulmer's graphic description of the world's food problem. Bill Cowcill's mystery containers were a mystery to me. I did venture guess as to their contents wishing all the time that I didn't have to sign my name on the back of the slip. Happily, extensive horticultural knowledge is not a prerequisite for a club president.

I've already received seven seed catalogs. It's fun to peruse catalogs and order seeds and plants for spring planting. I like all of these publications but the one I like best is THE GARDEN BOOK of the White Flower Farm. The authors entertainingly combine considerable information about gardening with a reasonably accurate description of the plants they sell. I recommend it to you.

Consumer Goods International, Inc. of Jonathon has offered us free samples of GREENAID HOUSE PLANT FOOD. Over the years I've become distrustful of the word "free". However, this seems to be a valid offer from a reputable firm. Hopefully, we will have a trial bottle for each person attending the February meeting.

At our board meetings I've learned that Fred Glasoe has a most interesting career and is a skilled gardener. All of us should enjoy our February meeting when Fred shares his teaching experiences and gardening expertise with us.

The photography contest being held February 1-16 at the Arboretum Education and Research Building for the benefit of the arboretum dark room

THE JANUARY MEETING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1974 (JIM PERRIN) 1974 was by and large a good year. Basically we continued the successful established format of the club. We tried some new ideas and reinstated some old ideas. Some were disappointing and others very gratifying.

The Good News:

1. A new more readable roster by John and Nancy Lillibridge.
2. Two terrific flower shows courtesy Dale Durst and Marlin Gilhau
3. Two field trips: to the Bachman growing area near Farmington and the new Arboretum building--arranged by Bob Livingston.
4. A successful May Auction with excellent quality materials thank the hard work of Bud Christenson, Bruce Johnstone and Darwin Price.
5. Two terrific summer garden tours arranged by Rog Anderson and J Mielke.
6. A beautifully handled and organized Christmas Party thanks to D Johnson and Dean Schneider.
7. The new ROOKIE OF THE YEAR award--Sherm Pinkham and Larry Corbe
8. The historian series in the SPRAY by Bill Hull. I hope copies of his entire series will be made available to new members of the Club
9. We increased our support to the Arboretum.
10. We supported the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and the Normandale Japanese Garden with contributions.

The Bad News:

1. We lost three important members of the club. Our appreciation to Dick Hulbert for the beautiful thoughts he shared with us at the Christmas party.
2. Disappointing attendance by our club members at the beautiful flower show. Hope we can increase club participation in 1975.
3. We tried the Mini Tour or Weekend Open Garden idea used by another M.G.C. group but very few availed themselves of the opportunity to visit fellow members in their own gardens.

1974 was by and large a good year, but 1975 will be a better one. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve the club and for the spirit and unselfish cooperation of the board, the committee chairmen and the membership.

The SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1974 (DON WILSON) abridged. New members during the year were: Wayne Hergott, John Fowler, Clarence Knoblauch, Raymond Marshall, D. Cameron Smith, Lee Kness, Frederick Lang, Mark Will Leonard Lampert, John Stevens, Richard Victor, Orville Evenson and Thale Solem. Because our club ended up with more members than the previous year, we were proclaimed an "Honor Club" by the national organization and awarded a certificate.

Death claimed members James Lowrie, Norman Johnson and Harold Kaufman

Highlights were the Christmas Party of over 200 people with 14 guests from Minnetonka M.G.C. and 12 from North Suburban, the May Auction (attendance 71), the tour of the Bachman greenhouses, the July tour (attendance 11). Average attendance at Mt. Olivet meetings was 62.

Carl Holst was elected Regional Chairman and Sherm Pinkham National

DR. RICHARD FULMER TOLD US, 25% of all the people who ever lived are alive today. (2/3 of them are hungry and malnourished.) It took 2 million years for world population to reach the first billion; but in the last 15 years we have gone from 3 billion to 4 billion. In 1974 alone 80 million were added. Life expectancy rates have had much to do with this. Life expectancy B.C. was 18 years; A.D. 1 it was 22 years. By 1960 in the U.S. it was 70 years. Meanwhile, birthrate in the U.S. has been steadily declining. In 1776 there were 8 children per family; in 1850, six; in 1900, four; in 1968, 2.7; in 1972, 2.08.

