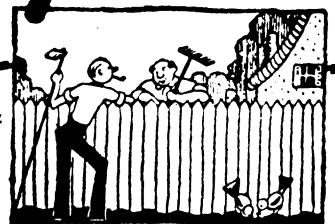




The Garden Spray

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



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

March 1976, Volume 34, Number 3

NEXT MGCM MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 9th, 5:45 PM

1976 is starting well. 75 persons attended the January meeting; 87 attended in February. We should have 100 in March for THE TOPIC IS ROS and the rose is a favorite flower the country over. Moreover, the SPEAKERS, MGCM member JERRY OLSON and TED LE BOUTILLIER both members of the Rose Society, are not only knowledgeable they are experts who give tips to the professionals. And, they won't talk over your head! Whether you're a dyed-in-the-wool enthusiast, a rank amateur or even, Heaven forbid, a non-grower there'll be something of interest for you.

In addition Julius Wadekamper will give a mini-clinic demonstration on the planting of small seeds; so we'll look for you

at MOUNT OLIVET CHURCH, 50th and KNOX S. DINNER \$3.00

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It was nice to see so many of our members and guests out to the February meeting. Eighty-seven, we believe, sets an all-time high for a regular meeting. The program was excellent and the March program should be just as good.

With spring just around the corner, we can turn our gardening attention to outdoor activities. March is an excellent month to do some pruning. Most shade and fruit trees can be pruned now. The exception would be trees that bleed such as maples and birches. Even these can be pruned if you don't mind seeing the loss of sap.

In pruning, remember a few basic rules:

1. Use sharp pruning tools to make clean cuts.
2. Make cuts flush with the main stem or branch. Never leave stubs
3. Remove lower branches that cause traffic problems.
4. Remove branches that cross and rub on each other.
5. Eliminate narrow crotches.
6. Remove any diseased or dead wood.
7. Prune the tree to maintain its natural form.

Summer flowering shrubs can also be pruned now. Hills of Snow and Annabelle hydrangea can be cut back to the first pair of buds on each stem. Anthony Waterer spiraea can also be cut back severely. These shrubs bloom on new wood and heavy pruning stimulates strong new stems that will produce large flower clusters. It is best to wait until after flowering to prune spring-flowering shrubs. You may also wish to try

WHY NOT A SWEET POTATO GROWING CONTEST?
by Bill Hull

Twelve years ago when I was national president of MGCA we initiated a Big Pumpkin Contest. It grew in popularity and was a very successful activity. Since then we have seen other groups publicize photos of huge cucurbits as the idea has caught on.

Why not another project in our own club or nationally? Such as the greatest number or poundage of sweet potatoes from a given number of plants? Irish potato contests are being held in some clubs, such as the Minnetonka club. But a lot can be said for the sweet potato too. Always thought of as a southern vegetable, it would be interesting to see just what we could do with it here in the north. Although some people grow it, it really doesn't seem to be a popular item here.

Having been raised in the Mid-south, I've been an advocate of the sweet patootie but a lot of people don't know how versatile they can be and how much food value there is in them. For example, we recently obtained some "Centennial" sweet potatoes from the Steele Plant Company of Gleas Tennessee, that sells both potatoes and plants of this and other varieties. They say that the Centennial is "America's leading sweet potato" and describe it as "having beautiful deep orange colored flesh that adds color and variety to every meal. 100 plants will produce several hundred pounds of your favorite yams."

I will attest that I never ate a better sweet potato. Wife Carol baked them for four of us and they were indeed extremely sweet and a rich, pleasant deep orange in color. Anyone could obtain the plants for as small an order as 25 for \$3.98 delivered. Or we could combine our order and obtain them by the hundreds for a much lower price. How about a thousand for \$29.95?

Anybody for baked sweet potatoes, sweet potato pie, candied potatoes, or corn bread, light bread, biscuits, cakes, pone, custard, patties or muffins--all made from sweet potatoes?

LET'S BE NEIGHBORLY--AND BEAUTIFUL

Nate Siegel and I are on the Neighborhood Environment Committee of CUE, the Committee on Urban Environment, as representatives of the Men's Garden Club. The committee's main function is to initiate action and to give assistance, guidance and advice to groups (or to get such groups organized) for projects which will clean up areas in the city, or make them more livable and/or productive. Carl Holst has worked with this group.

