

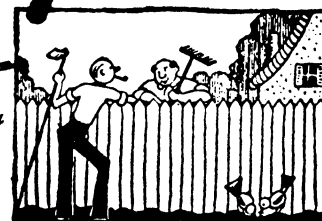


The Garden Spray

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

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

March 1972, Volume 30, Number 3



ROG'S REFLECTIONS

We are glad to hear our hospitalized members, Cliff Brisco and Dick Lehman are out of the hospital now and getting along fine. In fact, we understand Dick has been recuperating in Hawaii from his heart attack. We also hope that Verner Carlson is getting along satisfactorily after his heart surgery.

The executive board has selected five delegates to attend the National Convention in April. It's a real pleasure to see this interest in our club and I think a feather in our cap to have that kind of representation at the convention. People tell me that the cactus bloom is really something to see and it will be at its peak in April. Members selected are; Dave Johnson, Dwight Stone, Sherm Pinkham, Ed Culbert and Henry Halvorson. We'll be anxious to hear what's new in Tucson upon your return, boys.

We've got to be a little disappointed in the February attendance, (48) after the big Fall and early Winter turnouts. Let's get charged up now that the Winter spell is broken and Spring is just around the corner. You can use all those valuable pointers that one can get from your fellow gardeners by showing up at the meetings, not to mention the fine program Carl Holst has lined up for you.

Be at Mt. Olivet 5:45 PM, Tuesday, March 14, for the talk by David DeVoto, Park Board Forester on "The Present State of Dutch Elm Disease in Minneapolis" and for member Bruce Johnstone's presentation "New Annuals for 1972".

I thought you might be interested in a new book I've been reading. "Plants are Like People", by Jerry Baker. Although the subject content is not deeply scientific Mr. Baker has a very humorous way of writing and relating to plants as people. He also covers all areas of gardening thoroughly and has helpful question-and-answer sections at the end of each chapter that deal with the most common problems. I was particularly interested in his theory of shampooing your lawn and plants. Mr. Baker says you should use a mild liquid soap solution (bio-degradable) in quantity of one ounce to ten gallons of water and ten gallons of solution to 1,500 square feet of lawn. He believes this treatment should be done every month through the growing season and that it removes "surface tension" in the ground so roots absorb more nutrients. It washes off airborne soot and dust to avoid "plant anemia", aids the plant in retaining moisture on the leaves and it acts as a preventative insecticide against soil insects. He has some other novel ideas which were interesting to me and just might be worth trying. What do you think of shampooing your lawn?

Will be looking forward to seeing you March 14.

Roger T. Anderson

THE FEBRUARY PROGRAM IN REVIEW

Gordon Morrison, ecologist for the Park and Recreation Board, speaking on the topic "Ecology and Environmental Science" said, the City of Lakes has all the required resources for being a City of Flowers and Birds as well. You represent one of these important resources for in your combined expertise and interest, the homes and gardens of this city can well become the basis for hundreds of small eco-plots where the habitat is favorable for the nesting and feeding of birds. I consider birds much as I do flowers, the difference being that birds are mobile. Through home gardens where eco-plots or habitat corners exist, this city can well become one of flowers and birds. The parks can serve as nuclei for the conversion of the city to one of flowers and birds, but it is the many scattered nesting and feeding sites which will do the trick.

One of my aims tonight is to encourage you to consider seriously the establishment of small corners in your gardens where your choice of plant material, your maintenance, and your cultivation is aimed at encouraging birds. Usually, this will mean the use of native American plants for most often they are the plants to which our native birds are most suited. This may entail some re-ordering of our aesthetic tastes. Our ancestors from Europe brought with them a preference for "Old World" landscape beauty and ever since we have been driving out native American plants and replacing them with foreign species. I am here to suggest that we devote at least a small part of our lawns and gardens to the cultivation of native plants whose seed heads and whose growth we leave standing even if they do grate on our European aesthetic tastes. The rewards will be worthwhile in the birds that come to stay with us. We may even learn that many of the native American plants are beautiful as well. We can be sure of an added bonus, too. Native American plants require virtually no irrigation, no fertilizer, and best of all, native American grass require very little mowing.

