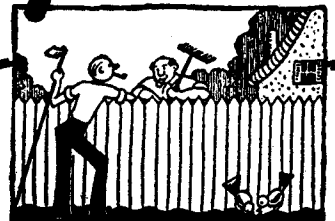




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



February, 1955
Volume 13, Number 2
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Don Methven, Wm. Hull,
N. W. Christopherson

OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Please Note! Monday, February 7*

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
(50th & Knox So.)

5:45 P. M. SHARP Dinner \$1.50

6:30 SHORT BUSINESS MEETING
Joe Witmer Presiding

6:45 VEGETABLES FOR YOUR '55 GARDEN
Dr. O. C. Turnquist - U. of M.

7:00 YOU'LL ENJOY THESE ANNUALS
Larry Corbett - Northrup King

7:15 A PARK BOARD GARDEN CENTER?
Cortis Rice, Chairman Civic
Interest Committee
Felix Dhainen, Park Board
Landscape Architect

7:45 - 8 QUESTION PERIOD

* For February only we depart from our usual second Tuesday monthly meeting date. Please remember - Monday - February 7th!

Officers

J. M. Witmer	President
F. F. Heschmeyer	Vice-president
N. W. Christopherson	Secretary
R. C. Adams	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary
N. W. Christopherson
6145 Clinton Ave. So

Office of the Exchange Editor
G. Victor Lowrie
417 Essex Building

Your Program Committee welcomes your comments and suggestions.

Get your ideas or criticisms to George Titus, Chairman, Harold Kaufmann, co-chairman, Dr. Leon Snyder or Hand Ehlieff.

Chairman Harold Kaufmann has completed the enrollment of the Special Interests Sections. Members will hear shortly from the Leaders of their first three group selections regarding the years' objectives and plans.

OUR JANUARY MEETING

The new program committee with co-chairmen Hank Ehlieff and Harold Kaufmann, presented a very unusual program at the January meeting. Our National M.G. C.A. Vice-president, Herb Kahlert, tested a member participation scheme in which each member was asked one question. The club found this an interesting diversion, particularly the side-line comments, the innuendos, and the good-natured ribbing between Herb and Leon Snyder. This came to an amusing climax when Leon reversed the trend and asked the questioner, Herb, what an apple and a potato have in common. We heard various answers from the sidelines (both are eaten; both have a peeling; both are sold by the bushel) but the true answer is that both have stem tissues.

Some of the other questions were as follows: What are the functions of plant roots? Name the three working parts of plant roots. Name five types of root structures. What three components constitute soil? What is humus? What is osmosis? How many pounds of fertilizer are there in 100 lb. sack of 6-10-6 commercial fertilizer? What plant food element is most frequently lacking in soils? What two types of phosphorus are commonly used for fertilizer? What does phosphorus do for plants? What happens when you drive a nail into a tree? (The answer is not "You make a hole!") Name five trace elements. What is a dormant spray? What is the best way to battle crabgrass? Name three good July blooming perennials. Name five good ways to keep mums over the winter. What new species of rose is being introduced to the market this year? Name five species of roses. What type of roses can we expect to bloom indefinitely? Name three ways to prevent many plant diseases in the garden. How can you propagate a plant to assure getting the same plant structure and color as in the parent? What preliminary methods should be used to prevent damping off of seedlings?

I WILL NOT . . .

. . . begin gardening enthusiastically in the spring and then let my interest dwindle in July.

. . . forget where I put the garden tools, and then accuse other members of the family of having misplaced them.

. . . come into the house with trouser cuffs full of grass, dirt, or plant food which gets nicely spread around by and by.

. . . pan other people's gardens, nor will I adopt a contemptuous attitude toward those whose enthusiasm doesn't equal mine.

. . . resent the family, including the children, sharing the garden with me.

. . . be bossy about how and who should walk where in the garden.

. . . choose all the flowers for the garden without regard for the tastes and wishes of other members of the family.

