

The American GARDENER

The Magazine of the American Horticultural Society

March/April 2006

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Versatile
Polemoniums

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for Relocating
Your Garden

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contents

Volume 85, Number 2 · March / April 2006

FEATURES



- 18 NATIVE BULBS** BY PAMELA THOMAS
Try some of these unusual and noteworthy native geophytes, which are suited to a variety of gardens.

- 24 THE GARDENER TRANSPLANTED**
BY DOREEN G. HOWARD
When it comes time to move, here's some sound advice for gardeners on how to transport plants long distances and adapt to new climate zones.



- 29 HEAVENLY JACOB'S LADDERS** BY RAND B. LEE
The understated beauty of Jacob's ladders adds charm to woodland and rock gardens.

- 34 TEXAS'S FIRST LADY OF HERBS** BY LINDA ASKEY
Madalene Hill has spent a lifetime promoting the benefits of herbs for culinary, medicinal, and ornamental use.

- 38 CREATING A KITCHEN GARDEN** BY SHEPHERD OGDEN
An expert reveals how to create and maintain a beautiful and productive vegetable garden from start to finish.

ON THE COVER: Gardener Shepherd Ogden shows off a bumper harvest from his 1,500-square-foot kitchen garden in Pennsylvania. Photograph by Rob Cardillo

DEPARTMENTS

5 NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

6 MEMBERS' FORUM

8 NEWS FROM AHS

AHS receives grant for Master Plan, AHS partners with green roof group, River Farm to be part of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, Chapel Valley is new Corporate Partner, AHS Horticultural Partner TGOA/MGCA plans national convention in South Carolina, new youth garden internship available at River Farm, AHS co-sponsors Williamsburg Symposium.

- 12 AHS NEWS SPECIAL:
2006 GREAT AMERICAN GARDENER AWARDS**
Meet this year's 12 award recipients.

- 16 AHS NEWS SPECIAL: 2006 BOOK AWARDS**
Here are five garden books of merit.

- 44 ONE ON ONE WITH...**
Whitney Cranshaw, entomologist.

- 46 HABITAT GARDENING**
Southern prairies and plains.

- 48 GARDENER'S NOTEBOOK**
2006 award-winning plants for Midwest, garden groups partner on national plant database, study finds that plants produce greenhouse gas, nurseries create brand for retail sales of native plants, ecoscaping program offered by Wild Ones, Virginia's Norfolk Botanic Garden designated a historic site.

- 52 GREEN GARAGE®**
Good hand tools are essential for smart gardening.

- 54 BOOK REVIEWS**
Outside the Not So Big House, *Begonias*, and *The New Garden Paradise*.
Special focus: Gardening with edible plants.

- 57 REGIONAL HAPPENINGS**

- 61 HARDINESS AND HEAT ZONES
AND PRONUNCIATIONS**

- 62 RIVER FARM SNAPSHOT**
Signs of spring: Flowering winterhazel.



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NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

AMAZING THINGS happen when talented people grab hold of an idea and envision a world where they can make a difference. In this issue of *The American Gardener* you'll read about 12 such individuals as we unveil the 2006 Great American Gardeners—the winners of the American Horticultural Society's annual awards (starting on page 12).

All the award winners are inspiring leaders who through their work have elevated public awareness of plants, gardens, and horticulture in America. They share their passion by connecting people to the artistic expression and scientific wonderment inherent in gardening. They celebrate the very best in our human spirit and give us confidence that we can protect the natural beauty of our land and at the same time enhance the designed environments in which we live.

We will be honoring the 2006 award winners for their unique contributions at the Great American Gardeners Awards Celebration, which will be held on June 2 right here at George Washington's River Farm, our national headquarters. I extend to you and all AHS members a special invitation to meet these horticulture heroes and join us at River Farm for a festive evening in a magical setting.

Greatness, of course, is not reserved for a special few. Each of us can envision a better world and do something significant to make a difference. With inspiration and determination, little things become big things. Routine tasks become joyful memorable moments. Simple sentences become inspired poems. Recycling in your home becomes a project for the whole community. Planting seeds with your students evolves into an outdoor classroom for science, reading, and art. Hanging a beautiful flowering basket on your porch inspires a neighborhood lined with flowering hanging baskets. Donating a crape myrtle to a local park turns into an annual crape myrtle festival. It's an incredible feeling when a whole movement is born from one seemingly small individual effort!

You will notice that the *AHS Annual Report* for fiscal year 2005 (July 2004 to June 2005) is included in this issue of *The American Gardener*. Each year in the *Annual Report*, we recap our programs and projects, summarize our financial picture, and thank our donors. As you can tell from reading about our achievements, we aspire to greatness at the AHS. But everything we do starts with your important efforts and contributions.

Some of you are members of the green industry who partner with the AHS to showcase the very best garden plants at River Farm. Some of you are participants in our AHS Travel Study Program act as ambassadors by sharing our appreciation for the art of the garden at destinations around the world. Some of you are inspiring lecturers who share your knowledge and inspiration at our AHS Garden Schools and symposia. Some of you are educators who attend our Children & Youth Garden Symposium in order to introduce a whole new generation to a love for plants and nature. What we have in common is that all of us are gardeners trying to make the world around us a little better. You have started something important at the AHS. Together, I feel confident, we are headed toward something great!

Happy Gardening!

Katy Moss Warner

—Katy Moss Warner, *AHS President*



MEMBERS' FORUM

PLIGHT OF NEW ORLEANS GARDENERS

Pity the lot of the gardener in New Orleans who had his or her garden standing under 12 feet of water for three weeks, at least. Everything is dead: lawn, plants, most trees. My three tree-sized camellias and one tree-sized hibiscus drowned, as did 75 amaryllis bulbs. The only thing left was a crinum, which is a swamp plant. It will take me and other Gulf Coast gardeners years to put it all back together.

Marvin Bragg
New Orleans, Louisiana

IN APPRECIATION OF ENID HAUPT

It warmed my heart to read the article in the January/February issue about the late Enid Annenberg Haupt. She gave not only millions of dollars but energy and love to the things about which she was passionate. Even those of us without such

financial means can take a lesson from her generosity and verve. Thanks to all of you at AHS for all that you do to educate the public and perpetuate gardening.

Celia De Frank
Big Bear City, California

REPUTABLE SOURCES FOR PLANTS

Do you make any attempt to ascertain whether the plant sources you list with most articles are reputable?

Carol Anderson
Harmony, Pennsylvania

Editor's response: We maintain a database of mail-order retail nurseries that we consider reputable based on personal experience or feedback from other gardeners. Before we include new nurseries in the database we also review their listings online at Garden Watchdog (<http://davesgarden.com/gwd/>) to see how customers rate their experience. Our main goal is to list nurseries that provide reliable service, sell healthy and correctly-named plants, and don't traffic in wild-collected stock.

CORRECTION

In the article on weeds (January/February) issue, a quote attributed to Rolf Schilling, horticulturist for the New England Wild Flower Society, was rendered incorrectly because of an editorial error. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and ranunculus (*Ranunculus ficaria* var. *bulbifera*) are not native to North America. We apologize for the mistake.

PLEASE WRITE US! Letters should be addressed to Editor, *The American Gardener*, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308, or you can e-mail us at editor@ahs.org. Letters we print may be edited for length and clarity.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN WORKSHOPS

With Julie Moir Messervy in Vermont



Author, with architect Sarah Susanka, of *Outside the Not So Big House: Creating the Landscape of Home*

Intensive Landscape Design Retreat
October 24-27, 2006

The Art of Setting Stone: Stone Design and Walling Workshop
with Julie Moir Messervy and Master Waller Dan Snow
August 24-27, 2006



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Immerse yourself in the intricacies of gardening with native plants, color in the garden, and garden photography at these three exclusive AHS Garden School offerings.

the AHS GARDEN SCHOOLS *for* 2006

Through a variety of presentations, demonstrations, and specially planned activities, participants will learn practical tips and techniques for mastering the effective use of native plants, color in the landscape, or the art of capturing the garden through photography. Avid garden enthusiasts and horticultural professionals alike will benefit from these inspirational and informative two-day program workshops.

The AHS Garden Schools offer a truly unique environment for life-long learning—intimate, in-depth workshops featuring personal instruction from noted garden authorities; opportunities for practical application and hands-on experiences; and outstanding settings.

Visit www.ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 137 for more information on these exciting events.



Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus, Ohio, site for "The Art & Science of Color in the Garden" workshop, May 11 and 12, 2006

April 6 & 7, 2006

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Gardening with Native Plants

AHS Headquarters at River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia

Discover new plants, awaken your creativity, and surround yourself in the rich world of native plants with "Gardening with Native Plants" at a truly inspirational setting—the Society's River Farm headquarters overlooking the beautiful Potomac River.

Featuring guest horticulturist **Carole Ottesen**, author of the *Native Plant Primer: Trees, Shrubs and Wildflowers for Natural Gardens*, and a special evening with **Rick Darke**, author of *The American Woodland Garden*.



CAROLE OTTESEN

May 11 & 12, 2006

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The Art & Science of Color in the Garden

Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus, Ohio

Sharpen your skills, recharge your creativity, and immerse yourself in the intricacies of color in the garden with "The Art & Science of Color in the Garden" at Franklin Park Conservatory, one of North America's notable glass conservatories.

Featuring guest horticulturist **Heather Will-Browne** of the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida and a special evening with **Julie Moir Messervy**, landscape designer.



HEATHER WILL-BROWNE

October 26 & 27, 2006

REGISTRATION OPENS AUG. 1

The Art & Science of Garden Photography

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, Texas

Look at the garden through a new lens, heighten your ability to capture the garden and gain a greater appreciation for the surrounding landscape with "The Art & Science of Garden Photography" amid the stunning landscape of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Featuring guest horticulturist **Robert Bowden** of Orlando's Harry P. Leu Gardens and a special evening with **Van Chaplin**, garden photographer at *Southern Living* magazine.



ROBERT BOWDEN

AHS Receives Grant for Master Plan

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY recently received an \$18,000 grant from the **Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust** to fund the schematic design of the **Liberty Hyde Bailey Walk**, which is part of the new Master Plan for the AHS's River Farm headquarters.



Liberty Hyde Bailey, known as the father of American horticulture, will be honored in a walk that is a central part of River Farm's Master Plan.

"This grant will help us move forward with a crucial component of our Master Plan," says AHS President **Katy Moss Warner**. "The design will bring us closer to our goal of transforming River Farm into a true celebration of American horticulture."

The Liberty Hyde Bailey Walk, named in honor of the botanist whose interest in cultivated plants brought a new scientific rigor to the practice of horticulture in America, is one of the central elements of River Farm's Master Plan, adopted in 2004 by the AHS's Board of Directors. When the plan is completed, River Farm will truly be able to serve as the "nation's capital" of American horticulture, showcasing sustainable horticulture practices and providing a place for leaders in the field to convene.

Melody Gray, a former AHS horticulture intern, has been researching Bailey's contributions to American horticulture as part of her Master's thesis at the Longwood Graduate Program in Public Horticulture. Melody's research will be incorporated into the schematic design for the walk.

The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust supports horticultural education and research in North and South America. Its mission includes the creation, development, and maintenance of botanical gardens; the promotion of the cultivation and wide dissemination of new plants and those with value to mankind; and assistance with the publication of books and other works devoted to the science of horticulture.

AHS Partners with Green Roof Group

GREEN ROOFS FOR HEALTHY CITIES (GRHC), an association working to increase awareness of the economic, social, and environmental benefits of green roof infrastructure across North America, has become a new AHS Horticultural Partner. GRHC comprises a diverse array of public, private, corporate, and individual members. **Steven Peck**, its founder and president, feels the partnership "will be a great opportunity to spread the word about green roof technology."

The annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference, Awards, and Trade Show is one of the most effective means GRHC uses to share information with com-

munities around the country. This year's event, with over 50 sessions on the latest developments in green roof research, design, and policy, will be held May 11 and 12 in Boston. The conference also will offer tours,

training sessions, and social functions. To bring recognition to outstanding and innovative commercial, residential, and institutional green roof projects, awards will be presented—including a new Green Roof Research Award of Excellence. For more information on GRHC and the conference, call (416) 971-4494 or visit www.greenroofs.org.

Tours will include a green roof at the Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital.



Washington Blooms! and Historic Garden Week in Virginia

APRIL, always a special month at River Farm, promises to be exceptional this year. More than 17,000 bulbs, have been planted in anticipation of our annual *Washington Blooms!* celebration, thanks



Spring in full bloom at River Farm.

to generous donations by **Colorblends** of Greenwich, Connecticut; the **Royal Dutch Wholesalers Association for Flowerbulbs and Nurserystock** of the Netherlands; and **K. van Bourgondien and Sons** of Babylon, New York.

On April 22, River Farm in all its spring finery will welcome visitors touring Alexandria as part of the 73rd annual Historic Garden Week. The event, sponsored by the **Garden Club of Virginia**, features tours of more than 250 public and private houses and gardens. Proceeds will help support the restoration of important historic grounds and gardens throughout the state. For additional information on Historic Garden Week tours, visit www.VAGardenweek.org.

Friends of River Farm Plant Sale

AN UNUSUALLY MILD winter in the mid-Atlantic region has gardeners here impatiently awaiting the planting season. To the rescue comes the annual Friends of River Farm Plant Sale on April 21 and 22, with an AHS member preview night on April 20. Nearly 30 vendors will be offering a vast array of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, vines, and hanging baskets, according to AHS Horticulturist **Peggy Bowers**.

Peggy says that the best introductions from recent years, including 'Endless Summer' hydrangeas and Knock-Out roses, will be available, along with new selections such as the disease-resistant 'Lady Elsie May' rose and the scented hosta 'Fragrant Dream.' Garden tools, books, and ornaments will be available in the AHS Garden Shop, and the Green Garage® exhibit will provide inspiration to gardeners seeking to be kinder to themselves and the environment.



'Blush' Knock-Out rose

The AHS members-only preview sale will be held on Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Members must present a valid AHS membership card for admission. The sale is open to the public on Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the gardens and grounds of River Farm.

American Horticultural Society

Washington Blooms!

April 1–29, 2006

Join us this April for *Washington Blooms!* at River Farm. Nothing compares with the beauty of the early spring blooms in the National Capital area. Cherry blossoms, daffodils, and tulips herald the coming of spring in an explosion of color. Mark your calendar and plan to visit River Farm and the National Capital area this April—you'll find a variety of spring delights with something for every gardener and garden enthusiast, no matter what your passion!

Visit www.ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 for more information.

2006 Washington Blooms! Events at River Farm

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| April 1 | • Spring Garden & Bulb Tour |
| April 8 | • Spring Garden & Bulb Tour |
| April 15 | • Spring Garden & Bulb Tour |
| April 20 | • Members-Only Preview Night
Friends of River Farm Plant Sale |
| April 21 & 22 | • Friends of River Farm Plant Sale |
| April 29 | • Spring Garden & Bulb Tour
• Family Day at River Farm |

Ongoing for the month of April at River Farm

- Thousands of spring blooms!
- AHS Garden Shop
- Botanical and garden art exhibit

More reasons to visit the National Capital Area in April

- National Cherry Blossom Festival (March 25 – April 9)
- Historic Garden Week in Virginia (April 22 – 29)



AHS NATIONAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

2006 CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for these upcoming national events and programs that are sponsored or cosponsored by the American Horticultural Society.

- APR. 1–29. **Washington Blooms!** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- APR. 6 & 7. **AHS Garden School: Gardening with Native Plants.** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- APR. 21 & 22. **Friends of River Farm Plant Sale.** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia. (Note: Members-only preview sale is from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on April 20).
- APR. 21–JUNE 11. **Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival.** Orlando, Florida.
- APR. 30–MAY 3. **Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium.** Williamsburg, Virginia.
- MAY 5. **Magic of Landscaping Conference.** Orlando, Florida.
- MAY 11 & 12. **AHS Garden School: The Art & Science of Color in the Garden.** Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus, Ohio.
- MAY 21. **Friends of River Farm Family Picnic.** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- JUNE 1. **Taste of River Farm.** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- JUNE 2. **Great American Gardeners Award Ceremony and Banquet.** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- JULY 27–29. **National Children & Youth Garden Symposium.** St. Louis, Missouri. Hosted by the Missouri Botanical Garden.
- SEPT. 20–23. **Fashion in Bloom** (formerly the Eastern Performance Trials). George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- SEPT. 23. **AHS Annual Gala.** George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- OCT. 26 & 27. **AHS Garden School: The Art & Science of Garden Photography.** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, Texas.

For more information about these events, call (800) 777-7931 or visit the AHS website (www.ahs.org).

Chapel Valley Partners with AHS

FOUNDED by AHS Board Member **J. Landon Reeve** in 1968, **Chapel Valley Landscape Company** recently became a new AHS Corporate Partner. Chapel Valley provides landscape design, installation, and maintenance services to homeowners and businesses in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

The company's green trucks are a familiar sight in the National Capital region and their work is on view throughout the area—the company has been involved in high-profile projects including the Inner Harbor complex in Baltimore and the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. In addition, Chapel Valley has provided landscaping services to River Farm, helping the AHS to redesign the area in front of the estate house last summer to incorporate new plantings for



J. Landon Reeve, landscape architect Ann English, left, and AHS President Katy Moss Warner, right, review construction plans for the Eastern Performance Trials.

the first **Eastern Performance Trials**, held in September.

"Becoming an AHS Corporate Partner is a natural step for us," says Landon. He and his company have strong ties to the AHS. He has been a member since the mid-1960s, and as a student he worked with now retired AHS President Emeritus **Dr. H. Marc Cathey** and Board member **Kurt Bluemel**.

Through mentoring and scholarship programs, comprehensive training for its workers, and a dedication to the highest quality work, Chapel Valley Landscaping has not just risen to the challenges presented by a rapidly changing industry, says Landon, "we've enjoyed being an active part of it."

TGOA/MGCA National Convention in South Carolina

THE GARDENERS of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America (TGOA/MGCA), an AHS Horticultural Partner, will hold its national convention from April 20 to 22 in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

According to **Henry Pittman**, a TGOA/MGOA national director and member of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, which is hosting the convention, Spartanburg is an especially appropriate venue. "It's a tremendous example of public and private initiative," says Henry. Public gardens abound, including the Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve, the 600-acre Milliken Arboretum at the textile company's headquarters, and arboreta at Wofford College, Spartanburg Technical College, and the University of South Carolina-Upstate.

Beyond its formal program, the Spartanburg convention will showcase how much influence local garden clubs and other vol-

unteer groups can have. Spots of Pride, a well-established community beautification project, has improved more than 70 previously run-down sites with daylilies, junipers, crape myrtles, and other beautiful but tough plants. The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, the largest TGOA/MGCA affiliate, is active in the Spots of Pride program and has planted over 2,200 trees along the city's streets and highways. For more information on the convention, and to register, visit www.tgoa-mgca.org.

AHS Co-Sponsors Colonial Williamsburg Symposium

ALONG WITH *Fine Gardening* magazine, the AHS will co-sponsor the 60th Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium, "Celebrating the American Garden: Spaces for Relaxing and Entertaining" held April 30 to May 3 in Williamsburg, Virginia. AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** will be making opening remarks at the event, which will feature speakers such as garden writer **Pamela Harper**, bulb guru **Brent Heath**, garden designer and author **Julie Moir Messervy**, and **Laura Reilly**, floricultural manager for the Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia.

Symposium participants also may take part in optional activities such as walking tours, garden clinics, and a trip to Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, Virginia. A discounted registration fee is available for AHS members. To learn more, call (800) 603-0948 or visit www.ColonialWilliamsburg.org/conted.

New Youth Programs Internship

THE AHS has been selected as one of 60 nonprofits in the Washington, D.C. area to participate in the **2006 ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program (CSJP)**. ExxonMobil will provide a grant for a Youth Programs intern to work with the Education Programs staff at AHS's River Farm headquarters.

The intern will assist with the planning and coordination of the 14th Annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium, which will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, on July 28 to 30. Other activities will include assisting with River Farm's children's garden and *The Growing Connection* demonstration garden—a pilot program for middle school students on food plant science, nutrition, and sustainability that the AHS administers with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

For more information about the internship, call (703) 768-5700 ext. 121 or e-mail education@ahs.org.



The Growing Connection demonstration garden at River Farm

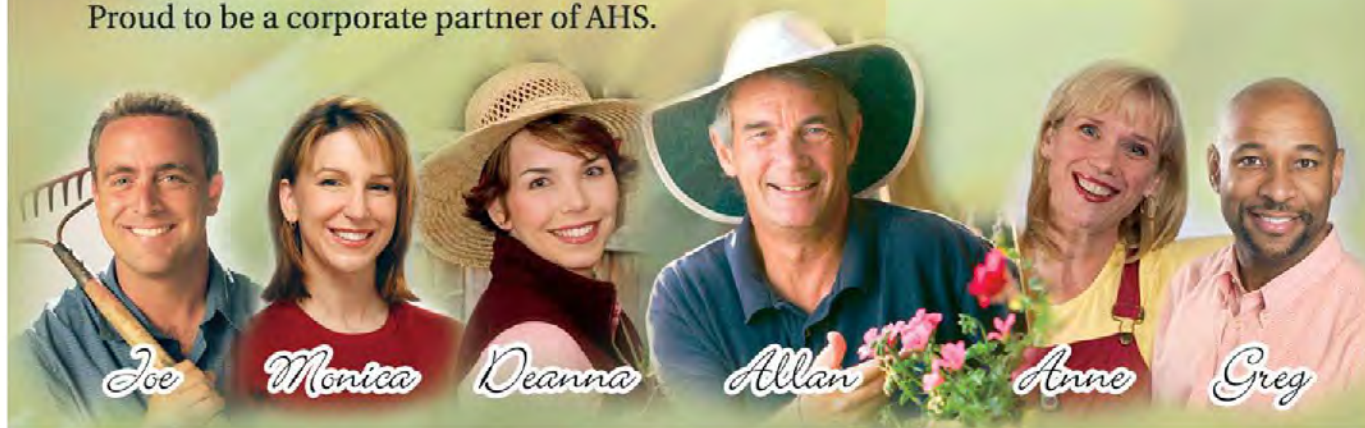
News written by Editorial Intern Linda McIntyre.

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AHS NEWS SPECIAL

AHS 2006 GREAT AMERICAN GARDENERS NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY proudly announces the recipients of the Society's 2006 Great American Gardeners Awards. These individuals represent American gardening at its best. Each has made significant contributions to fields such as plant research, garden communications, landscape design, youth gardening, horticultural technology, and conservation. We applaud their passionate commitment to American gardening and their outstanding achievements within their fields.

