

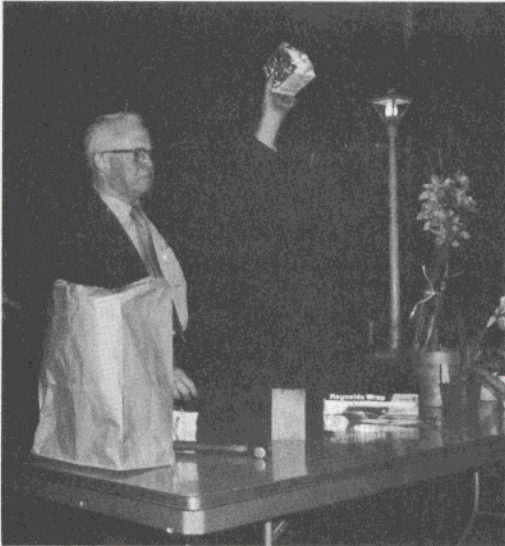
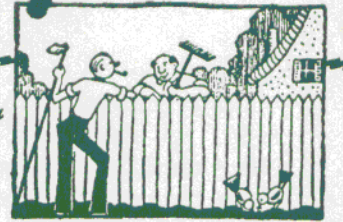


# The Garden Spray

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

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

May 1971, Volume 29, Number 5



Dave Goddard Demonstrates  
How to Start Things Moving.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1971

RECREATION BUILDING POWDERHORN PARK  
35th Street and 14th Avenue South

The building is at the southeast corner of the park and down in the hollow beside the lake. Access is on 14th Avenue at 35th Street.

ORDER OF EVENTS

12 Noon - Start bringing your materials.

5:30 PM - Country Store

6:00 PM - Dinner (DeLaria's) Self Service

Of course, the dinner will cost the usual nominal sum you habitually pay, \$2.00.

And then, promptly at 7:00 PM that grand event - THE AUCTION

For your delectation on this momentous occasion

We have at great pains and expense secured as

AUCTIONEERS, that INIMITABLE PAIR, Ev. Haedecke and Dwight Stone.

They will cajole; they will wheedle.  
They will beg; they will plead.  
They will sing; they will shout.  
They will huff, puff and wheeze  
as they lift pots, pans and flats;  
plants, bags, boxes and packets;  
bare-root stock, freshly dug stock;  
tiny seedlings, transplanted seedlings.  
They will dance; they will stamp in  
ecstasy under the spell of the sale.

It will be worth coming just to see  
this pair perform. Bring a gardening  
friend--and cash. You'll be glad you did!



THE GARDEN SPRAY Volume 29, Number 5, May 1971

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

Deadline for material the 22nd of each month.

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I'LL BE THERE

by David W. Goddard

Who am I? Just a plain died in the wool gardener, who happens to be a member of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club. Now, why am I not going to miss the annual Plant Auction for the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club?

First off, it's spring and high time to get the plants I need for this year's exploration into the World of Plant wonder. Every new bud that grows from yesterday's bare stem, each newly opened bloom that exploded this morning from its closely wrapped bud, each one is a miracle that defies man's creative ability to reproduce in action.

Next, I feel that this is a relatively painless way to help support the financial needs of our club's greater than single person's effort to establish and maintain beauty in our time and in our City. It really is not how much money we accumulate in Minneapolis and how many years we have spent in this City that really counts in the memories of yesteryear and the satisfaction of the years to come. I feel the ultimate pride and joy is in accomplishing a job well done, such as the Lyndale, Lowry Hill, Fragrance gardens and other similar projects.

Finally, where would I come in closer friendly relationship with my fellow M.M.G.C. members than at a spirited Auction like we have scheduled for Tuesday, the eleventh of May at 6:30 following our meal? Bidding and counter bidding can be kept unadulterated fun, a place to let yourself go a bit. Suppose you do buy 10 or 12 dozen more plants than your gardening requires? Do you have a neighbor, friend, acquaintance or an associate that you would like to know better or to whom you would like to make a friendly approach? What is better than taking a live plant or several over to his home and maybe even helping him to plant them?

You know, after having done all of this last year, I am already to do it again. See you there at the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club AUCTION.

-- Dave

BRIEFS

Well, we finally made our 60 in April. How many shall we figure on at the auction

Twenty-six members have a perfect attendance record to date. Three others have missed but one meeting so could easily make it up. We've customarily permitted members who miss only one or two meetings in a year to substitute visits to another garden club for the missed meetings when the Green Thumb awards are made.