. . . garden as the mood strikes me, sticking things in without any preparation and then expecting them to grow without any care.

When plants or seed I have purchased do not always perform in proportion to my highest expectations, I will not blame the seedsman or nurseryman, but will first consider if perhaps I was not in some way to blame for their failure to thrive.

As I visit the local flower shows, I will not exclaim to my companion, "Oh, I've got a better one than that at home." Instead I will remember that the success of any Flower Show depends on my support, and I will act accordingly by entering as many exhibits as possible.

(Arne Knutsson in Ball's "Grower Talks")

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

Walter Quist fancies strawberries. So much so that when in Denmark he sampled the King's strawberries! Here's the story: Walt had been told by a Minneapolis friend to stop at a certain inn in the shadow of the royal castle. The innkeeper welcomed him with warm hospitality and even volunteered to obtain some of the king's prize greenhouse berries, through a friend, the royal gardener. Of course Walt accepted and later was served four huge strawberries. However, his pleasure was diminished when he received the tab for four strawberries - \$4.50!

they turned out to be strawberries

Orrin Turnquist advises against my plans to espalier a fruit tree against the garage because reflected summer heat and winter sun in Minnesota are big problems. Orrin says the University has not had wholly satisfactory results with growing of plants against a wall. I'm going ahead anyway, Orrin, just for the challenge, but will try to protect the tree. Walt Quist also warns of sunscald.

We still have some brave souls who have resisted television. Several of the fellows mentioned they were still putting off the fateful day. Concensus among owners and non-owners: television is an insidious time stealer and waster.

Joe Witmer's idea of putting all new members on a telephone committee is another good thought. Give them enough to do Joe so we can get acquainted rapidly.

We welcomed these new members, who were introduced at the January meeting: Scotty Carmean, Jack Forrest, Robert Carlson, Don Young, Paul Kraeger, Les Johnson, Burt Clark and Vic Jaeger.

P. W. Young deserves much credit for the excellent way he has handled his secretaryship this year. We don't intend to diminish the work of others either. Archie Flack commented to me recently that P.W.'s meticulous assistance had been of tremendous value.

Tom Hughes has had better success with his begonias after moving them from between lilacs on the north of his lot to a new location facing east and against a light gray stucco background. He further protected the begonias with laths inclined against the wall in back of the begonias. Tom has also found a way of growing non-symmetrical geraniums in the basement window. He has so arranged a very light plasterboard to reflect more outside light. Good idea!

I'm going to start a one-man campaign against calling our esteemed medical doctors, dentists and doctors of philosophy by the title "Doctor" while in our club meetings. Without reflecting on their positions or training, let's call them by first names too, or else we should refer to others as "Mister."

Did you know that the Mud Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Marshall County, Minn an excellent waterfowl breeding area of more than 60,000 acres, is one of the few Federal refuges on which moose are found? About 100 head of moose make their home on the Mud Lake refuge.

I'm off to the Southwest and to Mexico. Perhaps I'll see something of interest to you; if so, I'll pass it along. Adi Senores.

REMEMBER THE PLANT AUCTION!

As you sow your seeds in the basement, stairs, downstairs or in the greenhouse, don't forget to add an extra box, can, or flat for the Club Auction. Immediately label it "Club Auction" and be sure to identify the plant, its variety, color and if new or unusual, tag it as such. Keep in mind the Club depends on the net receipts from the May Auction to pay for a good share of our current operating expenses, so let's all try to grow or set aside something really good and in sufficient quantity to make a worthwhile contribution to the Auction!

SECRETARY'S REPORT — 1954

During its thirteenth year - 1954 - twelve regular membership meetings, which included the auction and the Christmas party, were held with an attendance record of 69% of all active members. This was 10% over the 1953 attendance record. Five members had a perfect attendance record - Bob Adams, Eng Hoyme, Tony Koester, Morris Lifson and P. W. Young. Eight members made "near hits" with attendance at all meetings - Bill Block, Archie Flack, Harold Kaufmann, Tom Krumm, Charlie Lamp-right, Fred Paul, Joe Witmer and Leon Snyder. The Christmas party attendance was 158 members, their wives and guests. This was a record attendance.

