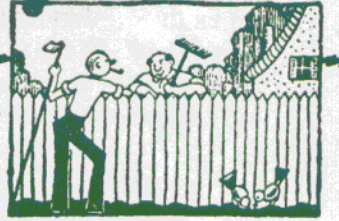




The Garden Spray

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

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



September 1971, Volume 29, Number 9.

OPENING FALL MEETING

but

Not At Our Usual Meeting Place

instead

We want to SEE YOU the 14th, the Second Tuesday in September
at

JUDSON MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

4101 Harriet Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota

After a summer of gardening and of garden touring it's time to move inside again where the sun won't blister us; where the prospect of rain needn't worry us; where the wind can't tip over the displays; where we'll get away from paper plates, plastic cups and the ubiquitous mosquito. Rog. Anderson has lined up a grand opening program for us but IT WON'T BE COMPLETE unless you do your bit by bringing the flowers for the contest table. Remember, Carl counts on you!

NOTE THIS NOW

THE TIME 6 PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 (5:30 to see the flowers on display)
THE PLACE JUDSON MEMORIAL CHURCH - Forty-First and Harriet South
(Enter basement at rear on 41st Street side)
THE PRICE Back to two dollars after the summer splurge

THE PROGRAM

SPEAKERS:

PHIL SMITH...."ENGLISH GARDENS, SUMMER 1971."

Phil, our immediate past-president and a regular contributor to the Garden Spray has recently returned from a trip to England with slides to prove that English gardens really are all they are cracked up to be. Come, Look, Listen.

CARL RANDALL.... "WHAT A FRAGRANCE GARDEN MEANS TO THE BLIND."

Mr. Randall, who is himself blind, speaks from personal experience. He represents the Society for The Blind on this occasion.

ALSO:

RETURNED BY POPULAR DEMAND.... THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION.

To be conducted by none other than our own Dr. Leon Snyder, Director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, garden columnist for the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, expert in all things horticultural.

THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGC Mpls. Inc., Volume 29, Number 9, September 1971.
Edwin C. Culbert, editor, 5315 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn. 55417.
Editorial Staff: Bill Hull, Art Johnson, Bob Smith, Phil Smith.
Deadline for material the 22nd of each month.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.
Dave Johnson, President; Roger Anderson, Vice President;
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

William H. Hull	James E. Perrin
6833 Creston Rd.	10701 W. River Rd.
Edina, Minn., 55435	Rt. 1, Osseo, Minn. 55369
Phone: Bus. 927-5461 Home 926-1327	Phone: Bus. 335-2203 Home 421-0058

REPORT ON AUGUST

The August Ladies' Night Flower Show and Garden Tour was really something! Cliff Brisco ran out of tickets, the caterer ran out of plates, the wind kept tipping over the exhibits; but the afternoon showers freshened things up, the black clouds which threatened during dinner hour withheld their moisture and the food held out. Moreover, there were no bugs, the temperature was 71 and three buses comfortably handled the estimated crowd of 148.

Lloyd and Larry Bachman's immaculately groomed perfect plantings and shrub borders shared honors. The food graced Lloyd's patio, the exhibits Larry's. The diners spread out over both lawns. The women oohed and aahed over Larry's fountain plantings and Lloyd's tree geraniums. The men eyed with pleasure Lloyd's raspberries mulched with peat and Larry's espaliered apples.

Our first stop on tour was at Otto Nelson's. Otto had been besieged for 6 weeks by illness of close relatives yet found time to get ready for us. In addition to his usual fine variety we saw a luxurious clump of shrimp plant and a compost pile planting. The neighbors' phlox and snapdragons set off and continued Otto's terraces. How do they mow those terraces?

For Nate Siegel's delightful little garden Charley Proctor decreed one way traffic but the coleus display stopped traffic entirely. It was out of this world! Also attracting special attention were the border edgings of matricaria and of miniature roses - especially the whites.

Next came Charley Proctor's own garden - staked tomatoes next to the garage wall, tidy rows of vegetables oh how clean! And did you see that gorgeous yellow achillea in his flower border? I wonder if Mrs. Proctor objects to yellow beets as much as my wife does. I have to give all of mine to my sister-in-law who does not discriminate as to color.

Our very own Community Fragrance Garden greeted us as we circled from Bryant to Aldrich on our last stop. So many have had a hand in it that it would just have to have looked good even if it were not the jewel we found a group of little children admiring and enjoying. Everything was ship-shape. Bill Cowcill pulled the only weed left so we didn't get to see it and one of the women sat down to pick off the few dead pansies Bill might not have bothered about. What a display those Peter Pan zinnias make - level as a well clipped lawn.