In past years the committee has gotten several low income housing groups started on gardens--both flower and vegetable. There are many more potential groups. We have been specifically asked for assistance by the South High Housing Project. It will involve, at the most, half a dozen meetings with project representatives between now and summer. I am requesting that any club members who would be willing to work with me on this worthwhile project contact me soon.

--Charles Proctor

Speaking of contests-- Do you remember 1971 and Dave Johnson's month by month thoughts from the Terraces of Woodhuckers Club?

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: LEON C. SNYDER

Secretary: JAMES E. MIELKE

Immediate Past President: ROBERT C. LIVINGSTON

Directors: ROBERT GAGE and RICHARD HULBERT

Vice President: FRED GLASOE

Treasurer: DEAN S. SCHNEIDER

1976 COMMITTEES

AUDITING: To audit the financial records and reports of the club.

Chrmn: FRANK VIXO. Members: France Anderson, Warren Bergstrom, Charles Proctor.

CHEER: To keep in touch with members who are hospitalized or ill and send appropriate get well cards signed by members.

Chrmn: HARRY SOVA. Members: France Anderson, Evald Johnson, Harold Nathanson.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: To plan and make all arrangements for the club's annual Christmas party.

Chrmn: BOB GAGE. Members: Ev Haedecke, Harold Nathanson, Dwight Stone

COMMUNITY GARDEN: To plan and organize planting and maintenance of the garden; to supervise actual work of maintenance.

Chrmn: CARL HOLST. Members: Floyd Ashley, Glenn Bartsch, Vinton Bouslough, Frank Brown, Archie Caple, Larry Corbett, Ed. Culbert, Bill Frederick, Henry Halvorson, Bruce Johnstone, Paul Lindstedt, Watt Myers, Sherm Pinkham, Nate Siegel, Dick Stehly.

FLOWER SHOW: To plan, supervise and make arrangements for the club's flower show or shows.

Chrmn: BOB SMITH. Members: Dale Durst, Henry Halvorson, Carl Holst, Raymond Marshall, Darwin Price, Charles Proctor, Walter Schmidt, Richard Victor.

GARDEN SPRAY: To accumulate reports, news of club members, garden articles, etc., and edit and publish the monthly bulletin of the club.

Chrmn and Editor: ED CULBERT. Members: Vinton Bouslough, Larry Corbett, Richard Hulbert, Dean Schneider, Don Wilson.

HISTORIAN: To maintain and update historical records of the club.

Chrmn: BILL HULL. Member: Don Wilson.

HOSPITALITY: To greet new and old members at each meeting of the club; to introduce new members to older members and make them glad to be member

Chrmn: DWIGHT STONE. Members: Ed Baar, Walter Flumerfelt, Carl Holst, Bob Livingston, Watt Myers, Frank Vixo.

INDUSTRIAL AWARD: To solicit nominations for the award; to judge the applications; to make the award presentations.

Chrmn: JULIUS WADEKAMPER. Members: Ev. Haedecke, Jack Kolb, Raymond Marshall, Dick Stehly, Norman Stewart.

LEHMAN TROPHY: To set up rules for competition; to publicize and record entries for the award; to judge the entries; to make the award presentation.

MAY AUCTION: To plan the auction and select a site; to solicit and obtain plants for the auction; to stage the auction and arrange for volunteers.

Chrmn: RICHARD VICTOR. Members: Vinton Bouslough, Frank Brown, Ev Haedecke, Bill MacGregor, James Mielke, Charles Proctor, Bob Smith.

MEMBERSHIP: To propose rules for selecting new members for approval by the Board; to select prospective members and to summarize their qualifications for approval by the Board.

Chrmn: SHERM PINKHAM. Members: Bob Livingston, Bill MacGregor, Jim Perrin, Dwight Stone.

MINI-TOURS: To arrange for informal visits to members' gardens.

Chrmn: JIM PERRIN. Member: Richard Hulbert.

NAME TAGS and ROSTER: To keep name tags up to date and available at meetings; to plan, prepare and print the annual club roster.

Chrmn: JOHN LILLIBRIDGE. Members: Bill Frederick, Paul Lindstedt, Si Rutherford.

NOMINATING: To make nominations for the club's officers and directors for the following year and to fill any vacancies during the current year.

Chrmn: JIM PERRIN. Members: Bob Livingston, Sherm Pinkham, Dwight Stone.

PROGRAM: To solicit ideas from members for program topics; to plan programs and arrange for speakers.

Chrmn: FRED GLASOE. Members: Larry Corbett, Henry Halvorson, Richard Hulbert, Bruce Johnstone, Walter Schmidt.

