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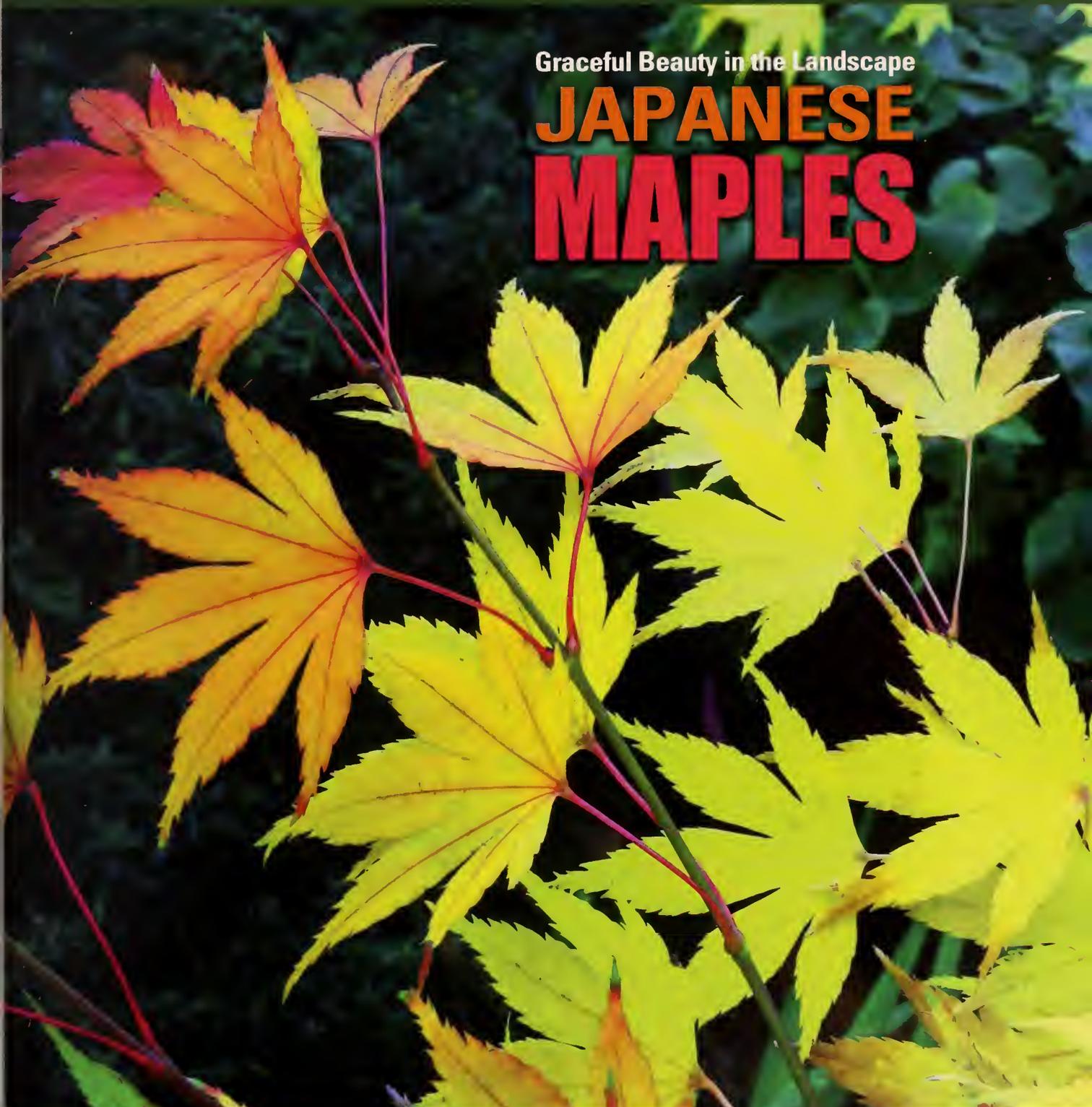


GREEN

scene

Graceful Beauty in the Landscape

JAPANESE MAPLES



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6



18



22

FEATURES 6

10

18

22

Photo Contest Finale

Check out the talented winners of the 2009 *Green Scene* "Garden Photo" Contest.

Passport to Paradise

Get an early jump on the 2010 Philadelphia International Flower Show with this story about the *Passport to the World* theme and the garden styles from all over the world that will be celebrated at the Show. This story delves into the horticulture of these global destinations and explains how you can bring a few ideas back to your garden.

Japanese Maples

Everyone should have at least one Japanese maple on their property. Ilene Sternberg takes us to Handmade Gardens in Downingtown, PA, to find a few choice specimens.

Fabulous Flower Show Photos!

Ace lensman Robert Salgado shares some lessons on how to take better pictures at the Flower Show. From flash to focus to f-stop and more, you'll surely pick up some great tips here.

COLUMNS 26

Greening Basics

Planting in Public Spaces

30 The Backyard

A Charter School's New Rain Garden

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

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REV UP your Houseplants

It's January and the outdoor landscape is dormant and quiet. But like me, you may be one of those folks whose "garden" looks best at this time of year. In my case, this so-called garden consists of roughly 30 houseplants that migrate each year between my bright sunroom in winter and my back deck in the summer.

As this winter approached, I decided to rev up my collection with new plants. Granted, my array of scented and flowering pelargoniums, *Euphorbia milii*, and overwintering impatiens always put on a great show, but it was time for some new challenges.

To kick-start my endeavor, I stopped at nearby Mostardi Nursery in Newtown Square, PA. Owner Steve Mostardi showed me some "odd-ball" foliage plants that do great in home environments, which are often lacking in sunlight and humidity. One such specimen, the "ZZ" plant (*Zamioculcas zamifolia*), has dark, glossy green foliage and can take plenty of indoor abuse yet still thrive. Sago palms also do well indoors, he said, as do *Sansevieria cylindrica*,

known variously as the skyline spear or African spear. This unusual foliage plant has round, cylindrical leaves that really do resemble spears. Also, various cacti, aloe, and haworthia don't seem to mind dry homes or offices. I have a particularly large example of the latter in my north-facing office, grown from a tiny plant and flourishing on its own for about a decade. Today, this *Haworthia attenuata* is the size of a dinner plate and periodically sends out long, slender shoots upon which diminutive white flowers bloom.

At Mostardi's I picked up a *Syngonanthus chrysanthus* 'Mikado', a plant from Brazil with strange and spiky architecture. This fellow likes warm, humid environments, presenting a challenge for the indoor gardener, but not an insurmountable one. I bought other humidity lovers, too, such as a *Hypoestes* 'White Splash' and *Begonia* 'Angel Wing'. To help them survive the winter, I dug

thinking of Sylvia Lin's begonias, Phyllis Williams's orchids, and Cecily Clark's ivy standards, all covered in these pages.

As for ramping up your own houseplant adventures, I'd suggest reading up online or at the PHS McLean Library and thinking about what kind of environment your house provides. As you'll learn, most houses offer everything from dim and dry spaces (fine for rubber plants, spider plants, or *Schefflera arboricola*) to sunny and dry south-facing windows (succulents, pelargoniums) to bright and humid rooms, such as east- or south-facing bathrooms or kitchens (orchids, begonias, ferns). If you want more humidity, you can use a humidifier, fish tank, or pebble trays under certain plants. There are plenty of ways to make your house more hospitable to its leafy green inhabitants.

Ultimately, growing houseplants is about having fun, learning new gardening tricks, and having the opportunity to enjoy one of your favorite plants in amazing detail. Granted there's work involved—from regular watering and feeding to grooming and vacuuming up dead leaves—but the sight of a plant blooming its head off in the middle of winter is its own reward. If you're interested, drive over to your local nursery, be it Mostardi's, Meadowbrook Farm, or your favorite plant haven down the road, and see what houseplants entice you. It just might be the beginning of a long, glorious obsession.



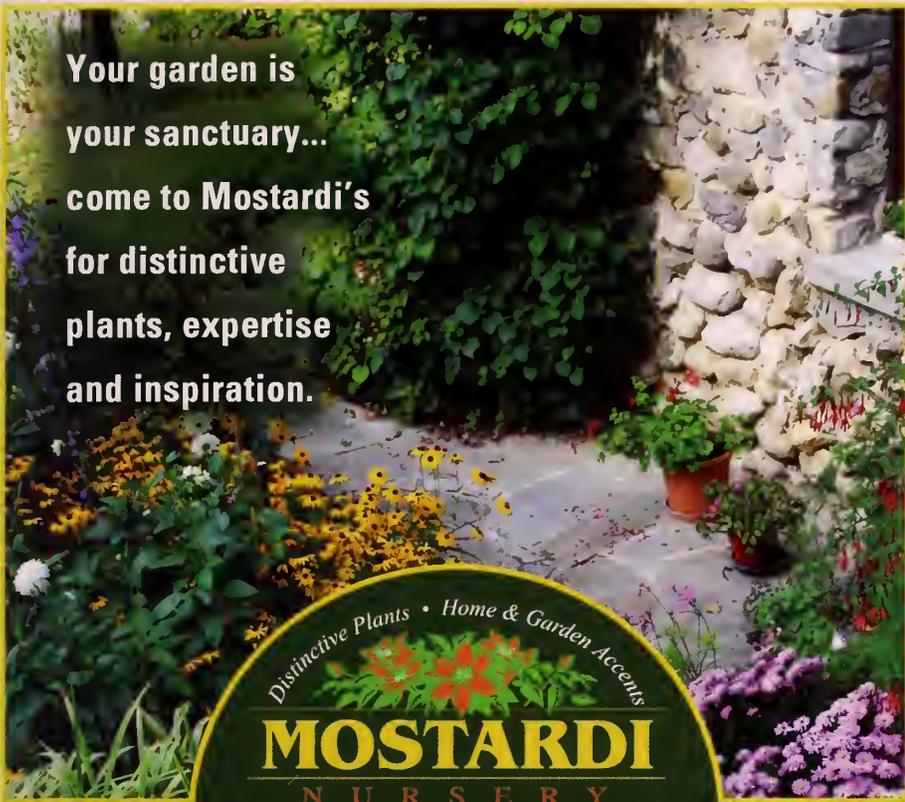
out an old fish tank in the basement, the former abode of a dearly departed family turtle. I put a layer of small pebbles along the bottom and added a good drizzling of water, then put plants in their new home. Heat from the sun and furnace will help trigger evaporation in the tank and create a cozy, humid environment for these tropicals.

If these plants do well, I may delve further into begonias and orchids. Over the years, I've visited the homes of various Flower Show masters and seen their work up close. I'm

Pete Prown

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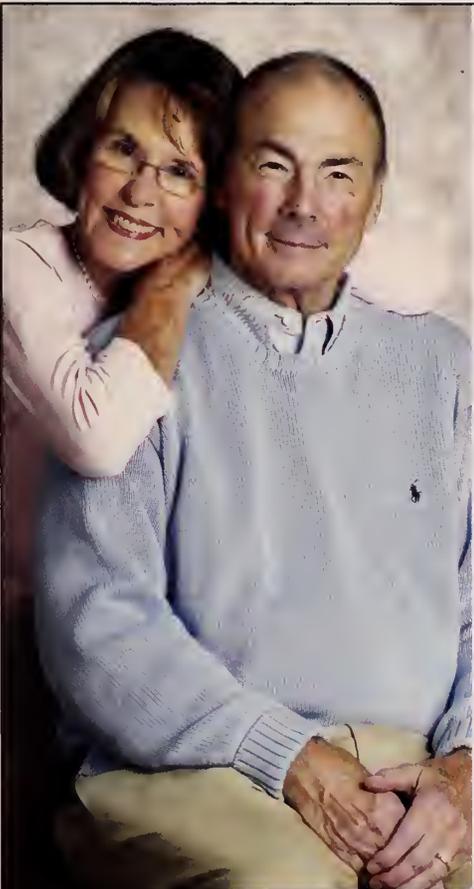
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The **Potting Shed**

Green Scene readers were out en masse this year, snapping great shots for our annual shutterbug contest. Choosing from images of flowers to families to an assortment of furry and flying friends, our expert judges (including Flower Show design director Sam Lemheney) had their work cut out for them, bringing several hundred entries down to the final 13 winners. It was grueling work, but ultimately they emerged with the best of the best, which we present here. Finally, they flipped over the photos to see the names of the winners—a thrilling moment!

PHS offers its congratulations to everyone who participated and thanks all you photographers for sharing your artful visions with us. Each year we are dazzled by your creativity and talent.

1ST PLACE

Name: Dan Sneberger
Prize: FujiFilm Z20 camera



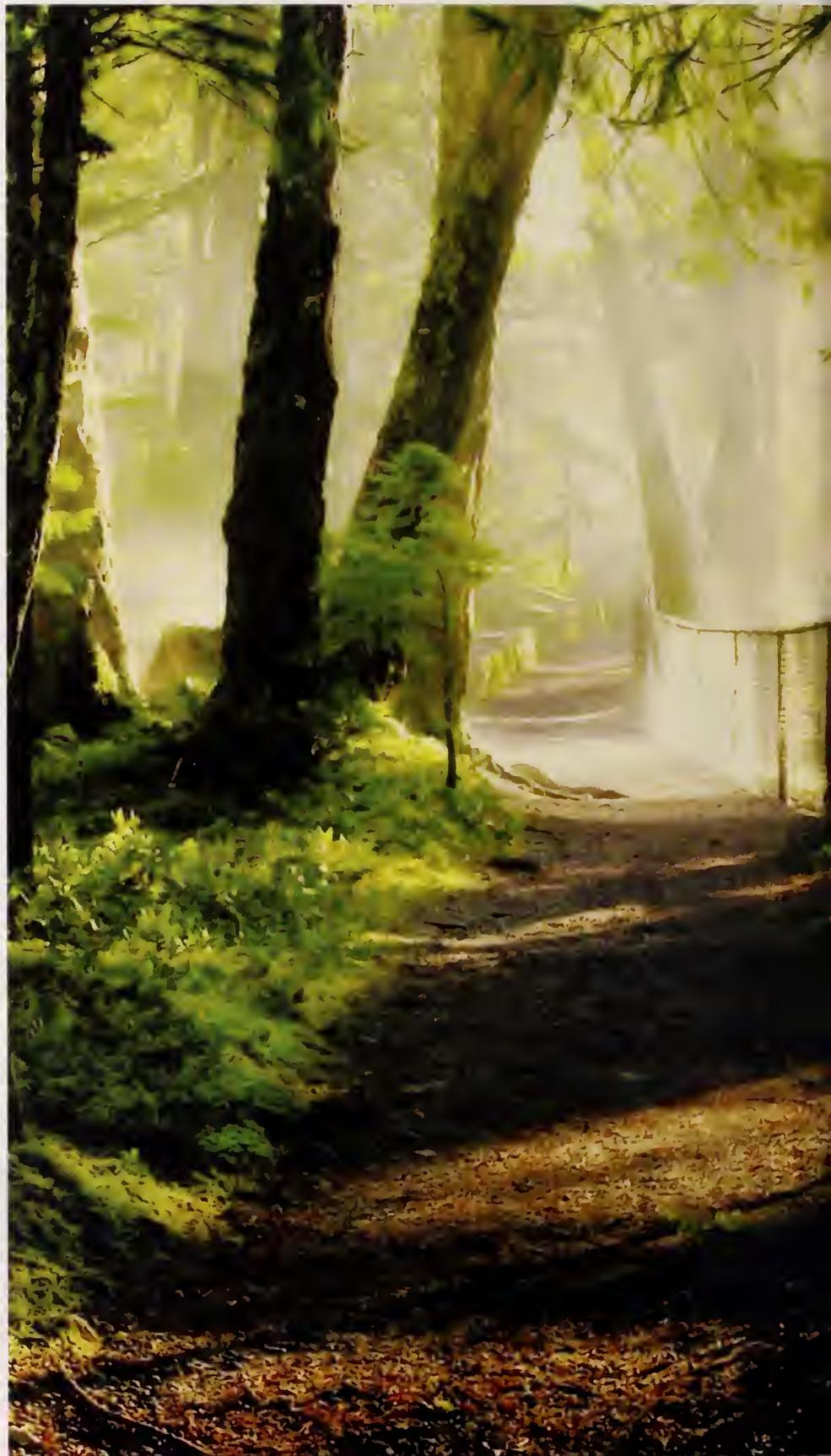
Photographer's Notes: I took this photo at Little Qualicum Falls Park on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The park contains a small gorge with a fast-flowing stream, and the fence in the photo borders the gorge. The sun had just reappeared following a short rain shower and the air was very humid and misty. I used a series of filters to accentuate the golden feel of the sun filtering through the forest.

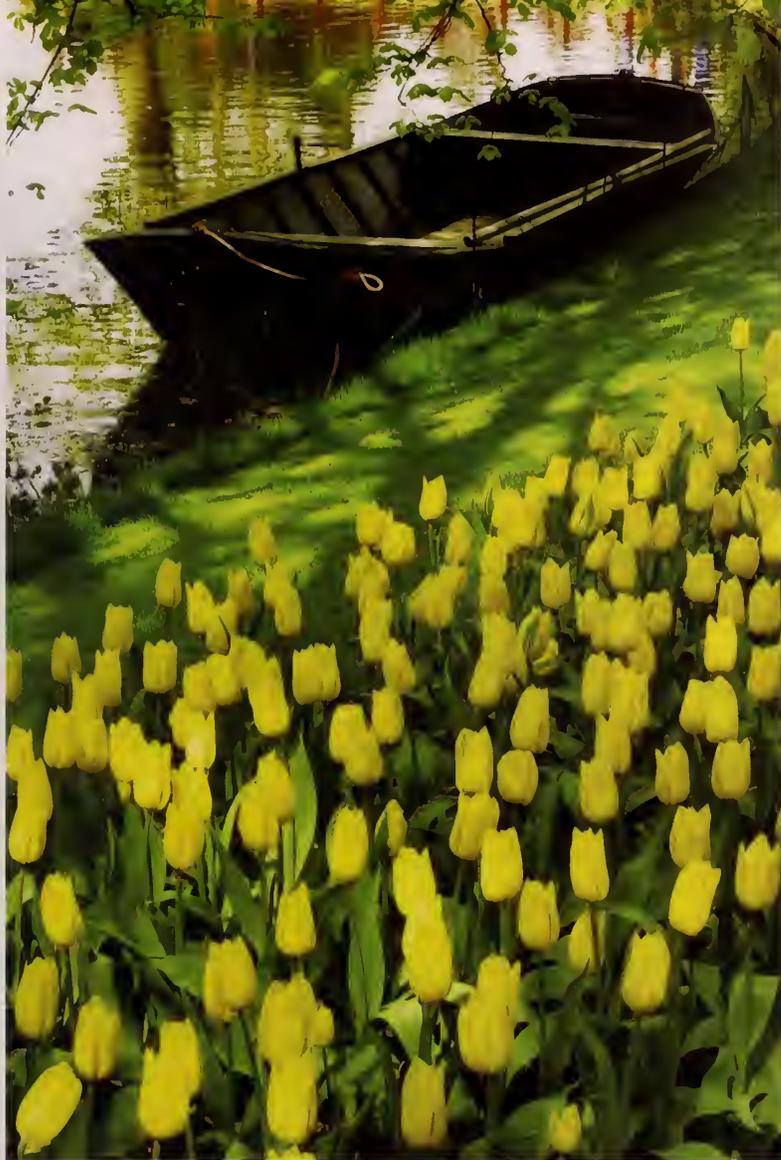
Judges' Comments: "We were struck by the ethereal lighting in this image, which invites the viewer to venture down this alluring path. The composition is spot-on, too. Bravo!"