The 2006 awards will be presented on June 2 during the Great American Gardeners Awards Ceremony and Banquet at the AHS headquarters at River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia. To attend, visit www.ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 137.

LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY AWARD

Given to an individual who resides in North America and has made significant contributions to at least three of the following horticultural activities: teaching, research, writing, plant exploration, administration, art, business, and leadership.

Daniel J. Hinkley is the co-founder of Heronswood Nursery, a retail mail-order nursery known for its diverse offerings. Hinkley has traveled the world for the past 15 years to bring back rare and unusual plants for American gardeners. In addition to writing the Heronswood catalog, Hinkley writes for numerous periodicals including *The American Gardener*, *Horticulture*, and *Martha Stewart Living*.

His book, *The Explorer's Garden: Rare and Unusual Perennials*, received the AHS 2000 Book Award. Hinkley has received the Scott Arboretum Gold Medal, the Medal of Honor from the Federated Garden Clubs of America, and the Garden Communicator of the Year Award from the American Nurserymen and Landscape Association.

H. MARC CATHEY AWARD

Recognizes an individual who has enriched horticulture through outstanding and notable research.

Robert Wing Langhans is an emeritus professor at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Over the course of his four-

decade career at the university, he made many important contributions to horticulture and published hundreds of papers and articles. His research focused on the environmental factors for flower control of crops such as chrysanthemums,



poinsettias, and carnations; tissue culture for propagation; and the use of high intensity discharge (HID) lamps for supplemental lighting for greenhouse-grown crops during winter.

Among his many professional accolades, Langhans was elected as a Fellow to the American Society of Horticultural Science and the American Society for the Advancement of Science. He was also elected to the Hall of Fame of the Society of American Florists.

PAUL ECKE, JR. COMMERCIAL AWARD

Awarded to an individual, firm, or company whose commitment to the highest standards of excellence in the field of commercial horticulture contributes to the betterment of gardening practices everywhere.

Harlan F. Hamernik is president of Bluebird Nursery in Clarkson, Nebraska, a wholesale operation he founded in 1958. Over 2,000 varieties of plants are grown at the nursery, including many award-winning introductions that are the



result of Hamernik's 50 years of scouting, breeding, and testing plants suited for the Midwest region. He often lectures around the country about the new and noteworthy plants he has discovered for American gardens. His numerous honors include the Perennial Plant Association's Award of Merit and becoming a Fellow of the International Plant Propagator's Society.

HORTICULTURAL COMMUNICATION AWARD

Recognizes effective communication using media and research techniques for the purpose of expanding horticultural awareness.

After earning a degree in journalism from the University of Maine, **Paul J. Tukey**



started off his career as an award-winning newspaper editor and sportswriter. He then followed his love of the outdoors into landscaping and founded his own company, Home 'n Land, in the late 1980s.

People, Places & Plants magazine, which he founded in 1995, combined both of his passions of writing and gardening. An HGTV television show, co-hosted by Tukey and another AHS award winner, Roger Swain, followed in 2002. Through the magazine, broadcasting, and countless personal appearances and speeches, Tukey and his company have demonstrated their commitment to supporting independent garden centers and promoting environmentally friendly gardening.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN AWARD

Acknowledges an individual whose work has expanded the awareness of horticulture in landscape architecture.

From 1983 to 1992, **Darrel Morrison** served as the dean of the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia, where he taught and worked on design projects such as the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas; the Utah Botanical Center in Kaysville, Utah; and the Native Wisconsin Garden at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. Now, as dean emeritus, Morrison continues to periodically teach and work on design projects around the country.

Morrison has received the Tom Dodd Award of Recognition from the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference, the Hutchinson Medal from the Chicago Botanic Garden, and the 1998 AHS Great American Gar-



deners Teaching Award. His book, *Of Place and Time: Reflections on Southeastern Landscapes* will be published later this year by the Center for American Places.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to a past Board member or friend of the Society to recognize outstanding and exemplary service in support of the Society's goals, services, and activities.

The late **Kathleen Fisher** was the editor of the AHS's magazine from 1989 to 1998.



Under her leadership, the magazine became a critically-acclaimed publication known for its in-depth articles on plants, design, and influential people. Fisher enhanced the magazine's traditional emphasis on environmental stewardship by running articles on topics such as pesticide run-off from lawns and plant theft from national parks. In 1996, she oversaw the redesign of

the magazine that coincided with the name change to *The American Gardener*.

Fisher wrote several books, including the *Complete Guide to Water Gardens* (2000) and *Taylor's Guide to Shrubs* (2000). She served as senior editor for *Old House Journal*, a Washington, D.C.-based publication, from 2000 to shortly before her death in 2005.

FRANCES JONES POETKER AWARD

Bestowed on a person who has made significant contributions to the appreciation of creative floral designs in publications, on the platform, and to the public.

Hitomi Gilliam is a designer for Satsukis Flowers in Mission, British Columbia.



She has written, lectured, and demonstrated the artistry of floral design for two decades. Her work has been enjoyed throughout North America and in the

American Horticultural Society's
2006 National Children & Youth Garden Symposium July 27-29, 2006

"Cultivating a Sense of Place: A Youth Gardening Adventure"

Learn how to cultivate a sense of place for the next generation as you experience the gardens and programs of Missouri Botanical Garden, the host of the 14th Annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium. The event will be headquartered on the beautiful campus of **Washington University** in St. Louis, Missouri.

Highlights will include the Missouri Botanical Garden's brand new **Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden**, opening this spring, and inspirational keynote speakers including **Richard Louv**, the nationally acclaimed author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*.



Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden, opening this spring, and inspirational keynote speakers including **Richard Louv**, the nationally acclaimed author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*.

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1.

For more information about the Symposium visit www.ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 132.



Mark your calendars how to join the youth gardening adventure this summer in St. Louis!

Background: Josh Monken. Right: Elizabeth McNulty. Both courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden.

United Kingdom, Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

Gilliam is an active member of the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) and received their Design Influence Award in 1998. Gilliam is the co-author of two design textbooks and of "Earth Man Spirit," a photoessay of creative American design. Her new book, *ArtFlor: Advanced Design and Process*, was published in December 2005, and she writes a regular column for *Flowers & magazine*.

PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Given to an individual who makes his/her living as a leader or director of an arboretum or botanical garden and whose achievements during the course of his/her career represent a significant contribution to horticulture.

J. Dean Norton began his career at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1969 as a high school student. After earning a degree in ornamental horticulture in 1977, he returned to Mount Vernon as its first boxwood gardener. Three years later, he became the estate's horticulturist. Today he serves as the director of horticulture.

Norton lectures across the country and abroad, and appears regularly on TV and in radio. He has been a board member for the Southern Garden History Society, serves as a screening committee member for the Garden Conservancy, and has taught courses through the USDA Graduate School and for George Washington University. He has received the Award for Conservation from the Garden Club of America and a conservation medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution.



If you know someone you would like to nominate for one of the 2007 Great American Gardener Awards, please visit our website (www.ahs.org) and click on "Awards" for more information.

CATHERINE H. SWEENEY AWARD

Given for extraordinary and dedicated efforts in support of the field of horticulture.

Madalene Hill is an acclaimed expert on herbs. She has grown them, sold them, introduced them, cooked with them, written about them, and shared her knowledge of them with American gardeners since 1957, the year she and her late husband, Jim Hill, established the business that became Hilltop Herb Farm near Houston, Texas. In 1984, she sold the business but continued writing and speaking about herbs. With her daughter Gwen Barclay, Hill is the author of the *Houston Garden Book* (1983) and *Southern Herb Growing* (1987).

Since 1993, Hill has served as curator of the Susan McAshan Herb Gardens at the International Festival-Institute in Round Top, Texas, where she has created extensive herb gardens. (For more on Hill, see the article beginning on page 34.)



JANE L. TAYLOR AWARD

Awarded to an individual, organization, or program that has inspired and nurtured future horticulturists through its efforts in children's and youth gardens.

Sheldon Fleming opened Wonderland Gardens in 1997, a 20-acre park near Atlanta, Georgia, that has become a national model for environmental education and a hub of community involvement. Through Wonderland Gardens' many innovative programs and gardens, hundreds of children and youth have been given the opportunity to learn about plants and make connections with the natural world.

Fleming also teaches classes on gardening and speaks at events around the country. He serves on the advisory panel for the AHS National Children & Youth Garden Symposium and was a speaker at last year's event. He is host of TV One's "Can You Dig It?" program.



TEACHING AWARD

Recognizes an individual whose ability to share his/her knowledge of horticulture with others has contributed to a better public understanding of the plant world and its impact on people.

James Swasey is professor emeritus at the University of Delaware, where he has taught since 1984. He retired as the university's coordinator of the Longwood Graduate Program in Public Horticulture in 2005. Before moving to Delaware, he was a professor of ornamental horticulture, chairman of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, and the landscape designer for the University of Maine.

Swasey served as the faculty advisor to the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity chapter at the University of Delaware for nearly seven years. Upon his retirement, the local chapter established the James E. Swasey Scholarship for incoming freshmen.



URBAN BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Awarded to an individual, institution, or company for significant contributions to urban horticulture.

Edgar Aldridge opened the Aldridge Nursery Company with his parents in 1954. He ran the garden center and greenhouses until 1995, when he deeded the family property to the City of Hoover, Alabama, to establish Aldridge Gardens. He serves on the board of this 30-acre public garden as well as on the board of Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Aldridge has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Nurserymen's Association and the Florens DeBevoise Medal from the Garden Club of America. Recently, he established a perpetual chair in Auburn University's horticulture department in memory of his brother Loren Aldridge, who died in 1952.

Aldridge patented *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Snowflake' in 1971 and introduced *H. quercifolia* 'Harmony' in 1972.





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Free Seed Exchange Program AHS's annual seed exchange program enables members to obtain hundreds of uncommon varieties of seeds.

Travel Study Program AHS and the Leonard Haertler Travel Company offer superb national and international garden-based, educational tours to beautiful private and public gardens in the United States and abroad.

Special invitations to educational programs such as the AHS Garden Schools and AHS partner events that include the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Garden Symposium.

AHS Online Our Web site (www.ahs.org) contains a wealth of information, including articles from *The American Gardener*, members-only pages with special information and updates, and links to other prominent gardening sites.

Your membership also supports our many national programs

George Washington's River Farm The AHS's National Headquarters is located on a scenic 25-acre site overlooking the Potomac River. Formerly one of our First President's farms, the property now features an artful blend of naturalistic and formal gardens that offer year-round delight to visitors of all ages.

National Children and Youth Garden Symposium Since 1993, this annual program has led the way in promoting the value of children's gardens and garden-based education.

The Growing Connection This innovative educational program teaches children about the science of growing food plants and their role in a healthy diet.

Online Gardening Courses Enroll in state-of-the-art online garden classes through AHS's partnership with the Horticultural Gardening Institute of Michigan State University.

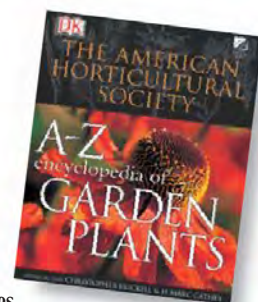
Heat Tolerance Map In 1997, AHS introduced the AHS Plant Heat Zone Map, which has revolutionized the way American gardeners select region-appropriate plants.

Book Program AHS and DK Publishing, Inc., have teamed up to create a definitive horticultural reference library for the 21st century.

SMARTGARDEN™ Launched in 2000, this AHS program uses existing tools, such as the USDA Plant Hardiness and AHS Plant Heat Zone codes, and considers new criteria to develop guidelines that best reinforce our stewardship of the earth.

Horticultural Intern Program Horticulture students from around the country get hand's-on experience in garden maintenance and design and an opportunity to work with leading gardening experts.

National Awards Program The Great American Gardeners Awards recognizes individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to horticulture. The Flower Show Awards spotlight earth-friendly garden displays at flower shows. Noteworthy garden books are the focus for our Book Awards program.



Annual Membership Levels

Annual membership in the American Horticultural Society, including six issues of *The American Gardener* magazine and all the benefits described on this page, is available at the following basic levels (for additional levels, visit www.ahs.org):

- \$35 Individual
- \$100 Family*
- \$50 International
- \$50 Couple
- \$1,000 President's Council
- Corporate Membership (contact our office)
- Horticultural Partner (contact our office)

*Up to four membership cards per household

To become an AHS member, call (703) 768-5700 or visit us at www.ahs.org

AHS NEWS SPECIAL

2006 AHS BOOK AWARD WINNERS

SINCE 1997, the American Horticultural Society has given its annual Book Award to outstanding gardening books published in North America. Out of more than 40 nominated books received in 2005, the AHS Book Award Committee selected five winners, which are listed below.

Garden writer and editor **Ray Rogers** of North Brunswick, New Jersey, served as chair of the 2006 committee. Other committee members were **Gene Bussell** of Birmingham, Alabama, a garden editor for *Southern Living* magazine; **Keith Crotz**, owner of American Botanist Booksellers in Chillicothe, Illinois; **Susan C. Eubank**, a horticultural librarian for the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden in Arcadia, California; **Lucinda Mays** of Chadron, Nebraska, a garden writer and producer of gardening television shows; **Marcia Tatroe** of Centennial, Colorado, a writer for the *Denver Post* and *Sunset* magazine; and **Marty Wingate** of Seattle, Washington, a columnist for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*.

To view a complete list of previous AHS Book Award winners, visit www.ahs.org and click on "Awards."

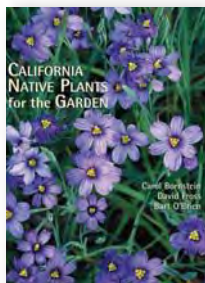
The Art of the Japanese Garden by David and Michiko Young. Tuttle Publishing, North Clarendon, Vermont. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$40.

"THIS BOOK IS so roundly written that it could, if necessary, serve as the only book one had to introduce and explain to Westerners the basic components of Japanese gardens," said Lucinda Mays. "It illuminates a style of gardening that greatly influences American gardens, but is not widely understood," said Marcia Tatroe. "The authors do a good job of bringing the historical and theoretical together," said Susan Eubank.



California Native Plants for the Garden by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien. Cachuma Press, Los Olivos, California. Publisher's price, softcover: \$27.95.

WHILE THE TITLE of this book seemed to imply a narrow scope, the committee felt the book spoke to a broader audience because, as Marcia Tatroe said, "It lists native habitat as well as range and cultural requirements. This reflects the current trend of planting by habitat, one which should be encouraged." It also garnered praise for its authoritativeness, comprehensiveness, and overall quality. "This book presents a great deal of cultural information, it compares plants and explains why some are bet-



ter than others, it gives many ideas for garden use, and includes useful, good quality photos," said Ray Rogers.

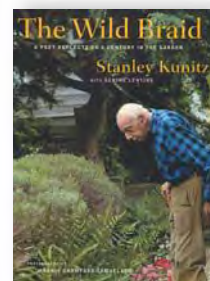
Growing Hardy Orchids by John Tullock. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$29.95.

"THIS BOOK IS important for both gardeners and horticulturists because you can't find this useful information compiled anywhere else," said Lucinda Mays. "In addition, it reads like a conversation with someone who is extremely knowledgeable, presenting the information in a very interesting way." Even the committee members without a great interest in orchids found this book fascinating and enjoyable. "I was intrigued by this topic," said Susan Eubank. "This book could help anybody grow orchids outside," she added.



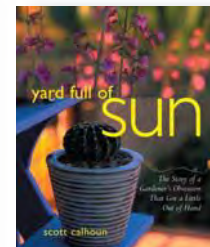
The Wild Braid by Stanley Kunitz with Genine Lentine. W.W. Norton, New York, New York. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$23.95.

SEVERAL MEMBERS of the committee felt this book by Pulitzer prize-winning poet Stanley Kunitz was a powerful example of how gardening can be a lifelong passion as well as inspire other art forms such as poetry. "This little book is a graceful bridge connecting poetry, gardening, and growing old," said Lucinda Mays. "I liked the minimalist concept, the aphorisms at length, even the poems. The book helps teach us to listen," said Keith Crotz. The interplay of photographs, poetry, and prose "captures the essence of what gardening is about," observed Marcia Tatroe.



Yard Full of Sun by Scott Calhoun. Rio Nuevo Publishers, Tucson, Arizona. Publisher's price, softcover: \$22.95.

"BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHY and an engaging writing style combined with useful cultural information and planting ideas distinguish this book as the best of this year's offerings on personal gardening," said Ray Rogers. While the book focuses on the author's experience of building his own house and garden in Tucson, Arizona, the committee felt it appeals to gardeners everywhere because of its environmentally sensitive approach to common issues such as water use and native plants.





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Native Bulbs

USING NATIVE PLANTS in the landscape comes naturally to me after working for several years as a horticulturist at Garden in the Woods, headquarters of the New England Wild Flower Society, in Framingham, Massachusetts. And although I still think of Dutch iris, daffodils, and tulips as stalwarts of the spring garden, there are many less commonly cultivated native North American bulbs well worth incorporating into traditional bulb plantings, perennial beds, or woodland gardens.

Collectively termed geophytes, bulbs are divided into various subcategories based on their specialized root structures.

Try some of these unusual and noteworthy native geophytes, which are suited to a variety of gardens.

BY PAMELA THOMAS

These include corms—swollen underground stems; true bulbs—modified leaves and scales usually with a papery covering; tubers—a mass of modified stem tissue with several points of growth; tuber-

ous roots—swollen roots that serve as storage organs; and rhizomes—subsurface, horizontal swollen stems.

The diversity among North American bulbs is astounding. Here are a few of my favorites organized by habitat type and blooming time. I have focused primarily on eastern natives because my experience has been with them, but the chart on page 21 describes intriguing bulbs native to western North America.

WOODLAND SPECIES

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*, USDA Hardiness Zones 3–9, AHS Heat Zones 9–1) is one of those harbingers of spring for



Opposite: Western trout lily self-sows to make attractive stands. Top: Yellow trout lily flowers feature reflexed petals. Above: Bloodroot is among the earliest blooming woodland plants. Right: Dutchman's breeches are native to eastern and central North America.

gardeners in the Northeast, blooming just after skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) and hepaticas (*Anemone acutiloba*, *A. americana*; these were formerly in the genus *Hepatica*).

Like many spring-flowering plants in the eastern deciduous forest, bloodroot rushes to complete its bloom cycle early to take advantage of maximum light conditions before the woodland canopy leafs out. Flowers appear in mid-April, preceded by a clasping pair of rounded, deeply lobed leaves that fold down and apart to unveil a single flower stalk of pure white, daisylike flowers with yellow centers. The flowers last only a short

while, but the attractive deep green leaves persist and make a handsome low groundcover through the summer.

Bloodroot has a wide natural range from Nova Scotia to southern Manitoba, south to Texas and Florida, where it grows in shade or partly sunny conditions in moist woods, slopes, and floodplains.

Other spring-flowering bulbs ideal for the eastern woodland garden are Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*, Zones 4–8, 8–1) and squirrel corn (*Dicentra canadensis*, Zones 4–8, 8–4). Dutchman's breeches are named for their mid-April flowers, which resemble white inverted pantaloons.

Opening a week later, squirrel corn's pendant, white, bell-shaped flowers are similar to the popular Asian bleeding heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*), and the Appalachian wild bleeding heart (*D. eximia*) but are smaller and lack the red or pink coloration. Their fragrance is reminiscent of lilacs. The common name is derived from squirrels' predilection for their tasty yellow, tear-shaped bulblets.

Dutchman's breeches' natural range is wide: from Nova Scotia and eastern Quebec south to Georgia, Arkansas, and Kansas, with a few disjunct western populations. Squirrel corn occurs naturally from southern Maine and Quebec, south to North Carolina, Tennessee, and Missouri. Both Dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn have lacy fernlike foliage and do well in cultivation with shade or filtered light in moist, rich soils.

Another eastern woodland ephemeral that blooms in spring is the yellow trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*, Zones 3–9, 9–2). It represents one of 14 North American *Erythronium* species, many of them western in origin (for western native bulbs, see page 21). This species is widely distributed in moist woodland habitats from Nova Scotia and western Ontario south to Georgia and Florida. Emerging from small corms, the three-inch-long, elliptical green leaves are splotched brown in lovely batik-like patterns. The leaves appear in April, followed by bright yellow, solitary flowers whose petals curl backwards to reveal long, salmon-colored anthers. The flower's throat is sometimes brushed in a burnt rust color. The bloom cycle is concurrent with trout fishing season, an association that gave rise to the plant's common name.

Other early May bloomers in the woodland garden are the ephemeral spring beauties *Claytonia caroliniana* and *C. virginica* (both Zones 4–9, 6–1). *C. caroliniana* is found in woods and bottomlands from Quebec and Ontario south to Georgia. *Claytonia virginica* is found in moist woods from Nova Scotia to Minnesota, south to the mountains of Tennessee and Georgia. *Claytonia caroliniana* begins blooming a week or so ahead of *C. virginica*, but otherwise the two species are very similar with white to light pink, five-petaled flowers—sometimes with pink venation—borne in racemes on six- to eight-inch stems, with two to 15 blooms.



Flower spikes of *Claytonia virginica* bear up to 15 delicate flowers in spring.

Each flower is a half inch across and has rounded petals.

Both species have fleshy, succulent leaves characteristic of the portulaca family to which they belong. The linear leaves are arranged in opposite pairs along the stem around which they wrap. *Claytonia caroliniana* has a slightly wider leaf than *C. virginica* and it narrows to a more distinct petiole. The corms of spring beauties look like small hazelnuts with bumpy scales. Both species go dormant by summer, but in their prime, they look wonderful planted in large groups with bloodroot, Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), and squirrel corn.

Later in May, the blue bead lily (*Clintonia borealis*, Zones 2–7, 8–1), an attractive six- to eight-inch groundcover, begins its floral display. Its broad oval leaves, typically arranged in twos or threes, have a velvety sheen when struck by late afternoon sunlight. Both leaves and the delicate, nodding yellow-green flower clusters rise from a single stalk. The flowers are bell-shaped with stamens that extend below the petals. It is a treat to behold both in spring flower and late summer, when it puts on another show of shiny, round, ultramarine fruits.

Blue bead lily occurs widely in the boreal forests of Canada south to the higher ranges of the Appalachians. It grows in cool, moist, acid woods and shaded bogs. It is tricky to cultivate unless given an environment that approximates its natural habitat.

