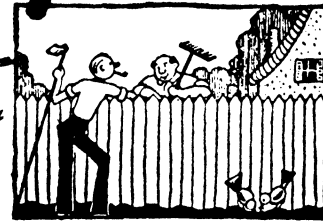




The Garden Spray

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

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



November 1972, Volume 30, Number 11

COMING NEXT TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 14, 1972

In addition to the usual fine program prepared by Carl Holst, this will be the MGC Mpls. Annual Meeting called for in our By-Laws "for the purpose of electing Directors and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting. You are, likewise, urged at this time to make reservations for the Christmas party and pay your dues for 1972. (See inside pages for further details.)

SAME TIME
5:45 PM

SAME PLACE
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
50th Street at Knox Ave. So.

SAME PRICE
\$2.00

PROGRAM ITEM ONE: Mrs. Barger, "our proposed Japanese Garden" Mrs. Barger of the Bloomington Women's Garden Club will tell us about the fantastic Japanese garden the Club is sponsoring. Carl tells us it is really something. Mrs. Barger knows how to put her message across, too, so don't miss it.

PROGRAM ITEM TWO: We'll leave that up to you. In recent meetings we've been so busy discussing the major topic we've been hard put to get to an item two.

* * * * *

HELP

HELP

HELP

Bill Hull needs your help

Roger Anderson needs your help

MGC needs your help - with slides

The slide presentation of the Christmas party this year will be in the charge of Bill Hull. He can't do it alone. This isn't a lecture or a one man show. Its got to be a cooperative project. Get your best slides to him NOW at his home; 6833 Creston R Edina, at his office in the Modern Medicine Building; 4015 West 65th Street, Edina bring them to the November meeting. Don't forget to have your name on them.

Now turn to Pages 7 and 8. Fill in the blanks. Write a check. Send it to Cliff. The fact that you no longer have the last page of your November SPRAY will then prove you are on the ball. Don't worry about not having a copy of the party program. It will appear again in our next issue.

THE GARDEN SPRAY - The Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

November 1972, Volume 30, Number 11.

Editor: Edwin C. Culbert

5315 Portland Ave., Minneapolis, Mn.

Editorial Staff: Robert E. Smith

Phillip H. Smith and Donald Wilson

Deadline for material: the 22nd

OF EACH MONTH

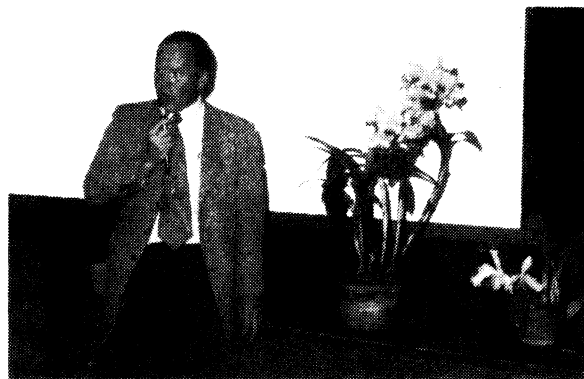
Club Officers:

President: Roger J. Anderson

Vice President: Carl J. Holst

Secretary: John E. Lillibridge

Treasurer: Clifton Brisco



DON WILSON REPORTS THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Dr. Franklin Sidel, president of the Minnesota Orchid Society, pictured above with two of his prize orchids spoke at the October meeting. Some things you might not know about orchids are:

1. Did you know that our State flower is an orchid?
2. Did you know what the second largest distributed plant in the world is? (The grasses are the first, orchids second.)
3. Are orchids native to Minnesota? (There are over 30 varieties in Minnesota.)
4. Orchids grow best in dark jungles - true or false? (Many orchids are grown in Australia, Europe and North America. One type grows entirely underground; some live on trees but are not parasites; some actually can tolerate temperatures down to frost.)
5. Orchids, even on corsages, don't last long - true or false? (Believe it or not, in the Tournament of Roses Parade most of the flowers are not roses, they are orchids.)

