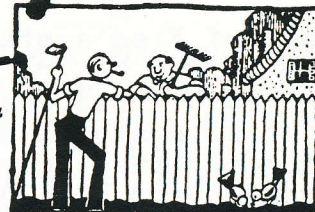




BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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

December 1980, Volume 38, Number 12



**Here's wishing you
A Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year!**



START THE HOLIDAYS RIGHT

JOIN THIS HUNGRY, HAPPY GROUP

6:15 p.m. THURSDAY DECEMBER 11th

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH
(50th and Knox South)

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Get your reservation and check to cover the price (\$7.50 per person) to Dean Schneider, 2520 Dresden La. Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55422 by Thursday, December 4th.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

BUSINESS • Upon recommendation of Don Hardesty the January 13 meeting was set for the Richfield Legion Club, 6501 Portland Av., on a trial basis. Other sites will still be considered for a permanent place.

- After spirited discussion the Board was instructed to revise the budget to include the gift and memorial discussed in October. This will involve deficit budgeting.
- Upon recommendation of the Board, Bill Hull was elevated to honorary membership in MGCM.
- All persons proposed by the nominating committee were elected unanimously to be the 1981 Board, viz, Ray Marshall, president; Donal O'Donnell, vice-president; Jerry Shannon, secretary; George McCollough, treasurer; Kent Canine, director; Chet Groger, director; Gary Magrum, director; Phil Peterson, director.

(continued over)

PROGRAM: Fred Glasoe with the aid of an overhead projector and cut-away models gave the best talk we have had for many a year. We should have allotted Fred two or three meetings to develop his topic, ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF PLANT LIFE, more completely and to give time for questions and discussion. Small wonder Fred is in so much demand as a garden speaker. What an educational experience it must be to sit in his classroom!

A few of Fred's statements, asides, and comments your editor managed to jot down were: "A lot of gardeners could solve their own problems if they knew more about botany and biology. They weren't gardeners when studying General Science in school so didn't pay enough attention....Asexual propagation (from cuttings) gives plants identical to the original but plants from seeds have two parents so can never be identical to either parent...It is sometimes very difficult to get a plant to bloom outside of it's own environment....Many plants are perennial, but where?....Regardless of what you call it if it has seed inside the part you eat it is a fruit....

"Bamboo, the largest grass grown will grow like crabgrass where is is comfortable with the conditions. In some parts of the Orient bamboo shoots are eaten like asparagus....Dieffenbachia too leggy? Lop it off. Save all the parts. They all grow....Re people purchasing garden chemicals: They don't know what it's for but they've read an article....The plant has to keep on making new hair roots. The old ones are short lived....It may not be the cold. It may be the drying out which kills....Photosynthesis is the most important thing going on in the world today."

THIS AND THAT

MN ROSEWAYS reports that at the North Central District Show Henry Halvorson won the award for Best Shrub and Old Garden Rose introduced after 1967 and that Ted LeBoutillier as awards chairman presented five MRS Meritorius Service awards at the November 14 meeting. The same issue had a picture of the 1980 Rose Show judges. Ted LeBoutillier and Jerry Olson were in the group.

F.A.C. McCulla writing in the Houston, Texas, MGC's October YARDNER says, "I enjoyed reading The Garden Spray, bulletin of Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. President Archie Caple writing. HE stated he had planted four varieties of lettuce, five varieties of carrots, and this year only nine varieties of tomatoes, four of beans, three of kohlrabi, plus beets, peas, Swiss chard, rhubarb, raspberries as well as eggplant, peppers, cabbage and broccoli, to name some. Seems they really garden. I remember attending a National Convention in Minneapolis and over 20 vegetable gardens were on view, have never seen the equal to this date. Houston growers should do better and try more or better varieties."

FROM the October issue of GREEN SPROUTS (MGC of Watchung Hills, N.J.) "THE ANNUAL UNION VILLAGE CHURCH FAIR on October 24 and 25 will feature our Plant Sale Booth managed by George Sweezy and his committee for the benefit of the church....