Garden Glimpses

Winners of the 2009 Green Scene Garden Photo Contest

By Daniel Moise





2ND PLACE

Name: Eugene J. Szymkowiak

Prizes: *The Philadelphia Flower Show* coffee-table book and a one-year PHS membership

Photographer's Notes: Having spoken with the Netherlands Tourist Bureau representative at the Philadelphia Flower Show the previous three years, we decided the time to visit was now. While strolling through the dazzling displays at the gardens of Keukenhof, I spotted this calm, serene canal. Having spent 50 years shooting film, this was my first endeavor into the world of digital images.

Judges' Comments: "Excellent composition pushed this image into the winner's circle. Strong diagonals from the tulips, lawn, boat, and the water's edge grabbed our attention, while the bright yellow blossoms made us instantly wish for spring."



First prize provided courtesy of Ritz Camera

3RD PLACE

Name: David Osberg

Prize: One-year PHS membership



Photographer's Notes: This is a photo of a tropical day-flowering waterlily that was taken at Longwood Gardens. This particular variety is known as *Nymphaea* 'Director George T. Moore'. This waterlily was developed in 1941 by George Pring and commemorates the former director of Missouri Botanical Gardens. George Pring, the son-in-law of the first director of Longwood Gardens, was instrumental in helping Longwood develop its original waterlily display in 1957.

Judges' Comments: "This waterlily image is a technical tour-de-force, with each petal rendered in perfect, crisp focus. The deeply saturated violets and yellows and off-center composition only added to its attraction—a master class of 'macro' photography."



1. Barbara Grace



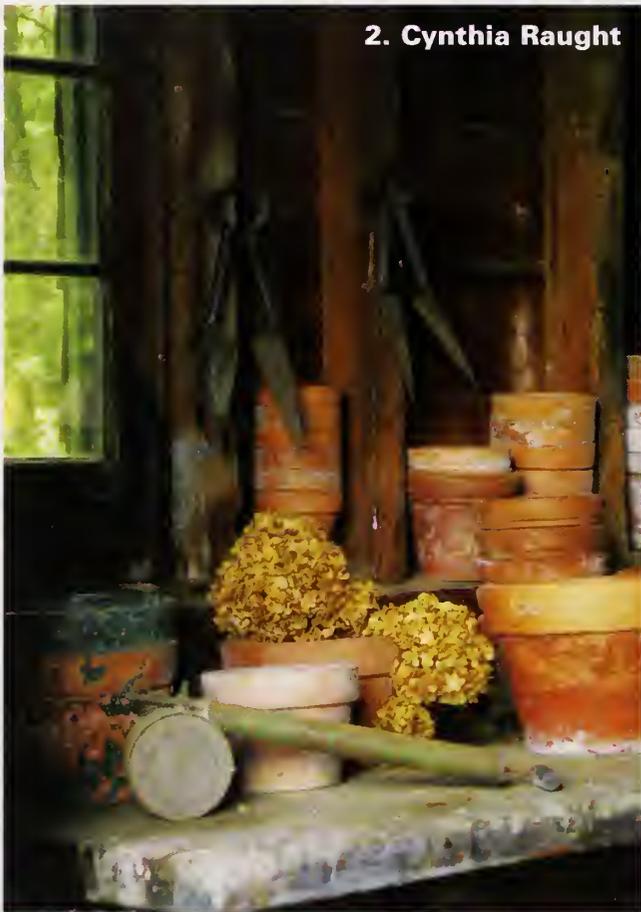
The **Potting Shed**

Honorable Mention
Winners



4. Albert Pasquarelli

2. Cynthia Raught



5. Melissa Rozecki



6. Maureen Skowronek

7. Harold Davis



3. George Arthur





8. Lea Foster



9. Jeff Sayre



10. Gus Feudale



1



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4



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7



8



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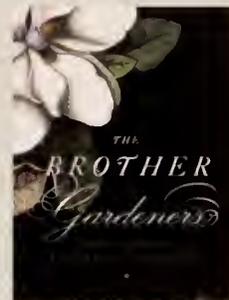
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Gaia's Garden
Second Edition:
A Guide to
Home-Scale
Permaculture

By Toby
Hemenway
(Chelsea Green,
320 pp., \$29.95)

The term "permaculture" may be unfamiliar to you, but in *Gaia's Garden* you'll find this concept for ecologically sound home landscaping and gardening covered in tremendous detail. Beyond the plants, the ideas explained here include how to build your soil's fertility; catch and conserve rainwater; and provide habitat for beneficial insects, animals, and birds. As philosophical as it is practical, this book is a good place to start for "greener" gardening.



The Brother Gardeners
Botany, Empire
& the Birth of
an Obsession

By Andrea Wulf
(Knopf, 354 pp.,
\$35)

Andrea Wulf paints a vivid and entertaining picture of the golden age of eighteenth-century naturalism and seed-swapping, involving such legendary garden figures as John Bartram, Peter Collinson, Joseph Banks, and Carl Linnaeus. She launches the saga with the tale of Thomas Fairchild, an English nurseryman who hybridized the first plant in 1716 (from a pair of dianthus) and, for the rest of his life, lived in fear for tampering with God's design. Wulf also delves into the irony that the famed glory of English gardens owes a great debt to the plants of its North American colony and enthusiastic seed exchanges between men like Bartram and Collinson. This handsome book includes reproductions of botanical engravings and hand-colored illustrations, paintings, and garden plans. Highly recommended for fans of garden history. 🌿

Your Passport to Paradise

Garden Ideas Inspired by the 2010 Philadelphia International Flower Show

February 28-March 7

Passport to the World is the theme of the upcoming Philadelphia International Flower Show, and this year's Showcase exhibits will touch on exotic destinations such as Singapore, the Netherlands, Brazil, New Zealand, South Africa, and India. We've brought together useful gardening tips from each nation to help you bring a little piece of the Flower Show home this year.



Story by
Pete Prown



SINGAPORE

Location & Climate

Singapore is a “city-state” on the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula in Southeast Asia. It has a hot, humid (equatorial) climate.

Garden Style

A historic trading port, Singapore remains a cultural melting pot today, incorporating influences from Malaysia, China, India, and Western Europe. You’ll frequently see **orchids**, **bougainvillea**, **passion flower**, **heliconia**, and other plants of the Asian tropical garden.

Tips for Your Singapore-themed Garden

- To give your garden a Southeast Asia-inspired look, you’ll want to group your plantings densely, more so than in a typical Western garden. To compensate, make sure your soil has good drainage by adding compost and other amendments.
- Think in terms of **height**—a tropical garden has flowers in trees and along vines, as well as at ground level. For texture, try big-leafed, tender plants like **elephant ears**, **caladium**, **ginger**, and **banana**. (And if you want to add **bamboo**, make sure it’s a **clumping**, not a spreading, cultivar. There are several good varieties available.)

- Don’t be afraid to **bring your tender houseplants outside** for the summer and integrate them into your garden. You can wire epiphytic orchids (those with air roots, like the popular *Phalaenopsis*) into trees, or just sink potted tropical plants into the ground for the summer; no one will know they’re houseplants. Just remember to bring them back inside before it gets cold.
- In Singapore, great food is a big part of life, so you’ll want to integrate some edibles into your planting scheme. Green and dark-leafed **basil** (such as ‘Dark Opal’) will help give you the right look and taste, as well as vegetables and herbs like **hot peppers**, **lemongrass**, **chives**, and **mint**.

2010 Showcase Exhibitor: Waldor Orchids of Linwood, NJ (waldor.com)



Color, height and texture are important.

Basil and chives will add Asian flavor to your garden.





A knot garden near a suburban Dutch home



Keukenhof in fall bloom



An example of Dutch natural style

THE NETHERLANDS

Location & Climate

Holland, or the Netherlands, is located in Europe on the eastern edge of the North Sea. It has a cool, temperate climate with substantial rainfall.

Garden Style

The Netherlands is best known for its vibrant tulip gardens, which are distinguished by patterns of massed color. Located in the town of Lisse, Keukenhof (keukenhof.nl) is Holland's best-known bulb garden. Intricate knot gardens are also prevalent at historic Baroque estates throughout the country, such as Het Loo Palace in Apeldoorn. A more recent Dutch style is the naturalistic, or "New Perennial," approach of designers Piet Oudolf, Ton ter Linden, and Henk Gerritsen, which uses ornamental grasses and plants that emphasize texture and foliage as much as flowers.

Tips for Your Dutch-themed Garden

- Plant more than just a handful of bulbs each fall—the Dutch plant by the hundreds, even thousands—for a **huge impact** in the spring. Think big!
- Think about **succession planting** with your bulbs for a steady stream of flowers from March through early summer. From snowdrops and *Muscari* to varieties of early and late daffodils and tulips to more specialized *Fritilaria* and lilies, there are zillions of bulbs to experiment with.
- Plant your bulbs in well-drained soil and learn which bulbs **pests** (like squirrels and deer) like to eat and which ones they don't. Tulips often have to be replanted every year in our area. (Stop by the Jacques Amand exhibit at the Flower Show to learn more about bulb care.)

- Try growing a small knot garden, using herbs like sage and lavender, or small shrubs such as euonymous or boxwood. Lay out your **design on paper** before committing your plants to the soil.
- Put more ornamental grasses into your garden borders to add **scale** and **texture** to your bedding schemes.

2010 Showcase Exhibitor: Robertson's Flowers of Philadelphia (robertsonflowers.com)

NEW ZEALAND

Location & Climate

The two main islands of New Zealand lie off the eastern shore of Australia in the South Pacific. New Zealand has an eclectic climate, including everything from tropical regions to cool, temperate areas to inspiring mountain landscapes. There are even dry, desert-like zones.

Garden Style

A New Zealand garden can often be a mix of traditional Western plants, such as roses, phlox, and rhododendrons with native (and often tender) flaxes, astelias, cordylines, ferns, and beautiful blue Chatham Island forget-me-nots.

Tips for Your New Zealand-themed Garden

- Like the English cottage garden, the typical New Zealand planting scheme has a **wild look** about it.
- Mix it up and plant tender, big-leaved tropicals, hardy ferns, and grasses right next to your traditional annuals and perennials. **Texture** is a big part of the Kiwi garden, so consider the foliage of everything you plant.
- Many New Zealand plants have **spiky foliage**, so think about that in your planning. Instead of soft, rounded foliage, look for dramatic spikes and shapes, such as yuccas and sea holly (*Eryngium alpinum* 'Blue Star').
- Borrow a view. With its epic landscape and beautiful vistas, New Zealand provides stunning scenery for its horticultural treasures. As you plan your garden, think about what views you might borrow: a neighbor's yard or a beautiful tree across the street could make the perfect backdrop for your beds.

2010 Showcase Exhibitor: Stoney Bank Nurseries of Glen Mills, PA (stoneybanknurseries.com)

Top & bottom: **Sharp, spikey textures are often part of New Zealand gardens.**



Photos: this page by Derek Fell

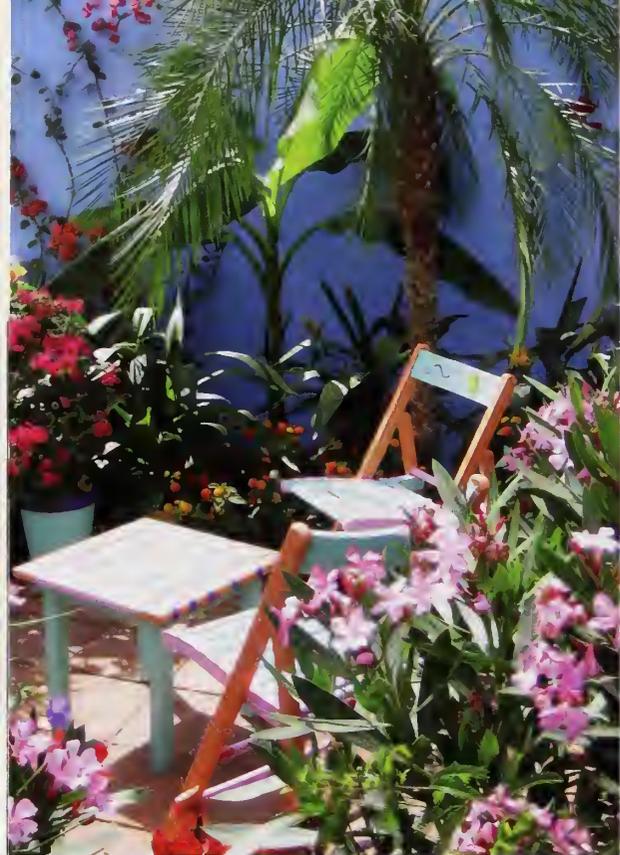


Photo by Patsy Brown

tropicals, as well as the brilliant yellow Ipê-amarelo tree (*Tecoma chrysostricha*), the national flower. Stylistically, a Brazilian-themed garden would involve tropical plants and boldly colored flowers.

Tips for Your Brazil-themed Garden

- If you have a brightly lit indoor area with sufficient humidity, create your own **tropical rainforest garden**. Pot up orchids, clivia, bromeliads, heliconia, and schlumbergia to create your own jungle fantasy.
- Create a **festive tropical patio**. In summer, move small palms, bananas, brugmansia, datura, ficus, and more tropicals outdoors and arrange them into a lush, inviting seating area. Make sure you water your plants regularly and protect them from high winds.
- Aside from flowers, there are all sorts of colorful, spotted, or striped **foliage plants** to enjoy. Experiment with variegated croton, canna, dracaena, and coleus. Even the mundane spider plant becomes exciting when inter-planted with common pink impatiens. And if you're feeling daring, try the *giant*, 6-foot leaves of Chilean rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*).
- Think vertically for your Brazilian retreat, as there are plenty of great tropical **climbers** and **vines** to choose from, such as allamanda, bougainvillea, aristolochia, ipomea, castor bean, jasmine, passion flower, and thunbergia. As if on a walk in the rainforest, you'll always want to look up.



Big-leaved bulbs and potted houseplants will create a tropical feeling.

BRAZIL

Location & Climate

Brazil is a vast South American country with a diverse climate range including rainy tropical and equatorial regions; cool, more temperate areas in the highlands and south; and large savannas.

Garden Style

With 55,000 known species of plants, Brazil has more native flora than any other country on the planet. It's home to a variety of native orchids, bougainvillea, and other

- It wouldn't be a jungle garden without a **water feature**. Add a waterfall, pond, or just a container filled with water and a gurgling pump at the bottom. And if you want to get fancy, add hardy native or tender tropical waterlilies, lotus, papyrus, or a myriad of other plants. (To see a tropical water garden in the Philadelphia area, visit the "Cascade Garden" at Longwood Gardens, which was created by Brazilian landscape-architect Roberto Burle Marx.)

2010 Showcase Exhibitor: Burke Brothers
 Landscape Design/Build of Wyndmoor, PA
 (burkebrothers.com)

INDIA

Location & Climate

India is another country with many different habitats, from the hot, sticky south to arid deserts and cooler mountainous areas in the north.

Garden Style

The famed Mughal gardens of India are related to the concept of “paradise gardens” that traveled east from ancient Persia. They typically feature canals, pools, or fountains and strong geometric designs. The gardens at Agra (Ram Bagh), Shalimar, and Taj Mahal are all good examples of this style. The national flower of India is the lotus, although you will also encounter the scents and colors of jasmine, bougainvillea, roses, and orchids. And while we in the United States consider the marigold to be a rather common annual, it is an exalted plant in India. Its flowers are used extensively in religious ceremonies, weddings, and other festivities.

Tips for Your India-themed Garden

- Paradise gardens often feature **walled-in courtyards** and rectilinear designs. Few of us have walled gardens, but you can make a patio more private by adding tall plants along the edge or installing sections of bamboo fence. Make it more exotic by adding colorful mosaics, tiles, or other artwork.

- A **water feature** is also desirable. While a long canal or rill might be difficult to construct, you can create a simple fountain in any container using a pump with a fountain attachment on top.
- An Indian garden exudes a sense of **peace and tranquility**. While many styles of garden achieve this, you can design your garden specifically to inspire meditation or other forms of relaxation. A gurgling fountain and sense of enclosure add to the effect, but also think about your site. If the front of your house suffers noisy traffic, you'll want to put this garden in

the rear, using the house itself to block out distracting sounds.

- Certain parts of India get blisteringly hot during the daytime, so think about putting plants in your garden specifically for **evening enjoyment**. Moonflowers are an obvious choice, but in general, white flowers are much easier to see in dim light than their brightly hued cousins. Also consider fragrant flowering plants, many of which emit their perfumes as the sun begins to set. Indeed, early evening may just be the most intoxicating time to enjoy any garden.