To prove his point, Mr. Sidel dramatically held a leaf of an orchid which supported a plant in a 5-pound pot. He took it around the basement of the church. "Observe," he said, "It is not tender, and also if you smell you can tell that the orchid has definite scent." Case rested.

At the beginning of the program, our own indomitable Dwight Stone held an auction. This guy is something to see. You'd think that he is going home without his shirt and his pants. He goes home with a loss--he bought more than the top bidder. He gets so uptight about the project that he is saying, "If you bid less than \$1.00, I will buy them myself." Sometimes he is stuck and he is disappointed that you did bid higher for a good cause. What an auctioneer!

Les Johnson brought all kinds of lily bulbs, and the proceeds went to the Minnesota Lily Society. Dave Johnson brought five special varieties of tuberous begonias and two Christmas cactuses. Henry Halvorsen brought roses for the tables. Walter Men talked about his goldfish. He also offered his tropical waterlilies for any taker. There was a good crowd, good food, beautiful flowers and slides, and an excellent lecture. Let's hope that a lot of Richfield gardeners will want to join the fun.

ROG'S REFLECTIONS

It's hard to believe the year is nearly over and the Christmas Party is once again only weeks away. Start making your plans now to attend and get your reservations to Cliff Brisco. As usual, there will be plenty of surprises in the award presentations and it is a fine opportunity to see the best pictures of this year's gardens in addition to getting better acquainted with the better half of the membership. (The wives of course.)

Those of you who missed last month's meeting, and from the attendance totals plenty of you did, missed an outstanding meeting. Carl out did all program chairmen in recent years in getting Dr. Frank Sidell to give us his super presentation on orchid. After seeing his slides and hearing how easy it is to get started, it sure gave one the "itch" to get going.

You also missed the most serious personal clash between a couple of members that the Club has experienced since its inception. Seems that our chairman of Fragrance Garden operations, D. J., was somewhat upset over the fact that some over zealous neophyte pruned the Japanese lilac late in the summer. It turned out that one of our senior members and outstanding gardener, N.S., was involved in the pruning. He came to the October meeting very irate and armed with letters from world renowned horticulturists supporting his act of pruning the lilac for the purpose of thickening the growth to cover the wall and demanded a retraction and apology from D. J. According to the latest information, D. J. says "nyet" and will not apologize until those lilacs bloom even if they are covering the wall. How about that, Nate?

We are proud to learn that Phil Smith will soon become the new President of the Minnesota Horticulture Society. I'm sure we will see Phil guiding the Society with progressive and outstanding leadership which we know he is capable of providing. Congratulations, Phil.

We were disappointed to hear from Ron Twite that the Richfield Garden Club is planning to disorganize due to lack of interest. A motion was passed at our meeting to accept any members of the Richfield Club wishing to join our organization. It appears that maybe twelve or fifteen members of the Richfield Club may affiliate with us. These members have also been invited to attend our Christmas Party. The North Suburban Club has also received our invitation to attend again this year.

I want to thank Les Johnson and the Lily Society for giving us an opportunity to purchase some good lily bulbs left over from their annual sale and also Dave Johnson for bringing in those exceptionally fine Schwabenland Begonias for auction. Many members got some fine buys on those items at the last meeting. Never know what you'll miss, boys, when you stay home.

Carl has another good program arranged for you on November 14th, so mark your calendar and all turn out.

-Rog Anderson

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IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO PLAN YOUR CONVENTION DATE

May 1, 2, 3, 1973 - Dallas, Texas. "Big D in 73"
August 1974 - Cortland, New York. "Even More in 74"
Fall 1975 - Kansas City, Missouri. "Come Alive in 75"

NOTES FROM THE VEGETABLE PATCH

Many of the joys of living and gardening in Minnesota result from the dramatic changes in the seasons. The beautiful autumn colors that we are presently enjoying come at a great price, the sudden death of all tender vegetation and the eventual death or dormancy of the hardier plant materials. Although my vegetable garden is no longer a very pretty sight, it is a pleasure to gather the squash and pumpkins, cut and dry the herbs and dig the remaining root crops in completing the harvest. I am quite anxious to dig my carrots, although it is best to let them remain in the ground as long as possible, because I have a carrot trial of fifteen varieties which I would like to determine the results.