If the blue bead lily proves too challenging for your garden, try white bead lily (*Clintonia umbellulata*, Zones 4–8, 9–1), which blooms in late May, after blue bead lily, and is a little more tolerant of short periods of heat and drought. Its upright greenish-white flowers are arranged in spherical clusters, similar to alliums, and its wide, basal leaves give the plant a vase-shaped appearance. White bead lily's leaf texture is slightly rubbery with fine hairs along the margin, and its beadlike fruit ranges from dark blue to black. Its range extends from the rich mountain woods of New York to Ohio and south to Georgia. Both of these *Clintonia* species are slow growing and develop short thick rhizomes.

In July, while the tall showy Canada and Turk's cap lilies (*Lilium canadense*, Zones 3–8, 8–1, and *L. superbum*, Zones 4–8, 8–3) are blooming, another lesser-known native lily adds to the summer floral display. Slender bunch flower (*Melanthium latifolium*, syn. *M. hybrida*, Zones 4–8, 8–4) is a delicate-looking plant that produces a showy, floriferous panicle of small, greenish-white starry flowers. Growing from true bulbs, flower stalks are erect, subtended by pairs of thin-textured,

pleated leaves, about two inches wide and eight inches long, giving the plant a vase-shaped form. Bunch flower is found naturally in wet forested areas from the mountains of Connecticut south to Georgia. In cultivation, it flowers best in sunny conditions with moist acid soil, and will tolerate some dryness when not in bloom. I was immediately captivated by this plant when I first saw it at Garden in the Woods, and I hope in time it will become more widely available for gardeners to grow and appreciate.

BULBS FOR WET SPOTS

Another little-known plant I came to admire at Garden in the Woods is swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*, Zones 5–9, 9–5). The plants I know receive half a day of sun, and are growing at the edge of a pond, at first submerged in water, then in a muddy substrate as the pond edge subsides a bit. The plant forms rosettes of straplike foliage; its cold-tolerant maroon leaves give way to a new flush of short, fresh green basal leaves in spring, that lengthen over the growing season. A two-foot central flower stalk resembling a small drumstick rises in May or June. The elliptically-shaped flower ball dis-



For a wet spot or bog garden, consider swamp pinks. The drumstick flowers bloom in early summer on erect, two-foot-high stems above clumps of basal leaves.

WESTERN NATIVE BULBS

Bulbs native to the western regions of North America represent habitats that range from the humid and mild coastal rainforests to the dry, rugged slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Some of these species are suited to shady woodland gardens; others to sunny borders or rock gardens. Listed below are just a few of the many native bulb species for western gardens.

Name	Height (in.)	Flower color	Bloom time	Culture	Native range	USDA, AHS Zones
<i>Calochortus amabilis</i> (Superb Mariposa lily)	4–20	deep yellow	spring to early summer	well-drained, sandy soil, full sun	California	6–10, 10–6
<i>Calochortus superbus</i> (Mariposa lily)	16–24	white, cream, lavender-blue, or yellow	late spring	well-drained, sandy soil, full sun	California	5–10, 10–6
<i>Camassia leichtlinii</i> subsp. <i>suksdorfii</i> . (Camas lily)	12–48	cobalt blue to purple	late spring	moist, sun to part sun	British Columbia to California (Sierras)	4–9, 12–1
<i>Camassia quamash</i> (Common camas)	12–24	light blue-purple	late spring	moist soil, clay tolerance, sun to part sun	British Columbia and Manitoba to California, Utah	4–9, 12–1
<i>Dichelostemma ida-maia</i> (Firecracker flower)	8–12	crimson with green-yellow tips	summer	well-drained soil, full sun	Oregon to California	5–8, 8–5
<i>Erythronium revolutum</i> (Western trout lily)	8–12	lilac-pink	mid-spring	moist, well drained soil, dappled or part shade	Vancouver Island to northern California	5–8, 8–5
<i>Fritillaria affinis</i> (Rice grain fritillary)	24	greenish white with reddish markings	early spring to early summer	very well-drained soil, full sun	northwestern U.S.	7–9, 9–7
<i>Fritillaria camschatcensis</i> (Chocolate lily)	18	black-purple, green or yellow	early summer	moist soil, full sun to light shade	northwestern U.S., Alaska, northeast Asia	4–8, 8–2
<i>Triteleia hyacinthina</i> (Wild hyacinth)	28	white or pale blue	late spring to early summer	sandy, well drained soil, full sun	western U.S.	7–13, 12–7
<i>Triteleia laxa</i> (Ithuriel's spear)	12–28	dark blue, violet, or white	early summer	rock garden, moist soil, good drainage, full to part sun	western California and southern Oregon	6–10, 10–6
<i>Xerophyllum tenax</i> (Bear grass)	30	white to cream	summer	moist, well-drained soil, full sun	western U.S.	5–8, 8–5



Camassia leichtlinii



Dichelostemma ida-maia



Fritillaria affinis



Atamasco lily looks serenely cool even in the hot, humid summers of the Southeast.

plays pink tepals and lavender blue anthers with a fragrance that wavers between clove and jasmine. After several years, swamp pinks form multiple clumps. Divide them by gently pulling apart the thick, fleshy rhizomes after the plants are finished flowering. Swamp pinks are considered a threatened species in the wild, so be sure to look for nursery-propagated divisions if you want to grow this beautiful plant in your garden.

When the flowers of most eastern woodland bulbs have faded, feather fleece, also called eastern featherbells (*Stenanthium gramineum*, Zones 7–9, 9–7), comes into its own with a fine, floral display from August through October. Blooms open from bottom to top revealing a multitude of small, white, deeply incised flowers, arranged in open panicles on two- to four-foot stems. The lower sprays of drooping flowers lend a graceful, airy effect to the plant. It grows best in a sunny position in moist acid soil; its natural habitats include floodplain forests, moist woods, meadows, and coastal plain bogs. Its native range lies

from Pennsylvania into Virginia, West Virginia, Alabama, and Texas.

For warmer regions, Scott Ogden, noted southern bulb expert and horticulturist, recommends a few species that are indigenous to the southeastern United States and tolerate soggy conditions. Atamasco lily or wild Easter lily (*Zephyranthes atamasca*, Zones 7–10, 12–10) bears funnel-shaped white or pink flowers with shiny, grasslike leaves; it grows to six inches tall. Flowers appear in late winter to spring following periods of rain. They grow naturally in swampy, forested areas with azaleas and *Phlox divaricata*. In gardens, grow in shade to sun in moist, acid soil.

The evergreen Louisiana marsh spider lily (*Hymenocallis liriosme*, Zones 8–11, 12–8) produces showy white flowers with yellow throats that smell like Easter lilies. They bloom from March to April in their native habitat of the marshy estuaries along the Gulf Coast. They prefer aquatic conditions.

Another aquatic bulb found growing in the brackish water along the Gulf

Coast, southern swamp lily (*Crinum americanum*, Zones 8–11, 12–8) bears flowers with slender white petals, red filaments, and a sweet, spicy fragrance in late summer to fall. It grows to two feet tall and is aggressively stoloniferous; in cultivation confine it to a container in a pond.

Meadow garlic (*Allium canadense* var. *mobilense*, Zones 5–9, 9–4) blooms in April with globes of lilac-pink flowers that smell like carnations. Its foliage, which dies back in summer, has a garlic scent. The species is indigenous to the Southeast where it grows in seasonally flooded areas and roadside swales. Although its commercial availability is limited, it is easily grown from seed. This variety has a less weedy appearance than the species.

BULBS FOR DRY SUNNY SITES

One of my favorite bulbs—technically, a corm or swollen underground stem—for rock gardens, containers, or the edge of border plantings is the charming but diminutive yellow star grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*, Zones 5–8, 8–4). Similar in appearance to blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium* spp.), this sulfur-flowered gem from the lily family is only six inches high but has a prolific blooming period from May until the end of summer. Yellow star grass blooms in loose clusters with up to five half-inch flowers on a stem. Its dark green, linear leaves grow in tufts that provide a bold contrast to the flowers. It ranges across



The sunny flowers of yellow star grass brighten up dry sites and rock gardens.

most of the central and eastern United States, growing in dry woodlands and wet, slightly alkaline prairies.

Yellow star grass grows well with good drainage in part to full sun alongside plants that are not overly competitive. It works well in the front of a bed or in a meadow with grasses and other small wildflowers. Because of its tiny size, it is most effective planted in large groups. To propagate, divide corms in fall or early spring.

Another choice bulbous plant for dry sun or partly sunny conditions is turkeybeard (*Xerophyllum asphodeloides*, Zones 5–9, 9–5). Blooming in June, it is the eastern counterpart of bear grass (*X. tenax*, Zones 5–8, 8–5) which is indigenous to the



Turkeybeard grows with ferns and other woodland flora at Garden in the Woods.

Pacific Northwest (see chart, page 21). A member of the lily family, turkeybeard is endangered in the wild. It grows in pine barren habitats and open dry rocky woods from New Jersey to North Carolina, and in parts of the southern Appalachians. This is a great plant for stumping horticultural friends, because its tall, showy flower racemes look like lilies, but its clumping long, narrow-bladed foliage is completely grasslike.

Garden in the Woods has a beautiful display of these plants growing in sandy, moist, well-drained, acidic conditions. The blooms are truly memorable, as they

Sources

Some of the bulbs described in this article are rare or endangered in their natural habitats, so, as always, don't collect bulbs or other plants in the wild. And before you purchase bulbs, be sure to ask a nursery or vendor its policy on collection of plants. Reputable sources for many of these bulbs are listed below, but a few are only available intermittently or through seed exchanges.

Brent & Becky's Bulbs, Gloucester, VA. (804) 693-3966.
www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com. Catalog online.

Heronswood Nursery, Kingston, WA. (360) 297-4172. www.heronswood.com. Catalog \$5.

New England Wild Flower Society, Framingham, MA. (508) 877-7630.
www.newfs.org. Seeds available until March 15. Nursery open April 15 to October 15.

Plant Delights Nursery, Raleigh, NC. (919) 772-4794. www.plantdelights.com. Catalog 10 stamps or box of chocolates.

Telos Rare Bulbs, Arcata, CA. www.telosrarebulbs.com. Catalog online.

Resources

Bulbs for Garden Habitats by Judy Glattstein. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2005.

Bulbs of North America, Jane McGary, editor. The North American Rock Garden Society and Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2001.

Garden Bulbs for the South by Scott Ogden. Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, 1994.

The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada by William Cullina. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts, 2000.

rise on undulating four-foot stalks that are covered with grasslike stipules. Each four-foot stalk is topped with a single pompon comprising hundreds of star-shaped white flowers with a very slight, sweet fragrance. Plant in a well-drained site, because the thick, fleshy rhizomes are sensitive to rotting from too much moisture. The species is also difficult to transplant successfully, so seeds should be planted where you want them to grow. Although slow to become established, the long-lived plants are worth waiting for.

Whether you select a slow-growing plant or one that rewards you with flowers

in the first season, take time to enjoy and appreciate the diversity of bulbs native to North America. By selecting species that suit your gardening conditions, your efforts will be rewarded with a delightful new group of plants to use in combination with annuals, perennials, and the other bulbs you currently grow.

Pamela Thomas recently moved to San Luis Obispo, California. Before that she was a horticulturist at Garden in the Woods, the headquarters of the New England Wild Flower Society in Framingham, Massachusetts.



the Gardener Transplanted

DURING MY gardening life, I have moved 10 times—from plant paradise California to the parched prairies of Oklahoma, south to the steamy Texas Gulf Coast, north to temperate Illinois, even further north to frigid Wisconsin, and finally to a glacier moraine on the border of Illinois and Wisconsin. There have been a few other challenging spots in between these major relocations, some fraught with drought, floods, and hurricanes. Each time I moved, I had to learn a new set of gardening techniques, master a different plant palette (from cold-hardy to tropical) and adapt to yet another planting timetable.

As I became a more experienced gardener, my plant collection grew, and I began taking valuable specimens and favorites with me when I moved. For the last three moves, I rented large vehicles to transport small trees, shrubs, numerous perennials, container gardens, and houseplants. I drove alone 1,100 miles to Illinois from Lake Jackson, Texas, in a yellow rental truck filled with ferns, orchids, brugmansias, and an ‘Owari’ satsuma mandarin orange in a 20-inch redwood tub, not to mention a 50-pound dog. Let’s just say it was an adventure.

All this gardening on the move has taught me how to transport plants (even fruit trees), what is needed to succeed immediately in a new environment, and how to avoid costly mistakes. Here is what I’ve learned from my experience and those of some other gardeners.



INSPECTORS, MOVERS, AND KEEPING YOUR SANITY

Some states require that any plants entering be inspected beforehand and accompanied by a certificate of health. Officially known as a phyto-sanitary certificate, this document can be obtained from the state department of agriculture. California, Arizona, Virginia, Florida, and Oregon are some that require inspections. Other states will not allow certain plants to enter. A link for information on specific state requirements is listed in the “Resources” box (page 28).

Kate Copsey, a garden writer, learned about inspections the hard way when a mover refused to take her houseplants without a phyto-sanitary certificate. “I strongly recommend that anyone moving should check with their state’s department of agriculture,” she says. Copsey has relocated often in the last 20 years and currently lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her plants required inspection for gypsy moths when moving to Cleveland, Ohio,

When it comes time to move, here’s some sound advice for gardeners on how to transport plants long distances and adapt to new climate zones.

BY DOREEN G. HOWARD

Above: A sturdy hand cart can be a gardener’s best friend when relocating plants to a new home.

from Albany, New York, more inspections for gypsy moths and Japanese beetles when moving a couple of years later to Virginia, and another inspection for gypsy moths when moving to Indiana. Copsey urges all gardeners to get the inspections out of the way early and have the certificates in hand when dealing with moving companies.

Most professional moving companies will take plants in the van if the move is less than 150 miles and delivery is within 24 hours. When I moved from Springfield, Illinois, to Janesville, Wisconsin, the moving company, despite delivering 48 hours later and crossing a state line, took some of my biggest plants, includ-

ing a six-foot Norfolk Island pine and a five-foot dieffenbachia. Each fit inside a wardrobe carton and was easy for the crew to put on the van.

To avoid potential problems, ask the moving company in advance what it will take in the way of plants. Many van drivers are independent contractors, however, so they may not always toe the company line.

The longer the trip, the more likely it is that plants will suffer damage or die in moving vans, which are not climate controlled. Temperatures in the cargo area of a van can reach 130° F in summer and below zero in the depths of winter.

MOVING PLANTS YOURSELF

Adventurous—or frugal—gardeners may choose to move plants by themselves, especially if the move is fairly short. Avid gardeners Liz Ball and Rick Ray faced this situation in a slightly more complicated way a few years ago when they decided to combine their separate gardens after they bought a new house together.

Both Ball's and Ray's existing houses were within a 40-mile radius of the new house near Springfield, Pennsylvania. So they rented an open trailer and over the course of several weeks moved hundreds of plants, including several large trees that Ray, who taught horticulture at Delaware Valley College for more than 20 years, had collected over the years.

The two did all of the digging and most of the moving themselves except for a few big trees, for which they had to call in some extra help. Most of the woody plants were dug up in very early spring before they started growth. The largest trees and shrubs were balled and burlapped but smaller ones and perennials were moved in pots or boxes lined with wax paper.

Left: A new garden begins to take shape with plants moved from Rick Ray's and Liz Ball's former homes. Below left: Moving a balled-and-burlapped chamaecyparis to its new home required several pairs of hands and a sturdy hand truck. Below: Young trees and divisions of various perennials are packed in plastic bags or individual pots and transported to their new home by car.



"If you're going to move as many plants as we did, it takes careful planning," says Ball. "It was sort of like D-Day—moving the plants in waves."

One of the critical decisions, Ball says, was "finding a staging area, a place to set the plants while we took care of the actual moving process and getting the property ready to plant them. We were fortunate because the people we bought the house from were nice enough to let us start bringing plants over before they moved out."

PLAYING BY THE RULES

If you want to take prized garden plants with you when you move, be sure to indicate this in your home sale or agreement. New homeowners have been known to get quite upset when a pre-settlement inspection reveals several large holes where shrubs have been removed.

In some cases, you can negotiate with the new owners to replace plants you want to take with ones of similar character. Otherwise, the best bet may be to include provisions in the settlement agreement that allow you to remove specific plants—Rick Ray did this for a large paperbark maple that he was not able to move before settlement.

GET IN THE ZONE

Before you start digging plants from your old garden to take with you, you should also do a little research about the climate zones in your garden-to-be. Check both the United States Department of Agriculture



Plants in containers are not considered part of the property, making them easier to bring along when you move out.

ture (USDA) Plant Hardiness Zone Map and the American Horticultural Society (AHS) Plant Heat Zone Map. When my husband's job took us from the Gulf Coast of Texas, which is semi-tropical, to the heart of the corn belt, I discovered that the new USDA climate zone 5 would too cold for such prized beauties as passionflowers, bananas, and gingers. But I learned that some of my favorite perennials, like an orange butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), would thrive at my new home. I took divisions of these plants with me to establish a new garden.

My last move from Wisconsin involved taking divisions of every perennial in the garden to establish perennial beds at the new house, because both locations were in the same USDA hardiness zone.

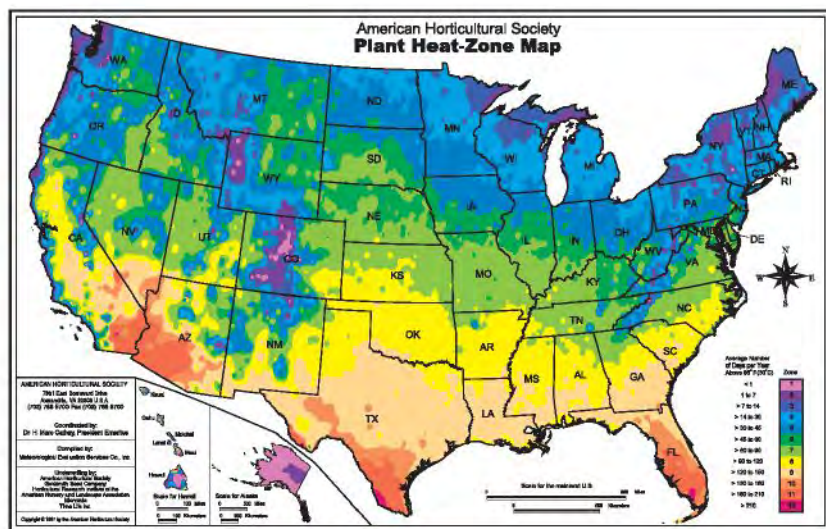
Knowing your AHS Heat Zone—how hot or cool your summers are—is equally important, particularly if you are relocating to a southern state or along a large body of water such as the Great Lakes or a seacoast. For instance, both San Antonio, Texas, and Portland, Oregon, are in USDA Hardiness Zone 8. Yet San Antonio is stifling during the summer, with 120 to 150 "heat" days above 86°F, which is AHS Zone 9 according to the AHS Heat Zone Map. Portland, near the Pacific Ocean, on the other hand, gets only 14 to 30 hot days a year and is in AHS Zone 4. Cool-climate perennials such as delphiniums thrive in Portland but perish in Dallas, even though the cities are in the same plant hardiness zone.

START WITH THE SOIL

Once you have familiarized yourself with your new climate, get to know the local soil. Start by getting a soil test in your new garden as soon as you can. Most county Extension agents can either do one for you or send off your soil sample to a state laboratory for testing. Or you can buy a testing kit that tells you the soil's pH and levels of phosphorus, potash, and magnesium. The analysis will help you determine whether the soil needs more potassium, for instance, or if the pH must be altered.

Another important step is to test your soil's drainage. Dig a hole 12 inches deep and fill it with water. If the water drains gradually within 20 minutes, your soil is probably loam, ideal for most gardening. If any water stands after 20 minutes, you have soil with a lot of clay. Water that disappears rapidly indicates sandy soil. An ideal soil drains well, but not too fast. If you have clay soil, you may need to adjust your plant palette for a few years until you can improve the soil by amending it regularly with plenty of organic matter such as compost, manure, peat, and shredded leaves to break up the sticky clay particles. Sandy soils will benefit from the same amendments, which help to retain moisture and slow drainage.

Some soils are impossible to improve sufficiently, and you will have to plant in



Using zone maps to research the climate of your new garden will help determine what plants can be transported—and which ones should be left behind.

GETTING PLANTS READY FOR THE MOVE

To determine whether your grandmother's iris will survive in Montana or if it's wise to dig up Oriental poppies to take with you to Florida, consult catalogs for climate zone listings on each plant as well as climate zone maps to find your new home. With borderline hardy plants, remember you can gain a zone of warmth by creating a microclimate. A USDA Zone 5-hardy hydrangea may survive and even flower in Zone 4 if planted next to a warm house foundation and mulched thickly, for instance. After you have determined what to move, the following guidelines will help you get started. Some plants, particularly those with tap roots, may be difficult to move. Other may require larger rootballs.

Small Trees and Shrubs Dig a circle about 12 inches in diameter and 12 inches deep around the shrub to be moved. The resulting root ball will fit into a five-gallon nursery container or 14-inch flower pot. Pack extra soil around the roots and water thoroughly. Then prune the shrub or tree by at least a third or even by half. Reduced roots cannot support the whole plant, and a smaller one is easier to move. Plant as soon as possible at the new location. Potted shrubs and trees can be held in their container for a month or two if necessary. Check daily, and keep plants evenly moist and in a protected location.



Severing the roots around a small tree or shrub in the fall will enable it to be moved with less stress the next growing season.

Bert Dunn, who often moves shrubs, trees, and grape vines around his vineyard and orchard in Schomberg, Ontario, advises that if you have enough advance notice, use a sharp spade to dig a circle around the base of woody plants the autumn before transplanting. This technique, known as root pruning, helps mitigate transplant shock. "By severing the roots in the fall, you encourage the plant to put out many feeder roots, and you'll have an increased root mass close to the trunk," Dunn explains.



To move daylilies, dig the entire plant and divide it into sections with a sharp spade for easy handling.

Perennials Dividing perennials that you want to move allows you to leave a clump behind as you pack some to take to your new home. Dig up the entire plant and cut or separate the clump into manageable pieces. Replant one clump. Put each clump you are taking with you in a plastic bag. Dampen the dirt, but do not close bags. Stack the bags in a shoebox or small cardboard box in an upright position. A dozen or so perennials will fit into a box. Keep plants cool while moving. If the garden is not ready, heel them into a holding bed and transplant later into permanent beds.

Bulbs and Tubers Dig up bulbs and tubers and brush off as much soil as possible without disturbing their roots. Pack them in paper bags filled with peat moss or soilless potting mix. Plant immediately at the new location unless they are summer-flowering ones like dahlias, cannas, and caladium and it is near summer's end. Store these warm-season tubers and bulbs in a dark place that is between 40° F and 60° F until the next spring.