THOUGHTS FROM THE TERRACES

by Dave Johnson

What a great success our garden tour was! It was the biggest event ever with 150 people in attendance. Our thanks to Lloyd and Larry Bachman and their wives for providing the use of their beautiful yards for our dinner. Charlie Proctor and his committee are to be commended for their fine job in setting up the tours. They must have a direct line with the weatherman as the storm missed the first tour by one day and the dark clouds failed to bring rain on the second.

Our fragrance garden continues to bloom bountifully with loads of color. The Southern Belle Hibiscus, 1971 AAS winner, is in full bloom and has many different shades ranging from white to dark red. It's a hardy perennial 4' to 5' tall with flowers approximately 10" in diameter. Henry Halvorson donated 50 of his prize iris which includes 15 to 20 varieties. Dick Lehman has promised several varieties of clematis for planting along the wire fence. Thanks for your most generous donations.

Our benches were shipped two weeks ago according to the invoice but I haven't seen them as yet.

The latest count on the woodchucks is four down and at least one to go. The four of them must have weighed close to 50 pounds in total. Some of you must be catching them in live traps and releasing them in my valley. I would have to classify them as vegetarians and my garden will attest to that statement.

Just another reminder that our next meeting will be at Judson Memorial Baptist Church. Roger Anderson has another excellent program in store. Bring some entries with you for our flower show and take home some blue ribbons.

A nice retirement party was given in honor of Evald Johnson by some 150 friends of his at Northern States Power Company. His 89 year mother and several members of his family were guests. (I have never heard any finer tribute given to an employee.) Fellow employees gave him a metal garden tool shed and the highlight was an airline ticket to Hawaii given by his own children. Congratulations, Evald, and best wishes in your retirement.

Nate Siegel, Walter Menzel and Cortis Rice have spent some time in the hospital recently but all are well on road to recovery.

All kinds of garden equipment that Archie Flack had will be auctioned off at our next meeting.

WE'VE READ RECENTLY, that

Cuttings of tender plants, coleus, begonia, impatiens, root best in coarse vermiculite.

Gourds should be cut with a 2-inch stem, wiped with a moist cloth and a disinfectant before drying indoors.

A woody cutting made by breaking off a branch of geranium flush with the main stem is more likely to root than the ordinary woody cutting. (But why use woody cuttings of geranium at all?)

In hot weather it helps to add a high phosphate preparation to the first watering as divisions of spring flowering perennial are reset.

"LET'S CHAT A BIT," SAYS BILL

Well, we had a decent summer for outdoor activities, for tending the garden and for keeping it well groomed, although at times the soil has needed a good soaking. I happened to be in the line of the hailstorm on Wednesday, the 14th of July. It came with such terrific force it knocked down all but one of my delphiniums although they were each staked with 3 supports. I like delphiniums although they are such a good target in a storm. In my opinion it is the setbacks and disappointments with the culture of a certain plant or flower that really makes a true gardener as we all learn better from our mistakes. You make up your mind to improve your skill in gardening each year. If it was all easy sailing it would be too monotonous, like driving on a long straight road. There have to be a few bends in the road to eliminate fatigue. Incidentally, referring back to the hailstorm, it was a good job it happened on the 14th of July instead of the 13th, the day of the northside garden tours.

We all had a real good time on the MGC Mpls. August garden tour. It was nice to see such a good crowd, especially the gals. Everyone enjoyed the meeting place which was very well cared for in every respect. All of the gardens looked at their peaks of perfection including our own Fragrance Garden. I think Jack Peterson and his gang did a remarkably good job of preparing it for the inspection of us all. I found only one weed--in the petunias. If we all take our turns at taking care of the Fragrance Garden, Paul Lindstedt and I won't be needed again until November 1976. Everyone remarked at such a beautiful layout of a garden and for such a good cause.

It was very nice to see Phil and Mrs. Smith after their wonderful trip to Jolly Old England. He must have seen some beautiful gardens over there as they have better climate and more favorable growing conditions, with rain sometimes two or three times a week the year 'round. That's why an Englishman always carries an umbrella.

I built on a glazed porch which I convert into a greenhouse through the winter-time as, being an Englishman, I enjoy gardening the year 'round both indoors and out. An item I like to grow through the dead of winter is "Perpetual-flowering Carnations." I keep the inside temperature down to 50 degrees which is the only temperature to grow carnations--and economical, too. They will bloom all through the dead of winter and that is what I enjoy--watering beautiful fully blossomed carnations and at the same time seeing the snow blowing and drifting 3 to 4 feet high outdoors.