This has been an unusual summer. I guess this can be said each year in Minnesota. It was a very successful season for most vegetables in my garden, particularly potatoes, onions and other root crops. This was probably the result of an ample supply of moisture throughout the summer. This worked against me, however, in the case of muskmelons which were a complete failure. On the other hand, the water was excellent. While my tomato crop was very good, late blight in September almost completely defoliated the plants. It came late enough, however, so as not to affect production or quality of fruit. I don't know of any years when there were fewer tomatoes left on the vines at the end of the season. Pole lima beans planted on May 18th did very well, particularly Sieva a small butter lima which started bearing in late August.

In the June SPRAY, I asked those of you who grow tomatoes to keep notes on your cultural practices and how they worked out for you this season. Also your experiences with the varieties you are growing whether new or old so that we could have a report in the SPRAY for the benefit of all the club members. I would appreciate receiving your reports. Remember most members grow just a few tomato plants so experiences based on limited plantings will be just as meaningful and helpful as those from larger plantings.

Editor's note: Speaking of tomatoes and those green ones you have picked, they ripen faster when kept at 65 to 70 degrees. Store in 55-degree temperature to slow down ripening.

Editor again: And perhaps it's still not too late to tell how to eat an uncut tomato. Norman LeMay of the Denver MGC knows guys who bring tomatoes to work in their lunch boxes--and do they get squirted! "They haven't learned," he said, "that you eat a tomato by biting into the bottom of it, not into the middle, as most of us do."

REPORT ON NATIONAL LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT FUND

I have collected from individual members of our Club \$194.25 and have turned it over to our Treasurer, Cliff Brisco, who in turn will send it to Des Moines. It has been a gratifying job, even though we did not quite reach our goal of \$200, which would make us the third largest contributor in the country. Many of you were more than generous. The last two checks came from Wally Carlson and Otto Erick (Sun City, Ariz.) It is nice to know that Otto has not forgotten us.

-Sherm Pinkham

COMING: We have a fine article on blackberries by Bob Smith all set for the December SPRAY and another on blueberries is in the planning stages. Page 5 of this issue presents the first of a series on lilies by Les Johnson. Four succeeding articles are planned: #2 Standard species and hybrids; #3 New Hybrids; #4 Oriental Lilies and #5, Propagating lilies from scales.

LILIES, PART I, HOW TO GROW LILIES

by Les Johnson

There are about 87 wild or species lilies growing throughout the Northern Hemisphere under many varying climate and soil conditions. They have long been considered temperamental plants and in the case of many species, this label has been justified.

During the past 25 or 30 years, great progress has been made by people who have studied lilies and with our present knowledge the average gardener can hope for much more success than just a few years ago. The lily hybridizer has been very active and many distinct, beautiful and easily grown lilies have been developed and made available for our gardens. These are marketed as clones or seedling strains. The latter are rather variable but interesting and worthwhile garden plants.

The location where the lilies are to be grown has a definite effect upon the performance of the plants and this factor should be taken into account before the bulbs are planted. In choosing lilies for shady locations the Martagones, *L. hansonii* and its hybrids, *L. henryi* and its hybrids would be among the best types.

Good air circulation is another essential. Botrytis, a fungus which attacks the foliage is much more prevalent where the foliage does not dry off quickly after being wet from rains or dew. Frost is also more of a problem in areas with poor air circulation, especially for those varieties which are prone to come up early in spring before the frost-free date.

Lilies, in general, have no special soil requirement that are found in the average good garden soil. Any soil that will grow good vegetables or other flowers will do well for lilies. It must be well drained, however. Lilies will not tolerate soggy soil conditions.

