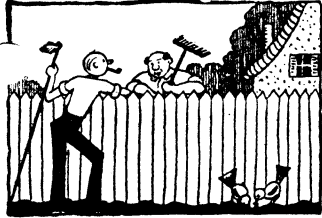


THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

MEMBER—MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 6
Number 4
Victor Lowrie, Editor

April, 1948
Associate Editors
Jack Cohen, Ed Montgomery

APRIL MEETING

Date: April 13, 1948
Place: Fountain Terrace
Medical Arts Bldg.
Time: 5:30 P.M. sharp
Dinner: \$1.50 per person

PROGRAM

- 6:20 P.M. Meeting called Stanley Lund, Pres.
(a) President's report on California trip; (b) Club business (20 minutes)
- 7:40 Digest of interesting articles in current garden magazines. G. Victor Lowrie (20 minutes)
- 8:00 Take some colored slides of your own garden. William Block & Geo. Titus
- 8:05 Grow some flowers for the show and auction. Harold Kaufmann (5 minutes)
- 8:10 Planting perennial and biennial seeds in spring, with list (15 minutes)
- 8:25 Voluntary assignment and recording of new things to be tested this year.
- 8:35 Report on rose test garden. Carl Holst, Rosarian, Rose Gardens (10 minutes)
- 8:45 Questions & Answers W. E. Swain
- 8:55 What's new in chrysanthemums; the 100 best mums shown in color slides furnished by Lehman Gardens. Bill Block

Officers

Stanley D. Lund,
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MEETING OF MARCH 9, 1948

Stan Lund, new prexy, didn't show up for his first meeting; he decided to go to California instead and report on growing conditions on the West Coast at the next meeting. A conscientious president is Stan.

Fred Paul reported on the new members and got each to rise, give a little speech, and tell what business he was in.

Larry Corbett reported on the Freedom Garden movement, backed by the government, with the aim of having 20,000,000 home gardens in the U. S. in 1948. Home gardening never was more needed than now to raise food for ourselves, for fun, for faith and for our finances.

Jack Cohen told that the most stimulating and interesting garden publication is My Garden, published in London. The Flower Grower is the most practical magazine available.

CAN MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL PUT ON THE NATIONAL MEETING?

Herb Kahlert reported for a special committee on the tentative invitation given us for holding the annual meeting of the Men's Garden Clubs of America in the Twin Cities during the summer of 1949. There would be 82 clubs meeting with us, with St. Paul and Minneapolis acting as hosts. The meeting will be held in Oakland, California in 1950, and in Dallas, Texas, in 1951.

St. Paul and Minneapolis committees met and discussed the wonderful possibilities of the convention to us as a group and to the Twin Cities as a whole. Responsibilities of the invitation if accepted are heavy, for a great deal of work is involved in running a convention. Preliminary plans, social programs, transportation, local programs, etc. mean a pile of work for the 100 members of the two clubs.

Some funds will have to be raised - about \$2,000 - but free use of the Farm School Auditorium gives opportunities for committees from both cities to work together.

The value of the convention to us would be: (1) open forum, (2) meeting the outstanding flower growers and garden editors of America, and (3) hearing splendid talks on gardening.

After a thorough discussion of the pros and cons of the subject, and with warnings from Fred Paul and Archie Flack that conventions take time and cost money, it was moved and seconded that we invite the Men's Garden Clubs of America to hold their 1949 meeting in the Twin Cities in co-operation with the clubs of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

It was moved by Larry Corbett and seconded by Bill Holmberg that we set as the date for the meeting a time that would show off our gardens to best advantage.

FRANC DANIELS TELLS US ABOUT TREES AND SHRUBS

Hale and hearty, Franc Daniels, pioneer nurseryman of Long Lake, gave us an interesting talk on which shrubs and trees (particularly the pine family) will grow in Minnesota. It was a joy to hear such an enthusiast on all phases of horticulture as a vocation, despite weather, bugs, labor troubles, etc.

There are seven types of evergreens that do well hereabouts: arbor vitae, firs, junipers, pines, spruces, Taxus and Hemlock.

Doyle's Pyramid is the best of the hemlocks.

Pruning should always be done on evergreens for healthy and better-looking trees. He says "Catch 'em young and treat 'em rough."

Spruce can be cut before new growth starts; cut off just beyond the buds. Red cedar and arbor vitae usually need no more pruning than trimming of tips.

What to look for in the selection of shrubs: (1) hardiness, (2) height, (3) spread, (4) density, (5) general form, (6) color, (7) attractive and showy bloom, (8) resistance to disease.

Daniels' pet varieties of shrubs among the many listings in his catalog are:

Red Flowering Plum; Nankin Cherry (early bloomer); Dogwood (variegated); Deuteronymous; Euonymus; Winterberry; French Lilac; Mock Orange (new Snowflake); Tam-arix; Fragrant Sumac; and Viburnum.

