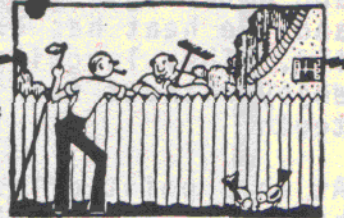




The Garden Spray

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

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



October 1978, Volume 36, Number 10

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT
The leaves are turning. They're starting to flutter down.
The hot humid days are behind us.
There's a chill in the air.

IT'S FALL AGAIN!

IT'S HIGH TIME TO RETURN TO:

- . Regular second Tuesday meetings at 6:00.
- . Our long time meeting place, Mount Olivet Church.
- . Those tasty dinners served by the church ladies.
- . Mailing in those little reservation cards (one is attached).

IT'S TIME, for some of us at least, to do more talking about gardening than gardening; so beginning

ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 10th at 6:00 P.M.

WE MEET AT MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH (50th St. at Knox Av. S.)

FOR DINNER (\$3.50) and DISCUSSION 'TIL 8:30.

PROGRAM

PANEL: FALL GARDEN CLEAN UP and WINTER PREPARATION

Iris, Lilies	Roses	Chrysanthemums	Vegetables
Julius Wadekamper	Jerry Olson	Dick Lehman	Bob Smith

All have contributed articles to the GARDEN SPRAY. Each one will reveal how he handles his garden in the fall--unveil his secrets, so to speak.

A QUESTION and ANSWER PERIOD WILL FOLLOW.

You don't have to pay now, but we must know who is coming so RETURN THAT RESERVATION CARD PRONTO!

* * * * *

COMING MGCM ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY, MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 4th. (Wives and Guests Invited)

Mark your calendar now. Avoid conflicts later.



P. W. Young, 99, died September 2 in North Hollywood, California. He is shown in a characteristic pose at our 1973 Christmas party. Bill Hull's

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

It almost becomes an annual ritual at our place around the first of August. We put in a day mowing the lawn, feeding the roses, spraying and clipping and watering. The briars have scratched us, the "skitters" have bitten and the heat has exhausted us. Our garden-free neighbors come and go jaily. They laughingly tell us how nice it is to have a neighbor's yard to enjoy without turning over a hand. We smile at the remark and grit our teeth.

At this point of exasperation one of us is almost bound to say that this has gone far enough. Let's tear up the beds and return them to the grass from whence they sprang or else put in hardy shrubs. Wouldn't we love a summer really to enjoy ourselves in a sweatless manner?

So we survey the estate with a resolute eye to making a few drastic changes. And that is where we make our annual mistake. Because instead of concentrating on where we could do away with plantings we become aware of the empty places that could be brightened up with more flowers! Here vines could climb and pots could hang. Why not put flowers alongside the walk? There's only grass there now. In no time at all we have forgotten the heat, the bites, the scratches, the sore muscles and the money spent.

No question about it, gardening can become an incurable disease. To fight it is to worsen it. Like the alcoholic, to deny one's addiction and declare oneself free of the habit is only to let one slip deeper into the depths of an insatiable appetite. And just as one begins to slip from grace the mailman brings the first catalogue--from Lisse, Holland, those beautiful flowers to start the spring with a splash of color.

I suppose age with its attendant disabilities will at last release us from this madness, but while it is here, we might as well get "stoned" (that's one expression for utter drunkenness). All I am sure of is that next year there will be more to take care of than this. It has been that way for the last ten years.

--Dick Hulber

YOU CAN HELP

Each spring we publish an announcement of the availability of compost at the Hennepin County Leaf Recycling Center and some of our members go there to obtain it. Others compost their own leaves. Perhaps some even bag their leaves for the garbage collector. If you are one of the latter, hopefully you will respond to this request in the ARBORETUM MEMBERS' NEW LETTER for September:

"Are you looking for a place to dispose of your leaves this fall? The Arboretum would appreciate having them! Beginning this year, we will be operating a leaf composting area. The compost will be used in our flower and shrub beds.

"The site will be located directly across from the entrance to the Marjorie picnic area (signs will be posted). The leaves (no branches, tin cans, etc.) should be removed from the plastic bags and dumped within the confines of the snow fence. Trash barrels for plastic bags will be provided. Leaves may be brought to the site anytime between sunrise and sunset. Any further questions regarding the site and its operation should be directed to Mike Heger, 443-2460.

"Please tell your neighbors and friends about this also!"