Domestic animals eat 5 times as much as all the people in the world. However, ruminants do consume and convert into edible protein, forage we can't eat. Thus, an acre of forage can produce per year 43 pounds of protein in the form of beef or 77 in the form of milk. Soybeans as beans produce 450 pounds of protein per acre per year and alfalfa produces 60 pounds of extracted protein. (1500 on irrigated western acreages.) 70 grams of total protein per day per person would be adequate. (The U.S. average is 100.) We consume 73 grams of animal protein alone per day. Japan (bottom of the scale vs. U.S. at top) consumes 29 grams.

Only 10% of the world's land area is suitable for agriculture. The U.S. farmer has made his land respond increasingly. In 1850 one U.S. farm worker supplied 4.18 people with farm products. In 1900 he supplied 6.95; in 1950, 15.47; in 1960, 25.85; in 1972, 52.4.

Food from vegetable sources is less costly land-wise than food from animal sources. e.g. The acreage needed to produce 1 million calories in the form of sugar is .015; of potatoes, .44; corn or wheat, .9; hogs, 2.0; milk, 2.8; eggs, 7.8; chickens, 9.3.

THE 1974 FINANCIAL PICTURE (CHET GROGER)

<u>Receipts 1974</u>		<u>Expenses 1974</u>	
Dues	\$1882.50	The Garden Spray	\$ 540.64
Plant Auction (net)	474.96	Xmas Party, cred. bal.	(96.93)
Interest on Savings	254.77	Minn. Hort. Society	100.00
Misc. Sales	225.45	Convention Delegates	200.00
Carried Fwd. Conv. Fund ...	493.08	Arboretum	350.00
TOTAL	\$3330.76	Flower Shows	205.61
		Tours	184.12
		Memberships	
<u>Assets</u>		Minn. Hort. Soc.	345.00
Checking Account	\$1327.55	MGCA	642.50
Savings Account, incl.		Cheer and Memorials	85.60
Conv. Fd. bal. \$293.08	4355.09	Dinners, cred. bal.	(8.53)
Inventory (est.)	115.50	Honorariums	25.00
TOTAL	\$5798.14	Awards	92.43
		Japanese Garden Contrib.	100.00
<u>Liabilities</u>		Carried Fwd. Conv. Fund	293.08
1975 Dues paid in 1974	\$1455.50	Miscellaneous	202.04
Savings + 1974 Surplus	4542.64	TOTAL	\$3260.56
Withdrawn, Conv. Fund	(200.00)	Net to Surplus	<u>70.20</u>
	<u>\$5798.14</u>		

COMMUNITY GARDEN FUND

Savings Balance 12/31/73 ...	\$1621.18	1974 Disbursements	\$ 15.10
1974 Interest Earned	82.54	Savings Balance 12/31/74	1688.62
	<u>\$1703.72</u>		<u>\$1703.72</u>

NOTE: Few things turned out the usual way for gardeners last year so we asked our weatherman member, Vinton Bouslough, for a summary of 1974's weather. For each month during 1975 Vinton will provide similar data. His resumé for January will appear in our March issue.

1974 WEATHER TABLE

	<u>Ave. Temp.</u> <u>Degrees F</u>	<u>Departure</u> <u>From Norm.</u>	<u>Inches</u> <u>Precipitation</u>	<u>Departure</u> <u>From Norm.</u>	<u>Snowfall</u> <u>Inches</u>	<u>Depart</u> <u>From N</u>
JAN.	11.9	-0.3	0.17	-0.56	2.5	-6.
FEB.	16.9	+0.4	1.06	+0.22	15.7	+7.
MARCH	29.5	+1.2	1.00	-0.68	7.7	-2.
APRIL	47.1	+2.0	2.42	+0.38	7.3	+5.
MAY	54.4	-2.7	2.08	-1.29	-	
JUNE	65.5	-1.4	5.21	+1.27	-	
JULY	76.6	+4.7	1.14	-2.55	-	
AUG.	67.4	-2.8	2.75	-0.30	-	
SEPT.	55.3	-4.7	0.58	-2.15	-	
OCT.	49.8	-0.2	1.69	-0.09	0.0	-0.
NOV.	33.7	+1.3	0.66	-0.54	1.2	-4.
DEC.	24.3	+5.7	0.35	-0.54	6.1	-5.
YEAR	44.3	+0.2	19.11	-6.83	40.5	-5.

SUMMARY FOR THE WEATHER OF 1974 --by Vinton Bouslough

For much of the growing season temperatures were below normal as shown in the above table. The exception was July which was much above normal. July had a very warm spell from July 6 to July 14 when the temperature remained above 70 degrees day and night. During the summer there were 12 days of 90 degrees or higher. Normal is 14 days. The temperature range was from 101 degrees on July 8th to 30 below on January 1.

