

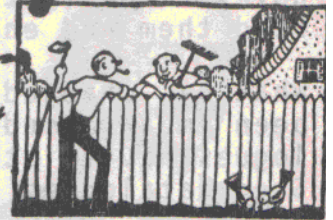


The Garden Spray

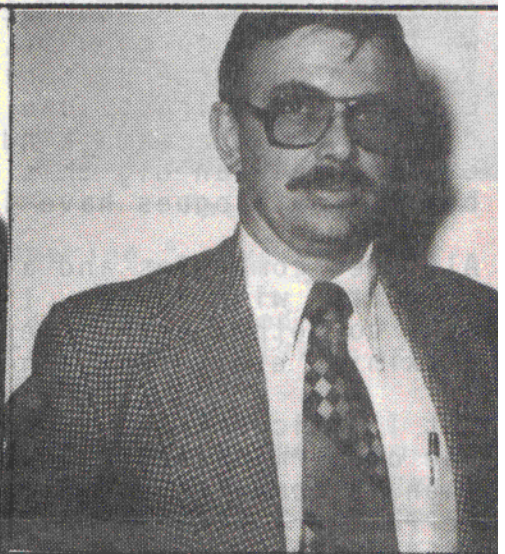
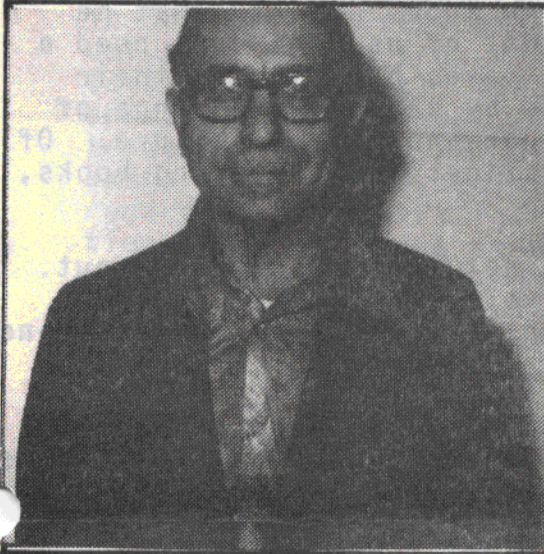
BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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

March 1978, Volume 36, Number 3



DO YOU RECOGNIZE THESE MEMBERS NEW IN 1977?



John Mondati

Tom Somers

Thomas Hamilton

LOOK FOR THEM AT OUR NEXT MEETING

WHICH WILL BE HELD AT

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th ST. & KNOX AV. S.

AT 6 PM, TUESDAY MARCH 14th, 1978. (DINNER \$3.50)

SPEAKER: BETTY ANN MECH. TOPIC: ROCK GARDENING. She has a greenhouse. She is an authority on rock gardening. She is highly recommended by Fred Glasoe and Glenn Ray. Her talk will be illustrated. What more need we say?

SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION CARD AT ONCE

NOTE: Archie Caple was able to photograph 45 club members at the February meeting in preparation for the membership book to be published this spring. The book will be financed from the club treasury. It is not a substitute for the roster. The roster will be published as here tofore.

PLEASE! PLEASE! Make a special effort to be at the March meeting so we may complete this exciting project.

46th annual convention

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Not long ago I wondered why people talked of the thrill of getting seed catalogues. To me that was as incomprehensible as musicians I have known sitting up in bed reading the scores of symphonies as though they were novels. Well, times have changed and I find I send for catalogues and I read them and enjoy them.

What has changed this for me? After becoming a garden club member I have been embarrassed by not knowing the names of familiar plants. All catalogues have pictures and some have them in quite true colors. The Park Seed catalogues are outstanding in this respect.

Not so long ago I bought all my seed off the racks and depended entirely on the instructions printed on the back. If one knows exactly what he wants and how to grow it, that is fine. But most of us beginners need a lot more guidance not only in the selection of seeds but also in their culture. Catalogues can be of great assistance by showing the range of choices for the same kind of plant, height, vigor and time to mature. Of course, one can dig this information up in magazines and gardening books but the catalogues have it all put together.

All seed companies and all seed catalogues are not the same I found out. I started with Parks. I told myself, "They have everything....I don't need to bother with others....They seem to have more kinds of begonias and gloxinia, etc., than others....Why bother?"

But I noticed Parks doesn't date their packets nor tell probable percentage of germination. Their prices are high and they give no baker's dozen when it comes to the number of seeds in a packet. Then a club member referred me to the Joseph Harris Company, Moreton Farm, Rochester, N. Y., 14624. Whereas I got about 40 percent germination on geraniums from Parks I got 90 percent from Harris. On my last order for geranium seeds Harris sent over 300 seeds although the seed count on the packets was 250.

A few days ago I got a catalogue from Stokes Seeds, Inc., Box 548, Buffalo, N. Y., 14240. The catalogue is not much for color pictures but the cultural information is great. It is all in alphabetical order. Each kind of vegetable or flower listed has a detailed heading telling the reader how to successfully grow the plants. They spare the glowing adjectives and provide an abundance of facts.

