GREETINGS

We take pleasure in announcing herewith the arrival of our new publication, tentatively named The Green Thumb. It is meant to be a concise and practical source of information for Members of the new Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association. New developments in gardening and forestry occur over night; we hope to share them with our readers. Especially stressed will be information that fits conditions of this Rocky Mountain Region. We need your co-operation.

The Board of Directors,
M. Walter Pesman, President.

ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE COLORADO FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE ASSOCIATION

Many types of organizations in Colorado have the same general basic interest in horticulture and in nature. How to unite them into one group and to serve them adequately has been the problem.

The directors of the Colorado Forestry Association are recommending a broadening of the association for this purpose. Members will receive, at regular intervals, a bulletin similar to this one with interesting and up-to-date information.

It is proposed to hold at least annually a conference similar to those that have proved so successful in the nursery and florist associations. Distinguished scholars from sister States and recognized local authorities will give that type of practical information which every nurseryman, every florist, every gardener and every plant lover craves. The annual meeting will be held in connection with such a conference.

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Our first conference will be held on Saturday, February 26, 1944, at Humphrey's Memorial Auditorium, 16th and Lincoln. Details as to membership, etc., will be announced. The annual dues will be small. In order that you may be acquainted with the purposes of this association and the first program, we now quote excerpts from the program of activities that has been drafted for the new association, and the program that will be presented on February 26, 1944.

Program of Activities

1. Publication of a monthly or bi-monthly bulletin or news letter to members. This may include, among other things, practical hints on planting and cultivation; notes on interesting and new or little-planted varieties, including native plants; notes on pest and disease control; news items on current activities of the association and digests of committee reports; interesting news within our field of activity from other localities.

2. Publication of a number of educational leaflets on subjects in our field which would fill a popular need in this region. For example, an eight-page leaflet on street-tree planting would be extremely useful in many small communities, and could be furnished free to members and at cost of publication to civic organizations, garden clubs, and interested individuals other than members.

3. Take the initiative in promoting a Rocky Mountain Botanic Garden. This project has had the consideration of the Association for so many years that there is no necessity here to stress its importance. The ideal arrangement would seem to be to have the City of Denver furnish the site and police the grounds as a unit in the city's park system, with the management of the institution in the hands of an independent organization, presumably with participation of one of the Universities.

4. Establish an office as headquarters of the Association and employ an executive on a part-time basis in order to give the needed continuity and drive to our activities.

5. Urge the resumption of the roadside development program on State highways at the earliest practicable moment. This work was interrupted at the beginning of the war. Public officials should be advised of the interest of such citizens' organizations as ours.

6. Investigate what preparations are being made for instruction and training in forestry and horticulture, or what training is already available, for ex-service men and others who may wish to prepare themselves for work in this field. Cooperate with school authorities in extending such opportunities for education. Encourage the coordination of academic work with seasonal opportunities for practical work in nurseries, etc. Work for adoption in public school curricula of more nature study and elementary instruction in principles of conservation, with the object of creating in the younger generation an appreciation of forests, parks and plant life, and the need of conserving our natural resources.

7. Stimulate interest on the part of towns and cities to acquire and improve parks and forests, plant street trees, and improve the grounds of schools and other public buildings, in formulating postwar improvement plans. Suggested cooperating agencies include women's clubs, junior chambers of commerce, Colorado Municipal League, county extension agents, State and county foresters. Leaflets on particular subjects, described in Item 2 above, should be useful in any concerted effort of this sort. In case there is a need after the war to take up the slack in employment by speeding up public work projects, it would be even more important that attention be called to the desirability of civic improvements of the type mentioned.

8. Make a study of the need for a system of State parks in Colorado. In recent years State parks have had a remarkable growth in many eastern and mid-western States and in California, and are also showing up in a number of our neighboring States. They are filling a need for recreation and for preserving places of historic or scientific interest which for one reason or another are unlikely ever to come under the control of the Forest Service or National Park Service. It is not presumed that this Association could do all the work required in securing action to establish a State park system, but an active committee could at least explore the general possibilities and needs. Considerable valuable information on this subject has already been assembled which would be immediately available in starting such a committee to work.