Houseplants Water them well before putting plants in moving cartons or boxes to take with you. Most houseplants can survive up to 10 days without water with little harm. They can also tolerate darkness for up to a week if they are moist and not subjected to temperature extremes. Avoid putting plants in a car trunk, where they can overheat or freeze, depending on the season. Put them inside the car with you.



One of the first things to do after you move to a new garden is have the soil tested for nutrient levels and pH.

raised beds. I dug down 18 inches to plant a peach tree shortly after I moved to the Gulf Coast, and I hit water! The area was a coastal plain about two inches above sea level, the water table was high and the ground was pure clay.

Hot, dry, windy places, on the other hand, demand the opposite strategy of digging pits. Sink garden beds six inches below the grade in places like Albuquerque and Phoenix to save water and shelter emerging seedlings from desiccating desert winds.

MAKE FRIENDS

When relocating long distances, planting times, techniques, and even varieties will

be different. Local gardeners are the best source of this kind of knowledge. A good first point of contact is the county Extension office, which usually has lists of plant varieties that do well in the region and can refer you to reputable nurseries that stock appropriate plants. Extension agents are trained horticulturists who can also answer your questions on amending the soil and direct you to others with more information. Many agents also conduct Master Gardener classes once or twice a year, which are packed with local gardening information in addition to basic instruction.

Garden clubs are another means by which to meet and learn from local gardeners. Look for listings in the newspaper or visit the website of the National Garden Clubs, the Garden Club of America, or The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America to find a chapter near you. Club programs usually cover specific problems or plants unique to the area. The first meeting I attended of the Springfield Garden Club included information on how to prepare perennials for winter, something I needed to learn, having just moved from a tropical climate.

Local botanical gardens often have brochures of gardening information tailored to local conditions and demonstration gardens that can guide you in plant selection and design. Many also offer educational programs and the opportunity

Resources

AHS Heat Zone map, www.ahs.org.

The Garden Club of America, www.gcamerica.org.

The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America, www.tgoa-mgca.org.

Master Gardeners—link to state MG groups through the AHS website (www.ahs.org/master_gardeners/index.htm).

National State Garden Clubs, www.gardenclub.org.

State Cooperative Extension Services Directory, www.reeusda.gov/1700/statepartners/usa.htm.

State Plant Regulations, www.nationalplantboard.org/laws/index.html.

USDA Plant Hardiness Climate Zone map, www.growit.com/zones.

to network with other avid gardeners.

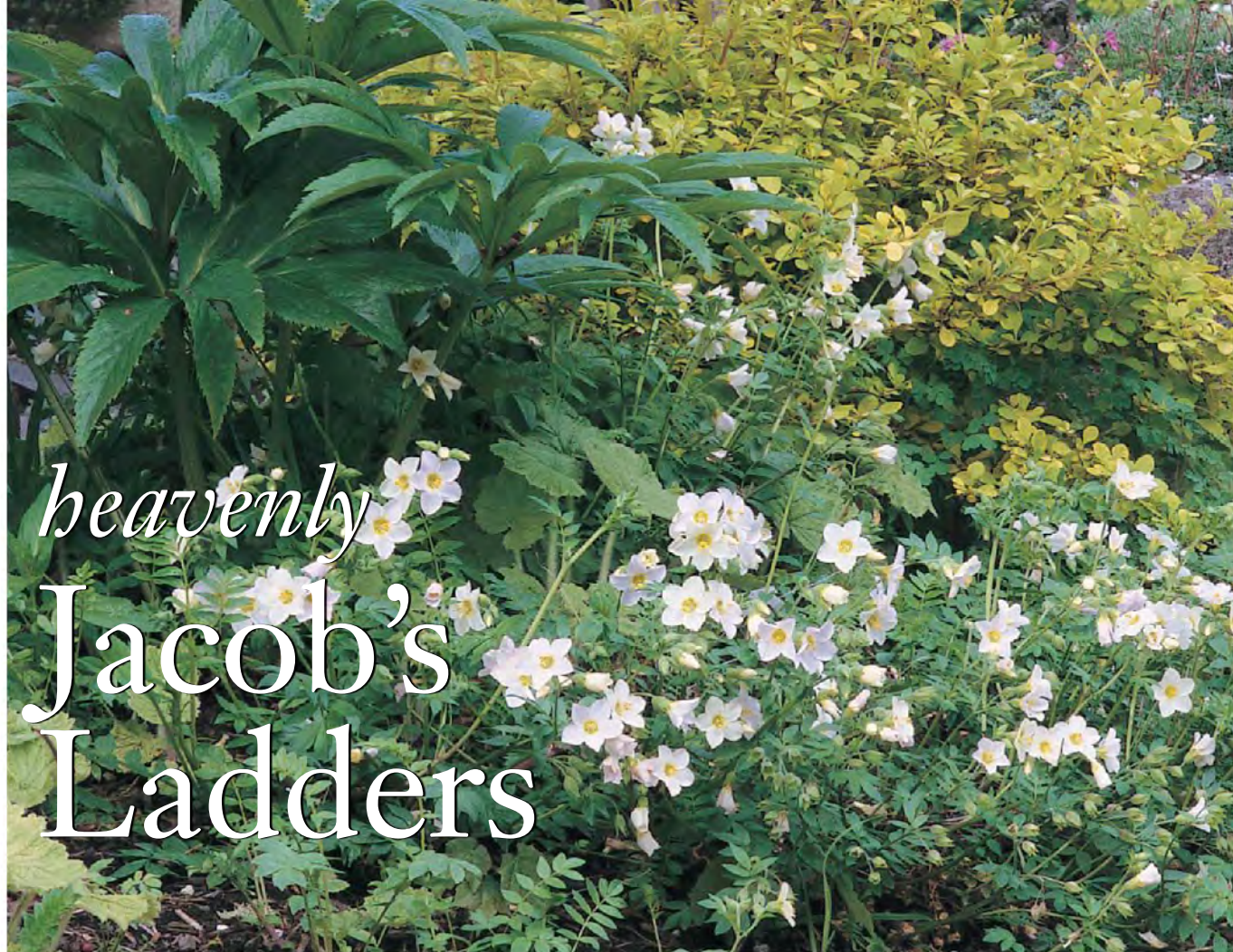
Explore Internet listservs and bulletin boards, too. Many gardening sites have chat rooms or places to leave messages. These e-mail exchanges give people worldwide the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge on a specific topic. Before I moved to Wisconsin, I posted a message on three listservs that I was moving and wanted information about the climate. Within 12 hours, I had four responses from gardeners near my new home. I had ready teachers waiting when I arrived. One brought several native perennials for my new garden, and another showed me how to properly prune overgrown lilacs that were dwarfing the house.

So if you do some research ahead of time, you may develop new friendships even before you move. And it will certainly make it much easier to get settled in your new home and garden.

A former garden editor at Woman's Day, Doreen Howard currently lives in Roscoe, Wisconsin.



Talk to local gardeners and garden center staff near your new home; they are great sources of information on what plants grow well in a particular region.



heavenly Jacob's Ladders

The understated beauty of Jacob's ladders adds charm to both woodland and rock gardens.

BY RAND B. LEE

I NEVER THOUGHT much about Jacob's ladders (*Polemonium* spp.) until recent years, when a couple of striking variegated selections—Brise d'Anjou ('Blanjou') and 'Snow and Sapphires'—showed up. Now I'm one of many gardeners with renewed interest in this useful genus of herbaceous perennials native to woodland and mountain regions of temperate to sub-arctic North America, Europe, and Asia.

For the most part, Jacob's ladders are understated plants. They do not scream "Howdy!" from the border, which is a good thing in my opinion, considering all the shouting that goes on in the plant world these days. So it is odd that Linnaeus chose the name *Polemonium* for the genus. The name is derived from the Greek word *polemos*, war, and seems singularly inapt for these unassuming plants (although I suppose that, in a pinch, a potted polemonium, swung from side to



Top: Summer-long blooms of *Polemonium carneum* provide a soft, billowy edge for this Oregon garden. **Above:** The flowers of *Polemonium caeruleum* feature the five lobes typical of the genus.

side with sufficient force, might make a useful way-clearer at the Chelsea Flower Show). The explanation, according to British garden writer Lys de Bray, is that Linnaeus confused Jacob's ladder with a plant described by the ancient Roman writer Pliny as possessing so many healing virtues that two kings fought over the right to claim its discovery.

The genus belongs to the phlox family (Polemoniaceae), and consists of some 25 species, most of which are suited to woodland or shade gardens, where they tend to fade into semi-dormancy after their main flower show. But several are native to sunny alpine sites and are more appropriate in rock gardens. The genus's defining feature is the highly architectural compound leaves, each of which is composed of feathery pinnate leaflets arranged more or less parallel along a central rib. In some species, the leaves are fuzzy and sticky, which adds to the fun.



The eye-catching dark green-and-cream-colored foliage of *P. caeruleum* Brise d'Anjou helps light up shade gardens.

It is their leaves, of course, that give Jacob's ladders their imaginative common name, which apparently was inspired by the story of the Israelite patriarch Jacob, who dreamed of a ladder stretching from earth to heaven, angels ascending and descending it.

For polemoniums, the "angels" are the little five-lobed flowers, generally scentless, which can appear from late spring to early fall depending on the species. Shaped like bells or narrow-necked trumpets, they can vary in size from a half-inch to an inch long and equally wide at their lips; and they are held in either upright clusters or drooping racemes. Each flower possesses both male and female parts: yellow stamens and pistils that in some species protrude beyond the petals and in others do not. Most flower in the lavender-blue-violet range, though you can find polemoniums that bloom white, pink, yellow, bicolor, and even a kind of chartreuse tan.

COMMON JACOB'S LADDERS

The most prevalent Jacob's ladder grown in American gardens is *P. caeruleum* (USDA Hardiness Zones 4–9; AHS Heat

Zones 9–1). The common form, *P. caeruleum* subsp. *caeruleum*, was cultivated in Britain in medieval times, but this highly variable species can be found growing wild in cool, moist woods and meadows from subarctic and northern Eurasia to subarctic North America. Numerous other subspecies are identified in some references.

Also known as Greek valerian or charity, it stands one to three feet tall by about two feet wide at maturity. It is sometimes listed as "Greek valerian" because its ladder-like foliage somewhat resembles that of the true valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*); and just as cats can find the true valerian's roots intoxicating, so they are said to get high on the foliage of *P. caeruleum* (I have not observed this). The flowers are usually blue (though white-flowered forms listed as *P. caeruleum* var. *lacteum*, or 'Album' exist), appearing anywhere from April to August depending on how quickly your summers heat up.

Several cultivars of *P. caeruleum* have found their way into the trade, but none has had the impact of the delicious Brise d'Anjou ('Blanjou'). Variegated Jacob's lad-

ders have been reported since the 17th century, but by Victorian times these seem to have disappeared from regular commerce. So the introduction in the mid-1990s by Blooms of Bressingham of Brise d'Anjou



P. caeruleum 'Snow and Sapphires' shows off its upright habit and striking variegation.

—which was discovered as a sport in a French nursery, was very welcome. This modern selection bears rich green leaves broadly striped in a pale, almost translucent creamy-white. The patterning of the leaves is so bold that its less-than-vigorous flowering is rendered irrelevant because it lights up a shady spot with an almost carnival air. Although this cultivar has a reputation for “melting” in hot summers, it has not done that so far in my Santa Fe, New Mexico shade garden.

No sooner had I taken a fancy to Brise d’Anjou when an even more promising variegated selection emerged. In 2002, Terra Nova Nurseries in Tigard, Oregon, introduced *P. caeruleum* ‘Snow and Sapphires’. Growing two to three feet tall in an upright clump, its sky-blue flowers bloom on erect stems.

I haven’t grown ‘Snow and Sapphires’, but the word on the street is that it is more heat tolerant and vigorous than Brise d’Anjou. Justin Hancock, horticulture editor for *Garden, Deck & Landscape* magazine, has grown both Brise d’Anjou and ‘Snow and Sapphires’ in his shade garden in Des Moines, Iowa. “Brise d’Anjou fizzled out once summer heat came on,” says Hancock, “and it did not re-emerge the following year.” ‘Snow and Sapphires’, on the other hand, “lasted pretty well through the summer,” and Hancock is waiting to see if it returns this spring. Neither selection bloomed in its first season.

ALL-AMERICAN POLEMONIUMS

North America is home to many exquisite polemoniums adapted to a variety of habitats from alpine peaks to temperate woodlands. In general these species thrive in free-draining soil with varying levels of light exposure and are not tolerant of hot summers or humidity.

P. carneum (Zones 5–9, 9–1), the so-called salmon or royal Jacob’s ladder, has been valued since Victorian times for its flattish bell-shaped flowers, which open yellowish pink and darken to purple or lavender as they age. A denizen of mountain woodlands in Oregon and Washington, it stands 12 to 15 inches tall by 16 inches wide and is said to bloom all summer beginning in late spring. I have seen it, or a selection of it, offered under the name ‘Apricot Delight’. There is also a white-flowered form, ‘Album’, and an-



Native to the American Southwest, pine trumpets, top, is one of the more heat tolerant polemoniums. Above: A white selection of *P. caeruleum* is sold as ‘Album’.

other selection, ‘Rose Queen’, which bears flowers of a darker pink than the species. The species and its cultivars thrive in part shade and free-draining soil in regions with cool summers.

The Pacific Northwest native, *P. pulcherrimum* (Zones 4–8, 8–1), is an upright clump-former with five-and-a-half-inch-long leaves. In early summer, it

PROPAGATING POLEMONIUMS

To grow polemoniums from seed, start by chilling the seed, because most species seem to require cold conditioning (and it won’t hurt the ones that don’t). Either sprinkle your seed between just-moist paper toweling or mix it with a tablespoon of slightly damp vermiculite; place the whole shebang in a loosely tied plastic bag; and refrigerate it in the vegetable crisper for two months.

If seeds haven’t begun sprouting by the end of this period, transfer the contents of the bag to a flat of finely milled potting mix, just lightly pressing the seed into the surface of the medium. Then place the container under grow lights or in a greenhouse and provide bottom heat until the seedlings appear, generally within a few weeks. As soon as the seedlings can be handled, transfer them to small pots filled with a free-draining potting mix. Harden them off gradually, then plant them outside after all danger of hard frost has passed.

—R.B.L.

bears from its stem-tips and leaf-axils dense, flat-topped clusters of chubby, yellow-throated, half-inch white, blue, or purple flowers that amply justify their Latin binomial of “most beautiful.” How unfortunate, then, that this species has been weighted with the common name of “skunkleaf Jacob’s ladder.” It does best in sunny or partly shaded rock gardens.

Pine trumpets (*P. pauciflorum*, Zones 7–9, 9–7), native to Texas and New Mexico, is a sturdy, downy-stemmed plant growing 10 to 20 inches tall by about a foot wide at maturity. In early summer, it bears terminal clusters of flared-lipped, greenish-tan trumpets, striped in muted russet. Despite its binomial, which means “few-flowered,” the flowers are numerous enough to make a satisfying show. This is the very first Jacob’s ladder I grew from seed, and though the books say it is only hardy to USDA Zone 7, I have found that if given proper drainage it overwinters very

Sources

Alplains, Kiowa, CO. (303) 621-2590. www.alplains.com.

Big Dipper Farm, Black Diamond, WA. (360) 886-8133. www.bigdipper.com.

Bluestone Perennials, Madison, OH. (800) 852-5243. www.bluestoneperennials.com.

Chiltern Seeds, Bortree Stile, Ulverston, Cumbria, England. www.chilternseeds.co.uk.

Forestfarm, Williams, OR. (541) 846-7269. www.forestfarm.com.

Las Pilitas Nursery, Santa Margarita, CA. (805) 438-5992. www.laspilitas.com.

Resources

Herbaceous Perennial Plants by Allan M. Armitage. Stipes Publishing, Champaign, Illinois, 1997.



'Stairway to Heaven' is a new variegated cultivar of *Polemonium reptans*.

successfully in my Zone 5b/6a garden.

Native from Montana south through the Rocky Mountains to Arizona, *P. brandegeei* (Zones 4–8, 8–1) is the only strongly fragrant Jacob's ladder. It forms dense, hairy, sticky basal rosettes to about one foot wide, and puts up four-to 12-inch-tall upright stems topped with one-inch-long, narrow-tubed, funnel-shaped flowers. *P. brandegeei* subsp. *brandegeei* bears yellow to golden yellow blossoms from late spring to summer; the leaves and stems are said to be scented pleasantly of musk. But in *P. brandegeei* subsp. *mellitum*), both the foliage and the white- to-yellow flowers are fragrant, the blossoms very sweetly so, appearing from summer to early autumn.

The leafy Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium foliosissimum*, syn. *P. filicinum*, Zones 4–8, 8–1), is an upright clump-former with lots and lots of one-to-six-inch-long compound leaves, their leaflets held in neat ranks, like Busby Berkley chorines. The bell-shaped flowers are held in dense clus-

ters at the stem-tips and in the leaf-axils. The plants' overall dimensions, hardiness, and bloom colors vary considerably over its wide range in North America, and it is sometimes divided into regional subspecies. The long-blooming *P. foliosissi-*



Leafy Jacob's ladder is a variable species that features dense clusters of bell-shaped flowers.

mum var. *foliosissimum* (Zones 4–9, 9–1), which hails from the central and southern United States has blossoms that are usually blue to violet.

Easterners lay claim to spreading polemonium (*P. reptans*, Zones 4–8, 8–1). Though not a true "creeper," this charmer makes a rather lazily upright clump 12 to 28 inches tall by one foot wide. From spring to early summer it bears large, six-to eight-inch clusters of dangling green-eyed blue flowers. This easy-to-grow species will fare well in any moist woodland or shade garden, paired with other spring blooming natives.

A white-flowered form of spreading polemonium is sometimes offered as 'Album', and a variegated selection was introduced in 2004 by William Cullina, nursery director of the New England Wild Flower Society's Garden in the Woods. Named 'Stairway to Heaven', it grows a foot or slightly more in height with a mounded form. The foliage is dark green with cream-colored margins

MORE JACOB'S LADDERS

Name	Hgt./width (inches)	Flowers/bloom time	Notes	Native habitat	USDA, AHS Zones
<i>Polemonium boreale</i> Northern Jacob's ladder	7–10/10	violet-blue clusters/ summer	compact alpine	circumpolar	2–7, 7–1
<i>P. Bressingham Purple</i> (‘Polbress’)	24–30/12–24	blue to lavender/ late spring to summer	purple foliage	hybrid	4–8, 8–1
<i>P. ‘Lambrook Mauve’</i>	18/18	drooping clusters of lilac bells/late spring to early summer		hybrid	4–8, 8–1
<i>P. pulcherrimum</i> subsp. <i>delicatum</i>	4–8/6–10	bell-shaped, blue to violet/summer	dryish, sandy soils	western U.S.	6–?9, 10–1
<i>P. viscosum</i> Sky pilot (Cultivar ‘Blue Whirl’ grows to 14 inches)	4–20/2–8	clusters of blue funnels/ midsummer	full sun, rock garden	mountains of western N. America	4–8, 8–4
<i>P. yezeense</i>	6–12/8–16	drooping clusters of blue flowers/late spring to summer	dark-colored foliage in spring	Japan	5–8; 8–1

that sometimes turn pink if exposed to sun or cool weather. Its flowers are pale to medium blue.

Another eastern polemonium is Appalachian Jacob's ladder (*P. vanbruntiae*, Zones 3–8, 8–1). Found in moist woodlands from Ontario down through New England to the Mid-Atlantic, it is closely related to *P. caeruleum* (some references describe it as a subspecies) growing two to three feet tall with medium blue flowers. In some areas it is now listed as rare or endangered.

There are also a few polemonium hybrids or selections floating about under the name ‘Blue Pearl’. One such is described as a blue-flowered, fragrant selection of *P. reptans*, 10 to 12 inches by a foot. Another is described as a seed strain of *P. caeruleum*, two to three feet tall, with azure-blue blossoms over a long period, blooming in as little as three months from sowing. This one also has a sister, ‘White Pearl’, which sounds identical save for the flower color. Neither of these ‘Blue Pearls’ is to be confused with ‘Blue Whirl’, a cultivar of *P. viscosum*. (For this, and other, polemoniums, see the chart above.)

GROWING POLEMONIUMS

Apart from the rock garden species, which will thrive in full sun in the appropriate region and altitude, Jacob's



Known as sky pilot because of its alpine habitat, *Polemonium viscosum* makes a good addition to rock gardens.

ladders grow best in moist, compost-rich soil in part to full shade. In all cases it is important that the soil be well-drained. Here in Santa Fe, I have had good luck growing many of the common polemoniums in half-barrels filled with a rich mix of peat- or coir-based potting fiber, well-rotted manure, com-

post, and perlite or crushed volcanic rock for drainage.

In June and July they put out their simple flowers, and there is something so English-cottage-gardeny about them that I cannot imagine doing without them. Furthermore, while many sources claim that polemoniums tend to go dormant after blooming, dying down to their crowns, none of mine have ever died back a bit. Perhaps it is heat plus humidity that forces them to aestivate, for my summer shade garden, though it can get into the 90s even in our mountains, is very dry indeed.

No matter where you live—with the possible exception of the deep South—you can find a Jacob's ladder worth adding to your garden. They offer a subtle counterpoint to more flamboyant plants, matching up well with shade-loving natives such as woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), foam-flowers (*Tiarella* spp.), columbines (*Aquilegia* spp.), and sundry ferns. And if your shade garden needs a little brightening, you can't do better than planting a variegated selection such as Brise d'Anjou next to the marmalade-colored *Heuchera* ‘Amber Waves’. If that combination doesn't wake you up, nothing will.

Garden writer Rand Lee lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

BY LINDA ASKEY

Texas's First Lady

MADALENE HILL'S name rings familiar in many gardeners' ears, especially in the Southeast and Deep South. Now in her ninth decade, she is the matriarch of all things herbal. An active and influential member of the Herb Society of America (HSA), with accomplishments both in soil and print, Madalene is a cherished teacher, author, and plantswoman.

Currently curator of the Susan Clayton McAshan Herb Gardens at the International Festival-Institute in Round Top, Texas, Madalene's days are enriched by exquisite architecture, gardens, music, family, and friends.

The Festival-Institute is an oasis of culture tucked in the Texas countryside about two hours from Houston. Known more familiarly as Festival Hill, it is a venue for musical performances and a training institute for aspiring young musicians. There Madalene shares an apartment in a grand Victorian building known as Menke House with her daughter, Gwen Barclay, an accomplished chef, herbalist, and author in her own right.