My second aim tonight is to plead for application of your extensive knowledge and expertise on behalf of the environment. I am not an expert on the problems of our society and I am not altogether convinced that our nation is in as serious difficulty as many of the doomsayers would have us believe. I do know that many of our children and youth are deprived opportunities we had and I am most concerned about the opportunity to learn the respect for life that comes when one holds life in one's hands in the form of a living plant. It ought to be the fight of every growing youngster to get dirt under cracked fingernails. It is our duty to interest, attract, and pass on our knowledge and appreciation of growing, unfolding life to him. After a backbreaking day in my garden, I often question the old idea of the nobility of work, but I will never question my obligation to pass on to my sons and his sons-to-be a love for and concern for the sacredness of life. I am sure there is no better, no surer way for me to pass this on than through teaching the love of gardening, especially gardening for birds as well as for flowers and vegetables. This, I say, please commit yourself to teach your sons and grandsons and your neighbor's sons and grandsons how to garden.

As we plant seeds or seedlings hoping that they will result in some future beauty or benefit, so must we also plant seeds of our knowledge and love for growing things in the minds and hearts of our nation's children and youth.

Following Mr. Morrison's talk, Kenneth Avery, Curator of Eliose Butler Wild Flower Gardens in Theodore Wirth Park, delighted us with slides showing wildflowers to be seen there at the various seasons each year.

MY MONSTROSITY
by Bill Cowcill

Just a look at the size of that dehlia tuber in the picture will give you can idea of what can really be accomplished with the use of that very scarce nutrient, elephant manure and what I have learned from my mistake in applying too much at one time. You see, I happened to apply it all on top so the tuber was held down from the overhead weight. It couldn't grow upwards so it had to grow sideways and therefore developed into the oversize freak that you can see. Which proves that one must be very cautious not to have any elephant manure touching the tuber from above.



Still, I have heard of a gardener in England who set his dahlia tubers right smack down on top of the E. M. and, do you know what? He had to use a 20 foot stepladder to cut the flowers. We don't want to take the risk of falling from such a height, either, do we?

Some of you older members may recall the story of how I first started to be interested in gardening and why I qualify as a manure expert. It's a long story going back over 65 years. Those were really the days! Real manure was plentiful as most of the transportation was horse drawn. My father had a garden and my chore was to use the wheelbarrow and shovel and follow the horses. I was paid six-pence per wheelbarrow load....money was scarce in those days.

One day the circus came to our town and like all inquisitive boys, I had to go see it. One of the sights was a long string of 30 elephants with a negro in attendance. Close by was an immense hugh pile of elephant manure. I asked the negro what they were going to do with the manure. He told me that it would be hauled to some field cose by. He said if I needed any to help myself, so I ran home for the wheelbarrow and made six trips in one night. Did I cashin the next day! Wow! My dad didn't know what the peculiar looking stuff was so I named it "elephant's horse manure".

My monstrosity has set me to thinking. I have been wondering if I could create some rare specimens with black and white stripes on the flowers from the use of zebra manure or, say, some spotted ones from leopard manure. I think I shall have to attend the circus again.

* * * * *

Bill Cowcill was shown meeting his garden class in his greenhouse on WCCO TV News recently. A picture was also used in the North Hennepin State Junior College newspaper.

Dave Johnson was promoted to Administrator Stockholder's Service at NSPCo as of January 1.

Dr. Charles C. Rife, national Arbor Day chairman, and his committee have completed plans for the planting of a ceremonial tree during the 40th anniversary convention at Tucson.

WALTER MENZEL

(The third in a series of articles by Don Wilson about our Honorary Members.)

I parked my car and looked through a frosted windshield at a dreary white Lake of the Isles. It was 14^o below zero. Is this an authorized Men's Garden Club Tour?

I was met at the door by Walter Menzel, the Wizard of Indoor Planting. I was conducted through rooms of azaleas, bromelads, prayer plants, hibiscus, aloe, and jade plants. We went down to his greenhouse where he winters his goldfish and masses of growing plants.

As I smelled the crisp earthy odors of Spring, I said, "Mr. Menzel, I've been asked to interview you about the beginnings of our Club, but I have a better idea let's plug a Winter Trip here for indoor gardeners!"

He smiled and took me up to his study.

"Back in 1939, I used to drop in at the Athletic Club, and I met Upsher Smith (an English druggist) and other men interested in organizing a men's garden club. Walter Quist and Henry Bachman were among them. We met at Stauffer's Restaurant and other places and made plans."