9. Formulate policies with regard to the extension of public forests in Colorado and the regulation of privately-owned forest lands. There are reports of localities where destructive practices in forestry or neglect are increasing erosion, danger from floods, and dishing streams. Some of these problem areas are close to home, such as the foothill country near Denver and the Black Forest.

10. Strive to develop in all parts of the State a civic consciousness to work for the preservation of places of natural beauty and prevent wanton destruction of trees and other native growth. At the same time stimulate the planting of trees on privately-owned land, particularly on so-called waste lands along streams and other places favorable to growth. Even though such activity may be a special province of the Agricultural Extension Service and State Forester, can not this Association, as a citizens' organization, be of assistance?

11. Appoint a committee on legislation, to keep an eye on measures which might help or hinder the objectives of the Association and to report on its findings with a view to appropriate action by the Association.

12. Hold an annual institute.

A stamped addressed postcard is enclosed herewith. We request that you answer the questions thereon, sign it, and drop it in the mails as soon as possible.
THE COLORADO LANDSCAPE

On the barren mountain slopes of Northern England and in their valleys the Scotch grow to be the sturdiest race of Western Europe. In the valleys of the Alps the sturdy Swiss maintained their democracy for centuries. The mountains and Fjords of Norway produced the hardy seafaring and mountain race of that country. Could it be that the sturdy Swiss maintained rope. In the valleys of the Alps valleys the Scotch grow to be the sturdiest race of America? Who knows? Certainly sturdy races do not grow in tropical lands with sultry climates, nor on the rich seashore lands where the battle with nature requires no strength.

This is mere speculation. It does seem, however, that in this Rocky Mountain land a type of plant life has found a home which is sturdy enough to withstand the chills of winter and the wither of drouth. It seems, to me at least, that nature is adjusting its plant children here, with reduced spending facilities in a smaller leaf surface and with a greater sturdiness for work in its greater root activity. As time goes on, these qualities will become valuable assets in the commercial growing of plants and the Rocky Mountain land will fill an important place in furnishing the nation with sturdier trees and plants. They may be present early or late, and it does not take long for them to do a great deal of damage. A contact spray will control them, or a hard force of water from the hose will discourage them and help to correct other trouble that the tree might have.

THE ONESEED JUNIPER IS A WORTHWHILE NATIVE

The Oneseed Juniper, or Cherry Juniper (Juniperus monosperma), has, as would be expected from its name, normally but one seed in each berry. It is usually broadly conical, as in the illustration, but frequently has many stems and resembles a bush more than it does the conventional tree with a single stem. Although the tree is native to the southern part of Colorado, it is thoroughly hardy any place in the state, is drought-resistant and seems to be much less susceptible to pests than the more frequently used Rocky Mountain Juniper (Juniperus scopulorum). The Oneseed Juniper lends itself to shearing and for that reason can be utilized for a hedge. Because of its irregular, spreading shape, it lends itself to naturalistic plantings and other informal uses. Although it will eventually reach a height of 15 or 20 feet, it is somewhat slower growing than the other erect Junipers and for that reason does not get “out of hand” as quickly.

This valuable native plant is available at many Denver nurseries and should be employed more frequently than it is in home planting.
PROPER TIME TO START AN ARBORETUM

Here is the story of two brand-new arboretums, started at a time "when it couldn't be done." One is a small private arboretum, the forty-five acre Desmond Arboretum near Newburgh, New York—the other a pretentious 267-acre public arboretum, located in Seattle, and called the University of Washington Arboretum.

The plans for the Washington Arboretum were drawn in March 1936; in a way it is a "depression-child," the Works Progress Administration furnishing $800,000 as a relief measure. The Desmond Arboretum was not really started until 1939, although it had a number of older native and foreign trees and shrubs when Senator Thomas C. Desmond started on his undertaking to grow all the native American trees and shrubs which will grow in Newburgh. For one thing he shipped in four specimens of the Giant Sequoia, balled and burlaped, from California. Added to the native species he has 174 of the more interesting and beautiful exotic trees and shrubs.

