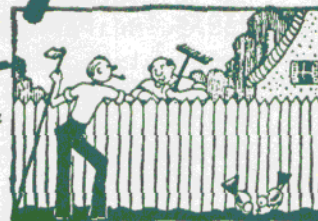




The Garden Spray

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

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



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Editorial Staff: Bill Hull, Art Johnson, Bob Smith, Phil Smith.

Club Officers: President - Dave Johnson Vice President - Roger Anderson
 Secretary - John Lillibridge Treasurer - Cliff Brisco
 Immediate Past President - Phil Smith
 Directors - Carl Holst and Art Johnson
 North Star Region Delegate - Dale Durst

FLOWER SHOW #2 and GARDEN TOUR...Tuesday, July 13, 1971

Our flower shows got off to a good start last month with 37 entries and 5 exhibitors. Carl Holst will have tables set up early and bottles, tags and ribbons for your convenience. Let's have more competitors this time.

MEET AT HENRY HALVORSON'S, 4915 GOLDEN VALLEY ROAD for a

DE LARIA PREPARED DINNER to be SERVED AT 5:45 PM.

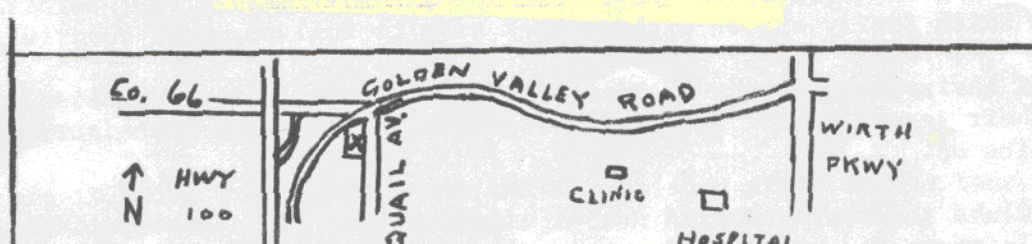
COST FOR DINNER AND BUS \$2.25

Tables will be furnished. Bring your own chairs.

Following the flower show, dinner and inspection of Henry's garden, we will tour three other gardens in the northern reaches of our metropolitan area by bus. Time and light permitting we will have a bonus stop.

Henry's house is accessible from either Highway 100 or Theodore Wirth Parkway. Driving north on 100 turn right (east) at County 66 (Golden Valley Rd.). Old Golden Valley Rd. comes in from the right in a short distance. The next street is Quail Ave. Turn right and you have arrived. Look for the two tall martin houses in the yard.

If you come via the parkway turn west on Golden Valley Rd. - 4-way stop sign. When you come to Quail, nearly to 100, Henry's place will be on the diagonally opposite corner.



RECOGNITION AND THANKS!

The articles in Barbara Flanagan's column in a recent issue of the Minneapolis Star and the list of principal contributors to the Community Garden in The Spray do not do justice to the list of men from our Club who are chiefly responsible for bringing the Garden to its completion.

For posterity, The Spray should put on record that the Community Fragrance Garden had its inception during the term in office of Phil Smith whose efforts were responsible for the arrangements with the Highway Department, The Park Board, a Minneapolis Society for the Blind, for the use of the land. A Garden plan was drawn for that land by Walter Nychaus of Bachman's, and donated to our Club. Due to the time involved in making these arrangements, no work was done on the Garden in 1970.

We were fortunate that the man who succeeded Phil Smith as President was Dave Johnson. Dave put that Garden plan into action not only by his many hours of physical effort but also by being responsible for many of the contributions that were made. We will be ever indebted as well to Bob Smith who engineered the plan and directed the men who worked with him. The result, in my opinion, surpassed what was planned.

Cliff Brisco was treasurer of our project and was responsible for a number of our principal contributions. Art Johnson was our man who contributed many hours in addressing civic organizations and contacting individuals for contributions for our project.

When the time came for putting in our plantings, Carl Holst was the man who was there with all of the plant material necessary to fill each bed.

We are not able to list the names of the members who contributed additional funds to the Garden. I do wish I could list the names of the men who put in many hours of work with Dave. Their contribution of time and energy should be rewarded as well. Unfortunately that can not be done. The satisfaction that they must have had in doing their part I trust will be reward enough.

- Nate Siegel, Chairman Community Garden Project

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

We goofed!

Our typist copied the exact words of a bulletin from Des Moines regarding a proposed MGCA bylaws change but the wording was altered prior to presentation to delegates at Roanoke. The amendment which passed "will allow all clubs to send no less than two delegates for the first 25 members and one delegate for each 25 members thereafter." On this basis MGCA Mpls. will be entitled to four delegates - more delegates than we have members in attendance at most conventions.