2010 Showcase Exhibitor: Jamie Rothstein Distinctive Floral Designs of Philadelphia (jamierothstein.com)



Left & above: **Oceans of marigolds being grown and sold**

SOUTH AFRICA

Location & Climate

South Africa is located on the southernmost tip of Africa and its climate ranges from warm Mediterranean to cooler mountains to harsh deserts.

Garden Style

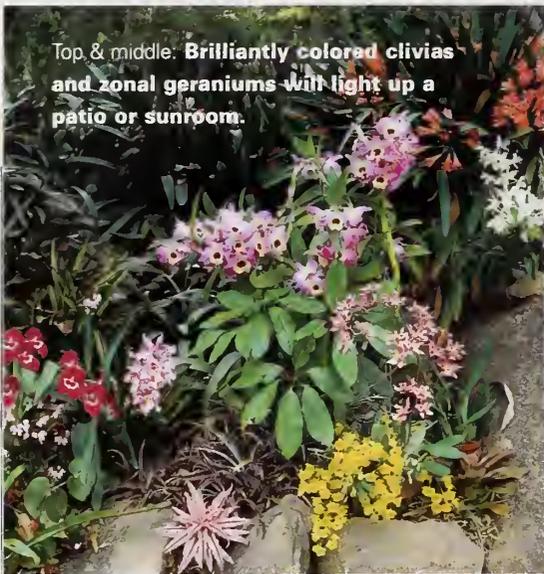
The typical South African garden tends to be shrubby, featuring an assortment of water-saving succulents, spiky natives, and cacti. During the Namaqualand daisy season, the desert lights up with millions of red, yellow, and orange blossoms of the African daisy (*Dimorphotheca sinuata*).

Tips for Your South Africa-themed Garden

- Many South African plants are tender in our region, but that's no reason why you can't grow them in pots and bring them indoors in the winter. Make sure they are potted in well-drained, even slightly sandy soil and given ample amounts of sunlight. Then in summer, **bring them outdoors** to your patio, deck, or garden

and enjoy another round of brilliant outdoor color.

- Among South Africa's best-known natives are popular **zonal geraniums** (*Pelargonium* sp.) and **clivias**, which come in spectacular shades of orange, yellow, red, and cream. Other flowering favorites include **protea**, **ice plant**, **bird of paradise**, **prickly pear**, and **aloe**. You can see lots of clivias in bloom in the Flower Show's "competitive classes" area in Hall B.
- As much of South Africa is relatively dry, consider the concept of **xeriscaping** for your garden. In these days of water conservation, using plants that require very little or even no supplemental water is becoming popular. Plants in our region that fit this description include sedum, ornamental grasses, hens and chicks, black-eyed Susans, lamb's ears, and coreopsis. Some gardeners are even removing their lawns entirely and using native plants to create sustainable, low-water landscapes around their homes. 🌱



Top & middle: **Brilliantly colored clivias and zonal geraniums will light up a patio or sunroom.**



2010 Showcase Exhibitor: American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) of Philadelphia (aifd.org)

The Namaqualand desert can explode with color between August and October.



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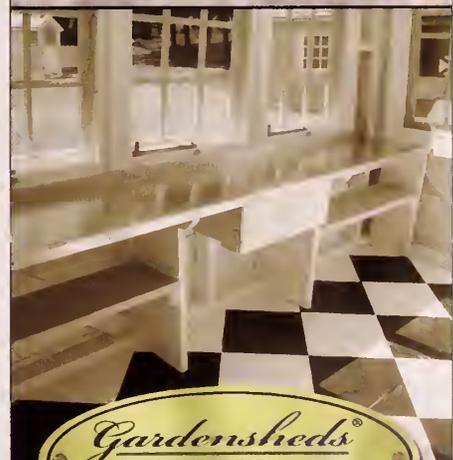


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The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

japanese maples



A Graceful Beauty in the Landscape

Who doesn't love a Japanese maple? Beautiful, versatile trees with more than 300 cultivars, they're treasured for their form, which can be dwarf, upright, mounding, rounded, weeping, spreading, and vase-shaped. At

maturity, they can stand from 2 to more than 30 feet tall. Some cultivars, like 'Kiyohime', grow so low they can be considered ground-covers, while others can be shaped into beautiful bonsai specimens.

Acer palmatum, the "mountain maple," is probably the strongest and most vigorous species, but there are numerous other maple species from Japan. *Acer japonicum*, the "full moon maple," is known for cold tolerance and brilliant fall coloration.

Perhaps even more prized than the Japanese maple's form is its foliage, which may be strappy, star-shaped, threadlike,

deeply dissected, or otherwise distinctive. While the trees have outstanding fall color, emerging spring leaves often show exceptional color as well. Some are a kaleidoscope of changing shades through the seasons, while others maintain a consistent hue. Bark may be smooth or rough, often with exciting-enough color to rival the foliage, either year-round or in winter when something bright and cheery is welcome.

Branches and twigs of *Acer palmatum* 'Sango kaku', for example, turn an astounding coral pink in winter, while those of 'Aoyagi' turn lime green. 'Bihou' has stun-



Story by Ilene Sternberg

**“The Japanese consider them ancestral
and pass the trees on, especially bonsai,
from generation to generation.”**

ning orange winter bark; ‘Winter Flame’ has green bark in summer, red in winter. A real showoff, ‘Beni kawa’, has bright salmon-colored bark with green leaves through spring and summer, yellow and gold autumn foliage, and red winter bark.

Michael Petrie of Handmade Gardens in Downingtown, PA (handmadegardens.net), says, “Some people think Japanese maples are hard to grow, which isn’t true. They’re very hardy.” Known for ease of maintenance, resistance to most diseases and pests, and an aversion to wet soils, Japanese maples thrive in full sun or open shade, and some prefer any degree of light in between. Heavily variegated trees favor protection from afternoon sun. If you’re within Zones 4 to 8, at least one will suit your site.

Plant them in semi-acid soil, pH 6 to 6.5, using bark-based soil mixes. Avoid compost and manure unless thoroughly aged because of residual salts and risk of bacterial infections to young roots. Because maples have a shallow fibrous root system, the planting hole should be wider than it is deep. If you have slow drainage, mound the soil to raise the tree’s crown 1 to 3 inches above grade. Water frequently during the first year and consistently thereafter. With a shallow root system, it’s best to water more often than to water deeply. Maples don’t like hard water. If your water has a high mineral content, adding gypsum at one pound per 5 gallons of soil to your mix and top dressing with gypsum annually will help remove minerals.

Maples need very little fertilizer, and you should stake young trees the first year. High quality slow-release fertilizer with low nitrogen, low residual salts, and micro nutrients (such as an azalea/camellia fertilizer applied at half the recommended rate) encourages the slow growth needed to maintain the beauty and health of the tree over the years. Apply after leaves emerge (around April). Fertilizer should be exhausted—just as you will be—before fall for best leaf color and to allow growth to harden off before winter. Fish

emulsion is also fine, although don’t be surprised to find a bear or raccoon up your tree.

All but the largest and most vigorous Japanese maples make perfect container specimens. Growing in containers is a long-term project, as these trees can live more than 100 years. The Japanese consider them ancestral and pass the trees on, especially bonsai, from generation to generation. A container at least as wide as it is tall and resilient against the elements will prevent unnecessary repotting and allow periodic root pruning. Well-constructed redwood boxes or durable containers with the appearance of stone or ceramic without the weightiness work well.

Sue Phillips, a grower at Handmade Gardens, says, “Containerized trees are hardy and have lots of seasonal interest and diminutive stature. I recommend *A. palmatum* ‘Mikawa yatsubusa’, a true dwarf with shingled green leaves, beautiful samaras, and

yellow and red fall color. Slow growing *A. palmatum* var. *dissectum* ‘Red Dragon’ offers bright spring growth and good branch structure.” (However, if you’re particularly concerned about your containerized maple in cold weather, you can move smaller specimens to more sheltered spots; cluster several trees together for insulation; or wrap the trees in burlap. And always add a layer of mulch for winter protection.)

Studying Japanese maples can be educational, too. You’ll learn that ‘shidare’ means “cascading,” ‘nishiki’ means “variegated,” ‘beni’ means “red”, and ‘Aka shigitatsu sawa’ means “red snipes over a winter marsh.” And in due course, you may even be able to pronounce ‘Scolopendrifolium’.

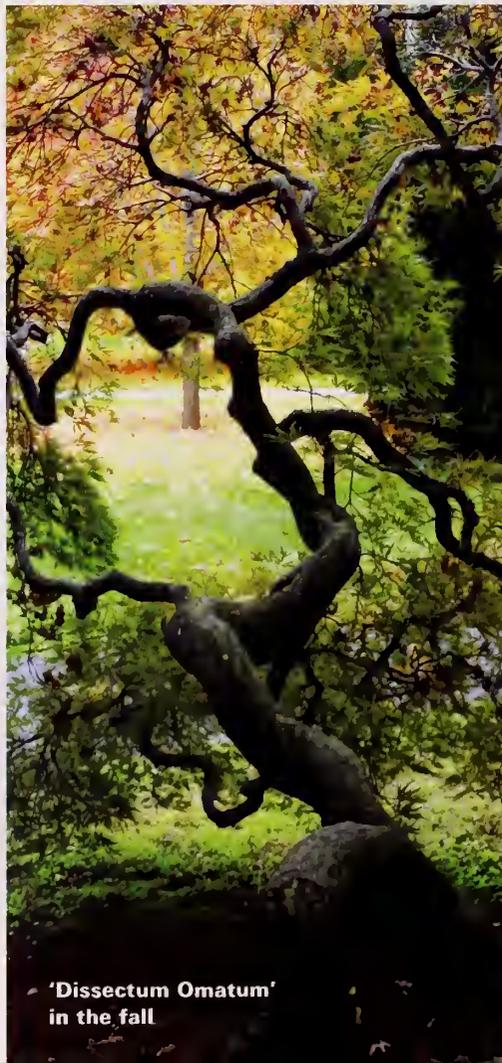
Award-winning writer Ilene Sternberg is the co-author of *Perennials for Pennsylvania* (Lone Pine Publishing).



Japanese Maples



Photos: by Peter Proctor



SOURCES

- **Handmade Gardens**, 610-873-2830
handmadegardens.net
- **Meadowbrook Farm**, 215-887-5900
gotomeadowbrook.com
- **RareFind Nursery**, 732-833-0613
rarefindnursery.com



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'Dissectum'

A Pair of PHS Gold Medal Plant Winners

A. palmatum var. *dissectum* 'Waterfall' has, as its name suggests a cascading habit. Staking is recommended to help create the waterfall effect. It is attractive in all seasons, pest free, and has large, finely cut leaves, so the feathery look is maintained. Yellow and red fall colors make it a standout in the landscape. 'Waterfall' grows slowly to 12 feet with an 18-foot spread in Zones 5 to 8.

A. palmatum var. *dissectum* 'Tamukeyama' was selected in the early eighteenth century and remains popular today with good reason. Growing to 6 feet with a 12-foot spread in 20 years, it makes a hardy, long-lived specimen and retains its red color through the heat of summer. Its dome shape and twiggy habit provide winter interest. 🌿

PHLOWER PHOTOS!



Story and Photography
by Robert J. Salgado



Jane Murphy of Oxford,
PA, takes a shot at
2009 Flower Show.

Take Better Shots at This Year's Flower Show

The Philadelphia International Flower Show has always been a feast for photographers, and now it seems that everyone is taking pictures, even with their tiny cell phones. While certain challenges photographers have faced in the past are still there, digital novelties like automatic white balance and image stabilization (to counter less-than-steady hands) offer solutions. And LCD screens on digital cameras give users a good indication of the picture they are getting even before the shutter is snapped.

Ceiling Light vs. Flash

Check your camera or phone's manual to find out how to email your friends a photo to prove you were at the Flower Show. However, if you want good pictures of a winning entry or exhibit, you may want to consider reading about your camera's more sophisticated features.

To begin with, the high ceiling in the hall means the only light a photographer can count on is that which shines directly on the exhibits or from the flash on the camera. Some exhibits have more light than others, and that's where image stabilization comes in. It allows shutter speeds in single-digit fractions for darker conditions (remember, you can't use a tripod or monopod at the Show).

Flash will help in many cases, but not in all. Unwanted reflections can spoil pictures, and some cameras require a shutter speed with flash too high to take advantage of the ambient light that draws you to the exhibit to begin with. Check the camera's manual to see if it has an option for lower shutter speeds with flash. Also, see if you can modify the flash exposure to provide either more or less light without giving up auto exposure. The same goes for auto exposure in the camera.

Also, keep in mind that many flashes will only illuminate the area a few feet in front of the camera. If you're trying to shoot a darker exhibit from 20 or 30 feet away, it will be dark in the final photograph since the flash won't be able to reach that far. As an alternative, move closer or try to find a better-illuminated angle.

Adjusting the Exposure

Learn how to adjust your camera's exposure. A correction of one or two stops below the camera's shutter or aperture settings results in the flash exposure giving better results for some exhibits than the "auto" settings. In some cases, I have dialed down the flash three stops, while basing exposure on the ambient light.

A digital camera's LCD screen can guide you on exposure and flash compensation. When in doubt, shoot the same picture with a few different exposure settings. This is what pro shooters call "bracketing."



Fashion accessories fascinated photographers at the Show.



Sometimes exhibit lighting is actually bright enough for closeups.

Editing on Your Computer

For those who have Photoshop or similar picture-editing software on their computers, there is always a chance to improve your pictures at home. This is particularly useful with the Show's extreme contrasts in lighting. You can sometimes add a little more brightness, contrast, and color and make an image more natural.

Those who use their cameras at the Flower Show to make visual notes on particular plants or exhibits should consider the lens aperture they use. To capture both people and exhibits, or plants and their labels in focus, choose an aperture of at least F5.6 and compensate with a higher ISO (film speed) rating on the camera.

Hopefully, these tips will help you take more successful shots at the Show. While the event's lighting remains a challenge, new digital technology has definitely given photographers a leg up. Happy shooting!

Flower Show Photography Policy: *Flower Show visitors may take unlimited photographs at the Show, provided they are for personal, non-commercial use only. However, all photographs must be taken with a hand-held camera. Please note that all camera accessories that impede foot traffic at the Show are expressly forbidden, including camera tripods, monopods, lighting setups, large reflectors, and staging shots.*

Lastly, professional photographers must contact the PHS Public Relations department (press@pennhort.org) prior to taking photographs at the Show. 🌱

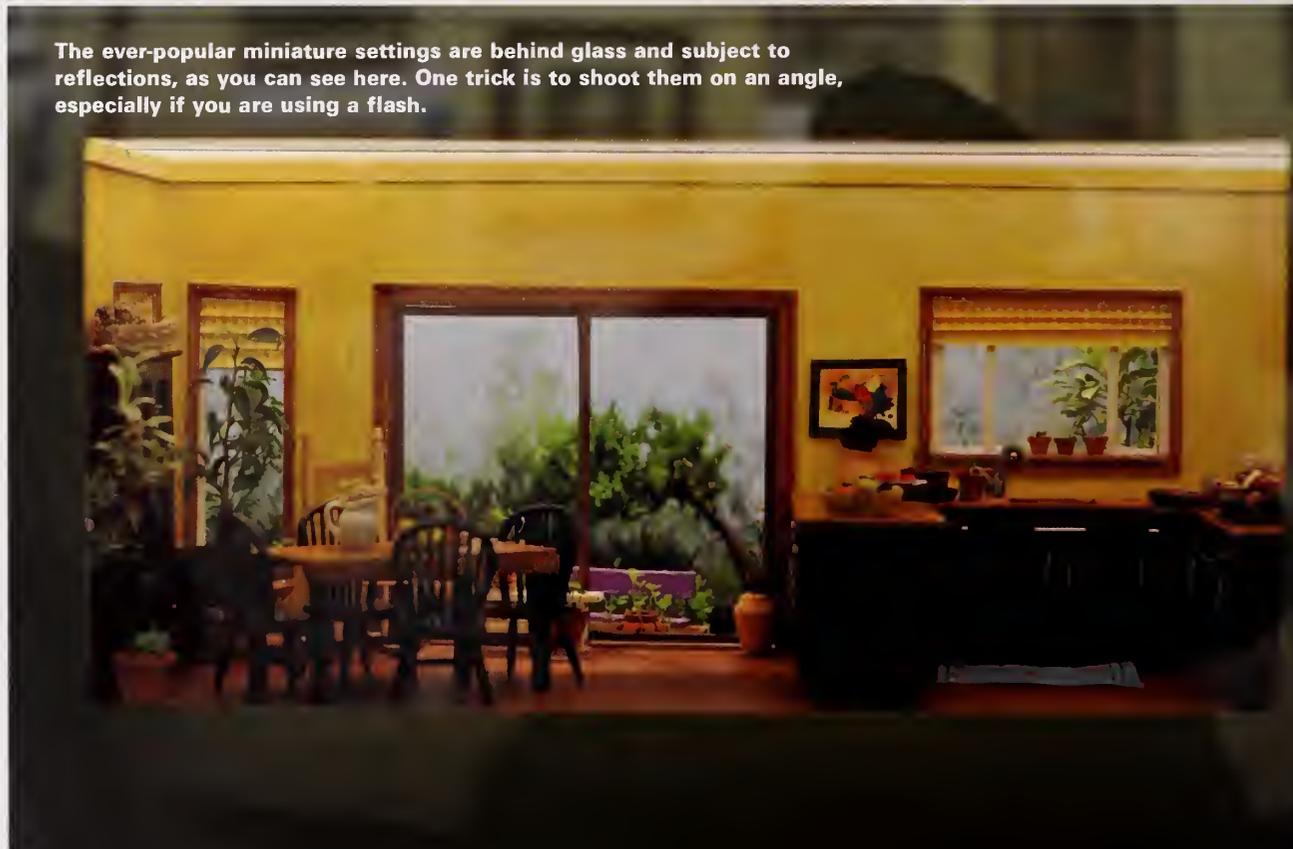


Flash dialed down three stops allowed the photographer to get the correct exposure here.



Using PhotoShop to lighten shadows and darken highlights salvaged this picture of the Flower Show's entrance.

The ever-popular miniature settings are behind glass and subject to reflections, as you can see here. One trick is to shoot them on an angle, especially if you are using a flash.