The vegetable special interest group chaired by Charley Proctor met at the Northrup King Trial grounds greenhouses on Thursday evening, April 15. With Larry Corbett as guide and narrator they saw and learned about the various experimental programs involving vegetables and grains now in progress.

We are sorry to report the death on April 13 of F.E. ("Bennie") Benson who had been one of our group until this year.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TERRACES

by Dave Johnson

I was contemplating putting the words in big bold letters across this page - "BUSY WORKING ON COMMUNITY GARDEN - WILL BE BACK NEXT ISSUE."

Our Community Garden Project is really taking shape; however, we do need some new recruits to do the less strenuous work. The planters and retaining wall have been completed and black dirt is being spread. Some \$1,500 plus in labor was saved the first three Saturdays by some 15 hard working club members. Bob Smith's engineering of the job rates on a par with his vegetable growing which I consider the best.

Please volunteer some time for planting if you haven't been there, so that the entire club can be a part of our most worthy project. Be sure to call Nate Siegel or any club officer if you can be there anytime during the next two Saturdays or for special assignments during the week.

Welcome to our newest member, William E. MacGregor Jr. (Bill) who does most of his gardening on the north shore of Woman Lake. Bill, a lawyer resides at 4753 So. Emerson Ave. - telephone 524-0024. Sounds like a good garden to have on our tour so we could catch some of those big slab crappies. The only trouble being the 160 miles to his cabin in Cass County.

I know you have missed my jokes at our meetings so I'm offering you an old Chinese proverb as a substitute: "If you wish to be happy for an hour get drunk. If you wish to be happy for three days, get married. If you wish to be happy for eight days, kill your pig and eat it. But if you wish to be happy forever, become a gardener."

It's auction time and it looks like we will have a large variety of plants to select from - some so new you may not even know about them. Dave Goddard and his crew have been working hard. Be sure to bring a friend, not only to help promote our one fund raising project for the year, but also to increase our membership. It's a fun time for all!

The Richfield Garden Club has decided against having a combined flower show with our Club this year. If you have any ideas as to what you would like, see Carl Hols Flower Show Chairman. Maybe we should have a show at our regular meetings from June through October.

One more woodchuck has bit the dust. I'm hoping it's the last one in the valley. They not only like green plants, which includes new vines from squash, pumpkin and melons, but also devour two to three pounds per day of my Big Max pumpkins in the fall. My sunflowers were a failure the past three years as the tops of the three foot plants were eaten in the month of June. My Beagle dog isn't tough enough to kill them although she has treed one. I'll trade a woodchuck any day for one of Bill Hull's woodpeckers.

WCCO radio reported this morning that David Hessayon, Dr. of Biology and Horticulture expert reported to the Royal Horticulture Society in London, England that gardening prevents more mental breakdowns and promotes longevity more than any other single activity. With facts like that our membership should really grow!

#### ADVICE FROM AN OLD MASTER

This is just a reminder for the benefit of the newer members. Learn and know the values of the code numbers which appear on every bag of fertilizer. Such numbers as 10-8-8 or 6-8-6 indicate the mixture's percentage of Nitrogen - Phosphate, and Potash, - chemicals which promote the growth of, respectively, leaf, root and branch. You don't need test tubes to gauge your soils chemical needs; you can take readings from the appearance of your plants, e.g., if your plants tend to fall easily in a rainstorm, it is a sign that you have too much nitrogen, giving the plant too much leaf, and are too low on the second number hence, have not enough root system. So shift to a fertilizer with less nitrog and more phosphate; similarly, spindly branches call for more of the last numb potash.

Now for the root system. Just because roots are hidden underground, they are probably the most neglected or misunderstood part of the plant. If you keep a couple of simple points in mind, you can improve the performance of newly plan flowers and shrubs enormously. There are two separate sets of roots that perf two separate functions. The heavier roots holding the plant structurally can rough treatment. The fine and more delicate tender roots which suck food and from the soil are so fragile that if they dry out for a few minutes the plant die. So, when planting don't forget to have the proper medium of soil at hand spread out the heavy roots, to tap the soil with your foot to avoid air pocket to water well.

