

Editor — Ray Gerber
865 Hillside Ave.
Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137
Phone — 469-6467

Associate Editors — Robert Williams
901 W. Larchmont
Lake Forest, Ill. 60045
Office Phone — 432-0088

Roger LaRochelle
514 Roberts Dr.
Glenwood, Ill. 60425
Office Phone — 219-844-0335



The President's Message

Two thoughts went through my mind when I handed Dr. Al Turgeon the \$500 contribution from the Midwest Association at the March meeting. One, that this was the finest hour, by financially helping our state university to help us in turf research. And two, that Dr. Al Turgeon was precisely the right person to carry through this program. Al's sincere honesty and his promise to use our contribution for "grass only" impressed all of us I think at the last meeting. Hats off to Roger LaRochelle and his research committee . . . and to all of you for this. We sure did the right thing. It's a good start.

Now I would like to say a few words about the Chicago Flower Show at McCormick Place on the lake. Attendance is dwindling, I'm sad to say. The crowds are not coming in as strongly as in past years and the exhibitors naturally are not happy. The reason is that prices have gone sky high. For the exhibitors the price per square foot is alarming and discouraging. And working with the unions and management at the Flower Show has not been rosy (excuse the pun). For this reason many of the excellent flower and garden displays that I've enjoyed before are not there anymore (though the trinket stalls are as popular as ever). For the ardent flower and garden enthusiast the situation is ridiculous. The parking underground for a few hours in the afternoon averages almost three dollars. The admission charge is \$2.50. Combine these costs with the tiring walk to the show from the parking lot, then add the cost of poor (and I mean poor) but expensive food and you have an economic wilt in enthusiasm for the Flower and Garden Show. Nevertheless, I hope our Chicago flower show doesn't fall by the wayside, as did the one in New York. The great New York Flower and Garden Show is no more because of reasons similar to those I just mentioned.

And I'd like to know exactly who is the culprit who is sending around certain preposterous letters. Read this nonsense:

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The following is a list of office telephone numbers for the entire Board.

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