OUR CLUB'S OLDEST MEMBER DIES AT AGE NINETY-NINE

P. W. YOUNG

1879 - 1978

It was twenty-eight years ago that Percy (no one ever dared call him that) joined our club. It was probably in May since it was first mentioned in the June issue of The Garden Spray. This was just two years before I joined the club and I was privileged to become a friend. However, there are eleven members of the club today who were listed on that 1950 roster with P.W. They are: Henry, Larry and Lloyd Bachman, Larry Corbett, Ed Culbert, Vic Lowrie, Walter Menzel, Al Nelson, Sherm Pinkham, Walter Quist and Bob Savory.

Always an active man in our club, PW served us in many ways. Among them were secretary in 1954, vice-president in 1958, president in 1959 (I was his Veep), plant exchange chairman in 1961, and club property chairman in 1964. He was active in the Speakers Bureau for many years. He headed our special interest group in photography for many years. Several of us should remember a session in Archie Flack's yard one hot summer day when P.W. and Eng Hoyme instructed us so well in the art of taking good flower photos.

He was active in relationships with other Men's Garden Clubs, too. I can remember him at the MGCA St. Louis convention years ago, when he and his dear Lola were part of a tour of Shaw's Gardens. When we organized the North Star Region in 1959, he was active and excited with the possibilities of interclub relations; he became the second president in 1961. That was the same year our club awarded him the Bronze Medal for outstanding and meritorious service.

Of course he was a fine gardener. His favorites, he once wrote, were begonias, pansies and day lilies, to which he would have added his beloved delphinium later on when he and Phil Smith became so vitally interested and active in those lovelies.

He was a collector of rare and beautiful glassware. He was responsible for a Christmas tree at one of our parties. It was bedecked with red and white carnations and, I think, roses. We won't forget its impact. He smoked his cigars up until the end, unless they finally made him stop. He was an innovator, a man who made such an outstanding compost "pit" that he drew plans for the more lazy of us. He had a tremendous collection of tearsheets of gardening, on file near his unusual artificial light growing cabinets. He was a man whom men loved and a friend we won't forget.



Julius Wadekamper with two seedling lilies.

(Photo by Donald Black)

Eldren Minks and Julius Wadekamper are plant breeders, and their work, is displayed in this year's "Time-Life Gardening Yearbook."

The Minnesotans' creations are among 50 selected for the yearbook's catalog of significant new varieties, chosen from around 300 submissions.

Wadekamper, 47, lives in Elk River and is building his hobby into a career to replace teaching horticulture at Wright Vocational Center, Buffalo, Minn.

"I work two of 4½ acres where I live," he said, "and this year rent about two acres. We bought a new five acres we'll work this summer. I have taken on a field manager because the work got too much for me with my job."

He intends to make plant breeding support two families by four years from now, and is building volume, mailing 2,000

"Up until last year it was just a hobby," he said. "Last year I decided to change it from a hobby to a business. People wanted more bulbs than I could supply."

"I was just born with an interest in plants," he said. He got more involved with his interest after he quit teaching chemistry after 10½ years in Brazil's Amazon areas. He returned to North America in 1965, taught biology for two years and chemistry for three, then earned a master's degree in horticulture and began at Wright in 1971.

He decided to hybridize, he said, "to make my own plants—have something nobody else has."

"I keep making them; I have 40,000 lily seedlings," he said, "and I make about 10,000 new lily seedlings a year."

Dutch clients are propagating one of his creations for sale, Wadekamper said: the world's only pure, white, upright lily, achieved last year and sold to a Dutch firm for several thousand dollars.

He spent seven years developing "White Prince," and five years developing "Seashell," featured in the yearbook. The yearbook says only 30 of the bulbs will be available this year, although Wadekamper has decided to sell them for \$30—\$5 above the usual bulb price—not the \$50 the catalog shows.

"Seashell" has soft pink blossoms with tan borders, which the yearbook says are rare among Asiatic hybrid lilies, usually yellow, orange or red.

Wadekamper said he gets his results by selecting and crossing superior parents. Superior lilies have good color and disease resistance, with flowers spread out on the stem, "not all bunched up," he said, plus wide petals, good petal substance and good foliage.

"Take two superior lilies, take the pollen from one and put it on the stigma of the other and that develops a pod full of seeds. Then you plant those seeds." The resulting plants, he said, are hybrids.