This year I have to do something about my unwanted company of rabbits chewing at the plants in the flower border. How come they pass up the carrots to get to the carnations? That beats me. I have a dog who chases the rabbits, cats and squirrels and does more damage than the rabbits but you can't have everything. If so, you must make sacrifices. Did you hear of the man who had a small dog (puppy) that made a bad habit of doing his chores under the high-legged davenport? When his wife returned home one day he surprised her by telling her he had found a cure for the pup's bad habit. She was so pleased to learn of the remedy - he said he had sawed off the legs of the davenport. So, if any of you have trouble with small pets you now know the remedy,

Did you fellows know that there is a flower named after me?

-- Sweet William (Cowcill)

NEW GARDENER'S TRAVEL GUIDE
PUBLISHED BY BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has just published a complete and detailed traveler's guide to some 200 botanic gardens and arboretums located throughout the country. The guide comprises the Autumn 1970 issue of Plants & Gardens, a quarterly publication sold by subscription and always published several months late.

The new guide includes several photographs, and is an excellent source of information about public and private gardens and arboretums located in 35 states and the District of Columbia, as well as the Canadian provinces. For each major garden, it lists the history of the garden, visiting hours, staff size, complete address and directions, telephone number, and plant collections and items of major interest. The gardens described are a varied group. The majority are botanic gardens or arboretums, while some are estates or plantation gardens, and a few are nature preserves. A few are commercial enterprises. They range in size from 1/4 to 10,000 acres. The guide also notes smaller gardens located near the major ones. For Minnesota, the guide includes the University Landscape Arboretum, the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, and the Como Park Conservatory.

If you do any traveling, or are interested in doing so in the future, I would recommend that you write for this 105-page booklet. It can be purchased separately at a cost of \$1.50 from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., 11225. If you are a traveling businessman, consider keeping a copy of this guide in your briefcase for use whenever you may be in another part of the country and have a few hours available for a short garden visit. I certainly plan to do so since I have occasionally had a few spare hours while on a trip and have thought about looking for a garden to visit. The problem has been that I never knew just where to go or how to get there quickly. Now, I will at least have the information along with me if I do get any spare time.

This publication also lists several other books and sources of information for the traveling gardener. In addition, the complete addresses are included for the state tourist information bureaus for all of our 50 states, as well as all of the provinces of Canada.

--Phil Smith

Editor's Note: Also out now is a NEW DIRECTORY OF AMERICAN HORTICULTURE. Published by the American Horticultural Society, it is the first such directory since 1958. Included are lists of organizations, plant societies, libraries, schools teaching horticulture, Extension Services far and wide, public gardens and other places to see, and local institutions serving gardeners. Available from American Horticultural Society, 901 N. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314. Price \$5.00.

COMMON NAMES VS. SCIENTIFIC NAMES

Some plants have many common names so scientific names, as now established, have obvious advantages: they show relationships, since closely related species are grouped together in one genus; they tell interesting facts about the geographical origin of plants, their medicinal uses, or the like. A scientific name is exact, it never refers to more than one particular species, and it is internationally understood.

Common names, nevertheless, cannot and should not be abandoned. Some may be easily universal. Others have meanings intrinsically interesting or of his-

BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, OH TIME.....

Daniel V. Thompson in his page, A GARDENER'S KITCHEN, in the September issue of Flower and Garden waxes ecstatic about red cabbage -- "Surely one of the most beautiful displays of form and color in the world of vegetables is seen in a slice of red cabbage: white and rose and purple in a veined pattern more intricate than any marble. It is a design worthy of some great master of enamelling." -- but says "few of my friends share my enthusiasm for it" (as a salad). He then goes on to tell how it may be pickled or cooked.

An unknown writer in Godey's Ladies' Book and Magazine for January 1859 summarily dismissed the topic less charitably, thus:

"CABBAGE, RED. -- They are mostly stewed to eat with ham, bacon, or smoked sausages, though sometimes without any meat. They are very strong eating, and should be first scalded, then stewed with butter, pepper, salt, and cloves, and vinegar added to it just before serving. They are considered wholesome in veal broth for consumption, but are most proper for pickling."

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Men's Garden Club of Mpls., Inc.
5315 Portland Ave.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55417



FIRST CLASS MAIL

William H. Hull
Postgraduate Medicine
4015 W. 65th St.
Edina, Minn 55435