The current roster lists 112 members; 75 active, 16 associate and 21 professional members. Six more than as of January, 1954. Three of our members, Russell Bechtel, Wallace Rowell and Dr. Longley passed away during the year. Resignations were accepted from Tom Ennis, Alfred Henshaw and Stewart Wright. Ten new active members were elected to membership in 1954 - Burt J. Clark, S. F. Carmean, Dr. R. O. Carlson, J. A. Forrest, Jr., Albert Henshaw, L. W. Johnson, P. M. Kroeger, J. Victor Jaeger, Donald Young and Lee Straub. S. J. Rutherford was elected to professional membership.

Seven speakers filled the requests that came to the secretary. Many other members spoke at garden club meetings throughout the Minneapolis area making their own arrangements.

At the Board meeting of December 30, it was decided to transfer \$400 to the Twin City Savings account, bringing the total of this account of \$1,430.23.

My sincere thanks to those members of the club who gave promptly and willingly of their time whenever it was needed. It made your secretary's job materially easier.

Respectfully submitted,

P. W. YOUNG, Secretary

\$10 INITIATION FEE PROPOSED

At the February meeting the Men's Garden Club will be asked to vote on a proposal to establish a ten dollar initiation fee on all applications for membership received on or after February 1, 1955.

This proposal was approved unanimously by your officers and steering committee acting jointly on the perfectly logical premise that memberships are worth that amount to present members and such amount should be levied against new members so that new members will not receive the benefit of a "free" ride.

This is the premise: The club has amassed over the years a savings account amounting to \$1,400. While no member owns stock in the club nor can lay claim to any part of the club's worth, yet each member, in effect, has an interest in the club to the extent of twelve dollars plus. In other words, if the club were to disband and divide its net worth, each member would receive in cash an amount in excess of twelve dollars, assuming that all current expenses had been met by the operating cash balance. Since this average net worth may fluctuate from time to time, it was felt that \$10 is a just and equitable amount for new members to pay.

No increase in dues is contemplated.

LARGER MEMBERSHIP ALSO PROPOSED

The club will be asked to approve a second recommendation that a slightly higher limit be placed on the number of active members admitted to the club and that this limit be made flexible so that changes may be made from time to time as the need may dictate. At no time, however, will the membership be thrown "wide open".

The recommendation at this time calls for an increase of five members, or a total of 80 active members instead of 75. It is based on the belief that our new meeting place with its unlimited facilities, good food and reasonable price will prompt more members to bring guests and prospective members; that some of those now on the list of associate members will want to be reclassified to active membership without having to wait for an opening; that the club's broader activities will attract new and desirable members.

THE FATHER OF BOTANY

When the first fingers of spring touch the snowclad slopes of Sweden, all the beauty of the reawakening world of nature which Carl Von Linne loved so much is symbolized in the delicately radiant Linnea flower. In springtime we find this beauty reflected everywhere, but on the hillsides of Sweden it finds its truest image in the tiny bell-like blossom which so inspired the great naturalist that he bestowed upon it his own name.

In a small cottage in one of Sweden's most beautiful sections stood the cradle of Carl Von Linnaeus. So begins the story of this great horticulturist in the Swedish primary reader. Born on May 23, 1707, in Smaland, Sweden, Carl Von Linne became the greatest botanist of his time. He reorganized the science and paved the way for others who have accomplished so much in chemistry and medicine during the 200 years since. As a boy, Linne became curious about the plant life of his native countryside and he set out to explore its mysteries.

With all the patience and attention to detail that made him a genius, he soon developed methods of research and classification such as the fumbling scientific world had not known at that time. The gist of this he wrote and published in a book entitled "System Natureae" when he was only 28 years old. It was a little book of only 14 pages but it won him international renown as Linnaeus. He wrote with perfect clarity of expression, so everything he had to say was worthwhile.

