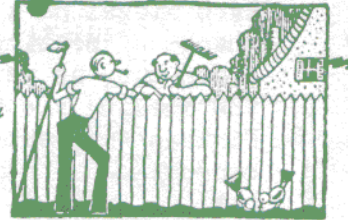




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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c Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota
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Ed Culbert, asst. editor. Charlie Proctor and Phil Smith, assoc. editors.

Club Officers: President - Phil Smith Vice President - Dave Johnson
Secretary - Roger Anderson Treasurer - Vern Roufs
Directors - Clif Brisco and Manly Jackson
North Star Region Delegates - Verner Carlson & Dale Durst

January 13 Meeting

Dave Johnson, our new Vice President and Program Chairman steps into the new year with a dandy program. It might be said here that he is to be assisted by Archie Flack and Les Johnson, the three men forming our 1970 committee. At this meeting:

Larry Corbett - Will discuss "Methods of Developing New Varieties and Modern Changes in Horticulture." We understand that Larry and the Northrup King & Company staff of about fifteen Ph. D.s are working hard developing new varieties--using the computer, etc. This sounds like a fascinating topic--a real opportunity to see what is happening.

Short Talk by Members - We will have some Mystery Speakers from our membership. These gentlemen will share with us some of their day-to-day garden experiences. Just the sort of earthy information we also want. There's still a little arm-twisting going on to determine their identity.

We'll see you: At the Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, at 6 PM, on Tuesday, January 13. You'll need two dollars for the dinner.

Congratulations again to Dwight Stone....

winner of the Bronze Medal this year. We're sorry there's no photo in this issue because Dwight had to duck out a little early from the Christmas party. But we'll make amends.

Let's Make Roger Anderson Smile....

It's easy. If you're that last member who hasn't paid your 1970 dues, send a check for \$10 to him immediately. We don't want an unhappy Treasurer.

Over The Garden Gate

by Bill Hull

Didn't Roger Anderson MC the Christmas party beautifully? And didn't Prexy Nate Siegel do a splendid job? We thank them both for a lovely evening, a change of setting in a lovely room and an excellent dinner. It was a good crowd but, as usual, we missed some folks who should have been there. Among the missing and the ill are the wives of Les Johnson, Archie Flack, Sherm Pinkham and member Henry Bachman who is now at home. We wish all these and others we may not be aware are ill, a hasty recovery and hope Christmas was better for them.

We're naturally very pleased to see Dwight Stone be awarded the Bronze Medal for his many achievements for our club, Dave Johnson get the Lehman Garden Trophy for the most garden improvement, P. W. Young get a life membership in the Minnesota Hort. Society, for his outstanding achievements, and Otto Nelson win the President cup for his work for the club.

And certainly we thank the men who received Green Thumb Awards--14 of them--for perfect attendance during the year. Totally they represent forty-six years of attendance. The top awards went to Bud Christenson for nine consecutive years without missing a meeting, and Bill Swanson for eight years. These are amazing records! Evald Johnson has reached five; Nate Siegel and Les Johnson 4; P. W. Young, Sherm Pinkham and Jack Peterson 3 each; Paul Burt 2; Vern Carlson, Clif Brisco, Dave Johnson, Charlie Proctor and Phil Smith one year each.

Special thanks go to Verner Carlson for designing and lettering the Green Thumb certificates. Notice the beautiful work thereon. It was intended to thank you publicly at the meeting, Verne, but the character in charge forgot to read his notes and do so properly. I'm sorry.

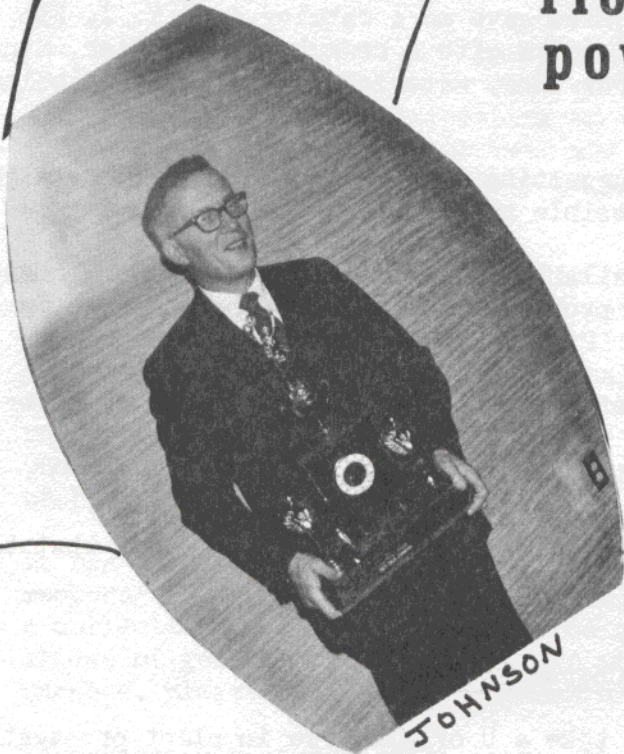
THE GARDEN SPRAY offered a special award for the best Christmas Memoirs story and an attractive humidity meter (hygrometer) was presented to Art Johnson. Art was unable to be present so this has been mailed to him at home.