Madalene and Gwen are well known in the herbal, culinary, and gardening worlds, having traveled the country and



Herb expert Madalene Hill, top right, is curator of the gardens at Festival Hill, where her daughter Gwen Barclay's herbal cuisine, above, is popular with many visitors.

beyond, bringing their common sense and uncommon insight into the world of herbs to grateful audiences. Their book, *Southern Herb Growing*, first published in 1987, is still in print. It is a classic gardening book with appeal that extends beyond its regional focus. Last year the Herb Society of America presented Madalene and Gwen with the Gertrude B. Foster Award for Excellence in Herbal Literature for their work, 18 years after it was published.

A former HSA president, Madalene also received the organization's Helen de Conway Medal of Honor in 1978 and its Nancy Howard Award for Horticultural Excellence in 1997.

Most recently, Madalene was named the 2006 recipient of the American Hor-

ticultural Society's Catherine H. Sweeney award, which is given for extraordinary and dedicated lifetime efforts in support of the field of horticulture. (For more on this award, see page 14.)

Having recently turned 92, Madalene is pragmatic about the realities of aging, but she is still characteristically forward-thinking. She says her back "feels 120 years old," so it is difficult for her to get her hands dirty anymore. Nevertheless, she is in the garden daily in her motorized chair and works with the gardens' horticulturist Henry Flowers to ensure that her vision for the gardens and her plant collections continue. And in her book-filled office, open volumes on the desk, thickly tabbed, and

LEFT: KAREN BUSSOLINI. TOP: COURTESY OF MADALENE HILL.

of Herbs

Madalene Hill has spent a lifetime promoting the benefits of herbs for culinary, medicinal, and ornamental use.



slides sorted into rows, are signs of workshops and articles to come.

A LIFE LIVED WELL

Over a cup of tea, Madalene intersperses thoughts on the impending garden season with vignettes of her intriguing life. “I was born 50 miles from here, and here I am again,” she says. Her mother was from Kansas, her father was a Texas rice farmer. The oldest of 13 children, she became her mother’s assistant.

Madalene’s interest in herbs seems innate. In her youth in Kansas she remembers every family having sage, chives, caraway, sweet marjoram, dill, and then—after World War II, with an influx of immigrants from eastern Eu-

rope—basil and oregano. Madalene remembers the family grew sage to make a tea they drank on Saturdays “to keep from becoming bilious.”

Travel began when the tall, gentlemanly Jim Hill came into her life. Jim, 25 years her senior, was an engineer and machinist, a horticulturist, and a fine gardener. After they married, they took several extended trips to eastern Europe, Central and South America, and the Soviet Union.

In 1957, Jim Hill left his job in Houston to pursue his interest in horticulture. He and Madalene bought a farm and they spent several years growing gladiolus for the cut flower industry before they decided to try something else.

FROM HILLTOP TO FESTIVAL HILL

“I always wanted to grow herbs,” Madalene says with a grin that acknowledges the extent of the understatement. Her desire quickly grew into Hilltop Herb Farm, where Madalene and Jim built display gardens and sold plants.

It seemed natural that the bounty of their herb gardens would inspire them to venture into the culinary world. “We started serving lunch in 1965,” recalls Madalene. “Before we knew it, we had 100 for dinner.” Hilltop’s niche was fresh

The Cloister Garden at Festival Hill displays an abundance of herbs in beds and in containers set against a backdrop of rustic stone walls.

food with fresh herbs. The reputation of the five-course dinners spread, and reservations started filling months in advance. Gwen left her work as a music teacher to help run the business.

Life seemed to be going smoothly until Jim passed away in 1982. Then, on December 10, 1983, a tornado hit Hilltop before the first dinner course. “I heard it, and having grown up in Kansas, I knew what it was,” says Madalene. Although fortunately no one was hurt, everything was demolished.

“I had to work very hard not to let the tornado experience color my life,” Madalene says. “I could have given up.” Instead, she rebuilt Hilltop and operated it for another year, but it wasn’t the same. When an offer came along to sell, she seized it, not knowing what would come next.

She and Gwen rented a home and, drawing on their vast experience at Hilltop, began lecturing and writing about herbs. A few years later, they received a call from Festival Hill. Madalene and Gwen had been going to concerts there and knew James Dick, the internationally renowned concert pianist who founded the institute in 1971. They were offered positions on the staff.

Gwen became director of food services in 1993, a position she still holds. Madalene, preferring to work outside, became curator of the gardens. While both have now moved into more supervisory roles, the work they have done has broadened the reputation of Festival Hill. People come not only for concerts, but to stay overnight in one of the charming old homes, have a delicious dinner, walk in the gardens in the evening, and to attend workshops and herbal luncheons.

A COLLECTION OF GARDENS

Over the years, Madalene established several new gardens at Festival Hill. Visitors usually begin in the Mediterranean Garden, the Wall Garden, and the Cloister Garden. Nearby are the Terrace Gardens, the Sun-Shade Garden, the Fruit Tree Garden, and Beethoven’s Woods. The Medicinal Cacti Garden and the

Resources

The International Festival-Institute, Round Top, Texas. (979) 249-3129. www.festivalhill.org.

Southern Herb Growing by Madalene Hill and Gwen Barclay. Shearer Publishing, Fredericksburg, Texas, 1987.

Pharmacy Garden testify to Madalene’s research and ability to assemble an impressive plant collection. These gardens include plants she has garnered through friendships, travel, curiosity, and her keen sense of observation.

One of Madalene’s earliest introductions was Mexican mint marigold (*Tagetes lucida*), which a Mexican woman recommended to her as an herb for tea. Madalene found this plant—which prospered in hot weather—similar in flavor to French tarragon, an herb that grows poorly in heat. She immediately realized Mexican mint marigold’s potential as a tarragon substitute for gardens in the southwest.

Quite a few plants now commonly in cultivation bear her name, including

‘Madalene Hill’ rosemary (often listed as ‘Hill Hardy’) and ‘Madalene Hill’ doublemint. One of Madalene’s best-known discoveries is the ‘Arp’ rosemary, which she observed to be unusually cold hardy in the town of Arp, Texas. (For more information, see “Madalene’s Plants,” opposite page.)

PLANTS FROM NEAR AND FAR

Touring Madalene’s gardens at Festival Hill is a bit like taking an international journey. For example, there is henna, coffee, the carnation of India (*Tabernaemontana divaricata*), and the tree of love (*Camptotheca acuminata*) from China. When touring the Pharmacy Garden with her, you hear the respect she has for the medicinal potential of plants and the various cultures that have nurtured them for thousands of years.

Her beds are a sort of herbal museum with over 100 different varieties of rosemary, 228 salvias, and about 50 oreganos. When she wants information about a new find, she often sends it to friends such as Art Tucker, a research professor and co-director of the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium at Delaware State University in Dover. Tucker, an expert in ethnobotany and the



Rare and common medicinal plants are arranged according to their geographic origin in the Pharmacy Garden, left. *Salvia* ‘Ne’we Ya’ar’, above, a hybrid developed from a cross between *S. officinalis* and *S. fruticosa*, is prized for both culinary use and ornamental attributes.



A floriferous and statuesque 'Arp' rosemary steals the show in this bed of mixed plants. Madalene introduced this particularly hardy rosemary cultivar in 1972.

chemical components that distinguish herbs and other plants, shares Madalene's sense of curiosity and quest for knowledge.

While teaching a cooking class in Houston, Madalene noticed that some pieces of sage bought for the demonstration were not typical. She rooted some cuttings and sent one to Tucker and one to the U.S. National Arboretum. Chemical analysis determined that it was a culinary and ornamental sage developed in Israel for commercial production in the desert. A cross between *Salvia officinalis* and *S. fruticosa*, this cultivar is now called 'Ne'we Ya'ar', Yiddish for "good plant."

LOOKING BACK AND AHEAD

The trials Madalene has faced during her life have been great, but so have been her accomplishments. She is still researching,

writing, and sharing her knowledge of herbs with others.

As I walk with Madalene in her garden, she turns the leaves of a plant with the tip of her walking stick. She tells me the story of the man who bred it in Arkansas and the friends who gave it to her. For Madalene, each plant is a storehouse of treasured memories and personal connections.

Some weeks after returning from interviewing Madalene for this article, I reached into the pocket of my jacket and pulled out an allspice leaf she had pressed into my hand as a gift when she said goodbye. "Break it again and again," she had said. When I do, the aroma is appetizing, a bit floral—but most of all, Madalene.

Linda Askey is a freelance writer and horticulturist living in Alabama.

MADALENE'S PLANTS

Several herbs are named after Madalene or were discovered or introduced by her. They are listed chronologically by the date they were identified or released.

Mexican mint marigold (*Tagetes lucida*), 1960. Madalene recommends this herb as a warm-climate substitute for French tarragon, but it is also prized for its late-season display of golden flowers.

Doublemint (*Mentha × gracilis* 'Madalene Hill'), 1961. This is the only mint that contains both peppermint and spearmint oils.

Hilltop oregano (*Origanum × majoricum* 'Hilltop'), 1965. Considered to be one of the best culinary oreganos, this plant was given to Madalene by a woman from California.

Tufted or ball basil (*Ocimum basilicum* 'Thrysiflora'), July 21, 1969. Madalene remembers the date a Mexican woman brought her this basil because it was the day Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

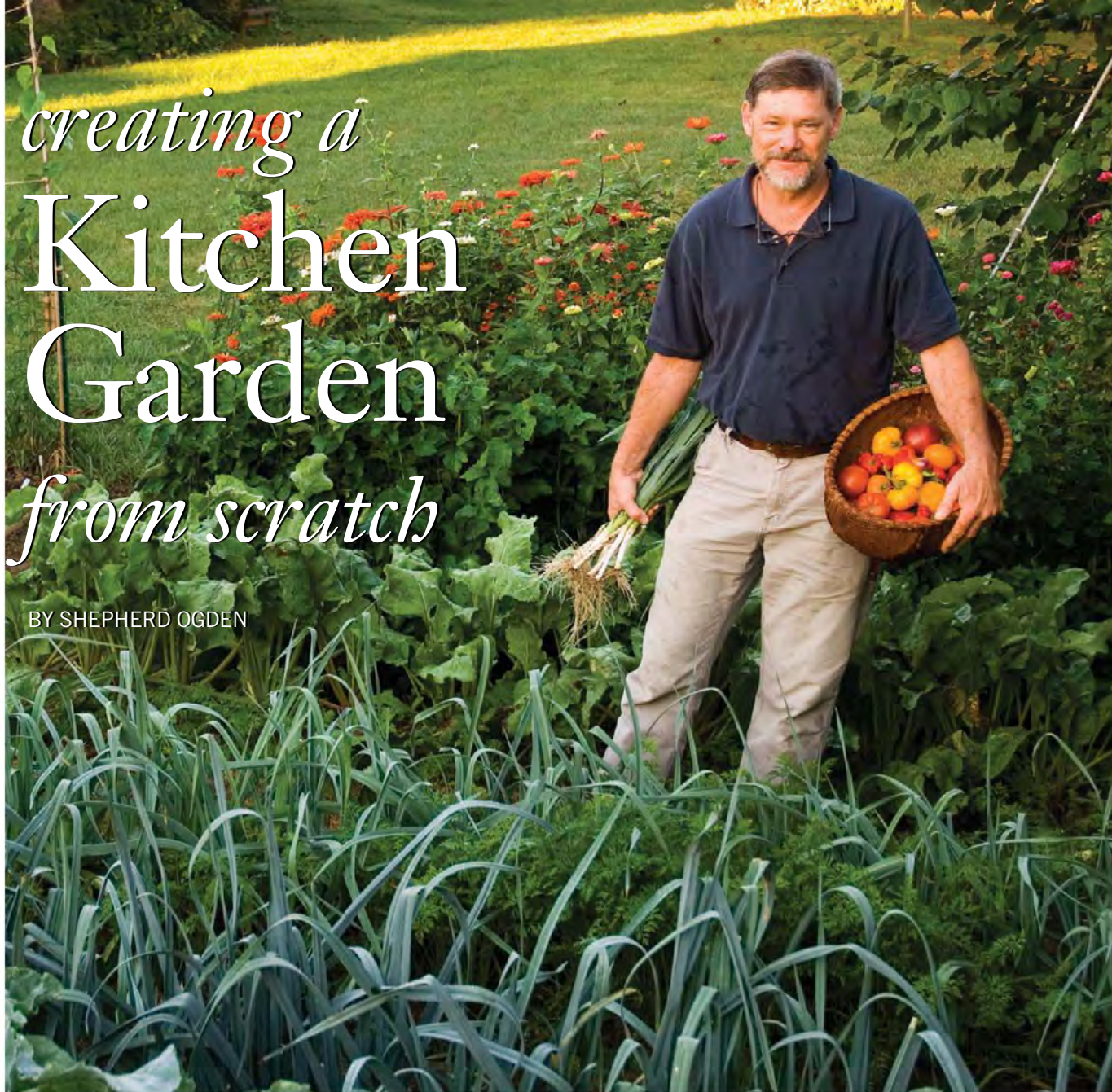
Arp hardy rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Arp'), 1972. Madalene took cuttings from a 40-year-old woody rosemary found growing in Arp, Texas, and dated by family real estate records. This rosemary was brought as a cutting from a rosemary growing in Oklahoma.

Madalene Hill rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Madalene Hill', syn. 'Hill Hardy'), 1973. A wonderful upright form of hardy rosemary.

Silver sage hybrid (*Salvia officinalis* × *fruticosa* 'Ne'we Ya'ar'), 1990. This hybrid sage is a no-melt, silvery-foliaged plant that does well in the humid Southeast.

creating a Kitchen Garden *from scratch*

BY SHEPHERD OGDEN



An expert reveals how he turned a patch of lawn into a productive vegetable garden in one year.

SOME PEOPLE take the modern food system as an excuse not to have a vegetable garden. Why bother, they ask, when fresh produce is available year round at the local grocery store? Consider this: The food you grow in your own yard is tastier, fresher, and more nutritious. Also, a well-executed kitchen garden can be a pleasing part of the landscape, and, if well planned, is not difficult to create or maintain.

As a single man living alone and working full time, I don't have a lot of help or time to spare. Yet I was able to build a highly productive 1,500-square-

foot kitchen garden in my Pennsylvania backyard—from scratch, out of lawn—in a single season. Here's how I did it.

START IN THE FALL

If you start a garden from lawn in the spring, killing the grass without herbicides requires considerable effort, so try to start in the fall. Wait until the active growth of the lawn has slowed down, then get rid of the grass. Spraying an herbicide on ground where you intend to grow food seems foolish to me. For a small garden, say under 250 square feet, my advice is to just strip off the sod with a garden spade.

For a larger garden, such as mine, you need a two-step strategy. Start by rototilling the area, making multiple passes, first in one direction, then in another, then another. While the first couple of passes will only chop up the sod, if you keep at it, you should be able to work down four to eight inches—the depth of the tines.

After rototilling, cover the entire space with black polyethylene. The thicker, “six mil” plastic works best and is available in different sizes at most hardware stores. Weight it down well with loose bricks or pieces of lumber so it doesn't blow off during the winter, then leave it until spring.



When the author moved into his Pennsylvania home in 2004, the property consisted of a house, shed, and typical expanse of lawn. In order to create his kitchen garden, he rototilled the ground in the fall, top left, and covered those areas with black plastic held in place with bricks and pieces of wood for the winter, center left. The plastic served both to discourage the regrowth of weeds and grass and prevented the soil beneath from becoming too wet. In the spring, after removing the plastic, paths and planting beds were laid out, bottom left. The author planted the gardens intensively, as shown above in full production later in the season. Spacing plants closely minimizes the area where weeds can grow, thus reducing maintenance. Opposite: The author enjoys the payoff—a bumper harvest of fresh, organic vegetables, including green onions, peppers, and a variety of tomatoes.

Over the course of the fall, the black plastic will catch the heat of the sun, raise the temperature of the soil, and cause the chopped sod pieces to regrow. But, deprived of sunlight by the plastic, they will use up their energy reserves and die, then rot. Because the plastic also sheds water, come spring you'll have a relatively easy job of preparing the garden for planting, even if the rest of the yard is still soggy and cold.

WINTER DESIGN AND PLANNING

One of the key elements of an attractive and efficient kitchen garden is modularity: Make as many of the planting beds as possible similar in shape and size. That way, trellises, row covers, and other equipment

can be moved from bed to bed without a lot of tinkering. Visualize how your space can be subdivided into manageable units. Rectangular growing beds should be narrow enough for you to be able to reach the center from the path on either side, and generally no more than four paces long; this means from three to four feet wide and eight to 12 feet long. Even if your garden is going to be in an irregular spot, or you want to have beds that are not rectilinear, it still pays to make them modular.

My new garden was basically a pair of rectangles, one with a tapered side. I made two permanent paths: one lined up with the door of a shed at the rear, where the tapered side began, and the other bisecting the remaining, larger space. This yielded

three sections that I subdivided into a total of 25 beds, which gave me a wide range of planting and rotation options.

SPRING GARDEN PREPARATION

If you have a strong back and the weather cooperates, it's possible to prepare a 250-square-foot garden in an afternoon. If it's any larger than that, you might want to spread the job over several days—or hire some local teenagers. Either way, the process is straightforward.

First, mark out and create the permanent paths. If you plan to take a two-wheeled cart into the garden, make sure the paths are wide enough to accommodate it. For foot traffic or a wheelbarrow, three feet is a good size—a single sheet of



Outlined with two-by-fours, above left, and mulched with bark over landscape fabric, the main paths provide easy access to the beds, above right.

four-foot landscape fabric will provide weed control once the path is constructed. When you've set the location of the path, string lines to demarcate both sides. Then, using a flat-back shovel, take the soil from within the path space and dump it onto what will become bed space. Remove only the loosened soil you roto-tilled; the hard-packed soil beneath will become the base of your path.

Once the path has been shoveled out, lay down the landscape fabric. Next, lay the path-walls lengthwise along both sides and then the cross-pieces. These are nothing more than two-by-fours—or two-by-sixes if you want a greater mulch depth—with offset notched ends and a cross-piece beneath to keep them from distorting from the weight of the soil in the beds. A one-by-eight or a scrap of plywood screwed or nailed to the bottom of the cross-pieces works very well. Fold the edges of the weed mat up over the outside of the path walls and staple to the outside.

Now fill the space between the walls with hardwood bark mulch for a semi-permanent, weed-free path that will never get muddy. For a three-foot-wide path outlined with two-by-fours, you'll need one cubic foot of mulch for each running foot of path; a cubic yard of loose mulch will cover about 25 feet of path.

Once the main, permanent paths are complete, you can prepare the growing

beds. In my case, they were a series of beds, with one-foot paths between, running perpendicular to the main paths. The process is similar to that used for the main paths: Mark the edges with lines, dig out a path with a flat-back spade, and dump the loose, tilled soil on the adjacent bed to increase its depth while providing a solid base for the path.

Mulch for these secondary paths is piled directly on the soil, without a weed mat. Once each spring, as new mulch ma-

terial becomes available, I like to dump the contents of the path on the growing beds. This organic material, now mostly decomposed, provides the vast majority of the nutrients needed for bumper crops.

For this mulch, I use grass clippings that I keep from rotting into a gooey mess by mowing one day and raking up the next, once they have dried out. If your mower has a collection system, either reserve a spot to fluff the collected clippings daily until they dry, or spread



Mulch around these 'Tri-Star' strawberries suppresses weeds and reduces water loss.

them in thin layers so they dry in place. The surface of the growing bed will likely be six to eight inches above the soil in the path, so that is the depth to shoot for with your organic mulch. Over the course of the season, it will pack down to an impermeable inch or so that will stop weeds in their tracks.

Once the rough form of the beds is created, break up any remaining soil clods, spread fertilizer or soil amendments as recommended by a soil test, then smooth and shape the surface with a stiff-tined rake. Whether you proceed one bed at a time or do them all at once, at this point you are ready to plant.

OTHER GARDEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Before planting, it makes sense to think about how to get the most out of your planting plan. In traditional farm gardens, where single rows of vegetables are separated by tillable inter-rows, fast-maturing bush-type plants make sense. You get the seed in the ground, get the crop up, harvest once over, and replant. But in a small, intensively managed garden, larger plants that are trained to climb trellises will bear over a longer harvest period and contribute to a more aesthetic landscape.

Consider trellises and other supports that fit your landscape style. I happen to like bamboo. Given the range of sizes and types of bamboo available, it is possible to build almost any kind of structure, and its natural appearance suits most gardens. Other supports, from wire enclosures to permanent arbors, can be equally effective. Whatever kind of trellis you choose, think long term: How will your crop rotation plans figure into things, and will the trellises be easy to maintain?

GROWING TIPS

Consider carefully both the size of the garden and what crops you want most. I grow things that are expensive in the market but easy to grow, such as shallots, leeks, and celeriac (celery root), as well as favorite varieties of commonly available vegetables, such as heirloom tomatoes that don't ship or store well.

Work out a schedule of planting that keeps the garden producing, just as you would plan the bloom schedule of a perennial garden. With short-season crops such as spinach and other salad greens—



Supports of all sizes can be inexpensively constructed from bamboo. Set supports in place early in the season and train or allow plants to climb upward as they grow.

such as arugula, mustard, or cutting lettuces, for example—plan “succession” plantings, where you plant the seed, harvest the crop, and replant several times a season. These can be scattered here and there, where there’s space close to the paths so you can pick just what you need just when you need it!

For long-season crops, such as leeks or celeriac, you can “companion plant” other crops in the same bed that use the space the main crop only needs later in its growth period. This approach uses space more efficiently and reduces the amount of open space in the garden that needs to be kept weed free. (See “Sample Crop Plans” on

next page.) There are other practical pairings of crops. Basil plants, for example, fit easily along the edge of a bed of peppers, eggplants, or determinate tomatoes; and cool-weather greens thrive beneath bean or cucumber trellises, where they benefit from the shade of those heat lovers.

Finally, keep in mind that the conditions you supply affect the taste and nutrition of the crops you grow—a key reason to grow your own instead of buying your vegetables at the market. Beneath floating row covers—fabric or plastic sheeting used to protect plants from frost—the flavor of piquant salad greens is mellowed and their leaves are more tender and less affected by



SAMPLE CROP PLANS

You'll get the most out of your kitchen garden if you match plants that either grow well together or grow at different times of the year. Timing will vary according to where you live, but the relationships stay the same. Here are some combinations and successions that have worked well for me in three-foot-wide beds. —S.O.

Sample Bed 1: Lengthwise, plant three rows as soon as the ground can be worked in spring. In the center, peas; on the sides, arugula, spinach, pak choi, or kohlrabi. Trellis the peas, and harvest the side rows as the pea plants get larger. When the peas are finished, plant beets or turnips in the center and carrots on the sides.