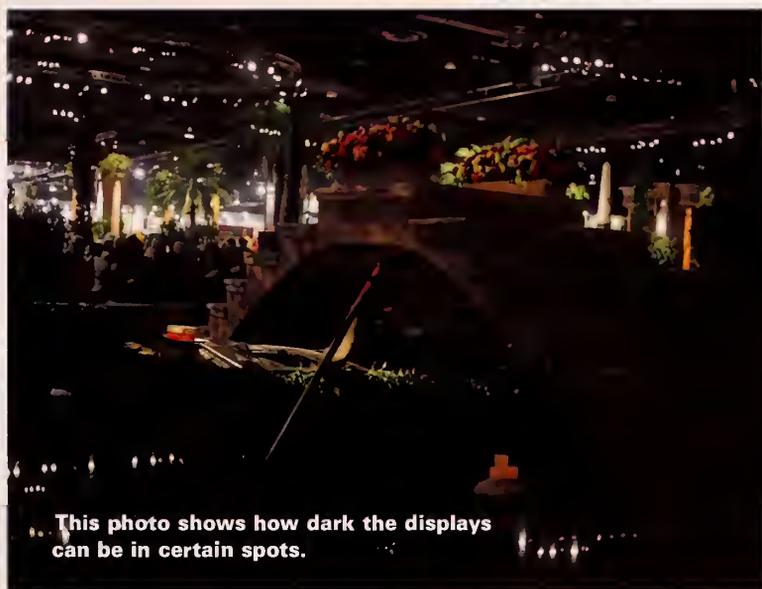
Combining people and plants can make interesting pictures.



Getting both the photographer and her subject in focus required an aperture setting of F7.



This photo shows how dark the displays can be in certain spots.



Flash worked for this horticultural display.





Simple Tips for **PLANTING** in **PUBLIC SPACES**

By Jane Carroll & Daniel Moise

Photo by Jane Carroll





Photo by Margaret Funderburg

Greening is often—fittingly enough—a *grassroots* endeavor. If you and some friends, colleagues, or classmates want to make a difference in your community, consider organizing a planting day at a park or public space. Some carefully selected perennials, shrubs, and trees can significantly invigorate a community space. First, obtain permission from the property owner, and then be sure to assess each of the following:

LOCATION

If you are going to invest time and energy into creating and maintaining a planting, choose a location with the most significant impact. A lovely entrance to your nearby public library, park, or town square will draw visitors and can be a point of pride for your entire community. An eye-catching display will help build enthusiasm for additional improvements. Other high-profile locations are sitting areas where visitors can enjoy the view or rest their feet.

Do not plant immediately adjacent to trees, since tree roots can make this difficult and flowers and shrubs must compete with the tree for nutrients and water.

LIGHT

Observe the light conditions in potential planting areas. Determine whether the site receives direct sunlight for most of the day (six hours or more, known as full sun), part of the day (part shade), or is completely in shade all day. Select plants according to their light needs. The PHS Gold Medal Plant Awards website (goldmedalplants.org) is a good place to start; you can search for woody plants by sun or shade preference.

SOIL

Heavy clay soil or hard, compacted soil will need to be amended before planting can begin. Dig deep to loosen the soil and mix in compost or good-quality topsoil before planting. Many hands make light work in removing large rocks and weeds.

MAINTENANCE

Choose low-maintenance plants when possible; plants native to your region are often good choices. Find one plant or shrub that you like and plant a lot of it, rather than a variety of plants. This planting style, called massing, is easier to maintain.

Even people with the best intentions may find it difficult to manage the upkeep of high-maintenance plantings. If possible, devise a maintenance schedule to help ensure that the new plantings are cared for throughout the year.

WATER CONSERVATION

Even if your park or public space has a reliable water source, consider drought-tolerant plants and native plants that require less water. This not only conserves water, but also frees you and other volunteers to spend time on other projects. Also, drought-tolerant plants survive better during dry spells. You'll thank yourself in the long run for choosing these tough, reliable plants. 🌱

Excerpted from the *PHS City Parks Handbook* (available at Amazon.com).

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PHS staff member Julie Snell lays out plants for the rain garden.

Rainwater Innovation at a **PHILLY CHARTER SCHOOL**

By Daniel Moise

During recess at Independence Charter School, located at 16th & Lombard streets in Center City Philadelphia, the students now enjoy a playground that's both fun and functional. Equipped with stormwater management technology, the new schoolyard provides a dynamic learning environment.

Working in partnership with the Philadelphia Water Department and other organizations, PHS (through its Philadelphia Green program) helped students and teachers learn how their building could reduce its impact on the environment. Although Independence had recently renovated its playground, PHS's Julie Snell saw an opportunity to make it more ecological.

"The ultimate goal of stormwater management is to decrease the amount of rainfall that enters the sewers. That helps keep our rivers pollution-free," Julie says. "We wanted to equip the school with landscape improvements that divert, retain, and re-purpose rainwater—all while providing a learning opportunity for the students. We set to work on a master plan."

Michele Adams and Susan McDaniels from Meliora Environmental Design assisted PHS and the Water Department in drafting the plan. Once the design was complete, the group hired ThinkGreen of Glenside, PA, to perform the installation.

The clock was ticking when construction began in late July 2009—everyone hoped to complete the project before school started on September 8. Although it required long days and lots of effort, everything was in place when the buses, each teeming with excited kids, arrived for the first day of school.

The children, as well as parents, teachers, and school faculty, saw a new play yard that had been repaved with new surfaces, including porous asphalt. Now, rather than discharging surface runoff, the play yard captures rainwater on site and lets it absorb into an infiltration bed underneath.

"Re-grading the play yard provided a safer and smoother surface for the children to run on and play games," Susan McDaniels says. "The entire area is much more attractive."

"We were also able to use recycled materials for much of the new paving," adds Peter Johnson, cofounder of ThinkGreen. "Our goal was to make this already-green project as earth-friendly as possible."

A new brick walkway directs rainfall that flows into the rain garden into a pebble runnel, or "surface gutter." A rain garden is a shallow basin or depression planted with native perennials, trees, and shrubs that tolerate wet conditions. Here, water can collect and slowly seep into the ground. An overflow structure allows for easy drainage in the event of excessive rainfall.

"The rain garden is a perfect example of something that homeowners can install to capture runoff from their rooftops or driveways. It adds an aesthetic improvement, too," Susan says. "For the children at Independence Charter School, it demonstrates how the water cycle works by showing where the water 'goes' in a rain storm."

Julie Snell says, "We had some of the older students help plant grasses and perennials in the rain garden. (These were donated by North Creek Nurseries, a wholesale grower that specializes in native perennials, northcreeknurseries.com.) They had fun digging in the soil and using the tools, but equally important is that they understood how their efforts, and the project as a whole, help keep our water cleaner."

The new play yard incorporates stormwater technology.





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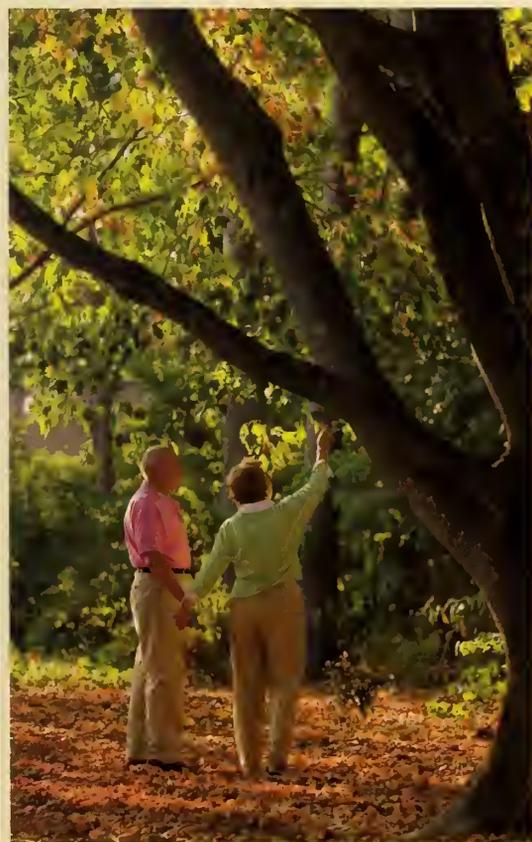
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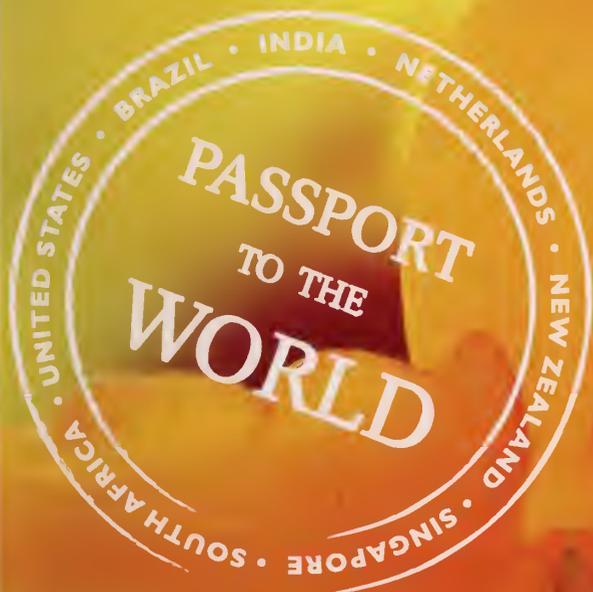
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14



22



28



34

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FEATURES 8

10

14

22

28

34

A Flower Show-Inspired Dream Room

In Center City Philadelphia, Heather and Michael Ascher gave up a parking spot behind their house but gained a "garden room" that will provide year-round color. Join us for a tour.

Springing into Spring

Noted horticulturist Stephanie Cohen shares a few of her favorite early perennials for the bed or border.

2010 Flower Show Preview

Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse at the upcoming Philadelphia International Flower Show and its theme, *Passport to the World*. Time to pack a suitcase!

A Garden for the Spirit

Adam Levine takes us to Bryn Athyn Cathedral, north of Philadelphia, which has a landscape of, dare we say, divine beauty and heavenly gardens.

Bountiful Berries in the Cold

Jessie Keith teaches us about several plants that offer colorful fruit during the cold season.

Tiny Marvels

Last year, two ladies from Delaware County entered the Flower Show's vaunted "Miniature Settings" class and took home a world of experiences and excitement. Let's learn more.

COLUMNS 40

Greening Basics

Lawns for Public Spaces

46

The Backyard

A Busy Roadway Adds a Splash of Color



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The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture.

The Flower Show's New "INTERNATIONAL" Flavor

I've always been a traveler. It's how I expand my world and bring home what I learn about the gardens and landscapes of other countries. The horticulture of other lands also has had an important place in the exhibition halls of the Philadelphia Flower Show since it began.

In June 1829, at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's first "exhibition of fruits, flowers and plants," a bird-of-paradise from the Cape of Good Hope and a Mexican plant now known as the poinsettia were introduced to American gardeners. The exhibition also included peonies from China, a rubber tree from India, and sugar cane from the Caribbean. Shows in the 1880s reflected growing interest in Japanese chrysanthemums. In the 1930s, Dutch bulbs took the limelight, and later English flower-arranging had a strong influence.

Exhibitors from Asia, Europe, and Canada participated in the Flower Show in the 1980s. African and Latin American exhibitors brought fabulous flora in the 1990s. Irish and Italian partners joined us in presenting wonderful shows in 2007 and 2009.

So it should come as no surprise that in 2010 we've taken on a new name. From February 28 through March 7, 2010 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, PHS will present the Philadelphia *International* Flower Show. It is our way of acknowledging that the Show has become a world-renowned, world-class exhibition.

To launch the new name, we have the perfect theme for the 2010 Show: *Passport to the World*. Guests will be transported to dozens of destinations around the globe and enjoy a diverse, multicultural experience. To begin the journey, they will enter through an Explorer's Garden, a turn-of-the-century setting featuring a Victorian gate, Wardian glass cases and gazebos, spectacular fountains, and

a 28-foot-high hot-air balloon adorned with freeze-dried roses and pansies.

Visitors will then embark on their own adventures. The first of the Showcase Gardens will recreate an Indian wedding scene decorated with palm trees, cascading jasmine, bright marigolds, and a towering elephant covered in flowers. The culture and landscapes of South Africa will be expressed in tribal headdresses and masks, floral animals, and a walk-through hut. Thousands of gorgeous bulbs will bloom in a Dutch shop and street scene, and a luminescent tribute to



the orchid will represent Singapore's national botanical gardens. A flowing dragon will wind its way through a depiction of the salt springs and rugged landscape of New Zealand, while a canopy of tropical flora and sparkling waterfalls greet visitors to the Brazilian rainforest. Watch for exotic birds, both imaginary and real!

Other exhibits will celebrate the landscapes and plants of China, Japan, Thailand, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, and the Caribbean. Visitors can even enjoy the spectacle of the Aurora Borealis from the Flower Show floor.

Of course, the Show will feature thousands of plant and floral design entries in hundreds of competitive categories. More than 150 gar-

dening presentations and educational events will take place throughout the week. A redesigned PHS Village will offer a sampler of our programs, highlighted by two demonstration gardens where visitors can pick up tips and find answers to horticultural questions.

Shoppers will find everything they need for the garden and home in the fabulous Marketplace. They can also visit the World Bazaar of decorative shops on the Show Bridge, featuring crafts and products from around the world. An expanded PA Wine & Spirits Store in the Grand Hall will include free tastings, and an International Dessert and Coffee Bar will offer a refreshing break between travels.

Live performances will lift the spirit and soul, from the rhythm of the Brazilian samba to the beat of Bollywood and beyond. Expect great music and dance on the Explorer's Stage.

Flower Show ticket sales benefit Philadelphia Green, our acclaimed urban revitalization program, as well as other PHS outreach and educational activities. Providing a strong foundation are our dedicated sponsors. We are very grateful to our Presenting Sponsor for 19 years, PNC Bank. Heartfelt thanks to Premier Sponsor Subaru of America Inc.; Official Sponsors Acme Markets, Bartlett Tree Experts, EP Henry, Mantis, and Tourism Ireland; Media Partner WPVI-TV 6ABC; and caterer ARAMARK.

Your *Passport* is stamped and ready, and I hope you'll accompany me on a journey to exotic landscapes; extraordinary sights, scents, and tastes; and delightful entertainment. Many thanks to our amazing exhibitors, who give us so much pleasure with their stunning displays. And, as always, thanks to all of you for your support of PHS.

—Jane G. Pepper
PHS President



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Congratulations Jane and all the best.

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SUBARU

Taking the
FLOWER SHOW
Home

By Daniel Moise



Inspiration sometimes comes when you least expect it. When Center City residents Heather and Michael Ascher attended the Philadelphia Flower Show in 2006, they didn't anticipate that a certain exhibit would inspire a major home renovation.

"The Flower Show has always showcased the possibilities of interior gardens, and in the past I had always left with an idea or two," Heather recalls. "But that year, the instant I saw the Meadowbrook Farm exhibit, the wheels in my head began to turn." The display was of a walled garden filled with hardy plants and adorned with hanging baskets. Heather wondered, "Could I create such a setting in my own home?"

For years the Aschers craved a private outdoor space, but this luxury seemed unrealistic for their townhouse at 22nd Street and St. James Place (part of what's called the English Village). Heather says the property's original design did include a small, shared lawn, but homes had expanded since then, leaving the Aschers with only a narrow parking spot.

What if the parking space could become a garden room? Before leaving the Convention Center that day, Heather and Michael decided they had to try.

For a project this big, the Aschers knew they couldn't do it alone. Heather's first call was to John Story, director of Meadowbrook Farm. John helped create the Flower Show exhibit that had inspired the Aschers, so he seemed like a logical choice for selecting the best plants for the space.

Due to the unorthodox dimensions of the planned room, the Aschers knew whoever they hired to construct the greenhouse-like ceiling would have to be the type who embraces a challenge. Fortunately, they found

Robert J. LaRouche of Glass Enclosures Unlimited. Rounding out the team was architect Tim Kerner of Terra Studios. His role was bringing the outdoors inside while maintaining an open, airy feel. Heather sings Tim's praises, saying, "He is a genius when it comes to space. You can have the best ideas, but to see them realized you need to have the expertise of professionals."

The long construction period is a distant memory now as the Aschers revel in their new room. Tim says he's most pleased with the way the space makes the adjoining dining room and kitchen far brighter than before. For her part, Heather gushes about the fresh air provided by a set of louvre windows (glass panels that tilt to a near-vertical degree).

As for Michael, he is elated to have the opportunity to garden year-round. The room is equipped with a beautiful bronze sink with a spigot tucked below for watering plants, and heating coils under the tile floor help regulate the temperature.

To stock the room, John Story had invited the Aschers to visit Meadowbrook Farm, PHS's affiliate located in Abington Township. There they not only purchased their plants, but had them potted as well. After that, Mark Petteruti of Botanical Expressions helped lay out where the plants would go. Some of Michael's new-found favorites include two varieties of begonia, 'Defoe' and 'Palomar Prince', as well as 'False Aralia' (*Schefflera elegantissima*), 'Ming Aralia' (*Polyscias fruticosa*), and 'Tweed' (*Anthurium polychistum*).

As they putter around their indoor garden, the Aschers are visibly delighted. Heather sighs, "Many talented people contributed many, many hours to complete this project; I'm so appreciative. And to think, it all started at the Flower Show." 🌿

Photos by Margaret Funderburg



Left: **The completed garden room**

Below: **Architect Tim Kerner (left) with Heather and Michael**



Left: **The architect's rendering of the new exterior.**

Below: **The former parking spot is now an extension of the home.**





Top & Bottom: *Lunaria annua*

There is More to Spring

Than Meets the Eye

Underused Early Perennials
for the Border

by Stephanie Cohen

For gardeners who *gush* over the first crocus and go into ecstasy at the earliest blooms of forsythia, there are equally excellent perennials out there crying for a good press agent. The four selections we'll look at here deserve their 15 minutes of fame so they, too, can become stars of your spring garden.