In presenting the Hort Society's life membership to P. W., Leon Snyder remarked that "certainly the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis can take full credit for having been the brain child behind the arboretum." Leon mentioned that it was difficult to single out a few men and that some of them, like Archie Flack, had previously been honored. P. W. was honored for the long time he served as secretary of the Arboretum committee during the formative years. We are all pleased at this award.

Thanks to you other fellows for good Christmas memoirs articles--fellows like Jack Peterson, Phil Smith and Ed Culbert. Wish we could have used them all.

A good letter from Otto Erickson who writes interestingly of their trip to Sun City. He says their new house is only three years old with all rooms on the ground level. He says the yard is 82 x 110 feet, has a gravel "lawn" with landscaping consisting of 2 palm trees, a mimosa and an orange tree, 18 rose bushes, etc. He reports that Norm Christopherson is fine, as is Mrs. C. And also reports on a good visit with another former member, Clyde Chamberlain. Then he tells of visiting the Sun Men's Garden Club. And he asks to be remembered.

flower
power



JOHNSON



NELSON

YOUNG

SIEGEL



FROM
CHRISTENSON

Al Nelson Gets His "Slugit"

"In an earlier issue of The Garden Spray I requested information on where I might get some items of pesticides and soil additives not stocked by the garden stores where I usually get my supplies. The response was very good.

"Dick Lehman gave me a bottle of Slugit, and told me that I could get potassium sulphate at Howe, Inc., Minneapolis. He also gave me a catalog from E. Z. Flo Agricultural Chemicals. It is a wholesale firm with a branch at Rochester, Minn. They list parnon, piperon and cygon - three spray materials not commonly handled by garden stores.

"I also got a letter from P. W. Young, suggesting where some of these items might be found, and he also told me of some possible substitutes which he found good.

"Jerry Olson reported that Slugit was available at Tessman's Seed store, Minneapolis and that parnon, cygon and iron sulphate probably could be gotten from Dege Seed Company, St. Paul.

"I wish to thank The Garden Spray and the club members who furnished this information."

..... Al Nelson

Editor's comment: You're very welcome, Al. But you really ought to put that to music: Parnon, Piperon and Cygon...sounds like possibly a hit.

Plant Propagation Course at U of M

Member Don Peterson tells us he plans to take a U of M course in plant propagation to be offered every Tuesday night from January 13 to March 3, but says it means missing our club meetings. He hopes some of the other fellows might be interested. The course covers propagation by seed, cuttings, and grafts, costs \$45. For more details consult with Dean Turner at the U of M or call Don at 725-7954 (office) or 423-1934 (residence).

Slow Burn

They got their group together
And I wasn't asked to serve
Considering just who I am
They really had their nerve.

Well, yes, last time they called on me
I asked to be excused
But why they passed me up this time-
Quite frankly, I'm confused.

Who do they think they're snubbing!
I'm important in this town.
Just let them count on me some time
And watch me let them down.

For when it comes to saying "No"
They'll find me quite adept
And when they offer me a job
I just flat won't accept.

----Jim L. Wilkerson

(Quoted by our good friend Joe Woodard in the Green Thumb, publication of the First MGC of Dallas, from the bulletin of the Ft. Worth Rose Society.)

BUGS FOR 'THE GARDEN SPRAY'

by Phil Smith

Upon assuming my office for the coming year, I find one of my jobs is to write for THE GARDEN SPRAY each month. I've always enjoyed writing, so hope this won't be a chore for me or you either.

Let us thank Roger Anderson and his committee for a fine job on the Christmas part. With food prices going up so much each year, planning for our annual party becomes quite a chore. It was refreshing to see such a talented and lively group of young performers. Some of what we hear and read about the youth of today is not too pleasing, but we could certainly be proud of this group for the time and talent expressed in their show for us.