"When you get one that's superior," Wadekamper said of his lilies "you have to propagate it vegetatively," a process known as cloning. Take the scales off the bulb and put them in a plastic bag with peat moss, and they develop little bulbs, identical to the original. raise them until they grow up, get big, and then I sell them. Also, a lily has little extra bulbs across the stem, and I take them off and sell them."

Minneapolis Tribune

Sun., June 25, 1978

THE SEPTEMBER FLOWER and VEGETABLE SHOW
by Charles Proctor

Considering the weather for the ten days preceding the show, I guess we must consider ourselves fortunate to have had as much on display as we did. It wasn't even close to the exhibit we had last year. Twenty five exhibitors entered a total of about 300 exhibits. We still would like to see a bigger percentage of our members enter exhibits even if it amounted to only one or two per person.

Chuck King and Dwight Stone each had two specimens in the Court of Honor. Chuck had two dahlias, Gentle Hostess and First Lady. Dwight's two were marigolds and a rose form begonia. The fifth Court of Honor specimen was Walter Schmidt's canna, yellow King Humbert. Walt also won the national champion award for his chrysanthemum, Grandchild pink.

Henry Halvorson had 30 entries. His 6 blue ribbons, 11 red ribbons, and 9 white ribbons gave him 49 points, enough to win Sweepstakes and the Blackbourne Trophy. Vern Carlson was second for the sweepstakes.

The Court of Honor for hanging baskets and potted plants went to Jerry Shannon for potted *Owatamia coronarin*, to Chuck King for a potted *Frittoni* and to Marlin Rosin for his hanging basket of *Bridal Veil*.

Surprisingly, there were only 60 vegetable entries. The big exhibitors were Dick Victor with 11 entries, Dick Lehman with 8 and Bob Smith with 6.

At the show we announced Dick Victor was Sweepstakes winner. We goofed. A recheck revealed that there was actually a tie between Dick V. and Bob Smith for each had 16 points. My sincere apologies to both.

Bob Smith had three Court of Honor vegetable exhibits: Emerald Giant pepper yellow sweet Spanish onions, and Kennebec potatoes. The latter was Grand Champion and winner of the Foley Trophy. The other two items in the Court of Honor were Jerry Shannon's leeks and Walt Schmidt's pimento peppers.

The national award was to go to the best cabbage; but there were no entries.

The next show is almost a year away. Let's "THINK SHOW" and make a pledge right now to enter in 1979. I know 100% participation is virtually unattainable--but how about at least 50%? A lot of work goes into planning and setting up a show. 50% plus participation with 1000 or more entries would make it all worth while. "THINK SHOW".

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING (AS REPORTED BY SHERM PINKHAM)

Dr. Snyder opened the program, tracing the history of the Arboretum from its beginning, to the present time. Following are the highlights of his talk:

A Special Interest Group in the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club studied tree and shrubs. They met in the early 1950's in the yard of Howard Bishop for experimental work. Some of the members were Archie Flack, Curtis Rice, Vic Lowrie, P. W. Young and Dr. Snyder. This group conceived the idea of an arboretum. Later the Minneapolis Park Board gave an acre of land for testing. Eventually 160 acres were purchased in 1958 through the State Horticultural Society. Over the years additional land was purchased until now there are 560 acres. Land costs rose with each purchase.

In the early days the raising of funds was not easy. At a critical period the Minnetonka Women's Garden Club came to the rescue with a substantial contribution, which was followed by the St. Paul Women's Garden Club. Other substantial contributors along the way were: Mrs. Pillsbury, Dr. Berens, the Winton, Ordway and Bennet families, the Hill Foundation, the Bush Foundation, and former Governor Elmer Anderson.

The Horticultural Society deeded the land to the University of Minnesota which took over the management. Dr. Snyder was named Asst. Director for a period and later assumed full directorship. In 1977 Dr. Snyder retired and Dr. DeVos was hired as Director. He had been Assistant Director of the National Arboretum at Washington, D. C. and for ten years Director of the Chicago Botanical Gardens.

The main building was started in 1968 and completed in 1974 at a cost of \$1,500,000. Architect Ed. Lundy donated his services.

Dr. DeVos then spoke. He told of some contemplated changes in the physical structure of the arboretum, with particular emphasis on road improvement. Present upkeep is very expensive and the building of new roads comes high. However, we want the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum to be second to none in the country.

Get a new member.

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MAY 4-7

1979



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