The acidity of the soil is not important unless it is extreme. The foliage of some lilies, among them *L. hansonii*, *L. speciosum* and the native American lilies may become chlorotic on soils with a high lime content. This may be corrected with an acid fertilizer such as sulphate of ammonia.

Care should be taken to plant only healthy bulbs. For this you must rely on your dealer. I prefer to buy from local growers when I can get the variety I want, (this is not always possible). The bulb should be fresh and planted as soon as possible after being received as lily bulbs will suffer if kept long out of ground. If necessary to keep them more than a day or two, they should be packed in damp, not wet peat moss and placed in a cool place until they can be planted.

Planting depth varies some with the species but an average 5 to 6 inches above the top of the bulb will usually be about right. Small bulbs may be planted a little shallower and really large ones a little deeper. The Madonna Lily is an exception to this rule. It should be planted in August with not more than one inch of soil over the bulb.

The planting hole should be made wide enough to hold the bulb and allow the roots to spread out naturally. The smaller types should be planted about 12 inches apart but the taller kinds should be given at least 18 inches of space. For the first winter a protective mulch is always desirable. I use a light mulch every winter as much to prevent early emergence of the plants as for winter protection.

Lilies respond to fertilization as do other plants. A complete 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 or similar formula is suitable for lilies. Lilies do well among low growing shallow rooted plants in the border to provide shade at the ground and let the plants reach up into the sunlight.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

Members of the Richfield and North Suburban MGC's have been invited to attend our 1972 Christmas party. Last year, after our party, the COMPOST PIT of the North Suburban MGC reported, "The Minneapolis Men's Garden Club gave another very good Christmas party this year. Our Club was in good attendance with eleven of our men and their wives attending. We thoroughly enjoyed it. The time preceding the dinner was spent mingling with the members of the Minneapolis Club and their wives. A "Turkey Parade" came next, with each of the carvers carrying his turkey around the dining area for all the people to see. After a complete circuit of the room, the men stopped at their tables and carved the turkeys. All the trimmings came with this very good dinner. Members of our Club sat at scattered tables throughout the room, getting more acquainted with the members of the Minneapolis Club and their wives. With dessert, and excellent program was presented by a boy's choral group from 8 to 14 years old from all parts of the metropolitan area. They sang some popular songs and some Christmas songs.

An awards presentation followed the entertainment and, also, slides of the Minneapolis Club's members gardens and some slides taken at the Fragrance Garden for the Blind that members of this Club sponsored and work so hard on over the last summer."

Ye editor was out of town the day of the September meeting. Bet you thought he was afraid to face the music after the September SPRAY failed to arrive on time.

Our Board held the line on 1973 MGC Mpls. dues despite the 50 cent raise in the Stat Hort. Society membership fee. Your bill appears elsewhere in this issue. Get that checkbook out and send in your dues with your Christmas party reservation.

National Wildlife Magazine and American Horticultural Society's News & Views report successful control of Dutch Elm Disease as well as wilts of oak and maple by direct injection of Benlate into the sap stream. Blackspot, mildew, red spider, now Dutch elm disease. Have we a new miracle drug?

Why not scatter the seeds of a few toughies like candytuft, silene alyssum, gloriosa and the like on top of the bed of spring flowering bulbs. You'll have replacement plants already there when the bulb foliage dies down next spring.

Because our annual Christmas party will be held on the first Tuesday in December, the deadline for the December GARDEN SPRAY will be November 15th.

BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, OH TIME...

"We are constantly calling attention to the fact of the influence exerted over moral and manners in France by the prevailing tone of the lighter literature, and we mark the increasing licentiousness that has followed such works as those of Eugene Sue and the younger Dumas. Let us not forget to look at home, and see if, in the days when the Waverleys constituted almost all our lighter reading, the tone of society was not higher, the spirit more heroic, the current of thought and expression purer, than in these realistic days, when we turn for amusement to descriptions of every quaint vulgarity that makes up the life of the boarding-house or the strolling theatre-----."

-Goodey's Lady's Book and Magazine
November, 1864.