The first is blue star, known as *Amsonia* × 'Blue Ice' (Zones 5 to 9), which is a wonderful combination of *Amsonia tabernaemontana* and *Amsonia montana*. Neither parent claims this child, so it needs a home in your garden. A native found in most of the eastern United States, it flourishes in average garden soil with full sun (in shade it develops a stance like the Leaning Tower of Pisa). It has no major insect or disease problems, requires no pruning, and needs no winter protection. Easy is good!

This perennial is a scant 12 to 15 inches tall, so let it grow into big clumps for best impact. Since it is on the smaller side, 'Blue Ice' makes a perfect plant for the edge of a border, for rock gardens, and in all types of naturalistic plantings. Its lovely dark blue, star-like flowers bloom longer than most other blue stars. Unlike some other spring flowers, it will not look shabby in the dog days of summer. And the intensely colored flowers contrast nicely with the green leaves that turn mellow yellow in fall. Try it!

My next suggestion is a columbine called *Aquilegia vulgaris* 'William Guinness'. Unfortunately, old Bill got into a bit of difficulty in Britain. He came to the States in the witness protection program as 'Maggie', but it's the same guy! These old-fashioned flowers are sometimes referred to as (the far-less-masculine) Granny's bonnet and are hardy in Zones 3 to 8. It is a short-spurred columbine, and its handsome coloration—a white corolla with deep-purple inner petals—makes it look black. Some think it is the color of a pint of Guinness Stout.

All columbines perform best in good garden loam sited in part shade. However, since they have never read the garden textbooks, they grow wherever they drop their seeds. Columbines have a habit of interbreeding, so plant different cultivars in different areas or you will have unusual progeny. Also be aware of the threat posed by leaf miners (insect larvae that live in and eat plant tissue). You can use spray, but personally I just plant columbines among hostas, which when mature do a wonderful job of concealing less-than-perfect columbine leaves. Really, their basic appeal is their charm as an old-fashioned plant that

Photos by Pajb Garding



Tiarella cordifolia



'William Guinness'

gives your garden a cozy cottage feel. To quote Dr. Allan Armitage, “a garden without columbine is unacceptable.”

Now forgive me for cheating a bit, because the next plant is really a biennial (although sometimes it doesn't look that way because it pops up elsewhere in the garden). *Lunaria annua* is often called honesty or money plant and grows in Zones 4 to 8. If you need a fast buck, this won't help you—it got its name from the fruit that appears after flowering. The fruit's papery outer covering falls off, but you can peel it off to collect seeds and control self-sowing. What remains is a 2-inch-wide, round, dried silvery disc; hence, the common name. A word of warning, do not plant all the seeds because you will have more money in your garden than you ever wanted!

The money plant grows 2 to 3 feet tall with heart-shaped, dark green leaves. The dainty, medium purple flowers that appear in April or May blend well with other spring bulbs and perennials. They look especially cool with white daffodils. I'm partial to *Lunaria* var. *variegata*, which has white margins around the edges of the leaves and looks attractive when not in flower. It pairs well with *Lunaria* var. *alba*, the white money plant.

Lunaria annua grows in average soil and full sun, but in my garden it has seeded in light shade and hasn't complained. For indoor use, it looks great in dried arrangements or winter bouquets. Although after a season or two the silvery discs become dust collectors, so cut some new ones.

Last, but not least, check out the *Tiarella cordifolia* Diva-rella series, developed by Sinclair Adam of Dunvegan Nursery in West Chester, PA (dunvegan-nursery.com), and named after three divas of the plant world. The foamflowers in question are: 'F. M. Mooberry', named for the founder of the Millersville Native Plant Conference; 'Dr. Sherry Kitto', after a

prominent researcher and professor at the University of Delaware; and, flatteringly enough, 'Stephanie Cohen', named in honor of me.

Short, like me, *Tiarella* 'Stephanie Cohen' is a great plant for any shade garden and is possibly one of the most floriferous foamflowers on the market. As the clump widens, it sends up more flowers, which makes it very long-blooming. Use it in the front border, a rock garden, in containers, or as a groundcover. Mine has good fall color as well. It grows in Zones 3 to 8 and requires moisture-retentive soil and good garden loam. Better still, it isn't every day you can have a diva in your garden. 🌱

Stephanie Cohen is a nationally known garden writer, lecturer and educator. Among her titles is *The Perennial Gardener's Design Primer* (Storey Publishing).

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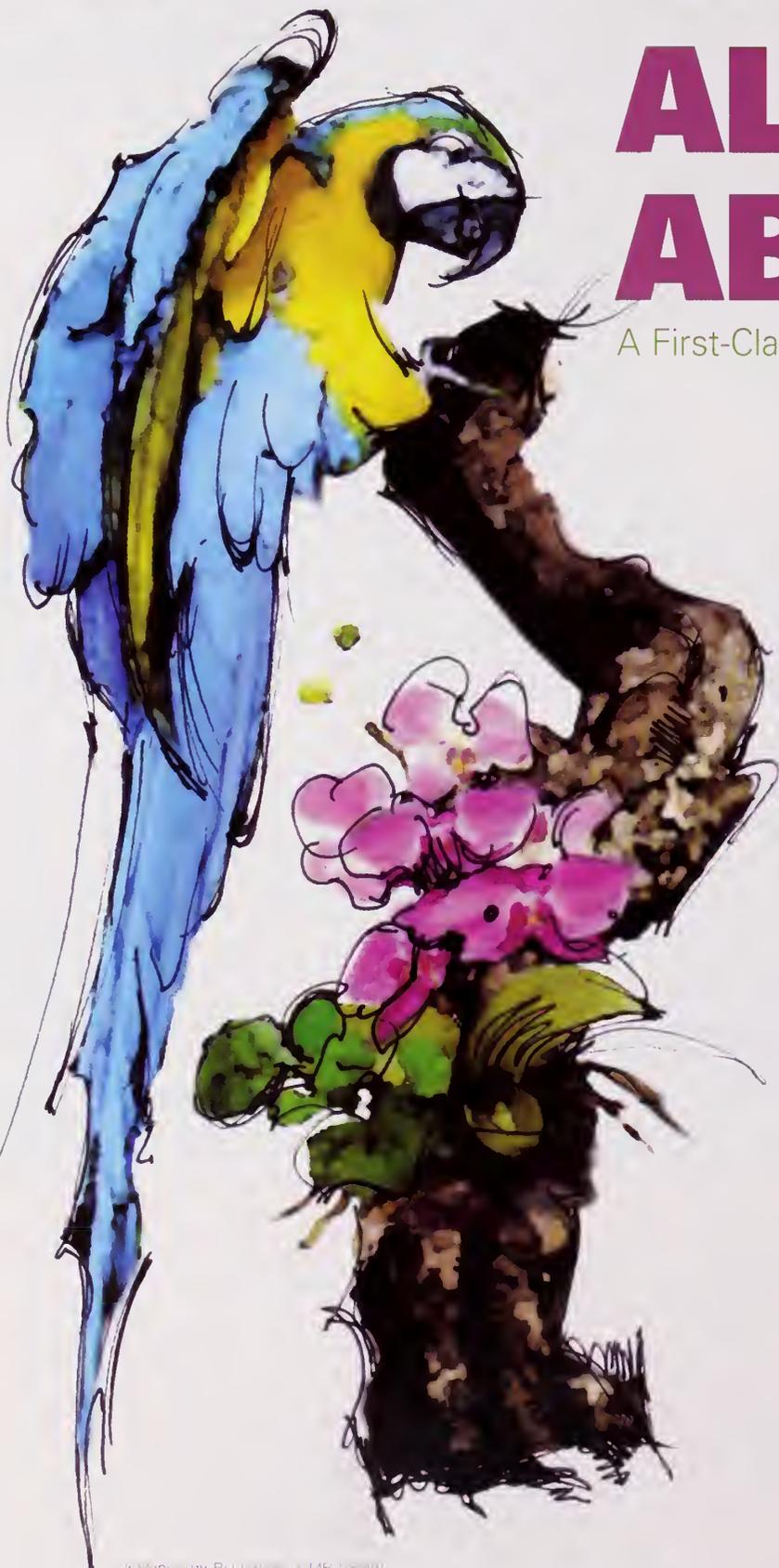


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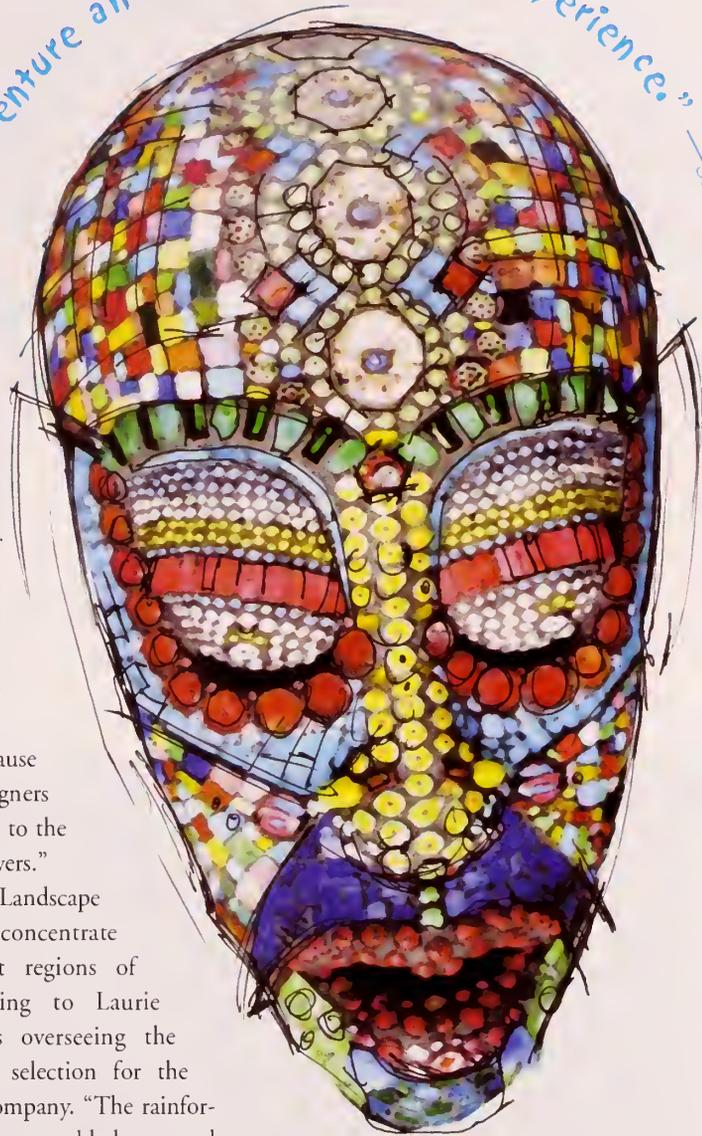
After a cold, dark winter hibernating at home, why not travel the globe and delight in its most glorious flowers, plants, and gardens? Your ticket to the 2010 Philadelphia International Flower Show is all you need for your *Passport to the World*. “We want our visitors to go on an adventure and have an amazing experience,” says Sam Lemheney, Show design director. “We want them to feel like they’re going around the world.”

When you come to the Flower Show, you’ll feel that sense of adventure and discovery as soon as you walk under the entranceway, a canopy of fragrance and cascading arrangements of flowers. You’ll see a hot-air balloon floating 28 feet off the floor. As you get closer, you’ll see more than 80,000 dried flowers covering the balloon and depicting a globe of the world. This was created by Barb King of Valley Forge Flowers, along with her staff and a team of volunteers.

With this airborne introduction to the Show’s “Explorer’s Garden,” you will have a chance to appreciate exotic plants collected from around the world, including some introduced at the first Philadelphia Flower Show in 1829. Others are descended directly from species collected during the Wilkes Expedition of the Pacific almost 200 years ago.

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Longwood Gardens, and the U.S. Botanic Garden are all forcing plants for

“We want our visitors to go on an adventure and have an amazing experience.” —Sam Lemheney



the Flower Show, including echium; African bulbs; poinsettias; cycads; angiopteris; giant platter water lilies; and, if all goes well, *Meconopsis*—the blue Himalayan poppy that is notoriously difficult to force into bloom or grow in the Philadelphia area. “It will be a first to have all these plants together in one garden,” Sam says.

Showcase gardens surround the Explorer’s Garden and will transport visitors to six horticulturally diverse corners of the globe, from the Brazilian rainforest to an Indian wedding scene. Here’s a glimpse:

The American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) will re-create a village in **SOUTH AFRICA**. Representing three tribes, the exhibit will feature two beehive huts, a life-size giraffe and lion, flocks of birds on overhead branches, 20 wildly interpretive masks, and more. “It will be like we dug up 2,500 square feet of a village and brought it

to the Convention Center,” notes Ron Mulray, owner of the Philadelphia Flower Co. and coordinator of the AIFD exhibit. “We want the set to be very authentic, because we know the designers are going to take it to the next level with flowers.”

Burke Brothers Landscape Contractors will concentrate on the rainforest regions of **BRAZIL**, according to Laurie Clabbers, who is overseeing the design and plant selection for the Wyndmoor, PA, company. “The rainforest offered a chance to add drama and a sense of mystery to the Show,” she says. “The

Above and left. **Artistic drawings used during Flower Show planning.**

Bottom **Valley Forge Flowers creates the giant floral globe.**



Story by **Borsie Blodgett**

"The rainforest offered a chance to add drama and a sense of mystery to the Show."



exhibit will feature a large lagoon with a waterfall, surrounded by dense foliage and vines. Within that foliage will be hundreds of bright bromeliads, heliconias, begonias, and anthuriums." Don't miss the vibrant topiary flamingos, a lurking caiman, and predatory eyes watching from the jungle—not to mention live tropical birds flying freely about the exhibit, courtesy

of the Philadelphia Zoo.

Jamie Rothstein Distinctive Floral Designs will create a traditional wedding scene from INDIA in a flower-laden garden. The Philadelphia floral designer has done extensive research on India's wedding customs and rituals, so visitors can expect to see a traditional wedding *mandap*, or canopy, as well as lots of marigolds, garlands, floral mosaics, jasmine, and a life-size moss elephant draped in a floral blanket (with painted toenails, of course). Jamie says, "I want people to take away the essence of India after they visit the exhibit—the colors, the smell of flowers and spices, the excitement of all

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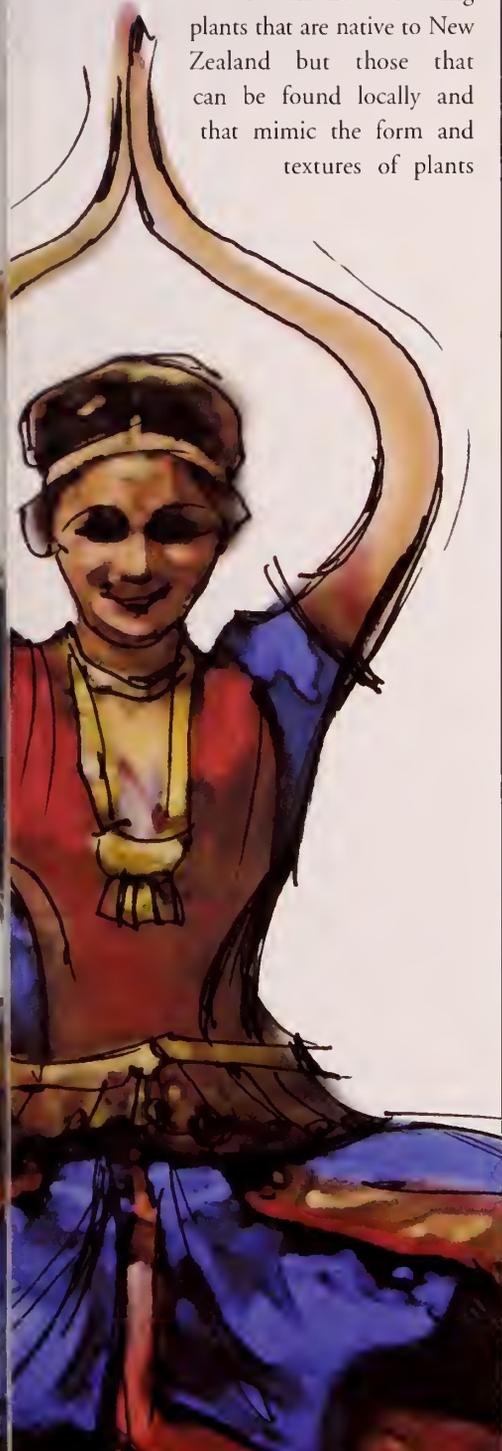


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“We will not be using plants that are native to New Zealand but those that can be found locally and that mimic the form and textures of plants



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Waldor's
Walt Off with
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found in New Zealand gardens," explains Jack Blandy, Stoney Banks's founder and president. Look for the Maori totem, which was carved from a Paulownia tree trunk harvested from the Glen Mills nursery, and the specially designed "Hot Water Lizard Sculpture" that will carry water down its back to geothermal pools, designed by artist Greg Leavitt.

For an urban experience, hit the streets of the **NETHERLANDS**, featuring a flower market, water display, and quaint Dutch lanes. "You'll feel like you're right inside a town in Holland," promises Lisa Roth of Robertson's Flowers in Philadelphia. Lead designers Karina Keff and Eric Schellack are working with European growers and trying to get as many different specimens as possible to deliver a surprise-filled, tulip-packed exhibit.

Waldor Orchids will create an Asian-inspired orchid tree for its **SINGAPORE** garden. The exhibit will offer "a big show of blooming *Phalaenopsis*, a white fountain of more than 200 plants," says Dave Off, who with his father, Walt, is designing Waldor's display. Although trees draped in flowering plants are typically seen in Asian shows, Dave assures us that Waldor's creation will be a first for the Philadelphia International Flower Show. A reflecting pool will enhance the walk-through exhibit.