"GARDENING UNDER LIGHTS" will be George Sweezy's subject of a talk planned for our November 25 meeting....

"OUR CLUB HAS BEEN INVITED to conduct an evening course in gardening as part of the Watchung Hills Adult Education Program. Fred Viebrock has agreed to chair a committee to develop a course outline and organize an instructor staff."...

Want to bet that George Sweezy, organizer of the Watchung Hills MGC and a former MGCM member won't be on the program?



FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

by
Archie Caple

December 1980 -- the last month of the year! The month that abruptly reminds all gardeners "that which you have not now accomplished out-of-doors, you graciously forget about until next spring".

For certain, the ground is well covered with a blanket of snow, preceded by freezes, all to make the garden area untouchable. So winter has arrived - outdoor gardening activities have all but ceased. Some will question that remark: "all but ceased". For some, yes; others, no. I am still taking in garden vegetables. My Brussel sprouts are clinging to the mother stock ready and waiting to be plucked and cooked. Frozen, yes, very definitely; but yet, what's so different from going out to the back yard for fresh frozen sprouts or going to the frozen good chest at the grocery store for the same product (somewhat inferior)? Fresh carrots are also available, but more work is required to get them - snow removal; opening up the heavy mulch covering the rows; and digging them out. The fresh carrots are still there waiting to be taken. The final crop still remaining is the parsnips! This, however, I leave 'till just prior to the ground thaw in spring. This is when the parsnips are the sweetest and most tasteful. So much for the outdoors.

Gardening is still being carried on indoors. Houseplants now get some long-forgotten TLC. Small things, like some repotting in new soil; a little foliage trimming here and there bringing forth a slightly different shaped plant; of course, not to forget some seedlings under lights coming to life. This is the time I try my luck at starting some houseplants from seed--more for the challenge "can I do it?" or "will I flop out on my endeavors?"

With the coming of winter, the heavy snows and blowing winds, one should remember our feathered friends. Certain ones have been around the yard and garden all summer long, giving us enjoyment not only with their presence, but also with the varieties of their songs--the Purple Martin, Robin, Cardinal, Baltimore Oriole, Catbird, Chickadee, Finch and Brown Thrasher, just to name a few; with an occasional fleeting glimpse of the Humming Bird or Humming Moth. I feel in the winter months, we have an obligation to offer some care and consideration to our wintering feathered friends for their pleasure-giving company. The Cardinals and Finches are still with us and the Chickadees come out of the heavy foliage and make their presence known. The Juncos are here, occasionally, Redpolls and, in certain areas, Woodpeckers and Sapsuckers, along with a few Pheasants. Of course, the Sparrows are always to be figured in for the feeding program--they, too, are God's creatures.

So it is December 1980, the final month of the year! But to me, the end of an entirely different year from any other. This is my final month as your Club President--12 fun-filled, busy, responsibility-filled months that are now on the verge of being climaxed with a "Sweetheart's Night" on December 11--the conclusion of my tour of office. In this past year, I feel I have gotten to know more about our Club members individually than I have in all my past years of affiliation with the Club. This year I have solicited the help of the membership for my committees. Only in a

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single incident did I have to go beyond my first consideration for Committee Chairman. The year and success of all the committees speaks for itself--I salute you, each and every one. The Plant Auction reaped the highest returns ever, coupled with the good increase of top materials for the Country Store. The tours were spendiferous! All activities climaxed with an excellent Flower and Vegetable Show; now to be closed with our forthcoming annual Christmas Party. Members, take a bow! To each of you a very hearty and sincere thanks! And a very special "thank you" to each of my valued committees for making this year such a hearty success. It couldn't, or wouldn't, have happened without you!! Do you realize and appreciate how important you are or how much you are needed and treasured??

I leave you with this final thought: "EVERY JOB IS A SELF-PORTRAIT OF THE PERSON WHO DID IT; AUTOGRAPH YOUR WORK WITH EXCELLENCE!"