In 1741 he became professor of botany and medicine at Upsala University and the augmented facilities gave Linn (or Linnaeus as he was known) the opportunities to expand his research not only in botany and medicine but also in zoology, geology and ethnology. Able students were attracted to his classes and they left Upsala to travel the world over establishing his system and acquiring new knowledge which was useful to them because of the groundwork prepared by Linnaeus.

He died in 1778 at the height of his fame. Five years later, after the death of his son, the great man's herbarium, manuscripts, notes and letters were bought by an English botanist who founded the Linnean Society of London and housed the collection of Linnaeus permanently in its headquarters.

(From M.G.C. of Lancaster, Pa.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1954

During the year our membership manned the States Horticultural Society's booth at the Builders Show and the State Fair. The response from members to volunteer for these services was most gratifying.

The organization of our special interest groups into special interest leaders groups by Harold Kaufmann I believe to be definite progress. It assures a greater membership participation in our programs and should be encouraged. Our visit to the wild flower garden under the direction of Greg Lucking and to the fruit breeding farm at Excelsior where we were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Leon K. Snyder, together with our visit to the Lehman Gardens at Faribault as guests of Dick and Mrs. Lehman, were outstanding events of the year.

Our Civic Interest Committee, Chairmanned by Cortis N. Rice, Jr., made an important contribution in arranging the lily planting program, in conjunction with Charles Lampright, at the Lyndale Gardens. This project deserves the club's support. There is not doubt but that this planting will be extended and will prove of great interest to the public. This project is in proximity to the planting of flowering crabs made by the club and it can be anticipated that the development of this area in co-operation with the Park Board will be an important contribution to horticulture that will benefit the public.

The club's history is being published in installments in The Spray and will be completed soon. Thanks to Historian Fred Paul for assembling and keeping these records.

Our bronze medal was awarded to G. Victor Lowrie for outstanding services and I think we all agree that he was most deserving.

At the Denver Convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America last June, we were represented by Herb Kahlert, Rene Dufourd and Ernest Thompson. Our Garden Spray was awarded special recognition at this convention. Congratulations to Vic Lowrie and his staff!

Two of our members have been prominently recognized the past season, Cortis N. Rice, Jr., was elected Vice-president of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and Herb Kahlert was elected First Vice-president of the Men's Garden Clubs of America. All dues are paid and the roster for 1955 is ready now. This is an all-time record; in fact it is a perfect score and reflects on the efficiency of our secretary for 1954 - P. W. Young.

I want to thank all the officers, chairmen, co-chairmen and members of the committees for their loyal support and co-operation during the year. These are the people who did the work and are responsible for all the club's activities.

The accounting system has been changed so that our statement now shows a profit and loss statement for the fiscal year, January 1, 1954 to December 1, 1954.

It has always been the policy of this club to make our business sessions as short as possible. I do think, however, that the members might be interested in having published in The Spray a brief review of what transpires at the Board meeting of which there were thirteen last year.

Respectfully submitted,

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS - BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1954

Assets:	
Northwestern National Bank.....	\$ 1 097 68
Twin City Federal Savings & Loan Co.....	1 030 23
Inventory.....	<u>162 20</u>
Total Assets	
	\$ 2 290 11
Net Worth:	
Unearned income - 1955 dues.....	\$ 440 00
Surplus: Earned surplus.....	\$1 204 07
10th Anniversary Fund.....	108 40
Convention Fund.....	<u>537 64</u>
	\$ 1 850 11
Total Net Worth	
	\$ 2 290 11