PHS president Jane G. Pepper, who will preside over her final Flower Show before she retires this year, notes, "I'm so excited for this year's Flower Show. It's our first truly 'international' show and a great way to see, literally, a world of gardens." 🌿



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SHOW INFORMATION

DATES

February 28 - March 7, 2010

LOCATION

Pennsylvania Convention Center
12th & Arch streets
Philadelphia, PA

THEME

Passport to the World

INFORMATION

215-988-8899 (recorded information)
theflowershow.com

HOURS

Sundays, February 28 & March 7, 8 am to 6 pm
Monday – Friday, March 1 – 5, 10 am to 9:30 pm
Saturday, March 6, 8 am to 9:30 pm

ADMISSION

ADULTS

Advance Tickets (good any one day):
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Individual: \$23*

Tickets at the Door/General Admission:

Opening Day, Sunday, February 28: \$28

Monday – Friday, March 1 – 5: \$24

Saturday & Sunday, March 6 & 7: \$26

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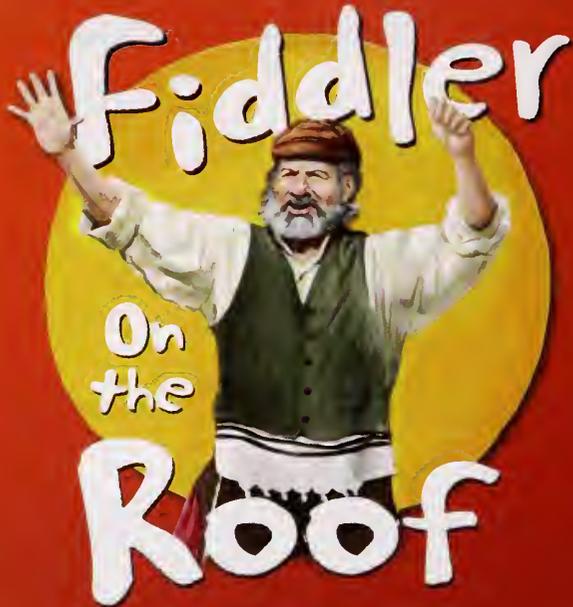
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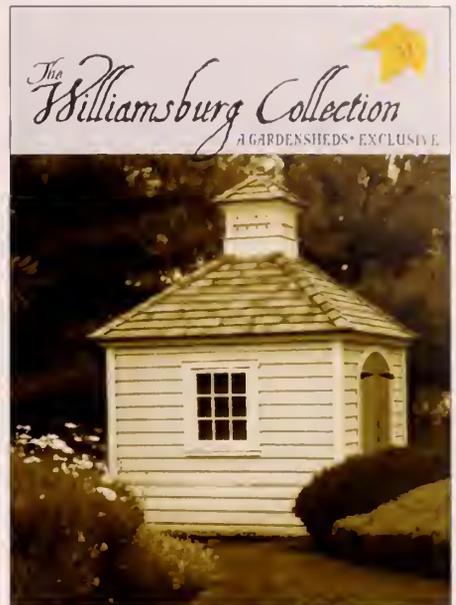
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TRANSCENDENT

When Rob Cardillo and I began researching our book, *A Guide to the Great Gardens of the Philadelphia Region*, in 2006, we thought we already knew everything we wanted to include. Of course, we quickly learned that in spite of our combined half-century of visiting gardens in the region, we did not, indeed, know it all.

One of our most surprising discoveries was the series of gardens around Bryn Athyn Cathedral, the spiritual center of the New Church, a Christian religion based on the teachings of Swedish scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg. Both of us were familiar with the monumental building, an architectural landmark in the borough of Bryn Athyn, PA, but we were surprised to find it surrounded by beautifully designed gardens bursting with color and meaning.

One reason we had never heard of these gardens is that they are relatively new. Only after Danielle Odhner, a Bryn Athyn garden designer and a church member, began volunteering on the 15-acre Cathedral grounds in 1991, did there begin to be any horticulture worth noticing at all. In prior years, says Odhner, the pride of the grounds was a vast lawn composed of bentgrass, the same turf used on golf course putting greens. Keeping this grass putting-green short and vibrant green required three mowings a week and extensive applications of fertilizers and pesticides, at a cost of thousands of dollars a month. Odhner became the Cathedral's head gardener in 1997, and while there is still plenty of grass on the 15-acre grounds, it's no longer high maintenance. And over time, she and her talented crews have replaced grass with garden beds that get more beautiful and refined with each passing year.

While the architecture and ornamentation of the building, with its 150-foot tower and dramatic hilltop setting, provide a backdrop that most garden designers can only dream of, for Odhner the gardens are more than a way to showcase her considerable horticultural skills. Glenn Miller, in a 1971 book, *Bryn Athyn Cathedral: Making of a New Church*, explained the simple goal of that decades-long construction project: "To build worthily for the worship of the Lord." In a similar vein, Odhner's work to transform the grounds around the Cathedral could be considered "gardening worthily for the worship of the Lord."

"The Cathedral incorporates specific spiritual sym-

bolism," Odhner says, "and the gardens are designed after that model. It seemed the only way to do it, to tie the grounds to the building. The indoors and outdoors now work together; they're like brother and sister." (For any visitor, the inside of the Cathedral is as beautiful as the gardens outside, and a tour of the building will help explain the symbolism of the landscape.)

Where once was only lawn, five distinct garden areas now ring the Cathedral and a terrace below it, flowing together so seamlessly that it's hard to tell where one ends and the other begins. Color combinations in the different gardens represent various teachings of the Church. The East Border, planted in "fiery" colors such as red, yellow, and orange, represents a story from the Book of Revelations about a woman clothed with the sun. The south-facing Children's Garden, with pastel colors that are a testament to innocence and natural goodness, has become a popular site for baptisms. In the nearby Marriage Love Garden, purple-hued flowers predominate, representing the combination of red and blue in mutual love.

The Northern Shade Garden is the most extensive and beautiful, with large trees and shrubs shading a miniature woodland carpeted with perennials and bulbs. Here the predominant colors are shades of green, which represents "truth obscured" in the Church's teachings. It is no coincidence that the doorway to "truth revealed"—the Church itself—is opposite this garden.

An active group of volunteers meets on Friday mornings during the gardening season to help Odhner and her staff. This activity is the envy of other nearby churches, several of which have asked for advice in setting up volunteer grounds crews of their own. Odhner freely tells them her secret. "I work them for an hour, then make them stop—and then feed them," she says. "And in my case, I send them home with extra plants." Depending on the weather, she might have from five to 20 people on any Friday morning, most from within the Bryn Athyn community but some garden lovers from outside as well.

With support of the Cathedral staff, Odhner is now poised to expand her gardening efforts to other buildings that comprise the Bryn Athyn Historic District. In addition, she runs an annual ten-week beekeeping course that is always sold out, and hopes to offer other



Reds, blues, and purples combine symbolically in the Marriage Love Garden.

BEAUTY

The Gardens at Bryn Athyn Cathedral



Story by Adam Levine
Photography by Rob Cardillo

Bryn Athyn Cathedral

courses in the future. Honey from the beehives; eggs from her flock of free-range chickens; and fresh herbs, cut flowers, and extra plants from the gardens are sold at the Bryn Athyn Thrift Shop, raising money for the Cathedral and raising awareness of her activities. Other plans include the creation of a small educational organic farm growing heirloom vegetables to help feed the many students in the community, including those of Bryn Athyn College.

"If I had said 10 years ago, I want to create an educational farm for people who want to learn about agriculture from the soil up, I would have been told, 'That has nothing to do with the Church,'" Ohdner says. "But now, all of a sudden, green is the thing, everyone's worrying about carbon footprints, and there's a whole shift in thinking and education."

"My life lesson," she adds, "is that someone has to start it. A lot of people will go to their boss or to a Board and say, 'You ought



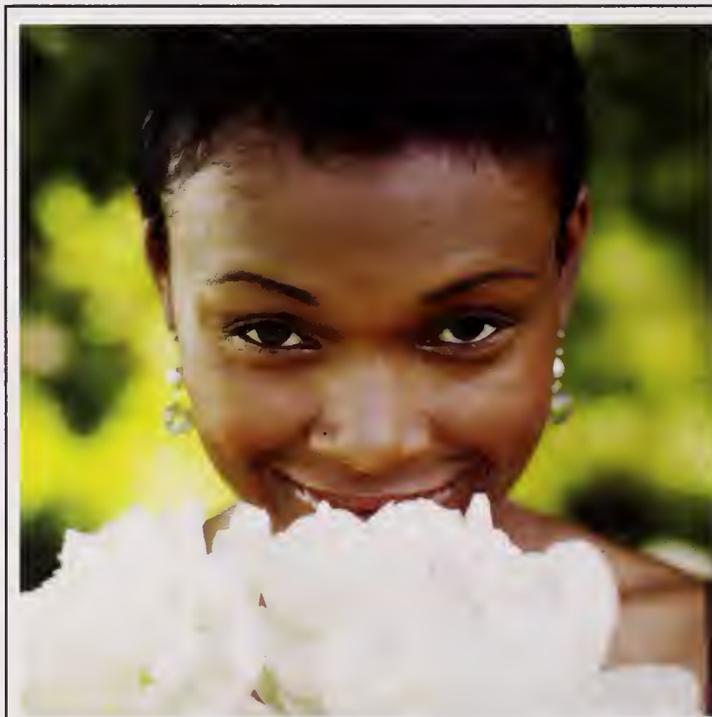
Sheltered by crape myrtle trees, a simple bench invites visitors to sit and reflect.

to be doing this or that.' But someone has to do the pilot program; someone has to show them that it works. That's my gift—making nests, setting up situations where things can happen."

Garden lovers have much to look forward to as Ohdner expands her horticultural and agricultural activities in Bryn Athyn. As with many people who nurture the earth, she knows that the beauty of a garden is only on the surface, only the beginning. The act of

gardening brings us out of ourselves, makes us care about the larger world, even if only our own small corner of it. Gardening feeds our souls, whatever our conception of that soul may be. By putting us in a spirit of giving and grace, it makes us better people, and the world a better place.

Bryn Athyn Cathedral Gardens, 900 Cathedral Road, Bryn Athyn, PA, 215-947-0266, brynathyncathedral.org



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Bryn Athyn Cathedral



The grand beauty of the cathedral is matched by the surrounding gardens.



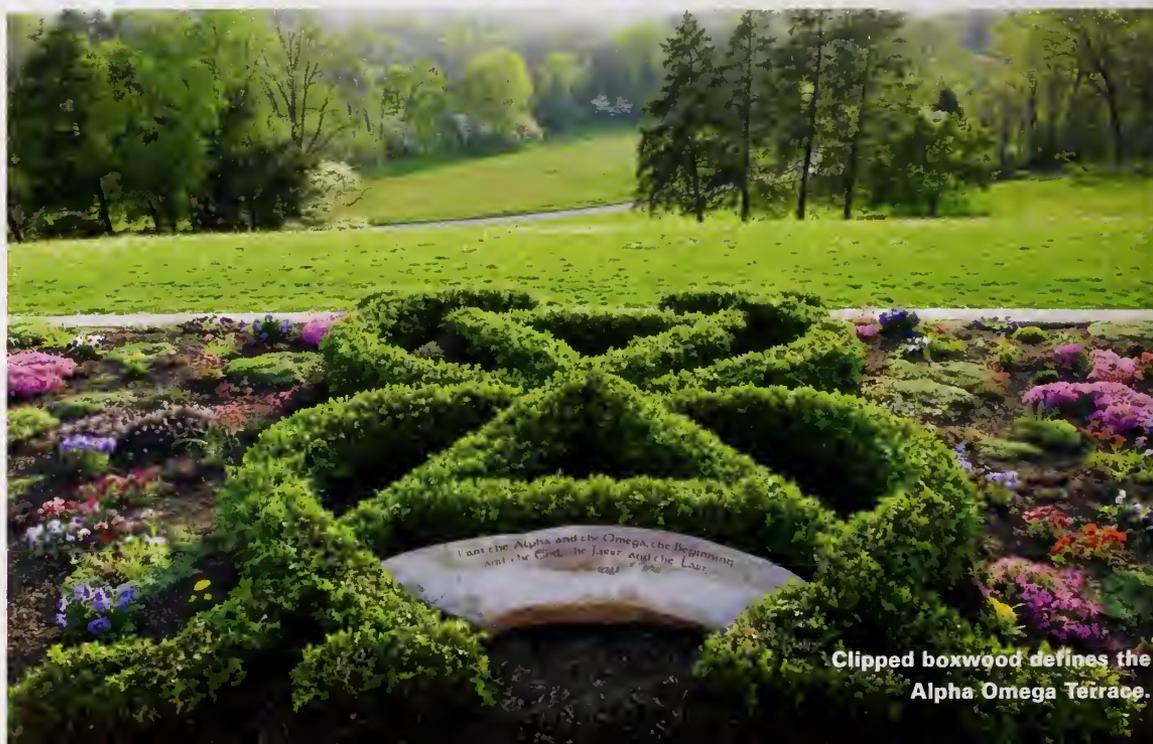
A flowering dogwood softens a stone terrace.



Imaginatively planted containers greet the congregation.



A window offers a peek at the Northern Shade Garden.



Clipped boxwood defines the Alpha Omega Terrace.



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The **FRUITS** of Winter

In the gray winter landscape, when we all could use a little color, many hardy woody plants bear attractive, persistent fruits in shades of red, yellow, or orange. These winter wonders not only feed wildlife and decorate indoor holiday displays, but the very sight of their round, waxy berries has the remarkable ability to cheer our souls. When designing a new garden or landscape planting, take note of this cold-season palette.

For starters, what would winter be without the hallmark red berries of holly (*Ilex*)?

But other fruiting plants offer stunning color, too, through russet red hips, indigo berries, and violet-fruited clusters. The vibrant pomes, hips, and berries of firethorn, wintergreen, red chokeberry, and viburnum make the winter landscape come alive. Some of the best trees for winter color are hawthorns, such as *Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King', a PHS Gold Medal Plant Award winner.

The heavy-fruiting, brilliant red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia* 'Brilliantissima') produces pendulous clusters of ruby-hued fruits that ripen in fall and persist until the

Ilex verticillata 'Winter Gold'



Story & Photographs
by Jessie Keith

Viburnum nudum var. *cassinoides*



Ilex serrata 'Gempei'



Viburnum dilatatum

birds find them, usually by mid-winter. Fiery red foliage in autumn adds to the show, but these plants lose no charm after the leaves have fallen.

Most people think of beautyberries as summer fruits, but some cultivars have unusually persistent berries, such as *Callicarpa dichotoma* 'Early Amethyst'. Its clusters of glossy, glowing violet berries look even more striking against a backdrop of evergreen foliage. For a cooler look, consider the blue-green foliage of *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Wichita Blue'.

Big color comes in small packages, too. The fragrant American wintergreen

(*Gaultheria procumbens*) comes to mind. Coveted for outdoor holiday containers, its rose-red berries remain colorful for a long time against deep green leaves.

Native to North America, Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and its hybrids arguably top the list of the berried beauties. A deciduous holly, winterberry's bright berries shine against bare, gray-brown branches unobstructed by foliage. New cultivars with improved color and berry production regularly appear in nurseries. Two classic cultivars, 'Winter Red' and 'Winter Gold' (both PHS Gold Medal plants), look superb together, but be sure to include a male polli-

The Fruits of Winter



Gaultheria procumbens

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nator like 'Jim Dandy.' The closely related Chinese winterberry relative, *Ilex serrata*, has a rare, garden-worthy cultivar called 'Gempei', which boasts pale yellow berries striped with red.

Dense clusters of orange-red, orange, or gold fruits decorate the stems of firethorn (*Pyracantha* sp.). Most garden centers carry tall, prolific, orange-fruited cultivars like the hybrid 'Mohave' and *P. coccinea* 'Lalandei'. Selections like 'Soleil D'Or', with its golden orange pomes, are harder to find, but no



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more colorful and exciting.

Lots of roses have showy hips that last well into winter, but the massive red hips of *Rosa rugosa* stand out due to their size and complementary—but wickedly thorny—stems. As they age, the hips darken and lose luster, but still offer captivating color and texture.

The list of beautiful viburnums with lovely winter berries is a long one. Berry clusters of all shapes and sizes sport fruits in pleasing warm or cool shades. The eastern North American possumhaw (*Viburnum nudum*) has large clusters of small oval berries that are pink in late summer and mature to Concord-grape blue-black. The compact cultivar, 'Bulk' (Brandywine™), puts on an impressive winter berry display with equally impressive purplish-red fall color. The spectacular Wright's viburnum (*Viburnum wrightii*) produces broad clusters of small, candy-apple-red berries that light up the dreariest winter days, as do the deep red berries of *Viburnum dilatatum*. For a showy golden-berried form, choose



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A Northern mockingbird sits on a branch of *Callicarpa bodinieri* var. *giraldui* 'Profusion'.



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The **Fruits** of Winter

'Michael Dodge'.

Like everything in nature, the vivid colors of winter fruit have a purpose. Eye-catching hues attract wildlife and ensure that seeds spread far and wide. Birds flock to bold colors, particularly red (think Snow White and that tempting apple). The tastiest fruits disappear by early winter, so those that persist deep into the season tend to be the least favored by animals. Many berries actually ferment on the stem; their flavor and desirability changes as the season progresses. Birds can actually get drunk by eating late-season berries, often to their detriment. Keep an eye out for weaving waxwings or comical cardinals.

So this year, instead of just waiting for spring, drink in the fruits of winter. Take time to visit outstanding winter gardens in your area to get ideas for next year's landscape. Gardening for winter offers just as many rewards as the warmer seasons—and for some of us, perhaps even more. 🍷

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Little GEMS

First-Timers Enter the Flower Show's
"Miniature Settings" Class



Story by
Daniel Moise
Photography by Pete Prown

“The key to a successful miniature setting is scale.”

How is it that the smallest exhibits at the Philadelphia Flower Show often attract the largest crowds? Each year the miniature settings—shoebox-size dioramas using teeny-tiny live plants—are a crowd favorite, eliciting *oohs* and *aahs* from all who stop to peer into the detailed depictions of little worlds.

At last year's Show, themed around Italy, first-timer Nancy Terramin and neighbor Marge Ferbman collaborated to create a Sicilian kitchen scene, complete with marble-topped counters, tiled floors, and sunflower-yellow stucco walls. Marge focused on acquiring and arranging the furniture pieces, leaving Nancy to carefully cultivate the plants.

In the kitchen window of her Upper Providence, Pennsylvania, home, Nancy set up metal shelves to house all the plants. “Everyone lives together,” she says, describing the vast collection that included thyme, chives, oxalis, and sweet alyssum. Caring for them required patience and dexterity: seeds were properly positioned in the tablespoon-or-so of soil and watered with a syringe the size of an eye-dropper. “I find that when working with plants, two hours can go by in a heartbeat,” Nancy says. “And I've come to accept that every once in a while you kill something. It keeps you humble.”

