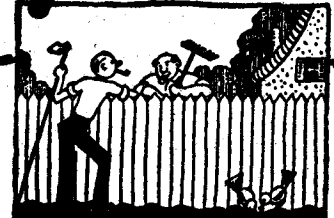




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



September, 1955
Volume 13, Number 9
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

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

FALL FLOWER SHOW (In place of our regular September meeting)

Date: Saturday, September 10th

Place: Park Board Greenhouse
38th St. & Bryant Ave. So.

Time: All entries placed by 3 P.M.

Supper: Provided by the Grill and
Grub Committee for members
and their wives.

Officers

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

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N. W. Christopherson
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G. Victor Lowrie
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YOU ASKED FOR IT

Our 1st annual September "MR. AND MRS." CLUB BARBECUE. Prepared by our own Talented Gourmets, Bill Swain and his Grill and Grub Committee.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th - 5:30 P.M. SHARP. (The evening of our Flower Show)
Park Board Greenhouses, 38th St. & Bryant Ave. So. \$1.50 per person.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE: The Committee MUST have your reservation by September 5th. Please mail your card to Rene Dufourd immediately, stating how many reservations (including guests) you wish.

Those whose reservations are received by September 5th will be served first.
Don't miss this high light of our Summer Season.
YOU BRING NOTHING BUT YOUR APPETITE.

CORTIS RICE HONORED

Cortis Rice, one of the more active members of our club was elected President of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society at their Annual Meeting in Bemidji. Cortis has devoted much of his time and energy promoting the various projects of both our club and the Hort Society and is well deserving of this honor. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is proud of this high recognition accorded Cortis.

Other members of our club who were present at this meeting were Archie Flack, Leon Snyder, Morris Lifson, Stan Lund, Thurber Day and Charles Okken.

Archie presented a report on the progress of the Arboretum Committee of which he is Chairman. We understand his report was well received and that a lot of enthusiasm was expressed for the Arboretum project.

Cortis reported on our Crabapple Tree and Lily plantings at the Park Board. This report was of particular interest as some of the district groups and other Garden Clubs have undertaken similar civic projects but on a smaller scale.

BUYING ORCHIDS?

The Lord and Burnham Corporation recently published in its bulletin "Under Glass" the following warning, "Buying Orchids can be fun - and can also be a very disappointing experience for the hobbyist who interprets an advertisement too literally".

The bulletin goes on, "Recent articles in the Saturday Evening Post, the Reader's Digest and other national magazines have pointed up dramatically that selling orchid plants has now become "Big Business" and as with any business which has become big, it has attracted the usual sharp dealers, operating on P. T. Barnums's theory, "Theres one born every minute."

The best protection for the neophyte orchid grower is to purchase his plants from well established, recognized orchid growers. It is also suggested that the first plants be mature, that is, established plant preferably in bud about ready to bloom. (Some varieties take anywhere from six to twelve years before flowering.)

Cattleya or Cattleya-type orchids should be among the novice's first purchase, says the bulletin, continuing, "The Orchid family is one of the largest in the plant kingdom, containing about 15,000 species, scattered from the Arctic to the Antarctic. In every country in the world, there are hundreds of domestic orchids which are no more than insignificant wild flowers, undesirable except as articles of botanical interest."

We are fortunate in having as members of our club two professional orchid growers, Bob Bryant and Bob Savory. They will be only too willing to help you.

ANNUAL FALL FLOWER SHOW - SEPTEMBER 10 & 11

All entries are to be in place by judging time - 3 P.M. sharp Saturday. Again this will be a "wide open" show, meaning you can show as many different entries in a class as you have varieties, but each variety must be specified. For example, you may enter as many varieties, in each of the dahlia or mum classes as you wish, providing each variety is different. Where varieties (unnamed) exist in color only, the color must be specified and only one entry may be made of each color. Judging will be strictly on the merit of the entry with no consideration given to the number of places awarded an exhibitor.

Wm. H. Hull, Chairman

SHOW SUGGESTIONS

Remember the judging takes place the moment the judge sees your entry, therefore it must be well hardened to withstand heat of the room and immersed in water.

When more than one bloom is required, be sure your entry has the exact number of blooms specified in the schedule. A bud showing color is considered a bloom. Select the best you have but strive for uniformity if possible.