Sample Bed 2: In early spring, transplant leeks lengthwise down the center of a bed. Sow carrots, lettuces, and scallions on both sides (you can also use shallots, onion sets, or seedlings). When they are harvested, use the soil from the edges to hill the leeks. This same process works well with celery root in the center.

Sample Bed 3: After the last-frost date, plant a row of pole beans or cucumbers lengthwise down each edge of the bed and a row of lettuce, salad greens, or dill down the center. Make a tepee-style trellis for the beans or cucumbers to climb; they will shade the greens beneath, extending the season into midsummer.

Sample Bed 4: Set a row of eggplant or pepper seedlings two feet apart down the center of the bed, with the first plant one foot from the end. Starting two feet from the end, and six inches in from the edge, set basil or parsley plants every two feet so that they are equidistant between the plants in the center row. Harvest the herbs regularly so they don't flower and go to seed too quickly.

insects. Melons and tomatoes grown on trellises are more resistant to diseases that spread rapidly in humid conditions, and if you can reduce their water supply once the fruit has started to ripen, they will be much more flavorful. Other crops, such as carrots and Brussels sprouts, only develop their prime flavor in the fall, when low temperatures trigger the creation of plant sugars.



The fall harvest from the author's garden included beets, daikon, turnips, and Brussels sprouts. Although his garden is primarily devoted to vegetables, the author found room for a few zinnias and other cutting flowers.

So why fight the traffic and crowds at the market just to buy the same old veggies? Instead, take that time and enjoy the quiet of your garden in the evening. Munch a zesty radish or nibble on a crisp fresh snow pea while you are picking your dinner, and daydream about what's going to go into the next bed when that bumper crop of spinach comes out. You've planned and built a productive, low-maintenance vegetable and flower machine in your own backyard, and now it's payout time!

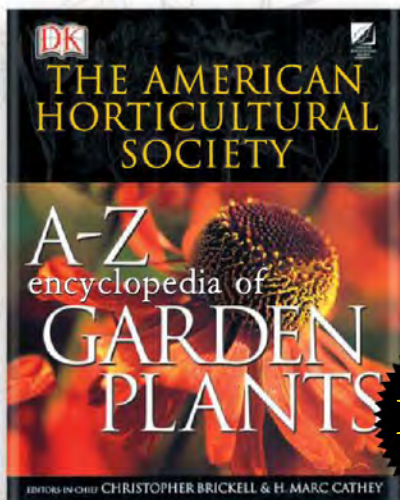
As that first of all foodies, Epicurus, might have said: Have fun, eat well, and know you've got it made. 🌿

Shepherd Ogden is Director of Heritage Organics, a Pennsylvania corporation dedicated to sustainable agriculture. He is the author of several books, including Step by Step Organic Flower Gardening and The New American Kitchen Garden.



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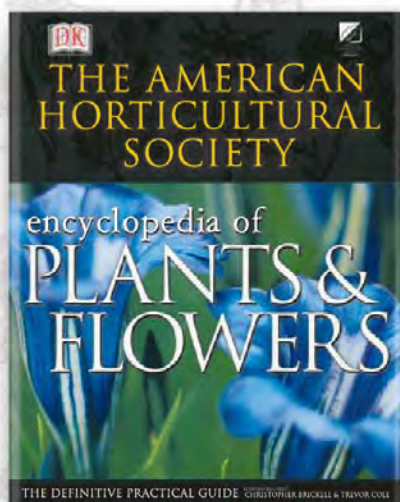
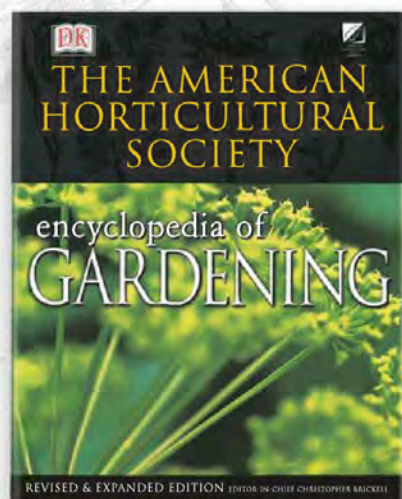
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Whitney Cranshaw, Entomologist

by Lynda DeWitt

MORE AND MORE gardeners are going “back to the future” by keeping their plants robust without the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. One of the lead voices in this charge toward environmentally responsible gardening and farming, known as integrated pest management (IPM), is Whitney Cranshaw, an entomologist at Colorado State University. Cranshaw headed a team that surveyed more than 150 plant species to document those most effective at attracting beneficial insects, a key component of IPM; parts of the study, published in 1999, have been incorporated into many gardening books and articles. Author of the popular *Garden Insects of North America* (Princeton University Press, 2004), Cranshaw recently spoke with writer Lynda DeWitt about IPM basics and the most serious plant pests facing us today.



Lynda DeWitt: What do you believe are the key elements of IPM that gardeners need to practice for success?

Whitney Cranshaw: Proper identification of problems is basic. Insects are only one of many things that can cause injuries to plants. For example, wilting may well be caused by a borer, but it could also be caused by root diseases or soil problems. So gardeners need to do a little detective work to find the true cause of plant damage.

Once you have properly identified the problem as an insect, it must be combined with information on its life cycle and habits so that you can determine a management plan based on when it is most susceptible to controls. For example, to manage borers, you have to catch them when they lay eggs; with scale insects, the critical period is at the time eggs hatch.

Assessing damage potential is as important as correct identification. A large infestation may need immediate attention, but injuries produced by insects are often largely cosmetic and don't

harm plants, so no control is needed.

I suggest that all gardeners experiment and continuously reevaluate their pest management practices because insect populations greatly and naturally fluctuate.

Describe some techniques to control insect problems in an IPM program.

Often, biological controls—or “beneficial” insects such as lady beetles and parasitic



To attract parsleyworms, above, the larva of the black swallowtail butterfly, Cranshaw plants dill in his garden. Dill flowers also provide nectar for many beneficial insects.

wasps—will take care of damaging insect pests such as aphids, scale, and whiteflies. It's easy to include “host” plants in the garden that will attract beneficial insects.

One of my favorite host plants is dill. It not only has the broad flower head with shallow nectaries that are favored by so many natural enemies of damaging insects, but also supports my favorite caterpillar—the parsleyworm. The adult is the gorgeous black swallowtail butterfly.

Providing shelter for beneficials is as important as providing food sources. I place pruned raspberry canes around the garden for tiny predatory wasps that hunt leafhoppers, and I set out predilled wood blocks for native pollinators like orchard mason bees and leafcutter bees.

What other IPM controls are available?

I am a big proponent of horticultural oils, which I feel are about the single most effective insect and mite management product available. It works on whiteflies, scales, spider mites, and many insects that overwinter on woody plants. In addition, it is safe to use and its impact on beneficial organisms is minimal.

However, like any control product, it should only be used when needed. It should not be used during periods of drought, especially when coupled with high heat, or plants may burn. In very cold weather, the oils may not flow evenly. There have also been concerns about using oils in winter because of their potentially harmful effects on the winter-hardiness of plants, but with today's highly refined oils, that is not the problem it was in the past.

There's no shortage of information available on IPM. Where should the uninitiated gardener start?

There is an IPM coordinator in every state associated with the state's land

grant institution (a state university). I suggest contacting local Cooperative Extension offices, the outreach arm of the land grant universities, for leads. Most Extension services have prepared materials that can be accessed online and many incorporate IPM training in gardening classes.

There are many books on the subject. A recent one is *IPM for Gardeners* [by Raymond A. Cloyd, Philip L. Nixon, and Nancy R. Pataky, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2004]. My book, *Pests of the West* [Fulcrum Press, Boulder, Colorado, 1992], incorporates IPM practices throughout.

What do you see as the most serious insect pest facing us today?

Exotic pests establishing in North America. We already are overrun with insects of European origin. Now we are inadvertently acquiring many from Asia.

Many entomologists would rate the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire) to be the most serious new insect pest. Based on its brief experience in North



Cranshaw introduces the fascinating world of insects to a group of Cub Scouts. "I was always interested in natural history as a kid," says Cranshaw. A college class sealed his interest in insects, "particularly," says Cranshaw, "after I got to look at them under the microscope."

America, it could devastate ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) much the same way that Dutch elm disease did to American elms (*Ulmus americana*) in a previous generation. There have been no breakthroughs in biological controls for this pest.

I am also very worried about European chafer (*Rhizotrogus majalis*) as a potential turfgrass pest in the western part of the

country. Currently, it is found over much of the northeastern quadrant of the United States, where it is modestly damaging. However, it is particularly threatening to dry turfgrass sites, which predominate in many arid western states.

Freelance writer Lynda DeWitt lives in Bethesda, Maryland.

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the Southern Prairies *and* Plains

Native plants provide nectar, fruit, and seeds for wildlife.

CHALLENGING WEATHER and soil conditions characterize the region known as the southern prairies and plains. The area includes central and west Texas (except for the western portion of the panhandle), eastern New Mexico, the southeastern corner of Colorado, Kansas, a slice of north-central Missouri, and the western half of Oklahoma.

Prior to European settlement, short- and tallgrass prairies dominated the region. As with the northern prairies, deep-rooted grasses anchored and helped build topsoil that supported the growth of shrubs and small trees. Human settlement, livestock grazing, and agriculture have significantly altered the plantscape, but remnants of native ecosystems can be found in tallgrass prairie restorations in Kansas, as well as in arboreta and nature preserves throughout the region. Those preserves and your local native plant society can help you determine the best mix of plants for your habitat garden (see “Resources,” opposite page).

Although the size of the region makes it challenging to recommend specific habitat plantings, the handful of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants suggested here will help you get started. Remember to build communities of plants that support each other and provide maximum food and shelter for wildlife; some of them provide food for humans, too.

SMALL-GARDEN TREASURES

Birds will flock to your garden when you plant smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*). It matures at 10 to 15 feet in height and sports large, pyramidal, yellowish-green flowers in spring and flaming red foliage in fall. At least 32 species of birds, as well as large and small mammals, enjoy its fruit.

Another attractive small tree is Mexican plum (*Prunus mexicana*), which bears fra-



The nectar-filled flowers of *Salvia greggii* appear from late summer through fall.

grant flowers early in spring. Bees love its blossoms and its fruit attracts a variety of wildlife. If you live in Texas, try drought-tolerant anacua, or sandpaper tree (*Ehretia*

anacua). In spring, anacua is covered with honeybees as they gather pollen from an abundance of snowy white blooms. The juicy yellow-orange or orange-red fruits are a magnet for birds and mammals. All three trees do well in a variety of soils.

Other great fruiting plants include Boulder raspberry (*Rubus deliciosus*), western sandcherry (*Prunus besseyi*, syn. *P. pumila* var. *besseyi*), golden current (*Ribes aureum*), and agarito (*Mahonia trifoliolata*). In the Lone Star state, agarito is a nurse plant—one that shades seedlings of another species beneath it, creating a more conducive environment for their early growth—for Texas madrone (*Arbutus xalapensis*) and Texas smoketree (*Cotinus obovatus*), which establish themselves beneath its spiny leaves. Its fragrant yellow flowers become bright red berries, which make a tasty jelly. Agarito, however, is considered invasive in some areas outside its native range.



The blue-green leaves of smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) turn bright red in autumn.

COLOR ME NATIVE

Native *Penstemon* and *Salvia* species are big winners in the summer habitat garden. Not only do they attract a variety of bees, moths, butterflies, and hummingbirds, but they are also showy and drought-tolerant. Popular Texas penstemons include *P. barbatus*, *P. cardinalis*, *P. havardii*, and *P. secundiflorus*. In southeast Colorado, try *P. secundiflorus* and *P. virens*, and in the Midwest, plant *P. cobaea* and *P. digitalis*. Small-flowered *P. ambiguus*, a pollinator magnet, is native throughout the prairies and plains region.

Colorful salvias are premium hummingbird attractors. *Salvia farinacea* is native to Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma; *S. greggii* and *S. regla* also are Texas natives. Blue, or pitcher sage (*Salvia azurea* var. *grandiflora*) blooms from July through October and attracts bumblebees and hummingbirds.

Other summer prairie garden favorites include several species of coneflowers (*Echinacea* spp.) and black- or brown-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia* spp.). *Echinacea purpurea*, *E. pallida*, and *E. paradoxa* bear purple, pink, or yellow daisylike flower heads on erect stems. With flowers of similar form in shades of yellow and orange, *Rudbeckia hirta*, *R. triloba*, and *R. fulgida* bloom from summer to autumn. Butterflies sip nectar from all these species, and birds eat their seeds in fall and winter, so don't deadhead their flowers. Beebalm (*Monarda fistulosa*) and lemon mint (*M. citriodora*) appreciate a partly shaded spot, where they attract a variety of pollinators.

If you enjoy vining plants, try maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*), which is a food source for the larvae of the Gulf fritillary butterfly. Be careful where you site it, however, because it will spread aggressively. Migrating hummingbirds sip nectar from crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) and many birds enjoy the fruits of white limestone honeysuckle (*Lonicera albiflora*).

As summer shifts into fall, ironweeds and goldenrods take center stage. Woolly ironweed (*Vernonia lindheimeri*) and western ironweed (*V. baldwinii*) are hardy, drought-tolerant plants that bear purplish-pink flowers that are stunning when teamed with showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*) or rigid goldenrod (*Oligoneuron rigidum* var. *rigidum*, syn. *S. rigida*).

Daisylike *Verbesina* species bloom from July into October, adding their cheerful radiance to the fall landscape. In the Midwest, drought-tolerant golden crownbeard (*Verbesina encelioides*) and yellow crownbeard (*V. helianthoides*) quickly cover bare ground and help anchor perennials and grasses. In Texas, try white-flowered frostweed (*V. virginica*).



Summer-blooming *Verbesina encelioides* is also known as the butter daisy.

A WORLD OF GRASSES

Grasses such as the bluestems (*Andropogon* and *Schizachyrium* spp.), grammas (*Bouteloua* spp.), rye- and wheatgrass (*Elymus* spp.), switchgrass (*Panicum* spp.), feathergrass (*Nassella* and *Hesperostipa* spp.), and a host of others add movement, depth, and visual weight to your habitat garden. Grasses weave plants together and help support taller perennials. They also provide shelter for ground-feeding and nesting birds and small mammals.

In Texas gumbo or sandy soils, try Gulf muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), which sports stunning, deep pink blooms in fall. In central Texas, use Lindheimer muhly (*M. lindheimeri*) as an accent plant in place of invasive, non-native pampas grass. In Colorado, try mountain muhly (*M. montana*). For Midwest gardens, choose *M. mexicana* and *M. cuspidata*.

Finally, Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) is one of my favorites for a tallgrass prairie garden, with its showy, blue-green blades and golden fall flowers.

Joanne Turner Wolfe is a contributing editor for *The American Gardener* and a key voice in the habitat gardening movement.

Resources

PLANT SOCIETIES

Colorado Native Plant Society,
www.conps.org.

Kansas Native Plant Society,
www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org.

Missouri Native Plant Society, www.missouri.edu/~umo_herb/monps/.

Native Plant Society of New Mexico,
<http://npsnm.unm.edu>.

Native Plant Society of Texas,
www.npsot.org.

Oklahoma Native Plant Society,
www.usao.edu/~onps/.

PUBLIC GARDENS

Dyck Arboretum, Hesston College,
Hesston, Kansas.
www.dyckarboretum.org.

The Shaw Nature Reserve, Missouri
Botanical Garden, Gray Summit,
Missouri. www.shawnature.org.

BOOKS

Native Texas Plants, 2nd edition, by
Sally and Andy Wasowski. Gulf
Publishing Company, Houston,
Texas, 1997.

**A Practical Guide to Prairie Recon-
struction** by Carl Kurtz. University of
Iowa Press, Iowa City, Iowa, 2001.

Sources

High Country Gardens, Santa Fe,
NM. (800) 925-9387.
www.highcountrygardens.com.

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery, Jeffer-
son City, MO. (573) 496-3492.
www.mowildflowers.net.

Native American Seed, Junction, TX.
(800) 728-4043.
www.seedsource.com.

Horticultural News and Research Important to American Gardeners

2006 AWARD-WINNING PLANTS

As gardeners are becoming more aware of the need to use plants adapted to regional climates and soils, more and more regionally-specific awards programs have sprung up to recognize and promote top-performing plants.

One example is the GreatPlants program, a joint effort of the Nebraska Nursery & Landscape Association and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. It selects and promotes exceptional plants that are reliably hardy, easy to care for, and ornamentally worthwhile. Here are its 2006 plants of the year.

Tree: Chinkapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*). This species is one of the more alkaline-tolerant and faster-growing oaks. It has gray, scaly bark and sharp-toothed leaves that turn yellow to pale orange in autumn. It can grow up to 50 feet tall. USDA Hardiness Zones 4–8, AHS Heat Zones 8–2.



Shrub: Redleaf rose (*Rosa glauca*, syn. *R. rubrifolia*). Fragrant pink flowers in late spring or early summer are followed by red rose hips that last into winter. Growing up to six feet tall, it tolerates a variety of different soil types and is highly resistant to black spot. Zones 2–8, 8–1.

Perennial: Pasque flower (*Pulsatilla* spp.). This group of clump-forming, deciduous plants has fernlike leaves and cup-shaped flowers that bloom in spring in shades of lavender, red, pink, blue,

and white. They grow up to 18 inches tall and prefer a well-drained site. Zones 4–7, 7–1.

Grass: 'Autumn Red' miscanthus (*Miscanthus sinensis* var. *purpurascens* 'Autumn Red'). This clump-forming grass grows up to four feet tall. Silvery plumes appear in late summer and the leaves turn a striking reddish orange in autumn. It rarely self-sows. Zones 4–9, 9–1.



To see information on many other regional award-winning plants for 2006, visit our website (www.ahs.org) and click on the cover of this issue.

GARDEN GROUPS PARTNER ON NATIONAL PLANT DATABASE

Thanks to a three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG), the American Public Gardens Association (formerly the AABGA, see "People and Places in the News," page 50), and the University of Kansas Biodiversity Research Center and Natural History Museum are collaborating with 15 botanic garden members of the North American Plant Collections Consortium to develop *PlantCollections*, a national

database system for plant information.

"For too long, the treasure trove of information painstakingly collected and entered into plant record databases at botanic gardens has been virtually inaccessible—often even to the staff," says Boyce Tankersley, project director for *PlantCollections* and CBG's manager of living plant documentation. "This grant will open the doors for the general public and scientific communities to access this information."

When completed, the online database will be free and accessible to anyone. According to Tankersley, *PlantCollections* will provide vital information for plant conservation, locating plants with resistance to environmental extremes, identifying invasive tendencies, studying the effects of climate change, and many other practical applications.

PLANTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

When the journal *Nature* published a study in its January 12, 2006 issue indicating that plants produce significant quantities of methane—one of several "greenhouse" gases that scientists believe are contributing to global warming—numerous high-profile news stories suddenly cast trees as possible environmental villains.

In some cases, the study's findings were cited to question the use of reforestation to help control greenhouse gas emissions, which is an integral part of the Kyoto Accord on climate change. Governments of more than 150 countries participating in the Kyoto treaty—the United States is not among them—had established a system of credits for planting forests to serve as "carbon sinks," or receptacles for absorbing greenhouse gas emissions.

In the study, a group of researchers led by Frank Keppler of the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics in Heidelberg, Germany, found that plants might account for a significant amount (up to 30

percent) of atmospheric methane. Emissions levels appeared to increase with higher temperatures.

Keppler and his colleagues, deluged with inquiries from reporters, scientists, and others, issued a statement maintaining that plants were not to blame for climate change and the effects of their emissions were minimal compared with the overall benefits of reforestation. More research, they said, was needed, especially on variations in emissions due to plant type and environmental conditions. But any impact of these emissions was part of the natural greenhouse effect, they stated, and not part of "the recent temperature increase known as global warming."

GOOD GARDENS ENHANCE PROPERTY VALUES

New research by Michigan State University professor Bridget Behe and colleagues reveals that the time and energy invested in the garden can pay off when it's time to sell the house. The study, which appeared in



the September 2005 issue of the *Journal of Environmental Horticulture*, analyzed consumer attitudes to plant selection, plant size, and design sophistication.

Data collected in seven eastern and central states consistently showed a preference for sophisticated designs using

Attractive curved beds planted with a variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers add value to a home.

large and varied plants and colored hardscapes such as brick or stone. These attributes increased perceived property values by 5.5 to 11.4 percent. Conversely, less-developed gardens, with small plants and less sophisticated designs featuring only foundation plantings, detracted from perceived values by an average of 2.1 percent. Design sophistication—curved bed lines as opposed to straight ones, for example, and island beds—mattered most to buyers, followed by plant size and the type of plants used.

Earlier research on this issue, using the same methodology, had shown similar perceptions of property values but indicated that plant size was the most important attribute. The authors of the more recent study speculated that in Michigan, where the earlier data were collected, and in other colder climates

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where plants grow more slowly, plant size is more highly prized than in warmer places, where plants grow more quickly.

BRANDING NATIVE PLANTS

Seeking out native plants may be getting easier thanks to a new collaboration between the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Prides Corner Farms of Lebanon, Connecticut, and North Creek Nurseries of Landenberg, Pennsylvania. Together, they have created a program called American Beauties™ to brand a collection of outstanding native plants.

This spring, the program will launch in independent garden centers in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions with around 100 varieties of native trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses. “Many of these garden centers already sell these native plants but have them scattered and ‘hidden’ throughout their nurseries,” says Tim Kane, sales and marketing manager for Prides Corner Farms. The American Beauties brand will help call attention to these native plants and their benefits for wildlife, making it easier for gardeners to make good choices, explains Kane.

Look for these plants growing in pale green pots emblazoned with the brand’s logo. They will be divided into four garden categories called “Bird,” “Butterfly,” “Dry Shade,” and “Moist Sun.” A portion of the proceeds will go toward the NWF’s conservation and education efforts.

Since native plants vary regionally, the partnership plans to tailor its American Beauties collection to each region of the United States as the program develops. To learn more, visit www.abnativeplants.com.

ECOSCAPING FOR EVERYONE

Wild Ones is a nonprofit environmental education and advocacy organization that promotes the use of native plants in ecologically sound landscapes to preserve biodiversity. To help provide insight into what nat-



ural landscaping is about and to teach people how to practice it, the organization recently began offering the “Ecoscaper

PEOPLE and PLACES in the NEWS

New Acronym for AABGA

The American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta recently changed its name to the American Public Garden Association. The change had been formally adopted in 2005, but the group promoted the change, its new logo, and a revised membership structure with a publicity campaign in February.