Those that survived the season were placed in clay pots she's amassed from Philadelphia Miniaturia, a showcase of tiny treasures headquartered in Wilmington, Delaware. The “precious little things,” as Nancy calls them, come in



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The next step was situating the delicate potted plants within the scene she and Marge devised. “The key to a successful miniature setting is scale,” Nancy says. “A hanging basket, for instance, must be in proportion to its surroundings.” Another tip is to have backup plants at the ready; after all, “It’s good to have options.”

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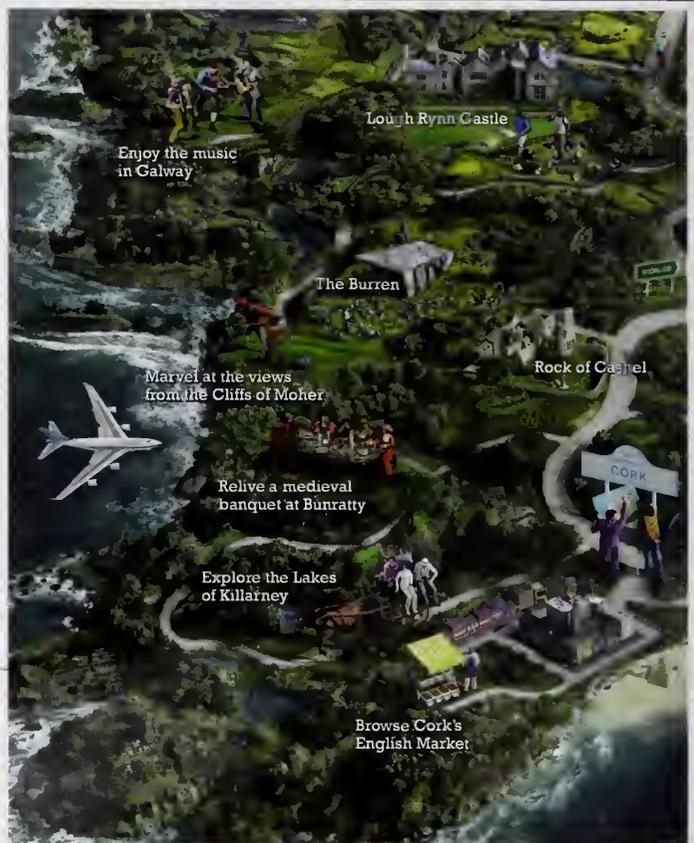
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The Miniatures

moment the judges arrived, Nancy and Marge made tiny tweaks to their presentation, rotating and shifting items by centimeters. The finished product was a stunner. In many ways, the kitchen was inspired by that of Nancy's now 92-year-old mother, a transplant from Sicily. Says Nancy, "Exhibitors are asked to write a 50-word description of their display. It was easy for me to describe the joy of cooking and how the kitchen is truly the heart and hearth of an Italian family."

The judges awarded the team an honorable mention, which delighted Nancy. "I had reasonable expectations, what with it being my first time attempting miniatures," she says. "And the Philadelphia International Flower Show is different from other events in which every participant is recognized—so it means something when you win a ribbon."

Not that Nancy's content to leave it at that. For 2010, she started two weeks sooner, allowing the plants more time to "come into their own." She also grew a wider variety and greater number of plants to ensure near-endless options. "My sister tells me I have too many plants," Nancy confesses, "and while I know she's right, I can't seem to stop myself!" 🌱



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PA10



Lawns for Public Spaces

By Jane Carroll & Daniel Moise

Photo by Margaret Henderson



Open green lawns are one of the most inviting features of a well-managed park or public space. But like all living plants, grass requires regular observation and maintenance. Use the following tips for proper lawn installation and maintenance, both of which will help your public space look beautiful for years to come. But keeping grass looking its best involves more than just mowing. Heavily used turf needs occasional *fertilization*, *reseeding*, and *aeration*. Let's learn more.

Seed Selection & Sowing

Think about how people will use the site, and select the best variety of turf grass for those conditions. Many types, such as fescues, stand up much better to heavy foot traffic than the more widely used Kentucky blue grass. Online sources can help you make a selection.

When starting a new lawn from scratch, loosen the soil and clear away roots, weeds, and large rocks before planting. Spread a layer of compost if possible, though sometimes that isn't feasible for a large project.

Fall is the best time to plant grass, as seed won't germinate in warmer temperatures. Be sure to plant a couple of weeks before a hard frost to give the grass time to establish roots. Sow seed methodically with a hand-pushed seed spreader in a linear pattern to avoid bare spots. To help the seed germinate, apply a

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layer of fertilizer on top (preferably a "slow release" organic fertilizer). Finally, water the seed regularly until it sprouts. Continue regular watering until the grass develops a sturdy root system.

Mowing

In most cases, your city or town performs regular mowing. Communicate with those who perform the mowing and express your wishes in a friendly way.

Keep grass at a height of 3 to 3-1/2 inches and remove no more than one-third of the grass blade's height at one time, since the shade of taller grass discourages weed growth. Leave grass clippings on the ground to decompose, supplying nitrogen to the turf.

If a portion of your site serves as a playing field, keep the grass there shorter than that of "passive-use" spaces. This is especially true of sports that involve a rolling ball, like soccer.

Compost

If possible, top-dress the lawn with compost about once each year (apply a sprinkling of compost and rake it evenly over the grass) and add more grass seed. This helps fill in empty spots, discourages weed growth, and nourishes the roots.

Aeration

Yearly aeration of the turf improves the lawn over time by encouraging a healthy root system. Aeration means poking small holes in the soil to allow air circulation. Mechanical tools are available to make this job easier.

A "Green" Lawn

Maintaining a healthy lawn does not have to involve the use of harmful chemical fertilizers and herbicides, which ultimately end up in rivers and streams. The increasing availability of organic alternatives makes it easier to avoid harmful substances. Learn about sustainable turf care and work with the city (or landowner) to encourage better lawn-care practices. For detailed information on sustainable lawn-care, including recommended varieties of grass, visit sustland.umn.edu/maint/maint.htm or safelawns.org. 🌱



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Picturesque **Plantings** on **City Avenue**

By Jane Carroll and Daniel Moise

Lovely new plantings now adorn a busy road marking the border between Philadelphia and Montgomery County, thanks to PHS's Philadelphia Green program. The northern gateway to City Avenue—at the intersection of Presidential Blvd.—now features striking flower beds that nicely set off the intersection's pedestrian bridge.

The City Avenue Special Services District contacted PHS about the project in early 2009. The Special Services District, which works to keep the City Avenue corridor clean and safe, had a vision for an enhanced landscape that would complement the attractive southern gateway at 63rd Street, which PHS staff designed in 2006.

“Working with Philadelphia Green to design the plantings on Presidential Blvd. at City Avenue was ideal,” says Terrence Foley, president and CEO of the City Avenue Special Services District. “This project helps us achieve our goal of making the area more attractive to entice people to shop here, work here, and dine here.”

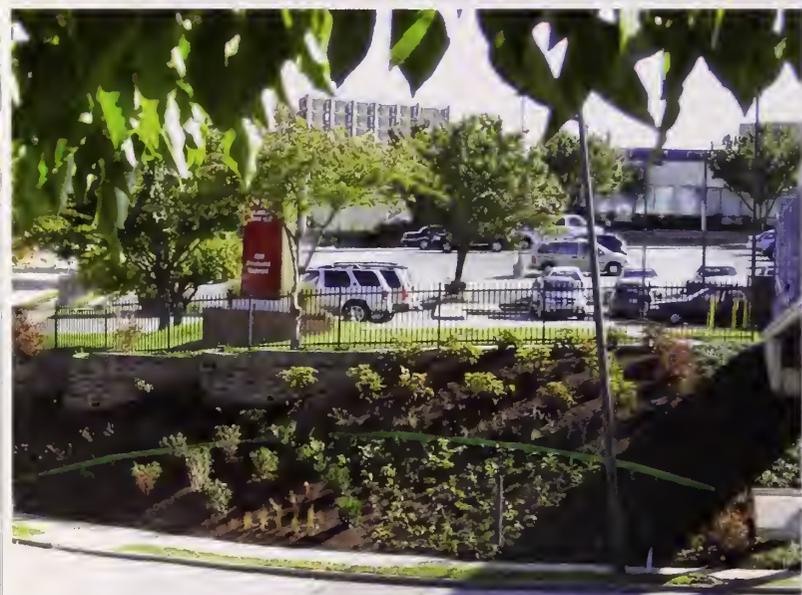
Several factors came into play at the start of the project. First, PHS landscape architects Linda Walczak and Marcus Johnson consulted with a specialist to find solutions to the persistent weed problem that had made the site an eyesore in the past. After a summer spent reclaiming the growing space, they began to select plants for the gateway.

“Because so many people travel along City Avenue every day, we wanted plants with great eye-appeal, but they had to be tough enough to thrive under the challenging conditions of the site,” says Walczak. “Road salt, for instance, can be extremely damaging to plants.”

In fall 2009, the team oversaw the installation of a mix of native perennials (yarrow), shrubs (winterberry holly), and ornamental grasses (little bluestem), as well as bulbs and new turf. The design mimics the arc of the footbridge that spans overhead and was also inspired by the signature City Avenue logo.

When the bulbs bloom this spring, look for a brilliant display of daffodils and daylilies. Over time the shrubs and grasses will fill out to make the beds complete—a far cry from the weeds that were there a year prior.

“It's a great partnership since our areas of expertise dovetail so nicely,” says Philadelphia Green director Nancy O'Donnell. “We bring our landscape design and implementation skills to the corridor, and the Special Services District can focus on its mission.” 🌱



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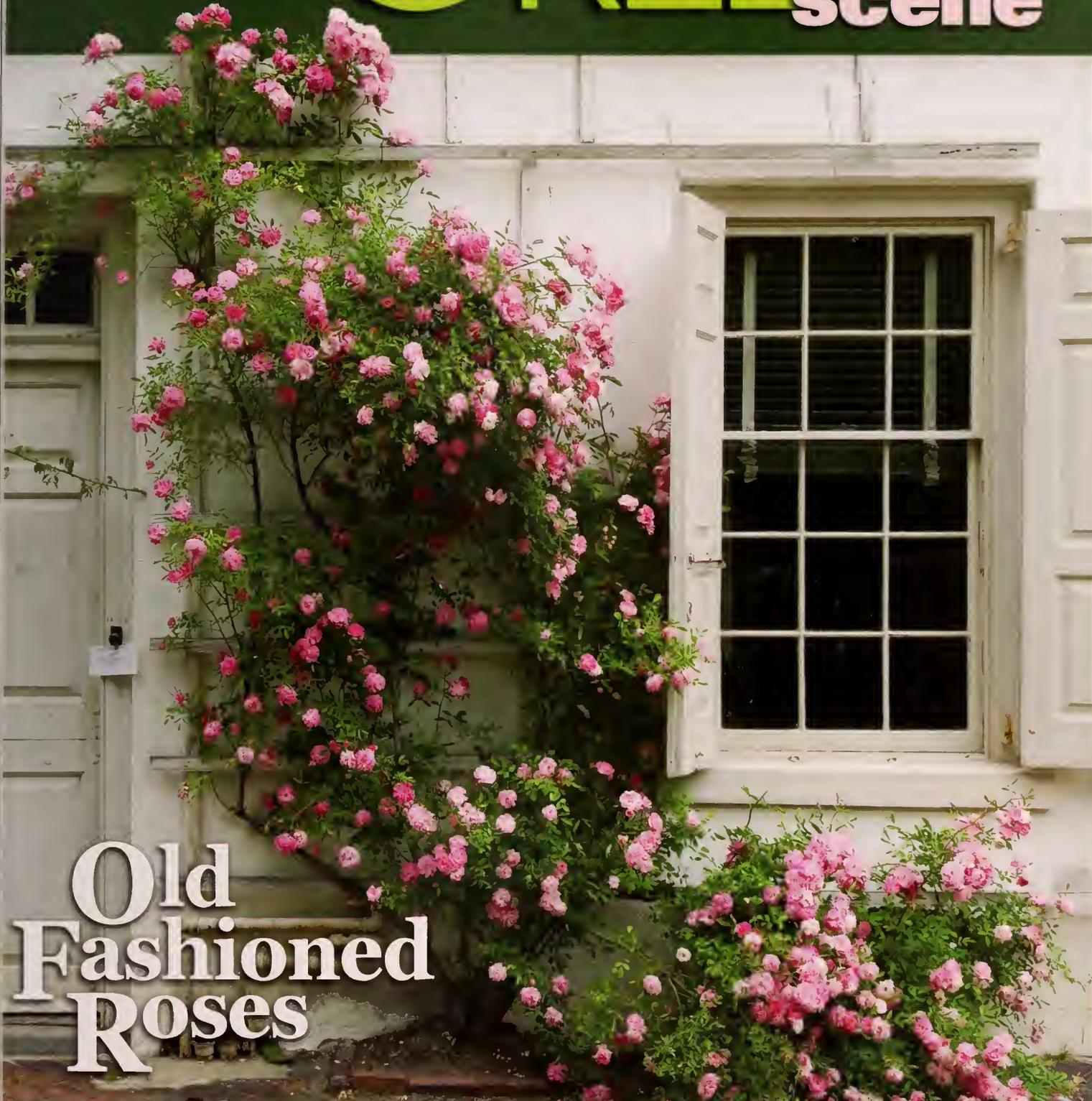
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**POTTING
SHED**

8

GROUNDS FOR SCULPTURE

Christine Thomas takes us on a tour of this striking scul文化 garden near Trenton, New Jersey.

10

PUSHING THE LIMITS

Today's push—or "reel"—mowers are easy to use and wonderful for the environment. Learn about this hot new trend in lawn care.

11

THE GARDENER'S BOOKSHELF

New gardening books to get you in the mood for spring.

12

A PAINTERLY GARDEN

Conny Parsons is a painter, and that is nowhere more evident than in her garden. In a series of stunning "compositions," Conny has created beautiful beds that converge into a unified work of art.

18

HOUSEPLANTS FOR THE OFFICE

You'd think that most plants would die in the dry confines of the typical office space, but as George Weigel explains, there are quite a few that thrive in this environment. So put your plants to work jazzing up your office space!

22

IN PRAISE OF OLD ROSES

Join Nicole Juday as she teaches us about old-fashioned roses. Tough and relatively disease-free, these vintage charmers still have a place in the modern garden.

28

GROWING VEGGIES IN SMALL SPACES

Not all of us have room for a big vegetable garden, so sometimes a container is the best way to go, as Ilene Sternberg tells us. Indeed, there are many veggies you can grow successfully and easily in pots.

FEATURES

COLUMNS

34

GREENING BASICS

Getting Young People Involved

38

THE BACKYARD

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THINKING NATIVE

Have you planted a black cherry lately? According to Dr. Doug Tallamy, perhaps you should. While it's not a raving beauty, black cherries (*Prunus serotina*) attract scores of birds, many of whom savor its tasty fruit. Moreover, it's a great plant for restoring the native habitat of our region. I recently attended a lecture by Dr. Tallamy, chair of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware. He made a convincing and spellbinding case for using native species in our gardens. We profiled his work in the September-October 2009 issue, but it's a message worth repeating.

Tallamy argues that if gardeners continue using non-native plants, they will further break down the delicate cycle of life between plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals that has existed for millennia. On the surface that might not seem to be *our* problem, but when you realize that this cycle ultimately creates our oxygen and food supply, then we can begin to see how the simple act of providing habitat for bugs, reptiles, and birds becomes a powerful example of thinking globally and acting locally.

High on Tallamy's list of plants we should consider is the mighty oak tree. In terms of its "carrying capacity"—that is, the number of species that rely on a plant to survive—the oak reigns supreme. Oaks provide habitat for more species of caterpillar than any other eastern native tree (caterpillars being a crucial player in nature's food web). This brings up another misperception: that birds and bugs can feed on any ol' plant, native or exotic. Actually, says Tallamy, bugs are rather fussy eaters and will only feed on a few specific natives that they've acclimated to over the centuries. Take away one particular native plant, and its unique insect feeder disappears. And without the insects, migrating birds have no food and begin disappearing as well. Suddenly, the entire food chain is in crisis and begins to break down ... and all for the want of a nail, or in our case, a native plant.

After the lecture, I thought about my own property and began to see my successes and errors. Yes, I did plant a native eastern ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diablo'), but right next to it is a buddleja, which aside from being leggy and hard to manage, can be very invasive. I don't have much lawn area, which is a good thing, and my main lawn is bordered by wide shrubby borders that help rain absorb slowly into the soil instead of flooding our public sewers. (In most cases, stormwater simply runs off the surface of your lawn onto the street, washing fertilizers and road salt, among other things, into our waterways.) The previous owners of our home installed large masses of non-native periwinkle, English ivy, and pachysandra; they're pretty, but unfriendly to wildlife. Adding insult to injury, the ivy has grown up into the crowns of many of the large ash trees in our neighborhood.

Certainly, we've all planted our share of non-natives, thinking only of their ornamental and horticultural virtues. But starting now,

thanks to Dr. Tallamy's lecture, I'm going to consider the environmental impact of anything I put in the ground.

Perhaps the most ecologically successful section of my property is the one I've had nothing to do with—a wooded section out back that is heavily underplanted with ostrich ferns. This, notes Dr. Tallamy, is a terrific environment for insect, amphibian, and reptile life and, as I've discovered over the years, a place to find magnificently rich garden soil lurking just under the leaf cover. Granted, these ferns have to battle someone else's escaped dwarf bamboo in the woods, but for nearly a decade, they've held their own. No doubt these conflicts between natives, exotics, and runaway invasives are prevalent throughout our region.

If nothing else, take a look at Dr. Tallamy's acclaimed book, *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* or the related website, bringingnaturehome.net. From these pages, you'll gain a wider perspective not only on how plants and creatures are deeply interconnected, but also about what's going on in your very own garden. And hopefully, you'll plant a black cherry, oak, or other native plant. The wildlife will be eternally grateful that you did.