As we chatted, I could see the birds through the oriole window. I saw his "bird ferris wheel", his bird water bowl (electrically heated, he explained), and his Christmas tree feeder. Walter also said proudly that even in this "Lower Slobbov weather, he has had birds perch on his shoulder and has been "nose to beak" with them.

Then I had to spring the big question....."An agriculture graduate from the U. of starting a men's garden club isn't news, but a top furrier being an Ag graduate i How come?"

The answer didn't quite satisfy me except that Walter loves both....that Menzel F are good and that Menzel flowers are good is answer enough.

"And what do you consider the Garden Club's most important aspect?"

"I feel it is mutual interest in the love of nature". In our Club, we have a cross section of men. We have professional men, yet we have men with "hard hands"...th laborers. All of us have a dedication toward a better ecology. I think "sharing information" is the key factor to the Club's success. I am delighted that our "new blood" has attacked new challenges with new ideas.

As I left, I saw Walter's large collection of unique music boxes, his plants and objects d'art including a life-size replica of a knight in armor at the entryway. Somehow, I liked his love of plants and birds the best.

Out of Springtime. Out of gemutlichkeit. Out into Outer Siberia. (I wonder if my car will start?)

* * * * *

Planning your spring garden can be done with expert advice with the aid of public from the Department of Agriculture. They have 20 pamphlets available from 5¢ to 40¢ each. For a free list and order blank, write for "Spring Planting," to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20

NOTES FROM THE ONION PATCH

By Bob Smith

This is the first of a series of articles on growing vegetables and fruits based primarily on my own experiences with various cultural practices. During the past fifteen years, I have been experimenting extensively with natural methods of gardening so the articles will have a little natural flavor to them.

I have chosen onions for the first article because I have received as much enjoyment and satisfaction from growing them as from any other vegetable and they should be growing in some form in every garden. Onions are relatively easy to grow provided the soil is rich, fertile and reasonably well drained. There are three main types of onions grown today: 1) American varieties such as yellow glo that are medium in size, strong in flavor and keep long in storage; 2) European varieties such as Sweet Spanish and Bermuda which are larger and milder but do not keep as well in storage; and 3) Egyptian or multiplier onions used for scalli

The four varieties that suit our needs well are Ebenezer, Red Burgundy, Hybrid Sw Spanish and Pacesetter Hybrid. Ebenezer sets planted thickly in a deep furrow as early as the soil can be worked in the spring provide scallions in the late spring. Further thinning throughout the summer provides onions for boiling and other uses with the remainder dried for winter use. Red Burgundy onions, although very poor keepers, are unsurpassed for use in salads and on hamburgers during the summer and fall. Sweet Spanish onions are used for slicing and cooking in the fall and winter and Pacesetter, an excellent storage onion, is reserved for winter and spring use. These varieties provide us with a continuous supply of onions for all uses throughout the year.

Onion plants or sets of most standard varieties can be purchased from local seed stores or nurseries, but I prefer to start my own plants from seed under lights. This enables me to get them off to a quicker, better start with higher yield and quality and to be more selective in varieties. If you plan to start your own plants they should be seeded about mid-February. I use 10" x 24" flats that will accommodate about 200-300 plants each. My starting medium consists of a mixture of soil, compost and vermiculite. This is thoroughly moistened and covered with a 1/2" layer of moist milled sphagnum moss on which the seed is broadcast. The seed is then covered with a 1/2" layer of vermiculite. The flats are covered with plastic and kept at a 70° temperature until germination and then placed under fluorescent lights at a slightly lower temperature. No damp off has been experienced with this method. The flats are transferred to an outdoor hotbed and cold frame for a month of hardening before direct transplanting to the garden in early April.

The plants are set out in soil on which onions have not been grown for at least two years and that has been enriched by the addition of manure or a cover crop in the previous fall or compost added at planting time. A balanced supplemental fertilizer consisting of hydrolized turkey feathers, phosphate rock and wood ash is also worked in at planting time. The plants are spaced 4" to 6" apart depending on size at maturity.