TELEPHONE: To call members to anticipate attendance at meetings.

Chrmn: BILL COWCILL. Members: Ed Baar, Vinton Bouslough, Dale Durst, Walter Flumerfelt, Bob Haley, Henry Halvorson, Art Johnson, Evald Johnson, Harold Nathanson, Sherm Pinkham, Si Rutherford, Harry Sova, Falconer Thomas, Stewart Wright.

TOURS: To select gardens for summer tours; to make arrangements for bus transportation and other special requirements for our tour meetings.

Chrmn: JIM FISHBAUGHER. Members: Bob Smith, Cameron Smith, Dwight Stone.

MGCM 1976 BUDGET

(Adopted at the February meeting as recommended by President and Directors)

<u>Income Anticipated</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expenditures Foreseen</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Dues	\$2,900.00	Garden Spray	\$ 725.00
Plant Auction	850.00	Auction	250.00
Interest on Savings	287.00	Flower Show	150.00
Miscellaneous	150.00	Christmas Party	150.00
Carried Fwd. Conv. Fund	93.00	Arboretum	350.00
TOTAL	\$4,280.00	Minn. Hort. Soc. Dues	630.00
		M G C A Dues	1,050.00
		Project Fund	150.00
		Awards	125.00
		Remembrances	75.00
		Honoraria	100.00
		1976 MGCA Conv. Del.	200.00
		Tours & Dinner Shortages	275.00

ROLLIE A. ANDERSON

Rollie Anderson died October 19, 1975, after a serious illness of nearly a year.

Rollie worked for Strutwear until they moved out of the city. He had 20 years of service with that company. Next he was employed by the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company where he worked the 13 years prior to his retirement at age 65. Shortly after retirement he became ill and was in and out of the hospital until he passed away of cancer at age 69.

Rollie was a member of the Richfield Men's Garden Club where he held several offices including a term as president. When the Richfield club disbanded he came with the group to the Minneapolis MGC. He enjoyed the fellowship with his many friends in the club and it is with deep regret we mourn his going.

Our sympathy to his wife, his son and daughter.

--Milton Thomas

SECRETARY'S REPORT RE 1975 (Fred Glasoe)

The 1975 year for the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club was more than outstanding... It was sensational, fantastic! The January meeting started out with meat loaf and as things improved, the club was able to finish off with turkey and all the trimmings at its final December meeting. This must be a sign... Either the officers were able to handle the fur well or they developed elegant ways of spending them. Dwight Stone with his mini-auctions, seemed to be able to squeeze even more money out of the membership. No one has ever sold apples for a higher price.

In going over the secretary's monthly memoirs, I've found that every board meeting was extremely congenial and that most members of the board were able to find most of the board meetings as long as they did not ride with Don Wilson.

Fifteen new club members were taken in during 1975 and we lost one of our club's dearest and oldest members, Cortis Rice. Cortis not only had been a builder of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club, but was also prominent throughout the state as a developer and builder of gardening, ecological and environmental programs.

Among special activities of note this year was the club's participation in the state Arbor Day programs, its enlargement of its mini-tour program and out-of-town journeys by the membership to the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum at Chaska and to Bachman's Tree Farm in Lakeville. A volley of good speakers highlighted all of our programs. Many of the speakers, being our own club members, were supercharged with the how's and why's of every type of flower and vegetable gardening, and contributed their expertise to our programs.

Our own publication, The Garden Spray, so ably edited by Ed Culbert, was again loaded with good gardening information and interesting articles for all of us to enjoy and profit by in the interval of time between

(1975 REPORT from page 5)

As usual, the May plant auction brought in the dollars... To the tune \$810.02, and only the hoarseness of the auctioneers and the final emptiness of the plant flats drove the members back to their homes, happy with their new bargains. The auction was a success because of the hard work of the committee and the enthusiasm of our loyal members.

With some reservations the annual show of the North Star Region was moved to the Arboretum. It was felt that the show would get better exposure to the public there and also that the beautiful facilities of Arboretum would enhance the aesthetic appearance of the show. This indeed proved to be true, and there was nothing to fear but fear itself. This year's show had a bigger attendance than any show of the past and with the excellent work of Dale Durst and Darwin Price, Co-Chairmen, appears to be the beginning of a great new area of visibility for the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club.

Everyone enjoys looking at the other fellow's garden and the tour this year again showed us how it should be done. Many gardens were outstanding but it took Dr. Snyder to show us how to really do it.