The APGA is a nonprofit organization that seeks to serve and strengthen public gardens throughout North America by supporting and promoting their work, value, and achievements in horticultural display, education, research, and plant conservation.

British Plantsman Christopher Lloyd Dies

Gardener and writer Christopher Lloyd, known for his strong opinions, lack of pretension, and restless horticultural curiosity, died on January 28 at the age of 84. Lloyd’s garden at his family’s East Sussex estate, Great Dixter, most of which was originally designed by Edwin Lutyens, have drawn visitors from around the world. His decades of columns in *Country Life* magazine and many books on topics ranging from mixed borders to foliage plants to meadow gardening showed how even in tradition-bound England, the best gardeners keep their eyes and minds open and the best gardens continue to evolve. As Lloyd said in a column published in the *Guardian* newspaper on Christmas Eve, “if you don’t experiment, you stop going forward.”



Scott Arboretum Honors Richard Bir

Richard Bir, a long-time editorial advisory board member of *The American Gardener*, is the recipient of the 2006 Scott Medal and Award sponsored by the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania. The award program recognizes outstanding contributions to the science and art of horticulture. An Extension specialist with North Carolina State University for nearly 25 years until his retirement in 2004, Bir has always generously shared his knowledge with amateur gardeners, the nursery industry, and his scientific peers through articles, workshops, and lectures. The author of *Growing & Propagating Showy Native Woody Plants* (UNC Press, 1992), Bir’s particular interest is in woody native plants. For many years he has played a leading role in coordinating the annual Cullowhee Conference on Landscaping With Native Plants.



Certification Program.” The term “ecoscaper” incorporates two ideas: ecology and landscaping. Several teachers, landscapers, and a naturalist designed this guided course to be useful to anyone from an apartment dweller to someone with access to acres.

Executive Director Donna VanBuecken says, “This is an exciting program because it enables participants to learn at their own pace about the benefits of using native plants in landscaping, while sharing what they learn with oth-

ers—and being recognized for it.”

The Ecoscaper Program has four levels. Each of the first three levels requires participants to read specific materials and take a test. Additionally, fieldwork and completion of a project are required. Level four is the continuing education aspect where participants continue their educational projects and their interaction within the community.

For more information about the Ecoscaper Program, visit www.for-wild.org/land/ecoscaper/ or call (877) 394-9453.

NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN RECOGNIZED AS HISTORIC SITE

The rich and unique history of the Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG) has been recognized by the National Park Service, which recently added the NBG to its National Register of Historic Places.

In 1938, the federal Works Progress Administration gave the city of Norfolk, Virginia, a grant to clear a 25-acre woody swamp-land near its municipal airport and plant an azalea garden. Azaleas were a popular attraction in the South, and the economic success of such gardens, even during the Great Depression, was widely noted among city planners of the time. The local government also wanted to help the many unemployed African-American women in the area.

Work on the project was carried out by a team of more than 200 African-Americans, most of whom were women. Using pickaxes and other hand tools, they ini-



Above: A crew of women under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration maintain the newly planted azalea garden in the late 1930s. Left: A group tour of the same area in February 2006.



tially planted 4,000 azaleas, 2,000 rhododendrons, and several thousand other shrubs and trees. By 1941, when the Azalea Gardens were renamed the Norfolk Gardens, they comprised 75 acres, five miles of trails, and over 50,000 azaleas.

Many of those shrubs remain today, though the NBG has grown to 155 acres.

The NBG will unveil a memorial to its origins during its 70th anniversary in 2008. For more information on the NBG, visit www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.com.

Written by Assistant Editor Viveka Neveln and Editorial Intern Linda McIntyre, with Contributing Editor Joanne Wolfe.



Cherry Lake Tree Farm is pleased to announce its corporate partnership with the American Horticultural Society and is committed to helping fulfill the AHS mission by promoting the importance of large trees in the landscape.



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Small Hand Tools

by Rita Pelczar

USING THE RIGHT TOOL for the job helps make the most of your gardening time and effort. Hand tools such as trowels, bulb planters, dibbles, knives, and hand cultivators are by nature environmentally friendly—the only fuel they require is your muscle. And that’s all that’s really needed for the up close and personal chores for which they are intended—planting seeds or bulbs, cultivating and weeding in tight quarters, and transplanting seedlings or bulbs. Some of these tools are great at multi-tasking, others are designed for specific chores.

Because these are some of the most frequently used tools in your green garage, they should be selected with care. It’s a good idea to “test drive” a tool before you purchase it to be sure it suits your grip and strength. Hold the tool in your hand and go through the motions of using it. Does the grip feel comfortable and balanced? Is it too heavy or too light? Ideally, when you use it, it should almost feel like an extension of your hand.

Also take into account how well it will hold up to rigorous use. Stainless steel blades are easy to clean and won’t bend under pressure, but are not as sharp as some other materials. High carbon, forged, or tempered steel tools are durable, resist bending, and will hold a sharp edge. Polished aluminum tools are easy to clean and are very lightweight. Stamped metal tools, though usually cheaper, will bend under stress. The handle of your tool should be fastened securely to the blade and have a comfortable grip.

TIPS FOR HAND TOOL CARE

- Paint your tool handles a bright color to avoid losing them in the garden.
- Clean tools after use and store them in a dry place.
- Sharpen blades periodically with a file or sharpening tool.
- At the end of the season, remove rust with steel wool, remove nicks with a file, and wipe down metal parts with an oiled cloth.



The narrow blade of a transplanting trowel makes planting seedlings or bulbs a snap.

As baby boomers are hitting retirement age, many manufacturers are starting to introduce tools with ergonomically advanced designs. They are strong and light, with padded and supported grips and angled necks or blades.

TROWELS AND OTHER DIGGERS

Selecting a simple tool like a trowel sounds easy, but not all trowels are equal—and neither are the soils they dig in. The size and shape of a trowel varies with its intended use: a standard or nurseryman’s trowel has a broad blade and a sharp point for digging substantial holes. A transplanting trowel has a narrower

blade, ideal for transplanting seedlings; it often is equipped with ruler markings so you can determine the depth of your hole. And a potting trowel has a small blade and typically a slightly rounded tip for use with potting soil and container plants.

Even if you are lucky enough to have light and friable soil, you should own a trowel with a sturdy blade and a securely attached handle. Gardener’s Supply Company offers a rugged forged steel model with a wooden handle. Both blade and handle of the trowels from Johnny’s Selected Seeds are formed from a single piece of stainless steel; the handle is wrapped with a rubber grip. OXO’s

Good Grips Gel-e Trowel and the company's narrower transplanting trowel feature cushioned, non-slip handles and calibrated stainless steel blades so you can monitor the depth of your hole.

If your wrists tire easily, consider a trowel with a blade that is bent at a right angle to the handle, like the Wrist-saver from Florian Tools. It is equipped with a comfortable grip and an arm support designed to employ the larger arm and shoulder muscles so that the wrist doesn't do all the work.

Certain gardening chores rate specialized tools: For planting bulbs in an established bed or lawn, nothing beats a bulb planter. Its cylindrical blade cuts out a core of soil so you can drop in your bulb and



The T-shaped handle of this dibble reduces strain on hands when planting holes.

replace the soil without disturbing nearby plants or digging up your lawn.

To make lots of small holes for transplants, a dibble is just the thing. Its handle is usually T-shaped and its sharp business end penetrates soil easily. By rotating the dibble in a circular pattern, you can widen the hole to accommodate the roots of your seedling.

HAND WEEDERS

Unlike long-handled hoes or cultivators that address weeds on a grand scale, hand weeders are meant for fine tuning the weed issues in your flower bed or veg-



A Korean hand plow, or Ho-Mi digger, can be used to plant as well as weed.

etable row. Hand forks or cultivators are great for digging out weeds—roots and all. Deep-rooted weeds may require a dandelion weeder or asparagus knife, which has a long, narrow shaft that is notched at the end. This tool, which looks something like a screwdriver with a fish-tail tip, is very useful for digging up weeds without much soil disturbance. The idea is to insert the weeder alongside the taproot and twist it to loosen the root, allowing you to pull out the entire weed, root and all.

For weeding between pavers, a narrow, sturdy blade is required. Lee Valley Tools offers the crack weeder with its sharp pointed, right-angled, hardened steel blade.

A variety of garden knives—sometimes identified as Dutch, Korean, or Japanese garden knives—make quick work of cutting weeds off at the roots so you can get very close to your plants. Sharpen the blade of these tools regularly for best results.

Also effective for slicing weeds down to the ground are hand hoes that are available with blades in a variety of sizes and



The unique design of the Circlehoe enables you to weed in close proximity to plants.

Sources for Tools

Florian Garden Tools & Accessories,
(800) 275-3618.
www.floriantools.com.

The Garden Hardware Company,
(888) 476-4426.
www.gardenhardware.com.

Index Innovations, Inc., (800) 735-4815. www.circlehoe.com.

Johnny's Selected Seeds, (877) 564-6697. www.johnnyseeds.com.

Lee Valley Tools Ltd., (800) 871-8158.
www.leevalley.com.

OXO. www.oxo.com. Available through many catalogs and major retailers.

shapes—linear, circular, or triangular. The two hand-held sizes of the Circlehoe®, available from Index Innovations, are designed for weeding in tight spaces. The dulled leading edges effectively push a plant's foliage out of harm's way while the lower sharpened edge can cut through weeds very close to the plant's stem.

Unless transplanting is the main task of the day, I have found that I can often do without my trowel; instead I carry a triangular hand hoe for the dual purpose of digging and weeding. Johnny's Selected Seeds offers a model that is lightweight, well balanced, and very sharp. Its blade narrows to a pointed tip so you can work close to plant stems, and its wider end is useful for digging small holes or trenching seed rows.

Similarly, the Korean hand plow—sometimes called a Ho-Mi digger—functions both as a trowel and a cultivating tool, with its curved neck and long, sharply pointed blade. Garden Hardware Company, and Lee Valley offer similar versions.

The selection of gardening tools is highly personal. For the most satisfying results, take into account the specific jobs at hand as well as the size, strength, and mobility of the hands that will perform those jobs. 🌱

Rita Pelczar is a contributing editor for The American Gardener.

Recommendations for Your Gardening Library

Outside the Not So Big House: Creating the Landscape of Home

Julie Moir Messervy and Sarah Susanka.
Taunton Press, Newtown, Connecticut, 2006.
216 pages. Publisher's price, hardcover:
\$34.95.

IN THIS NEW book by award-winning landscape designer Julie Moir Messervy and best-selling author-architect Sarah Susanka, the visionary duo shows homeowners and professionals how to break down design barriers between a home



and its surroundings. They call this unified design concept "the landscape of home." Susanka, famous for her "Not So Big" book series, blends her views with Messervy's compelling ideas for extending a home beyond four walls and into the landscape.

Illustrated by 20 diverse residential projects, *Outside the Not So Big House* is organized into four themes: Site (embracing the habitat of home), Flow (composing journeys), Frames (linking the inside with the out), and Details (crafting the elements of nature). Within each category, Messervy and Susanka describe how "Not So Big" concepts such as "variations on a theme," "spatial layering," and "shelter around activity" are echoed inside and outside to create a well-integrated design.

In a home and garden in California's Berkeley Hills, the idea of adjacent places for shelter and activities is well illustrated. In the garden, a teak bench on its own small terrace is backed up against the upward-facing slope of plantings, allowing the owner to enjoy views beyond. Indoors, a corner of the dining room is "sheltered" by window mullions, suggesting the protection of a screened porch.

"Outside Up-Close" sidebars explain practical ideas for planting and hardscape design. Featured side-by-side in each chapter, "Outside Parallels" and "Inside Parallels" show how interior and exterior design choices can mirror each other. The photography enhances these lessons, as in Messervy's Asian-style landscape for a renovated ranch house near Boston. She designed circular "windows" for an outdoor teahouse, providing as much satisfaction for the owner as the home's "framed openings" (open doorways) that highlight views toward a circular Zen-like gravel area in the front yard.

The takeaway from this well-written and practically-illustrated book resonates with anyone who "lives" in their garden: "When inside and outside are designed as one, the results can inspire you on a daily basis, feeding your spirit, and allowing you to truly delight in the natural world without having to go outside to do so."

—Debra Prinzing

Debra Prinzing is the "NW Style" columnist for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and author of *The Abundant Garden* (Cool Springs Press, 2005).

Begonias: Cultivation, Identification, and Natural History

Mark C. Tebbitt. Timber Press (published in association with Brooklyn Botanic Garden), Portland, Oregon, 2005. 272 pages. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$34.95.

IN AN AGE when gardening books brim with ankle-deep information, *Begonias* is a whole-body experience. If you like begonias, this book has the power to make you fall in love with them. And if you are already a begonia lover, who knows where it could lead!

Like Liberty Hyde Bailey, Tebbitt is a botanist with a keen appreciation for horticulture. At the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG), Tebbitt manages a re-

search program on the systematics of cultivated ornamental plants, with a special emphasis on *Begonia*. (In the interest of full disclosure, I served as director of special projects at BBG from 1985 to 1992.)

Tebbitt's monograph is the first on the subject since Alphonse de Candolle's published in 1864, and it couldn't come at a better time. Begonias are enjoying a renaissance as both house and garden plants. Some of the notable and popular begonias this book describes are:

- *B. grandis*, a hardy species native to China. Tebbitt, who notes that it "survives winter temperatures down to 19°F

(-7°C)" at BBG, may be surprised to hear that *B. grandis* has been thriving in my Iowa garden for nine years, where winter routinely brings us deep-freeze temperatures that make his low seem balmy.

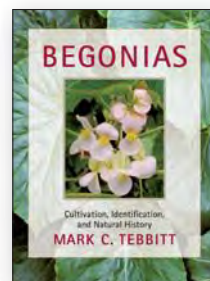
- *B. prismatocarpa*, a yellow-flowered miniature first collected on the West African island of Bioko by Gustav Mann in 1861. Since then it has proved to be one of the best flowering plants ever introduced for growing in a terrarium.

- Fancy-leaf rex begonias and the angel wings that grow on canelike stems are increasingly appreciated for the beauty they bring to shade gardens.

Bessie Raymond Buxton, whose popular book *Begonias and How To Grow Them* was published by the Macmillan Company in 1946, wrote that if more people grew begonias, the world would be a better place. Amen!

—Elvin McDonald

Elvin McDonald is the deputy garden editor for *Better Homes and Gardens*. He also serves on the editorial advisory board of *The American Gardener*.



The New Garden Paradise: Great Private Gardens of the World

Dominique Browning and the editors of *House & Garden*. W.W. Norton & Company, New York, New York, 2005. 464 pages. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$65.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for a tome to stimulate your garden-dreaming glands, check out *The New Garden Paradise*. Yes,



it's another weighty coffee-table book filled with images of breathtaking gardens. Nonetheless, since the gardens profiled were chosen for their design sensibilities, which are often translatable at any scale, there's much to be gleaned here beyond seeing what you might be able to do if money were no object.

The book's structure offers an introductory lesson in contemporary approaches to garden design. Chapters are organized to illustrate "new" ways of interpreting classicism, traditionalism, naturalism, cottage gardens, and modernism, as well as gardens inspired by personal visions or a passion for plant collecting. The overall message is that there are limitless possibilities for expression in garden making—with examples that range from lush and flamboyant to minimalist and serene. It

showcases the work of some of today's most inspiring garden designers, including Piet Oudolf, Topher Delaney, Patrick Chassé, Yoji Sasaki, and Isabelle Greene.

Resist the temptation to skip over the text and lose yourself in these displays of horticultural eye-candy. Storytelling, if only subliminally, can be just as essential to great gardens as is the creation of unforgettable visual imagery. Dominique Browning, a master storyteller (as revealed in two captivating collections of essays and the introductory musings to each issue of *House & Garden*) obviously made sure the book also focused on the stories and ideas that infuse these evocative gardens.

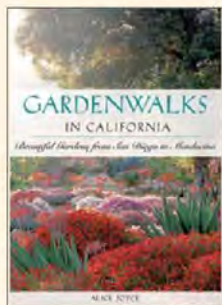
The tale of Andrew Cao stands out. While the images of his California garden might peg him as an innovator using new materials, the text reveals how his passion to recreate the remembered beauty of his native Vietnam led him on a personal journey that seems mythic in its scope and moving in its results.

Despite the profusion of beauty depicted in these pages, I found myself wanting more—to enter and meander around these spaces, to immerse myself in their sensory magic. It also made me want to get outside and tinker in my own private paradise. ♪

—Virginia Small

Virginia Small is a freelance writer, editor, photographer, and speaker. She gardens in Woodbury, Connecticut.

WHILE GARDENERS wait impatiently for spring to begin in earnest, it's easy to forget that summer vacation season is just around the corner. Those planning to visit the Golden State or just dreaming of a trip there will want to have a look at the latest in the *Insiders' Guide Gardenwalks* series.



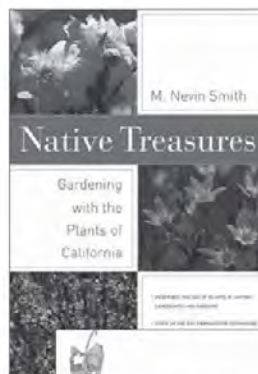
resources, including websites, periodicals, shops, and regular events.

All of this information is arranged in a user-friendly manner that makes *Gardenwalks in California* the perfect traveling companion for those who want to sample California's horticultural riches.

—Linda McIntyre, Editorial Intern

Gardenwalks in California, by Alice Joyce, features a diverse yet concise selection of destinations for the horticultural tourist. Like recently-published *Gardenwalks* guides to the mid-Atlantic and New England, this book offers useful, up-to-date information on public parks and attractions, botanic gardens, and arboreta. But Joyce, who lives in California, seizes the opportunity to show readers all the huge and eclectic state has to offer, from winery gardens to specialty nurseries to the San Diego Wild Animal Park. She also includes a chapter on accommodations of particular interest to gardeners, and a helpful list of re-

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Gardening with Edible Plants

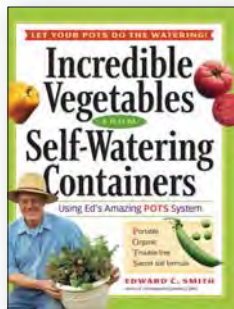
ANYONE WHO HAS raised and eaten homegrown produce knows the flavor, freshness, and fun it can provide. Edible plants are also a great way to involve children in gardening. One of my earliest horticultural experiences was helping my grandfather with his vegetable patch when I was a child. It seemed magical that he could grow food right in his backyard, and nothing tasted as delicious as those plump peas, crunchy carrots, and tangy ground cherries that I helped to harvest.

Historically, growing one's own food was a necessity, as Steve Solomon points out in *Gardening When it Counts: Growing*

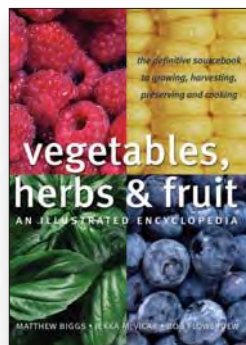
Food in Hard Times (New Society Publishers, 2006, \$19.95). Predicting lean years ahead due to rising costs and dwindling resources, Solomon makes the case for raising food with time-tested techniques that require minimum input to get maximum output. To help gardeners achieve this, he covers topics such as essential tools and how to use them, composting, water strategies, and pests and diseases. Charts and sidebars supplement the text, and line drawings illustrate salient concepts. There's also a chapter on "what to grow and how to grow it" that describes various vegetables and their cultural requirements.

In addition to providing food, a well-designed vegetable garden also can look beautiful. Taking inspiration from classic European kitchen gardens, *Designing the New Kitchen Garden: An American Potager Handbook* by Jennifer Bartley (Timber Press, 2006, \$34.95) explains how to achieve an edible garden with multi-seasonal appeal. It explores historical kitchen gardens and some contemporary examples, and describes nine principles such as "enclose the garden," "design for the counterpoint," and "consider winter use" that are important guidelines for creating a potager. The book includes several designs by Bartley, accompanied by color sketches, as well as ideas for plant combinations for various design purposes.

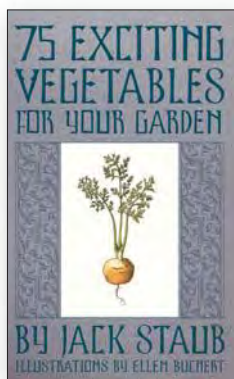
Containers can work well for growing edibles, especially for those with limited space or time. In *Incredible Vegetables from Self-Watering Containers* (Storey Publishing, 2006, \$19.95), author Edward Smith writes, "Containers need little weeding and no cultivating. Container plants are often less likely than earth garden plants to be bothered by pests or diseases." The flip side is that containers need to be watered more often than earth gardens—hence the importance of the self-watering element. In the book, Smith divulges his methods for getting the most out of a containerized vegetable garden, including his "secret" potting soil mix, design ideas, and harvesting tips, all accompanied by color photographs of his garden. A final section describes the vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers that do well in containers and includes details such as container size, recommended cultivars, and potential pests.



For a comprehensive reference book on edible plants, there's *Vegetables, Herbs & Fruit: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* by Matthew Biggs, Jekka McVicar, and Bob Flowerdew (Firefly Books, 2006, \$29.95). It contains information on hundreds of edible plants accompanied by more than 1,800 color photographs and illustrations. Entries include the origins and history of each plant, descriptions of recommended varieties, cultivation information, and companion plant suggestions as well as culinary, medicinal, and cosmetic uses. A yearly calendar of garden tips and tasks is organized by season, and a section devoted to general gardening practices such as crop rotation and site preparation complete the volume.



If you'd like to deviate from growing the usual suspects, *75 Exciting Vegetables for Your Garden* by Jack Staub (Gibbs Smith, 2005, \$24.95) will provide plenty of alternatives. From *Amaranth* 'Joseph's Coat' to Zebra Hybrid Eggplant, this book introduces 75 "really superb vegetables in current culture that are as exciting for their physical beauty as they are for their taste." Staub's lively writing style makes this not only a useful book, but also an entertaining read. Along with beautiful, old-fashioned watercolor illustrations by Ellen Buchert, you'll find enticing physical descriptions, practical growing tips, and fascinating tidbits about the geographic origins and historical uses of the plants. Staub even provides imaginative suggestions for how to enjoy their unique flavors.



—Viveka Neveln, Assistant Editor



REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

Horticultural Events from Around the Country

NORTHEAST

CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT

RAP MAR. 25. **Gardener's Health Clinic.** Lecture and demonstration. Berkshire Botanical Garden. Stockbridge, Massachusetts. (413) 298-0826. www.berkshirebotanical.org.