To date there are five competitors for the 1971 Lehman Gardens trophy.

The Phil Smith family are on a three week trip to England.

Bill Hull has sold his place on Dublin Road. What will become of his 30 hibiscus now in their second year? He used an interesting wintering technique, we hope he'll write up.

78 MGCA Clubs together gathered 30,561 signatures on the antipollution petition

THOUGHTS FROM THE TERRACES
by Dave Johnson

Our dedication of the Community Fragrance Garden was a great success. It is truly a garden of beauty and will bring many hours of pleasure to the blind as well as others in the Community. Everyone prayed for no rain during the dedication but the sun was so hot that its rays cracked the crystal punch bowls.

Congratulations to Nate Siegel, our project chairman, for a job well done these past two years. Thanks to Vic Lowrie, dedication chairman, and to Don Wilson for doing a great publicity job. Thank you to Dorothy Brisco, refreshment chairman and to the fine ladies who assisted her.

I feel I have to list some other names who deserve a merit award for the major part they played in the construction of the garden, namely Cliff Brisco, Carl Holst, John Lillibridge, Jim Perrin, Charlie Proctor, Bob Smith and Bob Voigt.

There has been some question from some members as to how a garden could possibly be of any value to the blind. The May issue of the Royal Horticultural Society Journal of England has a feature article "Gardening Without Sight." It states that few people realize there are many keen and capable gardeners in the blind community with some 1000 of them belonging to the Guild of Blind Gardeners. Half of these members receive a magazine in braille devoted entirely to gardening.

The author of the article, Mr. Stevens, who is blind, writes that you may miss the glorious range of colors, but it is felt that the other senses are enhanced. The sense of smell almost enables one to tell the seasons. The sweet perfume of wall flowers, jonquils and azalea in the spring, the heavier perfume of roses, carnations, honeysuckle and myriads of other flowers and plants in the summer and the tang of chrysanthemums in the fall; the rich smell of newly dug earth and the sweet smell of newly mown grass are all appreciated in their turn.

With the sense of touch the blind gardener probably excels his sighted colleague. The thrill of satisfaction as your finger-tips feel the first tiny seedlings peep through the compost in your seed-box, or of the bulb poking its tip through the earth is early spring. The wonder of the marvels of nature in forming the petals of a rose, the overlapping petals of a show dahlia, the excitement of feeling the flower spike of the gladioli growing in the seventh leaf, the velvety smoothness of some leaves and the hairy roughness of others.

The sense of hearing must not be forgotten; what greater pleasure than the song of the birds which is with us for most of the year, the hum of the bees to reassure us that their valuable work is proceeding--even the whirr of the lawn-mower as it cuts your lawn--this especially brings contentment when reclining in a deck-chair while someone else is mowing! Last, but by no means least, is the sense of taste--the fresh juiciness of your first apple or pear, the cloying sweetness of the logberry or raspberry and what better than the taste of peas, carrots and other vegetables just picked from the garden. Yes, the joys of the garden are many, even without sight.

It is hoped that this garden will bring some of these joys to this community--not only for the blind but for others as well.

Be sure to bring your entries for our flower show prior to the tour. Everyone should have prize specimens with the gardens in full bloom.

ADDRESS CORRECTION

The 1971 Roster incorrectly lists Mervin Eisel's mailing address. Please correct it. It should read:

Mervin C. Eisel
Box 132, Route 1
Chaska, Minn. 55318

LAST MONTH'S MEETING REVIEWED

Carl Holst: A serious inchworm infestation is defoliating elms this year. The inchworm loves roses, too. The Park crews are spraying affected areas with Sevin. Home owners should do likewise. Sevin is safe for use on vegetables as also are malathion and pyrethrum. Holst much prefers spraying to dusting because "50% of the dust goes into the air at once and the first rain takes the rest." He warns, "Be sure to wear a mask and protective clothing."

Running his finger down the pages of a garden supply catalog he commented (in part)

Acti-Dione PM - As good as any for mildew.

Cygon - A good systemic but over use may cause summer dormancy in roses.

Dimite - Effective against red spider for about 30 days.

Isotux - Used a great deal in the Rose Gardens.

Nicotine Sulphate (Black Leaf 40) - Still fine against aphids. May be dangerous to non-smokers. For aphids spray every other day until all are gone.

Phaltan - The best general fungicide but not too good for mildew.

Pyrethrum (Evergreen Spray) - Once much used. Still as good as ever.

Sevin - One of the best insecticides out. Very hard on bees but good against hornets.

Slugit - Still good for snails.

Zip - A fine protective against deer, mice, rabbits, etc.