Bill Addy, George Filbert and Dr. Olson have been having a fine time in California where the trio got together to

FLACK'S SPECIAL INTERESTS COMMITTEES

Archie Flack, to get his Special Interests groups started, made a survey of what is new and unusual in the members' gardens. Here are some of the unusual plants being grown in Minnesota:

Walter Menzel - two large Ponderosa lemon trees. Always has a full crop. Walter offers cuttings of French pussy willows to whoever wants them.

Bill Vehe - Tritoma; dwarf apple tree

E. J. Nelson - tree peony

W. W. Brooks - Apricot seedlings; plans to plant ginkgo tree.

M. K. Lifson - Lycoris, hibiscus

Gene Cerney - Spirea Siberica and others.

Ed Montgomery - Daphne, rhododendrom, gentiana and Manchurian apricot trees.

Tom Foley - Dwarf trees

Stan Lund - Weeping rose tree

Fred Paul - Family apple tree, six varieties on one tree

Cortis Rice - 15 varieties of African violets

Jack Cohen - Tree peony, Espalier apple tree, bee hive

Rene Dufourd - Double wisteria

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question (to Jim Cristman): Would you divide a 1½" tuber (tuberous begonia) with two strong sprouts?

Answer: Yes.

Question (to Herb Kahlert): How do you prevent damping off in seedlings?

Answer: Use liquid semesan

Question: Is it the best practice to lift daffodil bulbs each year?

Answer: No. Do it every three or four years.

Question: Are there any summer flowering shrubs (July, August)?

Answer: Viburnum and bush roses

Question: What do you use to get rid of red spiders?

Answer: Sulphur dust

Question: How long this spring before we find out if the "brown betty" pine trees are going to live?

Answer: About May 1, but it depends on the weather.

THE CLUB LOSES A STAUNCH SUPPORTER

In the passing of Charles L. Comings, the Club has lost not only one of its charter members but a loyal friend, an enthusiastic gardener, and one whose sound advice and help contributed much to the success of our organization.

For reasons of health, Charlie was out of town a great deal in recent years, but when home he was always with us and ready with a helpful hand.

One of his many specialties was Clematis, in the cultivation of which he was unusually successful.

Our most profound sympathy goes to Mrs. Comings in her bereavement.

DAPPER HERB GOES SOUTH

As our official delegate to the annual convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, Herb Kahlert is on his way to Atlanta to extend our greetings

together with an invitation to make Minneapolis the Men's Garden Club convention city for 1949. Good luck, Herb!

MUSTS FOR APRIL

As reported by Bill Holmberg

1. Don't rush to remove winter protection from roses and berries. If you do uncover, be ready to recover in a hurry if frost or snow threaten.
2. Get snaps, tomatoes, cabbage started in the cold frame.
3. Force Rhubarb
4. Sharpen the lawnmower
5. Start canna roots in 4" pots
6. Trim evergreen hedges
7. Paint stakes, rose trellises, etc.
8. Order bulbs, fertilizer, plants, seed
9. Order insecticides; get sprayers in shape
10. Start two or three plantings of tuberous begonias
11. Get your garden on paper
12. Keep the snow shovel handy

(The following is a copy of a letter received by Archie Flack in response to his contribution to A.S.T.A. - Editor)

Firwood, Chesterton,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire
England
March 3, 1948

Dear Mr. Flack:

A day or two ago I was greatly thrilled and pleased to receive a box of vegetable seeds, and I see from a slip inside that I owe this gift to your kind thought and generosity. I hasten to say "thank you" for this kindness and assure you that it is sincerely appreciated and that the seeds will be duly planted and I hope . . . to give you a report on how they do over here.

I am rather curious to know how you happened to hear of me, and . . . perhaps sometime you may care to write and tell me and something, too, of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis We have one in this town and actually its annual meeting takes place tomorrow. We are to have a business session first; then two speeches from (1) the head of our local Royal Agricultural College, and (2) a big man in the University of Bristol Research Station. In between these is sandwiched a supper, which I fear will consist mostly of vegetables!

However, there will be . . . much discussion on the best sort of vegetables or potatoes to grow on sandy, dry or stony soils, and so on As the chairman of the local Urban District Council, which provides prizes and so on for competition, I have to propose the vote of thanks, and shall mention your kindness and ask for information on how to grow summer squash!

Actually, Mr. Flack, I had bought my seeds, but the young fellow who works in my acre garden hadn't, so we are planting them between us and if we raise more plants than we can use, we shall distribute them around. Many people will thank you later . . . for your "good deed," and I am sure this would be your wish to distribute them as widely and usefully as possible.

The weather here has been pretty good this winter and things are well ahead, almost too far, as there is a danger of frost until May. We have already had two foggy days in March and we have a saying that "a fog in March means a frost in May," and, strangely enough, this seems to happen. Our fruit trees blossom in April and May.

Well, I will close with many thanks and best wishes for your health and happiness,