Profit and Loss Statement - Year Ended December 31, 1954

Income: Dues.....	\$ 436 00
Auction.....	\$580 70
Less expense.....	<u>21 93</u>
Interest on savings account.....	30 23
Miscellaneous sales - net.....	<u>164 10</u>
	Total Income
	\$ 1 189 10
Expenses: Spray - Regular edition.....	\$198 30
- History.....	<u>100 48</u>
Printing and postage.....	26 20
Program expense.....	21 38
Shows.....	131 30
Cheer.....	32 00
Men's Garden Clubs of America.....	107 00
Minnesota Horticultural Society.....	105 00
Miscellaneous expense.....	<u>75 43</u>
	\$ 797 09
Net Income for Year.....	\$ 392 01

OTTO ERICKSON, Treasurer

Report of Auditing Committee to
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis:

1955 BUDGET

We have examined the books and records of the Club treasurer. We find that the entries are accurate and in balance as per the records and that they are in accord with bank statement. We note there has been no deposit in the savings account since 1953. It appears that a transfer of some money to this account is in order at this time.

Since the treasurer apparently does not have the inventory items under his control, we question whether the treasurer's books should carry an entry for inventory.

Auditing Committee: E. C. Culbert, Ch.
January 11, 1955 Thurber Day

Receipts (estimated):	
Dues.....	\$ 448 00
Auction.....	400 00
Interest.....	32 00
Miscellaneous.....	<u>20 00</u>
	\$ 900 00
Disbursement (estimated):	
Spray & History.....	\$ 250 00
Shows.....	125 00
Program.....	75 00
Cheer, Social.....	50 00
Men's Garden Clubs of Am.	112 00
Horticultural Society....	110 00
Printing, Post, Misc.....	<u>103 00</u>
	\$ 825 00
Surplus.....	75 00
	P. W. Young, Secretary

DIAGNOSING PLANT TROUBLES

Basically the troubles which arise in gardening may be divided into four groups about as follows:

1. Not enough light (too shady); not enough or too much water; temperatures.
2. Attacks by fungi, bacterial blights and animal pests.
3. Attacks by insects of all types.
4. Deficiencies in chemicals and minerals necessary for plant growth.

Most gardeners have had extensive advice in the control of the first three items, but the really tough one - Number 4 - is seldom made clear to the plain dirt gardener. Let's see what troubles you may have.

Nitrogen deficiency. Uniform yellowing of the leaves, also severe dwarfing of plant. If plants seem to need nitrogen ONLY, use one ounce of ammonium sulphate to two gallons of water. Water a plant with this solution once a week until all has been used. Extra bonemeal applied around base of plant is also helpful.

Phosphorus deficiency. Margins of the leaves will turn yellow; leaves drop. For phosphorus only, a cupful of bonemeal can be mixed into the soil or a tablespoon of superphosphate in a quart of water may be poured on the soil close to the base of the plant.

Potassium deficiency. Leaves become mottled, the edges turn brown - often turns purple. Potash is purchased in the form of potassium sulphate or as potassium chloride. A tablespoonful scattered on top of the soil and watered in well will be most helpful.

Iron deficiency. Leaves turn yellow between the veins while the leaf veins themselves remain green. In severe cases, entire leaf turns yellow. Iron sulphate or iron citrate will help. A tablespoonful to a rose bush, but only a quarter-spoonful for a potted plant. Dissolve it in water and sprinkle on the ground. If a commercial product is used, be sure to follow their directions.

Magnesium deficiency. Similar to iron shortage except that the lower leaves of the plant are first to turn yellow. Often dead spots appear between the veins. Epsom Salts are your best bet here. Half a dozen crystals may be dissolved in water and is sufficient for a rose bush.

Calcium deficiency. Nearly all small feeding roots die within a two- to four-week period. This will be followed by the dying of the terminal bud. Calcium is supplied by calcium carbonate, calcium sulphate or dolomite. Dissolve a half-cupful in water for each shrub or rose bush.

Sulphur deficiency. The leaf veins are lighter in color than the rest of the leaf. This is exactly opposite from the symptoms caused by lack of iron, magnesium and manganese. Any sulphur dust used for control of mildew or red spider mites can be dusted on the surface of the soil and scratched in. We suggest this method because sulphur is difficult to wet down.