The 1974 growing season, from last frost in the spring, 27 degrees on May 6th, to the first frost in the fall, 32 degrees on September 3 was 119 days, the shortest on record. The previous shortest growing season was 124 days in 1929. The 32 degree reading on September 3 was the earliest of record for a fall freeze.

A significant feature of the year was the lack of precipitation, especially in May, July, and September. The total precipitation for the year was 19.11 inches, 6.83 inches below normal. There were no exceptionally heavy rains. The most in the 24 hour period was 1.59 inches on the 6th of June.

A GARDENER'S THOUGHTS

by Chet Groger

I was visiting with Bob Anderson in his Tonkadale Greenhouse the other day and he made an observation I thought should be repeated. Bob said "Gardeners are friendly people. When you walk into a home with plants and flowers, you know you are in a friendly home."

Just stop and think. Aren't all the gardeners you know, either in our club or not, especially friendly people? How many times have you visited a friend with a garden and he or she wanted to share a plant or flower with you? It's food for thought and cause to reflect on why garden clubs are such friendly groups.

Bob also made this comment. He said, "Someone should try to reach the younger generation with gardening information and instruction. They come in my greenhouse and garden store and are just hungry for someone to help them garden. They want to get back to nature so badly and the only chance is to grow things in their home."

I see this in our children and their friends. Living in apartments, they all want some green plants to tend and enjoy. They, too, have the urge to garden but are restricted in their efforts. This younger generation is ecology and conservation minded. They are concerned about the waste of our natural resources and our dwindling food supply.

If you haven't visited a Co-op food store in town, I urge you to do so. You might start with the Seward Co-op at 2201 E. Franklin Ave. It is an experience to see how earnest these young folks are in promoting the use of vegetable protein and in furnishing organic food as cheaply as possible. Their theme seems to be "Back to Nature". We share some of our excess green plants and house plants with several of the Co-op food stores and are greatly rewarded by the enthusiasm with which each group of plants is received by these young people, most of whom are volunteers. We feel that these gift plants find a good home with some young person who may be encouraged as a gardener.

It is this generation that Bob Anderson sees as wanting help in gardening. They would all like to have their own backyard gardens and be able to eat organic vegetables. Failing in this, they go out to the farmers and buy produce for their stores and sell it for cost plus 10%. I admire their ingenuity and think it should be encouraged.

Bob and I were speculating on how we could bring groups of younger people into our garden club. We realize how just one young person might feel out of place in a club of older men. But, could there be a way of forming a younger group as a subsidiary to our club? In the meantime, if we know a teenager or young man or woman who shows an interest in gardening, we should do our best to encourage them and offer anything from our experience which might be of help. Remember, they will be the next generation of gardeners.

WEATHER continued
about 4.50 inches. The first permanent snow cover came on December 5th, 1973, with a cover of 4 inches. The ground remained snow covered with depths ranging from 4 to as much as 18 inches until all melted on March 6th, 1974. Such a snow cover is beneficial to dormant vegetation.

BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, OH TIME....

Now that winter is full upon us and you have time to sit before the fire and poke a bit you may want to pluck clean those pots of parsley sitting on your window ledge and try this "receipt" from the April 1864 GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK AND MAGAZINE:

"To CRISP PARSLEY.--Pick some bunches of young parsley, wash them v clean in cold water, drain them, and swing them about in a clean cl until they are quite dry. Place them upon a sheet of writing-paper a Dutch oven, and lay it before a brisk fire, keeping the sprigs fr quently turned until they are quite crisp. In six or eight minutes they will be ready."

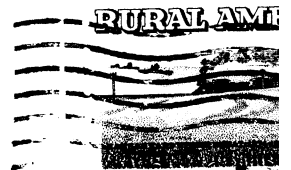
On the other hand you may be more interested in the March 1864 LADY BOOK "receipt" for celery flavoring. Methinks the product wouldn't have to be reserved for soup alone.

"CELERY FLAVORING.--Soak for a fortnight half an ounce of the seed of celery in one pint of brandy. A few drops of this will flavor a pint of soup very nearly as well as if a head of celery was stewed it."

* * * * *

René Dufourd sends greetings via SPRAY--"I just can't find time to down and write. Weather has been too good to be indoors. Last wee it was 90° in the yard at noon. Last Thursday 9th it was 70 at 6 o clock in the morning. Today, Sunday 12th, at 10 a.m. 76°."

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
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