Identify your stuff. Be sure to put your entry number on the entry tag, as well as your name folded in at the bottom. Also place your name on the bottom of each container used for arrangements, house plants and potted material.

Place your exhibit early. If your entries are well hardened, you've no need to worry about how many hours before judging time they are placed. They will keep for days.

The Park Board Greenhouses will be open early on Saturday morning, September 10, so bring entries over and get them arranged before the crowd arrives about noon.

Bring the Whole Family

The Grill & Grub Committee will provide the meal at the Park Board Paint Shop, Saturday at 5:30 P.M.

Flower Show Musts

1. Watch the garden for at least 10 days before the show.
2. Cut late the previous evening and harden off.
3. Cut long stems and extra flowers.
4. Use a sharp knife and cut on a slant.
5. Remove excess foliage.
6. Crush woody stems.
7. Sear, or dip in boiling water, the ends of milky stems.
8. Set in deep, luke warm water; place in cool spot out of drafts.

Qualifications to Watch

1. Color: clear, not muddy
2. Size: uniform, large
3. Form: typical of the variety.
4. Substance: mature and fully developed but not past prime.
5. Individual blooms: side buds showing color count as additional blooms.
6. Stems: long, uniform in length, straight and strong without blemish.
7. Formation: flowers well set on stems; terminal flower looking at the sky.
8. Foliage: remove all below water line. Remove imperfect leaves.
9. Condition: all entries should be free of disease and pests.

THINGS TO DO

Sure enough, bulb planting time is around the corner with daffodils already waiting to get going. Plant them early - the earlier the better - but prepare the soil good and deep; add lots of bonemeal and a little sand on the bottom to contribute to good drainage. While looking through the catalogs at the enticing new varieties, don't overlook some of the old standbys that have performed so faithfully over the years.

As a winter protection, set daffodil bulbs in the ground so the top is not less than 6 inches below the surface. And as with all spring bulbs, try planting them in drifts as nature's wildflowers grow - roll the bulbs out of a paper bag and plant them where they fall.

A bit latter, plant the fragrant hyacinth, the colorful crocus, scilla, galanthus, muscari, and be sure to mix in some roots of mertensia. Give your spring blooming perennials the once over. September is dividing and transplanting time. Here again a well dug bed, well enriched with compost or manure, will pay big dividends in health and bloom next year. Watch the lily of the valley for overcrowding; retain the strongest pups and set them 3 inches apart just below the surface. Don't touch the fall blooming perennials until spring.

Mums will reward you if given a good feeding right up to blooming time. And remember the plants can be moved at any stage in the growth, including the time they are in bloom. Choose a dull day or after sundown in the evening - give them a shot of transplanting solution and shade them from the hot rays of the sun for a day or two.

See that your dahlias are securely staked. Give them ample water, disbud for larger blooms and longer stems.

Roses will continue to give of their best until clipped by Old Man Frost, but they should be placed on a strict starvation diet starting immediately - no food, little water and stop cultivating. This will help harden the canes and allow them to go into the winter with a minimum of new growth. Keep up your spraying program though until the last leaves fall and remove the fallen leaves from the bed. It's also time to stop feeding and cultivating shrubs; don't prune at this late date or you'll encourage new growth and weaken the plant against the hazards of winter.

When the gladiolus are through blooming and the leaves turn yellow, the corms are ready to be taken up. Cut the tops off flush with the corms and place in a shallow box to dry. Keep them out of the hot sun and protect against frost. Dust with 5% DDT and after allowing them to dry 4 to 5 weeks, remove old corms from the new, dust again, and store in a cool, dry part of the basement.

Sow your "wild oats" in the vegetable patch and you'll have a better garden next spring. Two pounds of winter rye per 100 square feet will add humus to the soil and improve its structure. Digging in compost or manure will serve the same purpose.

Next month you'll be wanting to plant tulips and lilies, but get your order for bulbs in early, particularly of the newer varieties, or you're likely to be disappointed.

How about sprinkling a little lime around your lilac bushes and working it into the ground? Will help your blooms, come spring, providing you haven't been trimming off the flower buds this fall - lilacs bloom on second-year wood.

NEWS AND VIEWS

As Metropolitan America forsake cliff dwelling for homes of their own in the suburbs the army of "Gree-thumbers" grows. It is reported that over \$800,000,000 is being spent for flower seeds alone.