So I find the smart gardener will go to one catalogue for pretty pictures and for inspiration but may order from other houses to get the quality. And, of course, all catalogues tell you of the more recent varieties coming on the market. Also, most catalogues can tell you which varieties are best for show. If you are competing you will almost have to study the catalogues each year.

Old time gardeners will smile at my observations, but some of you are as green at this game and I am and may get an idea.

--Richard Hulbert

VEGETABLE GROWERS: I had thought to get us together in late February; but because I shall be out of town our meeting will be deferred until about March 17. I am checking, and if there is anything worth looking into, I will plan a trip to Becker in late March to see the growing utilizing the benefits of NSP's waste warm water. If interested call me after March 1

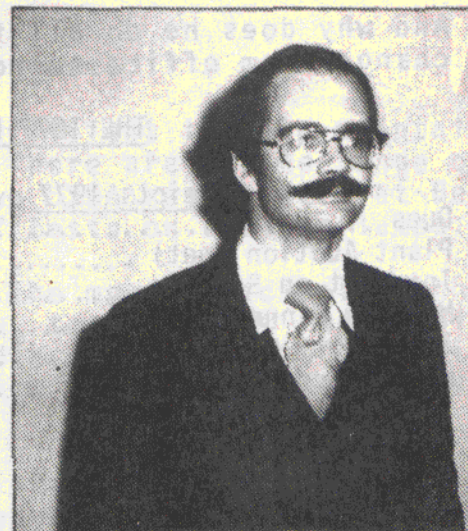
--Charlie Proctor

THE GARDEN SPRAY - Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.
March 1978, Volume 36, Number 3
Deadline: the 15th OF EACH MONTH.

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MGCM PRESIDENTS: PHILLIP H. SMITH, 1970

Phil Smith is a Hoosier who found success by following Horace Greeley's advice, "Go West, young man. Go West." Born in Hartford City, Indiana, a town of some 7000 inhabitants located a short distance north of Muncie he received his early and his collegiate training in Indiana. First came a degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University (obtained in 3 years); then a JD from Indiana University law school. "As a patent and trademark lawyer (member of Merchant, Gould, Smith and Edell) specializing in litigation regarding trademark infringement and opposition cases I need a strong background in engineering," says Phil.



Phil Smith

Although now only in his early 40's Smith has already served as president of MGCM; as president of the state horticultural society, 1972; as president of the board of trustees of the arboretum, 1971-1976.

"The Community Fragrance Garden had its inception during the term in office of Phil Smith whose efforts were responsible for the arrangement with the Highway Department, the Park Board and the Minneapolis Society for the Blind for the use of the land. This took a year so no work was done on the garden in 1970", wrote Nate Siegel in the July 1971 GARDEN SPRAY.

One might add that this was no slight task involving as it did appearances before the Park Board to enlist its support, arranging with the Highway Department for the lease of the land to the Society for the Blind and for its subsequent sub-lease to MGCM and starting the ball rolling for financial backing from others in addition to MGCM. But then that might have been expected from the man who wrote in the December 1969 GARDEN SPRAY, "...We must strive to be a giving organization rather than one that only demands from its members....If we have something to give someone's use of their leisure time and not demand from their time, then we will all grow in several ways...."

Smith's interests are many and varied: carpentry, woodworking, art, cooking, travel (for winter vacations), and, of course, gardening. His major garden interest is hardy perennials, particularly delphiniums. Because of this interest he was named a U. S. vice-president of the Delphinium Society of England and was invited to write an article on delphiniums for their 1970 yearbook. He had another article in the DELPHINIUM SOCIETY 1972 YEARBOOK and was cited as "an active vice-president (who) wrote regularly and also visited England".

His major garden is at his lake home near Annandale which he built himself. There he grows green plants indoors. Outdoors he has extensive plantings of spring bulbs plus annual and perennial gardens terraced with railroad ties. Others as busy as Smith would purchase from commercial growers but many flats of annuals needed each year. Not he. He grows his own

under lights in the basement of his townhouse at Vallee D'Or in Golden Valley. For variety he has a deck garden there.

And why does he do all this? "I enjoy gardening as a creative hobby and a change from office surroundings," says Smith.

THE 1977 FINANCIAL PICTURE (Audit Committee)

<u>Receipts 1977</u>		<u>Expenses 1977</u>	
Dues	\$2651.75	THE GARDEN SPRAY	\$ 752.14
Plant Auction (net)	739.32	Flower Show	133.77
Interest on Savings	263.97	Tours	49.60
Monthly Dinners Gain	78.48	Memberships	
Xmas Party Gain	178.60	Minn. Hort. Soc.	608.50
Misc. Income	97.90	MGCA	990.75
TOTAL	\$4010.02	Cheer	55.57
		Awards	182.29
		MGCA Life Membership	100.00
		Miscellaneous	124.64
		TOTAL	\$2997.26
		Net to Surplus	\$1012.76*

BALANCE SHEET**

<u>Assets</u>		<u>Liabilities</u>	
Checking Account	\$2748.17	1978 Dues pd. 1977	\$1940.50
Savings Account	4692.85	1976 Surplus	4318.26
Inventory (est.)	120.50	1977 Surplus	1012.76*
TOTAL	\$7561.52	Com. Gar. Fd. Advance	290.00
		TOTAL	\$7561.52

*Interest of \$87.99 on savings fund available September and 1977 contributions to the Arboretum not reflected in this amount.