MAR. 22. **An Affair with a Garden.** Lecture. Wave Hill Friends of Horticulture. New York, New York. (718) 549-3200 ext. 216. www.wavehill.org.

MAR. 24. **Capital District Garden and Flower Show.** Troy, New York. (518) 786-1529. www.gardenandflowershow.com.

APR. 20-23. **International Orchid Show.** New York, New York. (212) 332-6577. www.gnyos.org.

APR. 28-30. **Daffodil Weekend.** Nantucket, Massachusetts. (508) 228-1700. www.nantucketchamber.org.

APR. 29. **Innovative Design for Beds, Borders, and Containers.** Symposium. New England Wild Flower Society. Framingham, Massachusetts. (508) 877-7630. www.newenglandwildflower.org.

Looking ahead

RAP MAY 2-4. **Plant Sale.** Members only on first day. Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Brooklyn, New York. (718) 623-7200. www.bbg.org.

MAY 4-7. **Spring Herb Sale.** Lyman Estate Greenhouses. Waltham, Massachusetts. (781) 891-4882. www.historicnewengland.org.

RAP MAY 19 & 20. **Second Annual Spring Fair.** Sales of rare plants and garden antiques. Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum, Bristol, Rhode Island. (401) 847-9428. www.blithewold.org.

MID-ATLANTIC

PA, NJ, VA, MD, DE, WV, DC

RAP MAR. 18-APR. 23. **Spring Flower Show.** Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (412) 622-6914. www.phipps.conservatory.org.

RAP MAR. 23. **Easy Gardening With No Work.** Lecture by André Viette. United

Events sponsored by or including official participation by AHS or AHS staff members are identified with the **AHS** symbol.

Events hosted by botanical gardens and arboreta that participate in AHS's Reciprocal Admissions Program are identified with the **RAP** symbol. Current AHS members showing a valid membership card are eligible for free or discounted admission to the garden or other benefits. Special events may not be included; contact the host site for details or visit www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal_events.htm.

States Botanic Garden. Washington, D.C. (202) 225-8333. www.usbg.gov.

MAR. 26. **A Gardener's Tale: The 18th Century World of Annapolis Silversmith William Faris.** Opening of exhibition. Maryland Historical Society. Annapolis, Maryland. (410) 685-3750 ext. 334. www.mdhs.org.

APR. 5 & 6. **Annual Daffodil Show.** Middle Atlantic Regional Show of the American Daffodil Society. Fredricksburg, Virginia. (540) 371-5656.

AHS APR. 20-22. **Friends of River Farm Spring Plant Sale.** AHS members only on April 20. George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia. (703) 768-5700. www.ahs.org.

APR. 29. **Eastern Shore Garden Tour.** Sponsored by the Garden Club of the Eastern Shore as part of Historic Garden Week. Delmarva Peninsula, Virginia. (757) 331-4662. www.esgardentour.com.

AHS APRIL 30-MAY 3. **Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium.** Williamsburg, Virginia. (800) 603-0948. www.colonialwilliamsburg.org.

SOUTHEAST

AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN

RAP MAR. 25 & 26. **Spring Plant Sale.** Harry P. Leu Gardens. Orlando, Florida. (407) 246-2620. www.leugardens.org.

RAP APR. 1 & 2. **Spring Plant Sale.** Crosby Arboretum, Mississippi State University, Picayune, Mississippi. (601) 799-2311. www.msstate.edu/dept/crec/camain.

April is National Garden Month

THE NATIONAL GARDENING ASSOCIATION (NGA) is once again promoting April as National Garden Month. Now in its fourth year, the celebration of gardening seeks to encourage anyone who grows plants, on a windowsill or a farm, to feel proud of their stewardship with the theme "This is My Garden." The Burlington, Vermont-based NGA wants gardeners of all levels to share their knowledge with their communities and especially with children.

This year NGA is working with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to celebrate National Garden Month with a new program, NYC GROWS. From April 22 to April 29, events focusing on environmental stewardship, health and wellness, community development, home gardening, and garden-based education will be held in New York.

The grand finale will be a festival on April 29 in Manhattan's Union Square with exhibits by groups such as the American Community Gardening Association, the American Horticultural Therapy Association, the American Rose Society, the New York and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, the Environmental Protection Agency, the International Society of Arboriculture, the National Wildlife Federation, and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. For more information, visit www.nationalgardenmonth.org.

—Linda McIntyre, Editorial Intern

RAP APR. 6-8. **Spring Plant Sale.** Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Birmingham, Alabama. (205) 414-3900. www.bbgardens.org.

APR. 7-9. **Bloom 'n' Garden Expo III.** Williamson County Master Gardeners Association. Franklin, Tennessee. (615) 790-5721. www.wcmga.net.

RAP THROUGH APR. 16. **Art in the Garden.** Exhibit. Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. Belmont, North Carolina. (704) 829-1256. www.dsbgo.org.

RAP APR. 21-23. **Plant Sale.** Memphis Botanic Garden. Memphis, Tennessee. (901) 685-1566. www.memphisbotanicgarden.com.

AHS APR. 21-JUNE 11. **Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival.** Orlando, Florida. www.disneyworld.com.

RAP APR. 22. **Native Plant Sale.** Georgia Native Plant Society. Atlanta Botanical Garden. Atlanta, Georgia. (404) 876-5859. www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org.

APR. 29 & 30. **Flower and Garden Expo.** St. Johns County Agricultural Center. St. Augustine, Florida. (904) 829-3295. www.epiccommunityservices.org.

Looking ahead
MAY 5 & 6. **Annual Symposium and Tours.** *Carolina Gardener* magazine. Asheville, North Carolina. (800) 245-0142. www.carolinagardener.com.

MAY 11-13. **Annual Symposium.** American Boxwood Society. Memphis, Tennessee. www.boxwoodsociety.org.

NORTH CENTRAL

IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI

RAP THROUGH MAR. 26. **Orchid Mania.** Flower show. Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland, Ohio. (216) 707-2834. www.cbgoarden.org.

RAP APR. 15 & 16. **Daffodil Show.** Fellows Riverside Gardens. Youngstown, Ohio. (330) 740-7116. www.millcreekmetroparks.com.

RAP APR. 21-23. **Antiques and Garden Fair.** Chicago Botanic Garden. Glencoe, Illinois. (847) 835-8326. www.chicagobotanic.org.

RAP APR. 22. **Wildflower Sale.** Cox Arboretum and Gardens MetroPark, Dayton, Ohio. (937) 434-9005. www.coxarboretum.org.

APR. 22-30. **Cincinnati Flower Show.** Cincinnati, Ohio. (513) 232-8230. www.cincyflowershow.com.

APR. 29. **Spring Garden Symposium.** LaPorte County Master Gardener Program. LaPorte, Indiana. (219) 324-9407. E-mail: lpimg@purdue.edu.

Looking ahead
MAY 6-13. **Tulip Time Festival.** Holland, Michigan. (800) 822-2770. www.tuliptime.com.

AHS MAY 11 & 12. **AHS Garden School: The Art & Science of Color in the Garden.** Franklin Park Conservatory. Columbus, Ohio. (703) 768-5700, ext. 121. www.ahs.org.

SOUTH CENTRAL

AR, KS, LA, MO, MS, OK, TX

APR. 1. **Azalea Symposium.** Austin State University. Nacogdoches, Texas. (888) 653-3788. www.visitnacogdoches.org.

APR. 5. **Greening the Urban Landscape.** Annual Nancy Stallworth Thomas Horticulture Lecture. The Museum of Fine Arts. Houston, Texas. www.gchouston.org.

APR. 8-19. **Binkley Gardens.** Private garden open for "Tulip Time" viewing to benefit Topeka Beautification. Topeka, Kansas. (785) 478-4624.

APR. 22 & 23. **Heart O' Texas Orchid Society's**

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6th Annual New Growers Seminar, Exhibit and Plant Sale. Zilker Botanical Garden. Austin, Texas. (512) 345-3225. www.hotos.org.

RAP APR. 22 & 23. **Plant Sale.** Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Dallas, Texas. (214) 515-6540. www.dallasarboretum.org.

SOUTHWEST

AZ, NM, CO, UT

RAP MAR. 25. **Drip Irrigation Workshop.** Red Butte Garden. Salt Lake City, Utah. (801) 581-4747. www.redbuttégarden.org.

APR. 1 & 2. **Cactus and Succulents for the Home and Yard.** Show. Rio Grande Botanic Garden. Albuquerque, New Mexico. (505) 764-6200. www.cabq.gov/biopark.

RAP APR. 28-30. **Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale.** Desert Botanical Garden. Phoenix, Arizona. (480) 941-1225. www.dbg.org.

RAP APR. 29. **Arbor Day Celebration.** Guided tours of gardens. The Arboretum at Flagstaff. Flagstaff, Arizona. (928) 774-1442. www.thearb.org.

APR. 29 & 30. **Downtown Boulder Tulip Festival.** Boulder, Colorado. (303) 449-3774. www.downtownboulder.com.

Looking ahead

MAY 5-7. **Maricopa County Home and Landscape Show.** Phoenix, Arizona. (602) 485-1691 ext. 5. www.MaricopaCountyHomeShows.com.

RAP MAY 12 & 13. **Plant Sale.** Denver Botanic Gardens. Denver, Colorado. (720) 865-3500. www.botanicgardens.org.

WEST COAST

CA, NV, HI

MAR. 24-26. **Santa Barbara International Orchid Show.** Santa Barbara, California. (805) 969-5746. www.sborchidshow.com.

MAR. 26. **Garden tour.** Visit organic gardens and view rare and endangered food, medicinal, and ornamental plants. Occidental Arts and Ecology Center. Occidental, California. (707) 874-1557 ext. 201. www.oaec.org.

APR. 15. **Annual Open Garden.** Sacramento Historic City Cemetery Historic Rose Garden. (916) 448-0811. www.oldcitycemetery.com.

RAP APR. 21 & 22. **Spring Plant Sale.** Descanso Gardens, La Cañada Flintridge, California. (818) 949-4200. www.descansogardens.org.

APR. 28. **Practical Pruning: A Workshop for Arborists.** Lecture, slide presentation, field

Hardy Plant Study Weekend

THE NORTHWEST PERENNIAL ALLIANCE (NPA) will hold "Right Brain Gardening for the Left Side of the Continent: The Gardener as Artist," its 2006 Hardy Plant Study Weekend, June 16 to 19 in Bellevue, Washington. The popular event features three days of lectures, four days of garden tours, and sales of rare and new plants and discounted gardening books.

Speakers will include award-winning British garden designer Jill Billington; Chanticleer horticulturist Dan Benarcik; Miller Garden horticulturist Richie Steffen; Rosemary Alexander, founder of The English Gardening School at the Chelsea Physic Garden; and Richard Turner, editor of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. Renowned plantsman Dan Hinkley will give a talk at a reception at the NPA Borders at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Tours will cover Vashon Island, Lake Washington, the Seattle area, Bainbridge Island, and Heronswood Nursery.

Debra Prinzing, a freelance garden writer in Seattle, likens the event to a "horticultural summer camp for grownups." She has participated in the Hardy Plant Study Weekend since 2002. "You meet cool people from other places who you want to stay in touch with so you can swap seeds, compare notes about new plants, and send photographs to each other," she says.

In addition to learning about plants—with a focus on perennials—participants will discuss design trends such as container planting and foliage forms, and broader gardening issues such as sustainable practices. For more information, call (425) 814-1481 or visit www.northwestperennialalliance.org.

—Linda McIntyre, Editorial Intern



Last year's event included visits to the gardens of Thomas Hobbs, top, and Gwen Odermat, above.

demonstrations, and discussion. Davis, California. (800) 752-0881. www.extension.ucdavis.edu/agriculture.

NORTHWEST

AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY

APR. 23. **Northwest Perennial Association Spring Plant Sale.** Sand Point Magnuson Park, Seattle, Washington. (425) 814-1481. www.northwestperennialalliance.org.

APR. 29-30. **Wildflower Show.** Display of native plants. Glide, Oregon. (541) 677-

3797. www.glidewildflowershow.org.

CANADA

MAR. 25. **All About Fruit Trees.** Workshop. Van Dusen Botanical Garden. Vancouver, British Columbia. (604) 878-9821. www.vandusengarden.org.

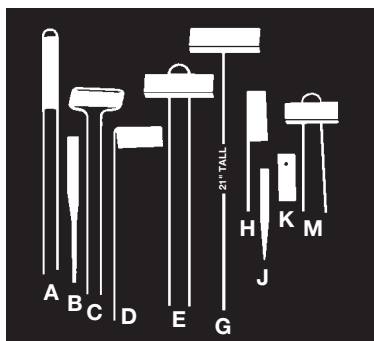
APR. 13. **Pond Gardening.** Workshop. University of Guelph Arboretum. Guelph, Ontario. (519) 824-4120 ext. 52358. www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum.

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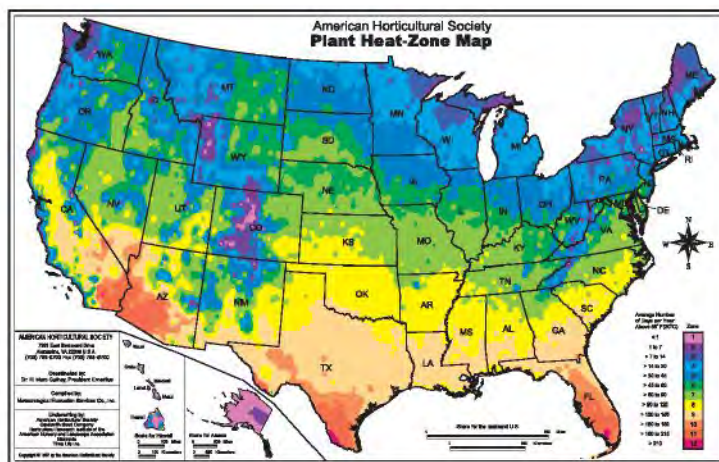
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PRONUNCIATIONS PLANTING ZONES

Most of the cultivated plants described in this issue are listed here with their pronunciations, USDA Plant Hardiness Zones and AHS Plant Heat Zones. These zones suggest a range of locations where temperatures are appropriate—both in winter and summer—for growing each plant.

While the zones are a good place to start in determining plant adaptability in your region, factors such as exposure, moisture, snow cover, and humidity also play an important role in plant survival. The codes tend to be conservative; plants may grow outside the ranges indicated. A USDA zone rating of 0–0 means that the plant is a true annual and completes its life cycle in a year or less.

To purchase a two-by-three-foot glossy AHS Plant Heat Zone Map for \$9.95, call (800) 777-7931 or visit www.ahs.org. Hardiness and Heat zone codes are generated by AHS and documented in the Showtime® database, owned by Arabella Dane.



A–E

Adiantum pedatum ad-dee-AN-tum
peh-DAY-tum (USDA 3–8, AHS 8–1)

Allium canadense var. **mobilense**
AL-ee-um kan-uh-DEN-see var.
mo-bil-EN-see (5–9, 9–4)

Anemone acutiloba uh-NEM-o-nee
ak-yew-tih-LO-buh (3–8, 8–1)

A. americana A. uh-mair-ih-KAN-uh
(3–8, 8–1)

Arbutus xalapensis AR-byew-tus
al-uh-PEN-sis (7–8, 9–7)

Bignonia capreolata big-NO-nee-uh
kap-ree-o-LAY-tuh (6–9, 9–5)

Calochortus amabilis kah-lo-KOR-
tus uh-MAB-uh-liss (6–10, 10–6)

C. superbus C. soo-PUR-bus
(5–10, 10–6)

Camassia leichtlinii subsp. **suksdorfii**
kuh-MASS-ee-uh lykt-LIN-ee-eye
subsp. sooks-DORF-ee-eye
(4–9, 9–1)

C. quamash C. KWAH-mash
(4–9, 9–1)

Claytonia caroliniana clay-TOH-
nee-uh kair-o-lin-ee-AN-uh
(4–9, 6–1)

C. virginica C. vir-JIN-ih-kuh
(4–9, 6–1)

Clintonia borealis clin-TOH-nee-uh
bor-ee-AL-iss (2–7, 8–1)

C. umbellulata C. um-bel-yew-LAY-
tuh (4–8, 9–1)

Crinum americanum KRY-num
uh-mair-ih-KAN-um (8–11, 12–8)

Dicentra canadensis dy-SEN-truh
kan-uh-DEN-siss (4–8, 8–4)

D. cucullaria D. kew-kew-LAIR-
ee-uh (4–8, 8–1)

D. spectabilis D. spek-TAH-bih-liss
(3–9, 9–1)

D. eximia D. eks-ZIM-ee-uh
(3–8, 10–1)

Dichelostemma ida-maia dye-kel-
OS-tem-uh EYE-duh MAY-uh
(5–8, 8–5)

Echinacea pallida ek-ih-NAY-see-
uh PAL-lih-duh (4–8, 8–1)

Ehretia anacua eh-RET-ee-uh
ah-NAK-yew-uh (7–9, 10–8)

Erythronium americanum air-ih-
THROW-nee-um uh-mair-ih-
KAN-um (3–9, 9–2)

E. revolutum E. reh-vo-LOO-tum
(5–8, 8–5)

F–O

Fritillaria affinis frit-ih-LAIR-ee-uh
uh-FEE-nis (7–9, 9–7)

F. camschatcensis F. kam-chat-
CHEN-sis (4–8, 8–2)

Helonias bullata hel-O-nee-us
bul-LAY-tuh (5–9, 9–5)

Hymenocallis liriosome hy-men-o-
KAL-is leer-ee-O-so-me
(8–11, 12–8)

Hypoxis hirsuta hy-POX-iss
her-SOO-tuh (5–8, 8–4)

Lilium canadense LIL-ee-um
kan-uh-DEN-see (3–8, 8–1)

L. superbum L. soo-PUR-bum
(4–8, 8–3)

Lonicera albiflora lah-NISS-er-uh
al-bih-FLOR-uh (6–9, 9–6)

Mahonia trifoliolata mah-HO-nee-uh
try-fo-lee-o-LAY-tuh (6–8, 9–6)

Melanthium latifolium ma-LAN-
thee-um lat-ih-FO-lee-um
(4–8, 8–4)

Monarda citridora muh-NAR-duh
sih-tree-o-DOR-uh (7–10, 10–1)

M. fistulosa M. fis-tyew-LO-suh
(3–9, 9–1)

Muhlenbergia capillaris mew-len-
BUR-jee-uh kap-ih-LAIR-iss
(11–12, 10–5)

M. cuspidata M. kus-pih-DAY-tuh
(3–8, 8–1)

M. lindheimeri M. lind-HY-mur-eye
(6–10, 11–5)

M. mexicana M. mex-ih-KAN-uh
(3–10, 11–1)

M. montana M. mon-TAN-uh
(4–9, 10–1)

Oligoneuron rigidum var. **rigidum**
o-lig-o-NUR-on RIH-jih-dum var.
RIH-jih-dum (4–9, 10–1)

P–R

Passiflora incarnata pass-ih-FLOR-
uh in-kar-NAY-tuh (5–10, 12–1)

Penstemon ambiguus PEN-steh-
mon am-BIG-yew-us (4–9, 9–1)

P. barbatus P. bar-BAY-tus
(4–9, 9–2)

P. cobaea P. ko-BE-yuh (4–9, 9–1)

P. cardinalis P. kar-dih-NAL-iss
(5–9, 9–2)

P. digitalis P. dih-jih-TAL-iss
(3–8, 8–1)

P. havardii P. huh-VAR-dee-eye
(6–9, 9–4)

P. secundiflorus P. seh-kun-dih-
FLOR-us (4–8, 8–1)

P. virens P. VY-rens (3–7, 7–1)

Prunus mexicana PROO-nus
mex-ih-KAN-uh (4–9, 10–4)

P. besseyi P. BESS-ee-eye
(3–8, 8–3)

Quercus muehlenbergii KWER-kus
mew-len-BUR-gee-eye (4–8, 8–2)

Rhus glabra RUS GLAB-ruh
(3–9, 9–3)

Ribes aureum RY-beez AW-ree-um
(5–8, 8–5)

Rosa glauca RO-zuh GLAW-kuh
(2–8, 8–1)

S–Z

Sanguinaria canadensis san-gwi-
NAIR-ee-uh kan-uh-DEN-siss
(3–9, 9–1)

Salvia azurea var. **grandiflora**
SAL-vee-uh as-YEW-ree-uh
gran-dih-FLOR-uh (5–9, 9–4)

S. farinacea S. fahr-ih-NAY-see-uh
(8–11, 12–1)

S. greggii S. GREG-ee-eye
(7–9, 9–4)

Solidago speciosa sol-ih-DAY-go
spee-see-O-suh (5–9, 8–4)

Stenanthium gramineum steh-NAN-
thee-um grah-MIN-ee-um
(7–9, 9–7)

Symplocarpus foetidus sym-plo-
KAR-pus FEE-tih-dus (5–9, 9–1)

Triteleia hyacinthina try-tee-LEE-uh
hy-uh-sin-THEE-nah (7–13, 12–7)

T. laxa T. LAK-suh (6–10, 10–6)

Verbesina encelioides vur-beh-
SY-nuh en-see-lee-OY-deez
(4–9, 10–4)

V. helianthoides V. hee-lee-an-
THOY-deez (5–8, 8–4)

V. virginica V. vir-JIN-ih-kuh
(5–9, 9–4)

Vernonia baldwinii vur-NO-nee-uh
bald-WIN-ee-eye (5–9, 9–5)

V. lindheimeri V. lind-HY-mur-eye
(6–8, 9–6)


Xerophyllum asphodeloides
zeh-rah-FIL-lum as-fo-deh-LOY-
deez (5–9, 9–5)

X. tenax X. TEN-aks (5–8, 8–5)

Zephyranthes atamasca zef-ih-
RAN-theez at-uh-MASS-kuh
(7–10, 12–10)

Signs of Spring



FRAGRANCE AND FLOWERS are always welcome in the garden, but never more so than in early spring. This fragrant winterhazel (*Corylopsis glabrescens* 'March Jewel'), located near a pair of benches in one of River Farm's borders, beckons winter-weary visitors on the occasional balmy March day to rest and take in the beauty and sweet scent of its pendulous, pale yellow flower clusters. Like its relative the witchhazel (*Hamamelis* sp.), fragrant winterhazel blooms on bare wood, before leaves emerge. This cultivar has a compact spreading habit, making it well suited to small gardens. All winterhazels grow best in sheltered spots in full sun to light shade with moist but well-drained soil. USDA Zones 6–9, AHS Zones 9–6. 



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