Our National President, Harold J. Parnham, was our guest at the October meeting. It is always an honor to have a national president meet with us and Harold was an especially congenial guest and a good speaker. His presentation gave our club a little national pizzazz.

To finish off the year, 229 happy members and their wives gathered at the largest annual holiday party that this club has ever held. Bob G... the program chairman, produced a program that will be hard to surpass and a beautifully decorated banquet. The awards for the past year were again accepted with the modest reserve that characterizes all of our club members. As the club year was brought to a close, our stalwart president, Bob Livingston, passed the duties on to our new helmsman, Dr. Leon Snyder, and, amid a joyful noise, the good ship Livingston slowly faded into the sunset.

COMPOST

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Again this year, Hennepin County will have good cultured compost available at both the Eden Prairie and Osseo Leaf Recycling Centers. Open date for both pits will be either Saturday, April 17th, or Saturday, April 24th, depending on completion of pulverizing the piles. On the first couple of weekends, they will furnish a loader to load trucks or trailers. The pits will be open during the week on a load-it-yourself basis.

The Eden Prairie site is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Co. Rd. 18 on Co. Rd. 1 which lies about 3 miles south of I-494.

The Osseo site is about 1 mile west of Co. Rd. 18 just off Co. Rd. 109 which lies about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Osseo. Turn north off 109 at the first curve and go about a block to the bottom of the hill. This pit also has some 2 year old compost left over from last year.

Watch the Minneapolis and the Sun newspapers for the spring announcement or call Mr. Brenna, Hennepin County Highway Department, Hopkins, about April 1st to confirm availability dates. His phone is 935-3381.

THE JANUARY MEETING

Fred Glasoe's statement, "You don't have to go visit her. She brings all to you", was a fitting description of Sandy Murphy's presentation January 13th. She brought gorgeous blooming orchid plants sufficient to fill a table; slides showing many more; a number of smaller plants to auction off (They brought \$5 to \$10 each); printed sheets of directions for growing orchids; a string of compliments for Bob Bryant's work (He blushed); and, an infectious enthusiasm that rubbed off on all present.

We learned that orchids first appeared in the Tertiary period, 65 million years ago; that there are 35,000 species of orchids; that orchids constitute the largest flowering plant family on earth, even exceeding the grasses in number; that 10 percent of all flowering plants are orchids. We learned that not all orchids are tropical plants and epiphytes (Really only 80 percent of the tropical orchids are epiphytes); that a tiny orchid has recently been found in the frozen North; that there is one which spends its entire life underground; and, of course our cypripedium or the lady-slipper, is terrestrial.

We learned that orchid pollen is never wind-borne, a vector (carrier) is required; that orchid seeds are small as dust; that orchid seeds contain no food so to grow must first be penetrated by a specific fungus. Meristem-stemming and meristem-cloning are the most productive methods of propagating.

You can grow orchids as houseplants in a bright window, free from draft where the plants receive direct sunlight both morning and afternoon. (Plants need protection only against the burning midday sun in summer. On extremely cold freezing nights, the plants should be temporarily moved back from the window to provide a protective air space. Potted orchid plants should be set on pebbles in a water-filled tray or other container to increase the humidity as well as to facilitate drainage. In watering just pour an abundance of water into the top of the pot. In determining when to water, feel the growing medium about the base of the plant--stick your fingers into it. If it feels dry and harsh, it needs water.

Orchids may be grouped into 4 categories as far as moisture requirements are concerned: (1) Epiphytes or "air rooted" orchids, with built-in "water tanks" or pseudobulbs which like a certain amount of drying out between waterings; (2) Monopodials which do not have built-in tanks and water storage which require about the same waterings as any house plant; (3) Cypripediums which like an abundance of moisture (The bottoms of the pots may stand in water for some time after watering); and (4) Cymbidiums which like an abundance of moisture--but with good drainage and plentiful root aeration.

For growing, group orchids into three temperature classes: (1) Medium class (cattleyas, epidendrums, miltonias, oncidiums, mottled leaf cypripediums) Minimum 60° nights and high 70° days. This group does very well with the air, temperature, and light facilities found in the modern home. (2) Cool class (cymbidiums, plain leaf cypripediums, odontoglossums) temperatures 3° to 5° cooler than the Mediums; (3) Warm class (phalaenopsis, vandas, and dendrobiums) 5° warmer than the Medium class.

The light intensity should be between 1500 and 2000 foot candles so you