The only onion pest to cause me any problems has been the onion maggot. This pest has been dealt with very effectively by using radishes, interplanted at the time onions are set out, as a trap crop. The radishes are pulled at maturity and the infested ones destroyed. There are always ample clean radishes for table use, and therefore, no additional space is required for growing them. This method of maggot control has held my onion losses to less than 5% during the past ten years, although about 50% of the radishes are usually infested.

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After the radishes have been pulled and the onions weeded and cultivated, there is little left to do until harvest time. Any further cultivation should be sh and the few weeds that may come up will not be detrimental to the onions. A supplemental feeding of liquid fertilizer such as fish emulsion at mid summer : desirable and mulching is beneficial in conserving moisture during the hot summ months.

When the onions have finished growing in August, they should be harvested before the fall rains stimulate any new growth. They can be left to dry in the garden for several days after they have been pulled. The tops should be cut off about inch above the onion. I continue the drying process by placing them in open cr in the garage until cold weather forces me to bring them in to a cool dry area the basement for the remainder of the winter.

Leeks, garlic, shallots, and chives are other onion like plants which respond t the same culture as onions that should not be overlooked. These and onions can all be grown equally as well in the flower garden as in the vegetable patch, a their benefit in repelling insect pests as well as their culinary value makes t a valuable addition to every garden.

* * * * *

Errors in 1972 Roster

Check the roster you received last month and make the following corrections.

Young, P. W., Address: 12126 Emelita St. North, Hollywood, Calif., 91607

Eisel, Mervin C., Address: Rt. 1, Box 132, Chaska, Mn., 55318

Hull, William H., Home telephone: 926-1327

Lehman, E. C., Address: 915 - 4th Ave. SW, Faribault, Mn., 55021

Lillibridge, John E., Address: 322 Herman Terrace, Hopkins, Mn., 55343

MacGregor, W. E. Jr., Zipcode: 55409

Mielke, James E., Zipcode: 55331

Smith, Phillip H., Zipcode: 55426

Wick, Anthony, Address: 2700 Grove Lane, Box 241, Mound, Mn., 55364

ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PLANT AUCTION COMMITTEE

To

You!! Our very select customers and your very closest friends

About

One of the most important garden events of 1972

PLANT AUCTION - May 9, 1972

*Circle your calendar and invite a friend,
But don't tell anyone unless they have money to spend.*

*There will be fun and prizes galore,
for bringing guests and buying more.
You will be swindled as never before,
By the shrewdest auctioneers in the game, Dwight and Ev.*

*But to save you from this shyster pair,
There will be a country store with prices fair.
Saleable plants that you can bring,
Will pay you dividends this Spring.*

*To help us plan this gala affair,
Simply fill out the form and tear.*

	<u>I Will Buy</u>		<u>I Will Bring</u>	
	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Variety/Color</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Variety/Color</u>
<u>Annuals</u>				
Pansies				
Snaps				
Petunias				
Other				
<u>Perennials</u>				
Mums				
Roses				
Dahlias				
Other				
<u>Vegetables</u>				
Tomatoes				
Peppers				
Other				
<u>Other Plant Materials</u>				
Trees				
Shrubs				
Other				
<u>Garden Equip. or Supplies</u>				
Fertilizer				
Tools				
Other				

Return to Charlie Proctor or Bob Smith

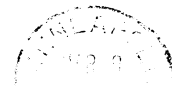
1972 Budget
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

This budget recommended at the February meeting by Dave Johnson was approved by the unanimous vote of all members present.

<u>Income Anticipated</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expenditures Foreseen</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Dues	\$1 400 00	Garden Spray	\$ 300 00
Plant Auction	400 00	Auction	75 00
Interest on Saving	160 00	Flower Show	25 00
Miscellaneous	200 00	Christmas Party	50 00
Carried Forward		Aboretum	300 00
Convention Fund	400 00	Minn. Hort. Soc. Dues	250 00
Total	<u>\$2 560 00</u>	MGCA Dues	550 00
		Project Fund	250 00
		Industrial Award	25 00
		Cheer	50 00
		Miscellaneous	285 00
		Transfer: 1967 Convention	
		Fund to delegates	
		1972 MGCA Convention	200 00
		Uncommitted Convention Fund	200 00
		Total	<u>\$2 560 00</u>

* Any additional club projects will be financed as approved by club membership.

THE GARDEN SPRAY
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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