Julius Wadekamper began his talk with a discussion of iris diseases and pests. See his article on The Tall Bearded Iris pages 68-69 in your June 1971 issue of "The Minnesota Horticulturist" for complete details.

Slides of 1968, 1970, 1971 and some still only numbered iris introductions available in the Twin Cities were shown by groups, viz. - miniature dwarf bearded, 4" 8" tall and derived from iris pumila; standard dwarf bearded, 10" to 15" tall; intermediate bearded 15" to 25"; border bearded, 15" to 28"; miniature tall bearded, pencil thickness stem to 28" liked by arrangers; tall bearded, 25" up; arrow; and spuria which is being studied closely for the landscape value of its narrow 3' to 4' foliage. The problem is that spuria resents being moved.

Bob Smith's talk on organic gardening appears on page 5.

Among the guests at the June meeting were Dolph Bezoier a former member who is giving up teaching and moving to a farm near Zumbrota and Roger Nelson who provided and installed the fine sprinkler system for our Community Garden.

NOTES FROM THE VEGETABLE PATCH

By Bob Smith

Questions often raised at this time of the year relate to bothersome bug, bird and disease problems in the vegetable garden and how to handle them. Relating these questions to my experience using natural methods of fertilization and insect and disease control, the answer is two-fold. Since gardening with nature deals primarily with prevention rather than cure, the first consideration is the long-range practices aimed at balancing nature's forces which, hopefully, will contain or minimize many of the problems normally encountered with standard gardening practices centered around the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The second consideration is specific short-term measures to deal with the problems that long-range practices cannot cope with or cannot adequately contain.

Some of the long-range practices for the gardener using natural methods or who is contemplating a transition to them are as follows:

1. Provide a rich fertile soil with adequate humus utilizing compost and natural fertilizers.
2. Learn to identify the insects and disease organisms causing problems and to know intimately their life cycles, habits, etc., so that you can find various means of controlling them through disrupting their life cycles.
3. Find out the natural enemies of insect pests and diseases and introduce predators such as lady bugs, praying mantis, toads, etc., into your garden by purchase if necessary. Eliminate indiscriminate spraying which destroys friendly predators as well as pests. Attract beneficial birds by providing bird houses and suitable habitat.
4. Use cultural methods such as rotation of plantings from year to year and good sanitation practices.
5. Plant resistant varieties whenever possible.
6. Use companion plantings of plant materials that are offensive to the insect pests you would like to control.

All of these practices work together to help create an environment that though it will not completely eliminate pests and disease, will help to minimize the damage caused by them.

In considering some of the short-term measures, slugs come to my mind as being a common pest against which even chemical baits do not seem to be too effective. They are beginning to multiply and mature in most gardens about this time. With their soft bodies that are sensitive to sharp objects such as sand or cinders, these materials can be used to create barriers over which they will not crawl. If a barrier is established around a bed or garden to prevent migration from surrounding areas, those within the garden can be eliminated by trapping them under shingles, cabbage leaves or other items that will provide a moist, shady retreat for their daytime hibernation. Destroy them each morning. Another method is to place a shallow container of beer or grape juice in an infested area. Slugs will be attracted and have one good last fling before they drown or are destroyed. With tomatoes, I find that staking and training them for tall growth is a very effective way to deal with slugs and the quality of fruit is better also. They

are also sensitive to corrosive substances such as wood ashes and slaked lime. Coarse sawdust provides a good mulch for a strawberry bed and is a deterrent to slugs also.

Other ideas for control of common pests are:

1. The use of a netting canopy to control pests common to the cabbage family
2. Red spider mites can be controlled by spraying forcibly with a stream of water to wash them off the leaves or by spraying with a mixture of flour and buttermilk diluted with water.
3. To prevent blight and other tomato diseases, mulch your tomato plants now and see that they receive a uniform supply of moisture throughout the summer.
4. Insect light traps can be utilized to cut down the population of mosquito as well as moths and other garden pests.

These are just a few of the many means that gardeners can use in dealing with problems in ways that do not upset the garden environment.

Birds can be a hindrance as well as a help in the garden. We don't mind sharing some of our produce with the birds, but sometimes they want it all. In this case netting appears to be the best solution. There are a number of good durable long lasting nettings on the market. I have used Protect-O-Net which has worked out very satisfactorily. There are many other good nettings on the market today which should be considered. The price usually goes down substantially with quantity purchases so if a number of people are interested, they can pool their orders.

The study of garden ecology and use of natural methods of pest control is quite fascinating and I believe it would make a very good subject for a special interest group if there are enough interested club members.

STRESS NEED FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

Considerable time was spent at the recent convention on the need to expand and emphasize youth programs.