God Bless Each & Every One -

Archie Caple

CHRISTMAS CACTUS
by Henry Halverson

The best known of the Christmas cacti are *Zygocactus truncatus*, which is the Thanksgiving bloomer, and *Schlumberger bridgesii* which is the Christmas flowering one. The former is salmon in color, the latter a cerise red. Since the stems of both are flat they are sometimes called the leaf cactus. The Easter variety, *Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*, has red flowers but blooms in the spring. My Thanksgiving cactus is in full bloom now (November 9)--loaded with salmon colored flowers. I have had this one about 10 years. My Christmas cactus is very large and is approximately 45 years old. I inherited it from my mother and it has bloomed each Christmas all the time I've had it.

In the fall when I take my cacti in from the patio, I keep them at a temperature of 65° and lower. They need about 13 hours of darkness each day until buds appear; thereafter full sun. When in bloom they need plenty of water. Once a month I fertilize with fish emulsion in water. When through blooming they should be kept more on the dry side. I keep mine outdoors in partial shade all summer. Some of you may remember seeing them on my patio on the July tour. The Thanksgiving cactus now reposes in my garden room where I keep the temperature 65° or lower.

These cacti are easily propagated by sticking part of a stem in growing media until it forms roots, then transplanting to a pot. People often say "I can grow them but can't get them to bloom". The reason is that these plants must have a temperature of 65° or under to set buds and most homes are too warm. It really is a beautiful sight when my large Christmas cactus is in full bloom. Good luck if you try one.

Put a bit of your gardening expertize on paper and give (send) it to the editor of the SPRAY.

NEW MEMBERS

Gerald R. Primmer
3017 Brooks Lane
Minnetonka Beach 55361

471-8363
933-7500

Stanley P. Van Vorst
2210 Edgecumbe Road
St. Paul 55116

690-4738

THE PRODUCTION OF FLOWER SEED

by L. W. Corbett

The fertile valleys of Southern California around Lompoc and Santa Maria produce many flower seeds. Flower seeds, unlike vegetable or grass seeds, are often grown in small acreages because the usage of straight colors or of certain varieties or species is limited. Some flower seed items have sufficient volume and habit to lend themselves to mechanical harvesting; others do not. Hand labor is very important in flower seed production.

Salvia seed is primarily grown in southern Italy where you have heat, dry weather at harvest time and cheap labor. The flower spike of salvia may have fresh flowerlets on the upper half and mature flowerlets on the lower part. Each flower has two to four seeds. To save them each flowerlet should be picked as it matures or the seeds will shatter.

There are many colors, shapes and varieties of pansies and violas. They need hand picking of seed pods each day because when the pod ripens it will snap open and throw the seed several feet. The pods are picked and put in a small bag to prevent loss. One year I selected a number of especially nice colors and put the pods on a flat surface. When they matured and snapped open you could not find enough seed to pay to salvage.

Impatiens and portulaca are species that should be hand picked. This type of seed used to be grown in small plots often in home yards, where the women and children would pick the seed.

A great many flowers shatter their seeds readily. This is nature's way of reproduction. The seed producer circumvents this by the use of light "canvas sheets". At harvest time these large sheets are spread on bare dry ground. The entire plant is harvested before shattering starts. The plants are piled several inches to as much as two feet deep depending on type. The piles of plants are turned several times during curing to prevent heating. A large portion of the seed falls on the canvas and is saved before the plants go through a thresher. This method of curing on sheets would cover the greatest range of flower seed.

The habit and characteristics of seed production often determines where the plant is grown. Sweet peas are grown near the ocean where they get a lot of fog and air moisture. Sweet peas are like vetch, the seed pods snap open when they dry. The plants are cut before the pods turn brown. The plants are then rolled into large piles. Canvas was often used and the rolls or piles were covered each night to prevent excessive moisture penetration and drying the next day. Drying would pop the pods open. The acreage devoted to sweet peas is fairly substantial.