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Seems like we are either getting lazy or expanding on our lawns since the sale of power lawn mowers for the first time last year passed the sale of hand mowers. 1942 was the high year for hand mower sales when slightly over one million were sold. In 1954, "Green-thumbers" spent \$121,000,000 for 1,350,000 power mowers, over thirty times as many as were sold in 1940.

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Congratulations to Gorden Ballhorn who was recently installed as president of the Minneapolis Rotary Club. Now listen "Gordy", don't let that interfere with your gardening, the best health insurance you have.

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Did you read where those who are experimenting with making rain and what-have-you, have a new wrinkle - using silver iodide to suppress hail storms? Wonder if the weather forecaster will be able to give the boys sufficient advance notice to allow them to be where the hail is in time to practice their art.

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Quite a number of our boys have been judging specimens at neighborhood flower shows. So far reported, include Bob Bryant, "PW" Young, Cortis Rice, Rene Dufourd, Archie Flack, Leon Snyder and Vic Lowrie.

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Our deepest sympathy is extended to Harold Kaufmann and his family in the loss of his Mother. Both Mildred and Harold have been much under the weather of late - may they quickly regain full health.

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For the first time in many a year, we were rained out of a garden tour. Many times the weatherman came close to spoiling our visits but it rained a little too long for our scheduled August visitations and too late to allow all the members to be notified of a switch in dinner plans. None-the-less fifty-seven of us enjoyed a delicious meal prepared almost wholly by Chief Grill and Grubber, Bill Swain - spare-ribs the like of which couldn't possibly have been excelled and that goes for the baked beans as well. Then George Titus whipped up an impromptu program, held in the choir room of the Sundayschool building - a sort of bull session with Messrs. Swain, Kaufmann, Lehman, Kahlert, Flack and Titus contributing most of the gardening wisdom. Come what may, you just can't stump this bunch of gardeners.

NEWS AND VIEWS (Continued)

If you took in the Gladiola Show you must have been impressed with the twin brothers from Iowa who ran off with practically all the top ribbons and honours. Did you ever in your life see such Glad specimens? Hank Elieff, who by the way was the show Chairman, captured some prizes too, including a Grand Champion Gladiola arrangement. But getting back to the Iowa twins, understand that each year they grow mannoth Glads where the pigs were penned the year before - that's what you might call beautifying the squeal.

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The 1956 MGCA convention opens May 15th in St. Louis, Mo. Wouldn't it be fun if a whole gang of us made the trip together by car, train or plane.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

MGCA Secretary, Woodson K. Jones, in his monthly bulletin for July, referred to the expansion and benefits derived from "Regional Meetings" as follows:

"Glowing reports have come from the Regional Meetings. As years pass these meetings will grow to be even larger, surpassing the national conventions in numbers attending. And why not? A great many more gardeners can get away for a weekend trip of 150 to 200 miles than can travel from one side of this country to the other for a national meeting. A national meeting will always be needed to set the policies and give direction to the Men's Gardening Movement. The Regional meetings can and will develop fellowship, interest and enthusiasm for and in the local clubs."

Here in Minnesota where hardiness of plants and shrubs is all important, we might well benefit by joining hands with our fellow clubs throughout the state, at least once a year, as we did in a limited way in June. May we suggest to our officers and program committee members that this idea be given consideration and that other Men's Garden Clubs throughout the state be sounded out - the thought being that a committee be appointed to organize a regional group working toward an annual regional meeting in different areas of the state each year, preferably in the Spring.

CLEMATIS ARE LIME LOVERS

Nearly all Clematis are lime lovers; only a few species such as *C. Baldwinii* and *C. crispa Walteri* will thrive in acid soils.

It can be a safe rule to follow when setting out all sorts of Clematis to see that the soil is loamy, fairly rich and well drained and that shade and protection to the lower part of the plant is very important.

A good mulch is necessary at all times and much as with Lilies, the roots should be cool; thus shade at this point and a good mulch is of prime importance.

It is for this reason that one usually sees fine Clematis vines where there is shade on the south side.

By SPECIAL REQUEST of the members, here are three receipts for the meal Bill Swain served at the August Meeting.