The toasts and torts of the holiday season have passed and we find ourselves now looking toward receipt of the seed catalogs which always give us many evenings of pleasure. When we think of the publicity and promotion attending the publication and distribution of so many seed catalogs each year, as well as the efforts of local seedsmen and garden stores all over the country, we realize the significance of the resources of the many people who make the newest and best varieties available to us. One of our speakers this month is planning to give us insight concerning the subject of hybridizing.

It has been suggested that our club develop a slide library of pictures of our members' gardens. We hope to rebuild our speakers bureau and put it to work, and a collection of good slides could be useful in several ways. If you have 4 or 5 slides of good shots of your garden which you will donate to your club for this purpose, please call me or Les Johnson.

We welcome new member, Bill Gage. At the board meeting, D. R. "Bill" Gage was approved for membership. Bill resides at 5701 Brook Drive in Edina (a few blocks away from Bill Hull), and has a summer home next to Phil Smith on Clearwater Lake at Annandale. Bill's phone number is 941-3515. We welcome him as a new member and hope that we as well as he will profit over the years.

* * * * *

ARTICLES ON BONSAI AND GREENHOUSES HELD FOR NEXT ISSUE

We have on hand two goodies - Vic Lowrie's talk on "Wintry Days Bring Greenhouse Thoughts" and Phil Smith's provocative thoughts on Bonzai Gardening. We just can't get them in this issue--so anticipate!

Word of George Titus' Widow Needed

We hesitate to put this into print because errors can happen so easily but the editor's Christmas card to "Jo" Titus, widow of our late president, George, was returned to us marked "Deceased." Does anyone know whether this is factually correct?

"The Year 1969 has passed...."

and with it so many 'instant playbacks'--some 'busted plays' and many that scored. Quarterback Rog Anderson scored many times at our Award Dinner (Christmas Party). I can understand Joe Kapp's feeling when he refused the Most Valuable Player award. It takes 60 for 150 to make a winning season at MGCA--that we had with the regular attendance of 50 to 60 members at each meeting; dinners and programs that all enjoyed until 8:30 in the evening. Also innumerable men who served our club in some capacity so well. So -- my 'MVP' Cup is sent figuratively to each one of you. Also to the fifty reserves whom I hope will join the team in 1970.

To all of you a Happy and Healthy year 1970....."

Cordially yours, Nathan S. Siegel

Welcome: Sova and Gage

We had the pleasure of attending the Christmas party with new member Harry Sova and his wife, whom we predict will be another fine member for our club. And we're looking forward to getting to know another new member, D. R. Gage, known as "Bill," sponsored by Phil Smith. We welcome both of you fellows.

Anyone Have an Elliott Stencil Machine?

After having the MGCM membership names at Postgraduate Medicine for 22 years to the Editor's knowledge, we must look for another home for them. Presently they are on square Elliott stencils (about 4 x 4 inches). Can they go into your firm on those stencils or on some other form? This means making an occasional change of address and a complete run of the 125 or so stencils once a month. Help. Call Bill Hull.

Where Did All That Money Go?

If you want to know where all that money went that you have earned and spent over the years, just take a complete household inventory. You should have it anyway for insurance purposes. Do it room by room, jotting down the year you made the purchase and the value then (not now). You'll get your answer.

George Luxton Vindicated

Dr. Floyd F. Smith, agricultural scientist with the Department of Agriculture research division, reporting to the Entomological Society of America in Chicago recently (what a sentence) - said "stale beer is a good bait for slugs....should be placed in shallow pans." George Luxton told us this repeatedly for years and years and people doubted! (Mpls. Star, 12-9-69)

Ed Culbert Busy These Days

Working on the Golden Anniversary Yearbook of the Minnehiker (section editor for the 1930s group) and also VP for the 1920 U. of M. Golden Reunion Committee, with festivities coming up this May. Glen Cerney, another member of this class, has also been asked to serve on the committee.

Summary of Comments on Hostas

M. C. Eisel

The hosta, a member of the lily family, goes by three common names; hosta, funkia, and plaintain lily. Most hostas are native to Japan but two are native to China.