Of very great significance is the Seattle venture. Here is a tract of ground partly owned by the City of Seattle, under a perpetual lease to the University of Washington, partly owned by the State of Washington, developed to a large extent by Government funds (more than a million dollars has been spent on it), and run by a non-profit corporation, the Arboretum Foundation; membership is open to all who wish to help. The City has agreed to maintain roads and paths, light and water facilities and to police the tract.

The University of Washington accepted administrative control and has complete supervision, also carrying on scientific studies. The Foundation maintains an office, meets the bills, and looks after the publicity. In the first few years it furnished over $11,000 through its activities.

Is it worth while? Arboretums are among the famous tourist attractions. Think of the Arnold Arboretum in lilac time, North Carolina in magnolia time; the University of Washington Arboretum is constructing a mile long Azalea Trail.

Kew Gardens carried on the rubber experiments which resulted in the plantations now in Japanese hands. The Arnold Arboretum has done much to introduce Far-Eastern plants into the United States. What will the Rocky Mountain Arboretum give to the World? — M. Walther Puseman

NEW BOOKS

All those of the family of The Green Thumb will want to read (and reread) the new book by Harold W. Rickett entitled "The Green Earth." (The Jacques Cattell Press, Lancaster, Pa., $3.50). It is a layman's guide to botany. It unfolds the wonderful story of the life processes in plants and shows how dependent all animal life is on the manufacturing of food by plants. It will give us all a new respect for the wonders and beauty of Nature. It is scientifically right but written in fascinating style.

"Shrubs and Trees for the Small Place," P. J. Van Melle. New York City, Chas. Scribner's Sons. $2.50. (Contains a score card for 363 shrubs and trees.)
FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE
Denver, Colorado
Saturday, February 26, 1944

PROGRAM

Forenoon—Humphrey's Memorial Auditorium, 16th and Lincoln
9:00—Registration.
9:30—Annual Meeting Colorado State Forestry Association
9:45—What's It All About?
   M. Walter Pesman, President Colorado State Forestry Association
10:00—Colonel Allen S. Peck, presiding
   Water Conservation—How Forestry Aids Horticulture (with kodachrome slides)
   Dr. H. G. Wilm, Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins
10:30—Trees in Landscape Design (illustrated kodachrome slides)
   L. R. Quinlan, Professor of Landscape Design, Kansas State College, Manhattan
11:25—Recreation and Forestry—Conservation of Natural Values
   Prof. J. V. K. Wagar, Dep. of Forestry, Colorado State College
12:30—LUNCHEON AT THE COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL, ROOM D
   $1.50 per person (tax included)
   Panel Discussion on POSTWAR HORTICULTURE
   Clayton Watkins, Discussion Leader
   L. L. Kumlien and L. R. Quinlan will discuss the topic from two different angles

Afternoon—Cosmopolitan Hotel
   C. M. Drage, State Extension Horticulturist, presiding
2:15—From Victory Gardens to Peacetime Horticulture
   Prof. A. M. Binkley, Head of Horticulture Department, Colorado State College
3:00—Dwarf Fruit Trees for Colorado
   Dr. Louis R. Bryant, Associate Horticulturist, Colorado State College
3:30—Evergreens, How to Grow Them and Where to Use Them
   L. L. Kumlien, D. Hill Nurseries, Dundee, Ill.

Discussions will follow each topic

Notes:
Our Colorado authorities are too well known to need an introduction. C. M. Drage graduated from Victory Garden County Agent to State Extension Horticulturist. Professors Binkley and Bryant are tops in Horticulture, Dr. Wilm and Wagar in Forestry. Clayton Watkins is President of the Colorado Nurseriesmen's Association. Colonel Peck made a record as Regional Forester.

L. L. Kumlien is the author of Hill's Book of Evergreens, and is an outstanding authority on Evergreens in the United States.

Prof. L. R. Quinlan is a leading authority on Landscape Architecture.

Membership in the organization $1.00 and up includes admission to both sessions. $5.00 pays for a sustaining membership.