BILL'S RIBS

- 8# - Back Ribs - (Pork for Barbecue)
- 1/4 - Cup honey
- 1/4 - Cup brown sugar
- 1 - Cup chicken stock
- 1/2 - Cup pineapple juice
- 1-3 - Cloves of garlic to suit taste
- 4 - Teaspoons salt - (Use Spice Island Smoke Salt)
- 1/2 - Cup tomato catsup (Serves 8)

Blend all ingredients and pour over 1# to 2# slabs of ribs. Do not separate ribs. Let stand 5 to 8 hours to marinate, turn occasionally. Roast in hot oven (450 degrees) ten minutes. Reduce heat (350 degrees). Finish cooking, usually about 1 hour. Baste several times with the marinate (sauce). Add a little water if needed. Drain off fat during cooking. Separate ribs with a sharp knife and serve whole and warm.

BILL'S COLE SLAW

- 4 to 5 - Cups shredded green cabbage
 - 2 to 3 - Cups shredded red cabbage
 - 1/4 to 1/3 - Cup chopped green peppers
 - 2 to 4 - Tablespoons chopped pimento
 - 1 to 2 - Teaspoon celery seed
 - 1/2 - Cup sour cream
 - 1/4 - Cup sugar
 - 1/4 - Cup vinegar
- Chill all ingredients. Blend together about 1/2 hour before serving. Place in refrigeration or put several ice cubes on top of slaw. Toss lightly before serving.

BILL'S BOSTON BAKED BEANS

- 1 - Quart dry beans (Michigan Pea)
- 1/2# - Salt pork
- 2 - Teaspoons salt
- 1/4 - Cup molasses
- 1/2 - Teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 1/2 Tablespoons brown sugar

Soak beans overnight in cold water. Dice salt pork in 1/8 to 1/4 inc cubes.

Fry crisp and drain fat. Crumble cracklings and mix with other ingredients. Just cover with water. Bake slow oven (250 degrees) for 8 to 16 hours covered. Add water occasionally if needed to keep beans covered. Uncover last half hour to brown. Serves 8 full portions or 16 side dish portions.

IRIS PLANTING TIME

The top 20 iris varieties selected in 1954 by the American Iris Society.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Ola Kala | 11 - Snow Flurry |
| 2 - Blue Rhythm | 12 - Sable |
| 3 - Chivalry | 13 - Great Lakes |
| 4 - Argus Pheasant | 14 - Amandine |
| 5 - Truly Yours | 15 - Helen MacGregor |
| 6 - New Show | 16 - Pierre Menard |
| 7 - Lady Mohr | 17 - Desert Song |
| 8 - Elmohr | 18 - Minnie Colquit |
| 9 - Blue Shimmer | 19 - Solid Mahogany |
| 10 - Pinnacle | 20 - Mary Randall |

THE MOLE

That little animal called the mole, gets a lot of publicity, on which he seems to thrive and multiply. The following is a good way to play with them, if you are looking for another method to "eliminate" them. It is suggested in the North American Lily Society bulletin, that "a sure remedy" is to catch a snake; garter or bull-head snakes are harmless and won't bite (presume a rattler would be just as good, if bull-head snakes are not around and you can handle rattlers).

Quoting: We handle them like we do kittens and open a mole run and put the snake in the run. They crawl around trying to get out and the moles leave in a hurry. I never could understand why so many people are afraid of them. (moles or bull-head snakes?) We often bring them home, but they won't stay, as they have homing instincts like cats and go back to where the snakes are, just as turtles do. End of quote.

I did not attempt to find out what Lily grower wrote this but if he were my neighbor and his moles left in a hurry for my garden and I am assuming he meant the mole ran away to a yard where they had no snakes running around in the mole runs as in my garden then maybe I, too, would wish my neighbor would also have a homing instinct and "do as the turtles do".

Saier's Magazine

HISTORY OF THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA

In 1865 Richard Pearce, plant explorer, searching in the wild mountains of Bolivia, came upon a plant known only to the natives. Explorer Pearce carefully dug and packed some plants and sent them back to England. Today this Begonia, Boliviensis, is only a horticulture curiosity, but when first exhibited in 1867 caused great excitement among gardeners.

Richard Pearce and other explorers returned to South America in search of other begonias and soon found some with fleshy tubers which brought great acclaim from the public in England and France.

Gardeners cross-bred the original species and produced seedlings with unusual stem strength and at last in 1873 one with fully double flowers.

So this summer, when you enjoy these beautiful begonias, let's remember that they are the result of imagination and skill of many plant breeders. Today it is the queen of garden flowers started humbly in 1873 from 5 small plants in the Andes.