As early as the 1500's the Japanese gathered and grew hostas for their ornamental value. In 1690 Engelbert Kampher, a German, went to Japan and described two hostas commonly grown today. In the 1870's Karl Thunberg, a surgeon for the Dutch East India Company, described one hosta under three different names. In 1812 Trattinnick proposed the name Hosta. About the same time Salisbury placed two Chinese species in the genus. In 1817 Sprengel gave it the name Funkia, which still lingers in some catalogs today, some 150 years later. In the 1820's Von Siebold introduced many Japanese hostas into Europe. Part of his plants were distributed from both places unfortunately some identical plants were distributed under different names. It sounds as though they had some of the problems we have today.

This might account for part of the nomenclature confusion but there are many other reasons.

1. The hostas introduced into Europe from Japan were often selections, propagated for specific characteristics, and different from the species.
2. The genetic variability is extremely wide, often characteristics change with age and climatic conditions influence the characteristics of the plant in different areas.
3. The color and the form of the flowers change almost hourly.
4. The plant is very succulent. It is difficult, if not impossible, to visualize a living plant from a dried specimen.
5. The hosta seems to mutate frequently.
6. Some plants described as species are probably hybrids.
7. Today it is common that unscrupulous operators attach fancy names to inferior seedlings or species coupled with a fantastic price. There are some \$5.00 and \$10.00 plants that are of little value. The reason for my collection is to evaluate these new cultivars.
8. Lastly, we have the name changing and synonyms.

I regret that I can't be too optimistic about the problem. To keep informed on this subject join the American Hosta Society. Membership dues are \$3.00 and should be sent to Mrs. Glen Fisher, 4392 W. 20th St. Road, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 54901.

The following list represents Mr. Eisel's notes on his present collection of hostas. He has divided them into classes by foliage color and other factors based upon his evaluations to date.

HOSTAS WITH BLUE-GRAY FOLIAGE

'Blue Frost'
'Krossa Regal Hybrid'
nigrescens 'Elietier'
Sieboldiana
Sieboldiana 'Elegans'
tokudama

HOSTAS WITH GREEN AND WHITE FOLIAGE

decorata (Thomas Hogg)
fortunei 'Albomarginata'
'Crispula
helenoides
'Louisa'
Mackweed 22 (Green Gold)
undulata 'Albomarginata'
undulata 'Undulata'
undulata 'Univitatta'
rhodifolia (H. fortunei 'gloriosa')

HOSTAS WITH YELLOW-GREEN FOLIAGE

fortunei 'Areomarginata'
fortunei 'Creamy Edge'
'Frances Williams'
'Golden Circles'
lancifolia kabitan (clavata)
montana 'Aureomarginata'
tokudama 'Areo-nebulosa'
tokudama 'Flavo-planata'
'Viett's Yellowedge'

FOLIAGE YELLOW THROUGH THE ENTIRE
GROWING SEASON

lancifolia subsrecea (tosana)
sieboldiana (Golden)
'Sunlight Sister'

FOLIAGE CHANGING YELLOW TO GREEN

'Chartreuse'
fortunei 'Aurea'
'Golden Anniversary'
'Lady Helen'

FOLIAGE YELLOW & GREEN CHANGING TO GREEN

fortunei 'Aureo maculata'
fortunei stenantha 'Aureo-marginata'
'Sharmon'
ventricosa 'Aureoaculata'

ESPECIALLY SHOWY FLOWERS

'Betsy King'
'Honeybells'
'June Beauty'
plantagenea
Royal Standard'
'Sweet Susan' (vg)
trandiflora

HOSTAS THAT LOOK PROMISING

aoki
aoki variegata
'Beatrice'
'Bonanza'
'Crinkle Cup'
'Dorothy'
'Green Platter'
'Innovation'
'Lavender Lady'
'Leviathan'
'Ruffles'
'Silver Tips'
'Slim Polly'
'Snow Flakes'

VERY LARGE PLANTS

elata
'Honeybells'
sieboldiana 'Mira'

SMALL MATURE PLANTS (6" or less)

nakaiana (nakaimo)
venusta

PLANTS TO BE EVALUATED

'August Moon'
'Beatrice'
'Benjamin Harrison'
capitata
'Goliath'
'Gray Piecrust'
'Golden Plum'
'Green Ripples'
'Hollys Honey'
'July Gold'
'Lady Lou'
longipes
nakaimo
'Pale Gold'
'Purple Profusion'
'Rough Waters'
'Satin Flare'
'Snow Cream'
'Snow Mound'

PLANTS OF QUESTIONABLE VALUE

'Ros Hogh'
'Royal Lady'
'Sentinels'
'Silver Streak'
'Summer Gold'
'The Twister'
'Tinker Bells'