The delegates adopted a resolution to set aside funds next year to be earmarked for publishing guidebooks for gardening for young people and their instructors. It is planned that these would be the first of a series for all age groups of those interested in gardening and aiding the ecology.

BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, OH TIME.....

The other day the newspaper printed several recipes for raspberry drinks; but they missed this old-timer.

"RASPBERRY WINE. - Bruise the finest ripe raspberries with the back of a spoon; strain them through a flannel bag into a stone jar; allow one pound of fine powdered loaf sugar to one quart of juice; stir these well together and cover the jar closely. Let it stand three days, stirring up the mixture every day; then pour off the clear liquid, and put two quarts of sherry to each quart of juice or liquid. Bottle it off, and it will be fit for use in a fortnight. By adding Cognac brandy, instead of sherry, the mixture will be raspberry brandy."

PESTICIDE BANS QUESTIONED

Dr. James S. Coartney, Assistant Professor of Plant Physiology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute speaking in Roanoke on Pesticides - Past, Present and Future questioned the warranty for the extensive current anti-pesticide furor but indicated that he couldn't get his unpopular views published.

We ban first, then slowly examine the facts later. Limits on pesticides were set at zero because that is what we found at a period before we could measure parts per million. Today's instruments are sensitive to parts per billion so we come up with previously unsuspected presences - things which were there all along. Less than 4% of our mercury is used in fungicides. Even coal contains 500 to 1000 times the mercury allowable in food. Are we measuring additions or natural presence?

The 2.4.5.T scare was a result of news on the air with no check on data accuracy. The original study was conducted with 2.4.5.T contaminated with a mutant producer. Even so, one would have to consume 30 thousand quarts of milk per day for a two week period to reach the "no effect" level. DDT can accumulate in the food chain. This is a danger. But, again, much depends on how we use our statistics. For example, one study shows a high level of DDT in the body and a low level of death from cancer.

Food prices, it is estimated will jump 50 to 100% if the present major pesticides are banned. If 2.4.D alone is discontinued it will require \$240 million more to produce the same crops. Biological controls now under study offer some promise, however.

It is interesting to note that at our June meeting Carl Holst pointed out that erroneous test results have been a major source of scare stories. He argued that if D.D.T. is banned some day some exotic disease will strike in epidemic proportions and find us lacking the one control we once possessed. His alternative would be to limit the use and to strictly license both sellers and users.

And speaking of past meetings, - did you miss the February meeting? If so you will find the major portion of Ken Simons' talk in the May 1971 issue of the Minnesota Horticulturist under the title "Out on a Limb? Get Your Feet Back on the Ground."

ACCEPTABLE HERBICIDES

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued a worthwhile bulletin on Controlling Lawn Weeds with Herbicides. The publication, prepared by scientists of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, includes general information on herbicides how to treat weed infestations, preplanting lawn treatments, and precautions in herbicide use. It provides examples of specific treatments for weedgrasses such as crabgrass and bermuda grass, and for broadleaf weeds such as chickweed, henbit ground ivy and oxalis. Copies of the 24-page bulletin are available for 15 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. Ask for Home and Garden Bulletin No. 123, "Lawn Weed Control with Herbicides."

MGCA CONVENTION SCHEDULE

It's not at all too early to start looking ahead and planning to attend. If you scribble these dates on your calendar now we just might see you there.

1972 Tucson, Arizona. April 10-13
1973 Dallas, Texas. May 1973

1975 Kansas City, Missouri
1976 Fort Collins, Colorado

Dr. John P. Baumgardt, president of MGCA, expressed our sentiments exactly when he editorialized in Flower and Garden for June 1971.

"From what I see, in driving around and looking over fences, I think the weed problem is far greater than it used to be. It must be either because the old folks no longer care about the condition of their gardens, or because youngsters are not brought up to spend a few hours each week grooming the home grounds.

"For whatever cause, it seems ridiculous in this decade of environmental hysteria to let cities and towns grow up in weeds. City governments may be partly to blame, I suspect. Once park departments took pride in maintaining weedfree parks and public grounds. Today many of the weed patches belong to cities because the money is spent running recreational facilities for kids who ought to be home pulling weeds!"

For our part we'd like to add churches and schools to the list of those agencies which promote the bypassing of home chores. And what about those parents who can't find jobs to keep their kids busy? I still remember how sore my dad got when one night after supper I went to help Will Ellsworth rebuild the wooden sidewalk to the back door of the Methodist Church. Our lot in Eveleth was only 35' x 150' and our house and "barn" (we never did get a horse) took up most of the space but dad figured he could drum up enough jobs in his off hours -- (he averaged 14 hours a day, seven days a week) -- to keep two boys busy.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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