--Bill Cowcill

#### THE APRIL 13TH TALKS

CARL HOLST: Remove all covering from roses now; if trenched stand up. Stake roses. Hose off dirt; spray with lime-sulphur or other preventive spray. Dor roses may be planted now, potted roses at any time. To avoid root injury, use bone-meal when planting. All roses should be planted with the bud union at so

## THE TREES THAT LET US BREATHE

by Phil Smith

Much has been written about pollution of late. Though we all know of the severe air pollution caused by automobiles I recently read some statistics which refer to the problem in a perspective relating to interchange of oxygen between plant growth and the automobile. The figures are startling, consider the following:

- ..Oxygen is the precious by-product of photosynthesis - that "manufacturing" process which makes green leaves oxygen producers.
- ..Fifty full-sized, thriving, growing red pine trees are required to supply the annual oxygen demand of one automobile.
- ..One mature, thriving red pine tree, in one growing season, will provide enough oxygen (450 pounds) to keep one man breathing for one year.
- ..Shade trees are "air conditioners" that make no demand on your electric bill. Shade trees, by transpiration, can cool your home by as much as 12 degrees on a hot summer afternoon.
- ..Approximately 100 full-grown, thriving trees are required to supply the oxygen demand, and "neutralize" the exhaust, of one tractor-trailer truck.
- ..On a good summer growing day, 80 degree temperature or higher, one large American elm tree may transpire as much as 150 gallons of pure, unpolluted water. A full grown birch will give off 90 gallons.

The process of photosynthesis is complicated and still not completely understood; its importance to man is well known, however, and with the recent emphasis on environmental ecology and man's use of his natural surroundings, the significance of photosynthesis has become more appreciated. Green plants are the only single source of food for man and animals alike. Plants manufacture their own food and act as storehouses from which man can draw energy. Man is not so lucky, since he lacks the power to manufacture food in his body.

Plants also act as air filters or conditioners. With green leaves as factories, plants utilize carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, water from the soil and small amounts of soil nutrients, to manufacture carbohydrates and give off oxygen as a by-product. From the carbohydrates, starches, cellulose, and proteins, the plant derives its energy to prosper and grow. Air is approximately 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, .03% carbon dioxide, and .97% other elements. Therefore, a plant must have a large supply of air move across its leaves to secure the carbon dioxide to manufacture enough food. Marine plants have the same ability, the carbon dioxide coming from the water and the oxygen being released as bubbles. An estimated 70% of plant photosynthesis is carried on by microscopic marine algae living in the oceans, thus the oceans, which cover 71% of the earth's surface, are the largest producers of oxygen.

In addition to respiration from animals, the soil, also, produces a large amount of carbon dioxide. An acre of forest soil may release approximately 20 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per hour. Some plantmen add CO<sub>2</sub> and with this increased concentration of gas in the atmosphere increase the growth rate by speeding up the rate of photosynthesis.

How much oxygen is consumed in the combustion of gasoline in your car's engine? A gallon of gasoline requires three times (1,200 cu. ft.) the volume of air that a man uses in 24 hours. If the average auto burns 1,000 gallons of gasoline annually it would take 50 full grown trees one year to replace this amount of oxygen. Trees would use most of the carbon dioxide and water produced in the combustion, but not the carbon monoxide so produced. So, the next time you are driving through a red-pine forest, remember that 51 of those majestic specimens are assisting your motorist's tour by supplying the oxygen you - and your auto - requires.

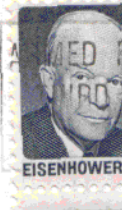
Are You A HIKER or CAMPER?

What you don't know can't hurt you doesn't hold true where poisonous plants are concerned. A recent bulletin issued by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture can help you escape the painful effects of three species of these plants. It tells how to identify and control poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac. Mail ten cents and ask for Farmers Bulletin 1972, "POISON IVY, POISON OAK, AND POISON SUMAC" to Supt. of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

For wider coverage your editor recommends "DEADLY HARVEST - A GUIDE TO COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS" by John M. Kingsbury; Holt, Rinchart and Winston, 1965; \$4.50 which was recommended by Dr. H. D. Harrington in a talk at the 1969 M.G.C.A. convention held at Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Even more interesting and valuable to the outdoorsman is Dr. Harrington's own book "EDIBLE NATIVE PLANTS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS," H. D. Harrington; University of New Mexico Press, 1967; \$8.95 which I found in the University of Colorado bookstore. Dr. Harrington and his wife spent years testing and tasting before this book was published. Included is a 44 page chapter on "Poisonous Plants." Don't let the "Rocky Mountains" in the title fool you. Practically every plant mentioned is just as common to Minnesota.

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