Nasturtiums are another type of flower with relatively large acreages. The seeds mature along the stem and you can have mature seed and flowers on the same plant. The thick succulent stems and leaves cause problems as nasturtiums are cut when the grower believes he will get the maximum amount of seed. Expensive, small unit items are put on sheets but the larger volume, cheaper varieties are "rolled" into loose bales and allowed to ripen and dry in the field.

Annual phlox is an interesting item in that the seed shatters so readily that conventional harvesting methods will not work. Southern France is the big producing area on soil that bakes hard. The seed is allowed to shatter and is then swept up and the sand is cleaned out of the seed.

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Zinnias are heat loving plants and do not grow well in the coastal areas of California. The inland valleys (in California) and Colorado produce good zinnia seed. At one time the flower heads were picked as they ripened. The cost of labor stopped that so today the fields are topped when the largest number of flower heads are ready. These are then dried for threshing and cleaning.

As you can see each flower species has it's own peculiarities. Flower seeds are grown in many parts of the world. Seed used in the United States might come from Japan, Taiwan, Holland, France, England or even Africa as well as from the United States.

Most of what precedes pertains to standard open pollinated varieties. The past twenty five years has seen a great change in flower seed culture and also in merchandising. We have seen the development of garden centers and the demise of the old fashioned seed store. The geneticists learned how to develop outstanding F_1 hybrids. F_1 stands for first family or generation. If you carry on through F_2 , F_3 , etc. you get segregation. The old method of producing a variety was to carry the cross to about F_8 and select for the type you wanted.

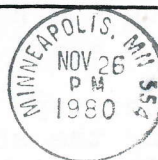
The development of F_1 hybrids brought more trained scientists into the seed trade and put the production of seed under controlled conditions. Greenhouses and other controlled areas had to be built. It was necessary to control insects, temperature, humidity. The F_1 hybrid production increased the need for hand labor involving a painstaking tedious operation but, it has given us improved, more beautiful and sometimes longer lasting flowers.

We'd like to reiterate Fred Glasoe's statement that "photosynthesis is the most important thing going on in this world today". Plants are the most significant factor in the entire process of life on earth. Man's health, well-being, even survival depend on plants.

"The economic behavior which pollutes the environment is a direct consequence of the very quality which distinguishes man from animals, and improves his living standards. Man's unwillingness to accept the environment in which he lives produces his basic drive to alter it. However, economic man's technology, paradoxically, may also contribute to pollution control and abatement--"recycling", i.e., reusing waste, and his ability to increase productivity output--are two examples."

--Harold Wolozin

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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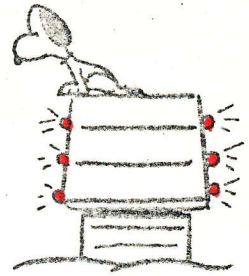
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FIRST CLASS

To

William H. Hull
6833 Creston Road
Edina, MN 55435

christmas party



MINNEAPOLIS MENS GARDEN CLUB

Thursday Evening, December 11, 1980

MASTER OF CEREMONIES Bill Hull
WELCOME Archie Caple, President
INVOCATION Charles Proctor

PARADE OF TURKEYS

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS Fred Glasoe

Industrial Award - For outstanding landscaping of
an industrial site

Lehman Trophy - For best garden on the summer tour

Blackburn Trophy - For Sweepstakes Winner in the
Flower & Garden Show

Bronze Medal - For outstanding service to the Club

ENTERTAINMENT KEVIN'S BELLES

Kevin's Belles are a volunteer group from
St. Kevin's Catholic Church of Minneapolis



Christmas Party Committee

General Arrangements	Stanley Crist
Turkey Carvers	Dwight Stone
Slide Show	Larry Catron
Poinsettias	Vic Lowrie
Entertainment & Door Prizes	Bill Hull
Reservations	Dean Schneider
Decorations & Favors	Bob Gage - Dick Stehly
	Chet Groger - Maury Moorman

Many of the door prizes have been donated by
Klier's Nursery and by Bill Hull