**Community Garden Fund of \$1564.75 not included.

The committee list normally published in the March Garden Spray is not yet ready. This year it will appear only in the roster which should be in your hands at or shortly after the March meeting.

Mr. Werner was kind enough to lend us the notes for his February talk on African violets. A resume will appear in our March issue.

Can you find space under your lights to grow a few plants for our Community Garden project? If you can telephone Nate Siegel. The seeds will be furnished.

For a number of years I have made a practice to leave about half of my carrot crop in the ground over winter covered with a foot of hay. The first year I was amazed to find that the ground was not frozen under the covering, and the carrots were in excellent condition when I dug them. Since then, I have followed this same procedure, and take it for granted that the carrots will keep fine. However, when going out to the garden this week to dig carrots, I got quite a surprise when I found the ground was frozen solid--carrots and all.

--Stan Crist in January 1978 GARDENING IN MINNETONKA

(The following article appeared in the May 1977 issue of the CORT-LAND SOD BUSTERS.)

LET THERE BE LIGHT

(from the Penna. Coop. Ext. Service)

When natural light in the living space is insufficient to help maintain house plants, artificial light must be used. There are a wide range of lamps offered for sale to the home owner. Two USDA researchers at Belville, Maryland recently conducted a series of tests on various lamps.

Their findings--cool white and warm white are the most efficient of the various fluorescent lamp sources. For example, to equal 100 footcandle of cool white fluorescent requires 53 footcandles of sunlight, 47 footcandles of Gro-Lux, 68 foot candles of Gro-Lux wide and 35 footcandles of incandescent.

To express this in a different way, you would need this approximate number of 40 watt fluorescent lamps for equal energy output: 3 Cool White or Warm White; 4 Gro-Lux--WS; Agro-lite and other wide spectrum lamps; 5 Regular Gro-Lux and plant lights.

A number of lamps were compared as far as plant responses. The results are most interesting.

LAMP	PLANT RESPONSE
Fluorescent--Cool White and Warm White (CW and WW)	.Green foliage which expands to parallel to the surface of the lamp. .Stems elongate slowly. .Multiple side shoots develop. .Flowering occurs over a long period of time.
* * * * *	
Fluorescent--Gro-Lux (GL) and Plant Light	.Deep green foliage which expands, often larger than on plants grown under CW or WW. .Stems elongate very slowly, extra thick stems develop. .Multiple side shoots develop. .Flowering occurs late, flower stalks do not elongate.
* * * * *	
Fluorescent--Gro-Lux--WS (GL-WS), Vita-lite (Vita), Wide Spectrum lamps.	.Light green foliage which tends to ascend towards the lamp. .Stems elongate rapidly; distances between the leaves. .Suppresses development of multiple side shoots. .Flowering occurs soon; flower stalks elongated; plants mature and age rapidly.
* * * * *	
Incandescent (Inc) and Incandescent-Mercury (Inc-HG)	.Paling of foliage: thinner and longer than on plants grown under other light sources.

(continued over)

elongation is excessive, eventually becomes spindly and easily break. Side shoot development is suppressed; plant extends only in height. Flowering occurs rapidly; the plants mature and senescence.

Exceptions: Rosette and thick leaved plants such as Sansevieria may maintain themselves for many months. The new leaves which eventually develop will elongate and will not have the typical characteristics of the species

James K. Rathmell, Jr.
Professor, Floriculture Extension

Where trade names are used no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Coop. Ext. Service is implied.

LIGHT INTENSITY

(Culled from an article by Bill Bahr, Toledo MGC)

It is first necessary to know the lite requirements of the plant, measured in foot candles. As an example: Rex Begonias need 500 to 1 k, Maranta (Prayer Plant) needs 150 to 450. Impatiens, Coleus, Jade Plant need 500 to 8 k (8000) which is equivalent to full sun. These figures are based on 12 hours a day of such lite. While most of our planting will be based on outdoor varieties, lite equivalents for indoor starting are critical. If you have an incident light meter, the lite source value can be read directly in foot candles. If you have a meter that reads only reflected lite for exposure setting it can be used also. Set the film speed at ASA 100 and take a reading from a white card held near a leaf surface or where the initial growth has begun. Instead of reading exposure values in terms of lens-opening and shutter speed, read the shutter speed opposite F-4. If it reads 1/250 sec. this will be equal to 250 foot candles of light.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY OF MGCM, INC.
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