Pete Prown

email: greenscene@pennhort.org



Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)



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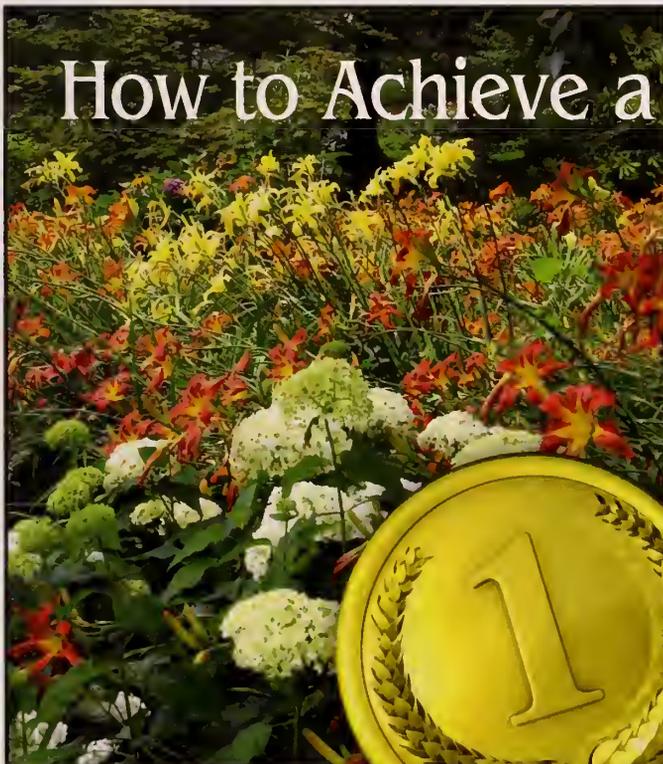
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At Grounds for Sculpture, a 35-acre sculpture park and arboretum in Hamilton, New Jersey, large contemporary sculptures line the entrance drive, and you think, “This place is all about the art, right?” Then you step out of your car, and along the walkway there are waves of turf with undulating metal edging, and you realize that this is also a very different kind of arboretum.

Here, plants are no less sculptural than the artworks they enhance. More than 25 species of ornamental grass and bamboo are used as hedges, accents, and herbaceous borders. *Pennisetum* ‘Karley Rose’, accented by its pink inflorescences in June and July, leads you along a curving path from the Visitor Center to access the park. *Leymus*, *Panicum*, and *Festuca* look like a blue haze planted around a pond filled with lotuses. A bamboo grove becomes part of the sculpture *Erotica Tropicallis*. Go through the bamboo, past skulking voyeurs, to enjoy Seward Johnson’s metal and Styrofoam rendition of Henri Rousseau’s painting *The Dream*.

It is hard to believe that as recently as 1989, this lush garden was the old dilapidated New Jersey State Fair Grounds. Then it was a flat vacant wasteland with part of an old race track, abandoned exhibition buildings, and “crummy soil,” according to Brian Carey of AC/BC Associates, landscape designer for the park. In less than two decades, the original 17 acres and 12 trees have grown to 35 acres and more than 3,000 trees and shrubs. With the excavation of berms, ponds, and watercourses, the designers sculpted the flat land into a charming contoured setting that obscures the industrial surroundings and becomes a backdrop for sculpture.

The transformation happened in part thanks to tree donations and to Carey’s ability to rescue large specimens from construction sites and abandoned nurseries. Six lacebark pines (*Pinus bungeana*) were saved from destruction with only a few days’ notice. These three-needled pines with mottled exfoliating bark are some of the finest examples of

The Artistic Arboretum

A Visit to
New Jersey’s
Grounds for Sculpture

By Christine Thomas

the species anywhere. Hundreds of red maples, grown inches apart, were transplanted from the defunct Princeton Nurseries. Carey explains how the trees were “dug in blocks of eight, like sausages,” then spliced back together to create a narrow allée, creating a tunnel of color in the fall. “The best part is that so far, only one tree has died,” he says.

When it comes to handouts, Carey says he will “take anything with interesting or exfoliating bark,” including thorns. An area unofficially known as the “pain garden” contains thorned honey locust, castor-aralia (*Kalopanax pictus*), pyracantha, and trifoliate orange (*Poncirus trifoliata*). Throughout the park, look for trees with ornamental bark, such as stewartia, river birch, parrotia, and paperbark maple.

Conifers abound with 15 species of pines, as well as deciduous conifers that offer a splendid palette of spring and fall color. In front of the museum building stands a 50-year-old hinoki false cypress donated by nurseryman Tom Dilatush. Rare fastigate conifers from Nancy Vermeulen dot the landscape. Not to be missed is a towering golden oriental spruce (*Picea orientalis* ‘Aurea Compacta’). Portals of weeping pines and spruces guide you from a wisteria-covered arbor to the Visitor Center.

Do not overlook the water garden. Here Carey shows “water used in as many ways as possible,” including fog that circulates around sculptures and around the sculpture-like leaves of coltsfoot (*Petasites japonicus*). A Camperdown elm (*Ulmus glabra*) serves as an umbrella to keep you dry.

Nearby, take a walk through the Domestic Arts Building, pass through its indoor exhibits, café, and bookshop and go out to the Acer Courtyard, home of 47 rescued Japanese maples. Then relax, have a seat at one of the courtyard tables, and take in the view. 🍃

Christine Thomas is a landscape designer and owner of Thomas’ English Gardens in Yardley, Pennsylvania. You can contact her at gardener@thomasenglishgardens.com. Grounds for Sculpture is located at 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton, NJ, 609-586-0616 (groundsforsculpture.org).



Left: A mixed border welcomes visitors to Rat’s Restaurant.

Below: *Pennisetum* ‘Karley Rose’ with its pink inflorescens, leads you along a curving path from the Visitor Center to access the park.



Left: Six lacebark pines (*Pinus bungeana*) with their beautiful mottled exfoliating bark were saved from a local construction site and transplanted to the grounds.

Welcome to the **REEL** World



While you've been noisily powering off the top one-third of your lawn with horizontal rotors, the reel world has been quietly spinning into the future. Companies around the globe have been making Grandpa's push mower sharper, easier to use, even—dare I say it—trendy?

First there was the novel idea that the push mower's revolving blades don't have to actually *touch* the stationary blade in order to cleanly slice through grass. Brill, NaturCut, and now Fiskars all employ this virtually silent "stay-sharp" concept. And where once there were two wheels you may now see four, including a pair of mini front wheels that can elevate blades 4 inches above the ground. Fiskars has replaced gears with a chain-drive, and added a larger diameter reel, creating a mower that's easy to push around and won't get jammed on a twig. Traditionalists can still find sleeker (and much lighter) versions of Grandpa's mower, the basic idea for which, by the way, was patented in 1830 and is still, if not *the* cutting edge, a functional version of it. But frankly, the new-fangled models are more fun.

Engineers and researchers have been busy improving a technology that's proved itself as elegant as it is effective. Until recently, most reel

By Pamela Ruch



The Gardener's Bookshelf



mowers had a maximum cutting height of 2 inches, which was seen as a shortcoming by those of us who had heard that a lawn should never be cut lower than 3 inches (or shouldn't have more than one third of the blade height removed at one time). We needn't have worried so much, says Andy Humphrey of Ecomowers (ecomowers.com). A reel mower's gentle scissoring is better for the grass than cutting with a rotary blade. Ohio State University backs this up, with their study rating the vigor of a bluegrass lawn reel-mown to a mere 2 inches visibly superior to that of a rotary-mown lawn of the same height. Still, many gardeners will appreciate the higher cutting heights of the newer, adjustable-blade reel mowers, especially if, say, you get caught up with growing roses and turning compost and forget that one-third rule. It happens.

To transform your cutting mode from a deafening rotary rip to a whispery slice, you will need, according to Humphrey, "a little patience." The first couple of times you hand-mow, he says, you'll probably have to cut twice. Consider this double-dose of exercise (400 calories an hour!) your spring training. Then you'll be ready to join the quiet revolution and experience the freedom to mow ... anytime at all. Take your blades for a spin at 6 a.m. on a Saturday morning to the music of birdsong, or go for a 20-minute mow in the cool twilight.

On second thought, do neither of these. Instead, trim your turf in broad daylight for a triple shot of green energy—a healthier green lawn, zero CO₂ emissions, and the fun of watching your neighbors turn grassy-green with envy. Who knows? You may instigate a *reel*-life version of whisper down the lane. 🍷

Visit Pamela Ruch's website at helpinggardenersgrow.com. For more on proper mowing techniques, visit <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/4000/4020.html>.

Bulb

By Anna Pavord (544 pp., \$39.99)

On the heels of her acclaimed book *Tulip*, Pavord's latest is a reference book, but one sprinkled with her trademark witty anecdotes. Of the holiday amaryllis, she says, "*Hippeastrum* bear the big, fat, trumpet-shaped flowers that most of us (wrongly) still call amaryllis. Do not be snooty about them. They are fabulous things and the whole point of them is their ludicrous size and their ability to knock you out from the far side of the room." And as for the medicinal value of irises, Pavord quotes a historical passage noting they can, "... fasten loose teeth ... provoke sleep and bringeth out tears." And along with interesting facts and trivia, the author offers solid horticultural information and hundreds of excellent color photos.

New Encyclopedia of Gardening Techniques

American Horticultural Society (480 pp., \$45)

This practical American Horticultural Society tome is immediately likable, thanks to more than 2,000 color illustrations that draw you into the book. There's a lot of information here that you can find in other horticultural books, but to have it all under one roof and so attractively presented is quite enticing. It will immediately give you ideas for fresh garden projects.

Lessons from Linden Hill

By Jerry Fritz with Nancy Ondra (108 pp., \$19.95)

Two local garden experts write about the wonderful plantings at Linden Hill Gardens in Ottsville, Pennsylvania. The buoyantly colorful paperback includes both plant and design ideas, including

advice on deterring deer and other pests. The book also features outstanding photography, including many shots from *Green Scene* contributors Ondra and Rob Cardillo.

Grow Your Own, Eat Your Own

By Bob Flowerdew (192 pp., \$29.95)

For both casual and hardcore vegetable gardeners, Bob Flowerdew's book offers advice on what to do with your produce once you harvest it. Covering cooking and canning to making jams and jellies, *Grow Your Own* is more than a cookbook, although it includes many delectable recipes. It will help you live off your garden throughout the year as you learn to preserve more of your crops through various techniques. You'll truly appreciate these tips from the aptly named Mr. Flowerdew when enjoying your favorite fruits and veggies in the middle of winter.

Planting: The Planting Design Book for the Twenty-First Century

By Diarmuid Gavin & Terence Conran (272 pp., \$60)

If you want high-style gardening in your life, you'll appreciate this lavish new book from two British authors known for their audacious design ideas. But rather than just displaying pretty pictures, Gavin and Conran aim to connect style with the actual plants. They do a thorough job of showing the variety of sites, shapes, textures, and colors that comprise a complete garden composition, which is ultimately what garden design is all about. Better still, the example gardens are from various climates and regions, showing you a world of stylish possibilities. 🍷

—By Pete Prown

Conny Parsons has purple fingers. Those who know her may assume this discoloration occurred during an impassioned painting session—Conny is, after all, a talented artist—but in truth it's the result of a morning spent deadheading daylilies. Second only to time spent at the easel, there is nothing Conny enjoys more than tending to her home garden in Media, PA.

From the day her family moved in (with more than 300 favorite plants in tow), Conny has been constantly refining and reimagining her garden. If a plant seems unhappy with the sun or shade at its current location, she does not hesitate to uproot it and try someplace new. Even something as large as a tree isn't seen as a permanent fixture; her garden is made of movable parts that work together to create a masterpiece.

Unsurprisingly, Conny calls upon the elements and principles of art when gardening. Take, for instance, proportion: she places larger shrubs behind her roses so that a visitor's eyes travel front to back, achieving a sense of depth. Similarly, she uses dark-leaved plants as a backdrop to contrast more colorful specimens.

"Like a painting, a garden should invite you to step inside it," says Conny. "So I paint and garden in a way that's meant to draw you in."

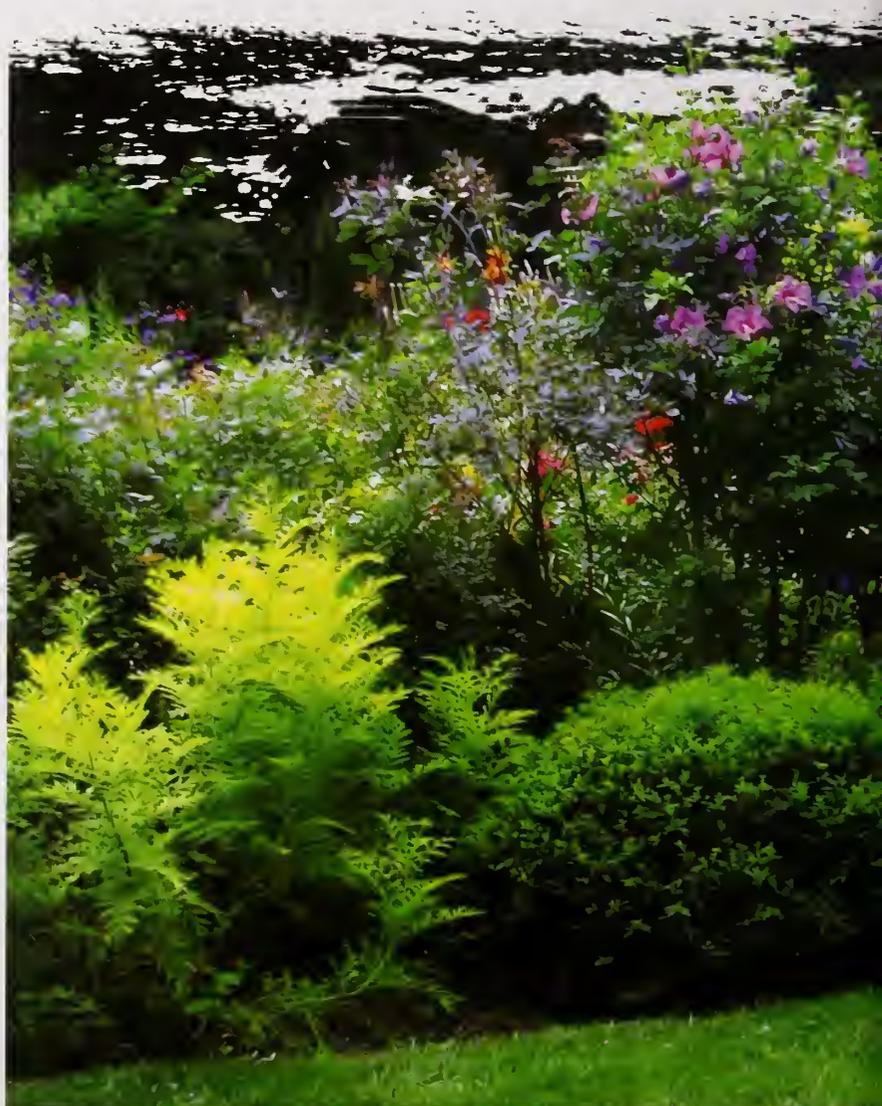
A repetition of color and texture lends the garden a sense of balance and harmony. In Conny's garden, a diverse selection of plants creates a classic white, yellow, and purple color scheme.

Favorites include hellebore and weeping cercis. She recently went through a passionate period of planting Japanese maples, but, like many love affairs, her zeal has subsided. Of course the one species Conny never tires of is hosta. As the standing president of the Delaware Valley Hosta Society, she helped see that the American

Painting Plants

A Visit to Conny Parsons' Garden

By Daniel Moise
Photos by Pete Prown



with





A view of Conny's sweeping back yard.



Hot colors mixed with cooler ones live up a mid-summer's bed.

“What’s not to like about hostas?”

Hosta Society hosted its 2006 national conference in Philadelphia.

“What’s not to like about hostas?” Conny asks. “Personally, I appreciate the subtle differences in foliage and size, and also the variation of the flowers. They also fill in empty patches nicely and are great understory plants for trees and shrubs.”

At certain times you’ll find more than hostas on the Parsons property. Conny and her husband, Jim, have six grandchildren and each one views the garden as a wonderland for exploration and adventure.

To help foster their appreciation for the natural world, Conny has devised games for the children’s enjoyment: “They especially love scavenger hunts. For instance I’ll show them the bract of a dove tree and say, ‘Now go find the tree where this came from.’”

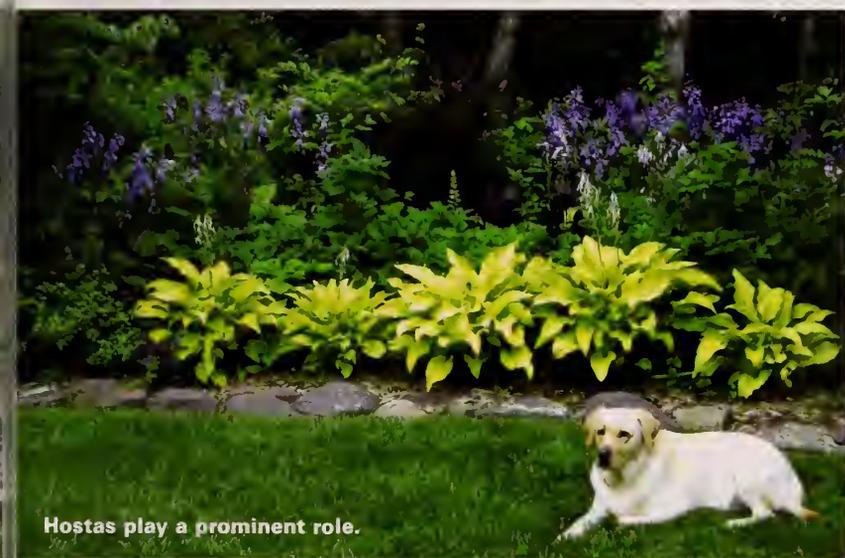
Her methods clearly work: “On the phone my granddaughter Emma once asked, ‘How



This path shows how hostas can provide varying textures.



Cannas add bold vertical accents



Hostas play a prominent role.

Painting with **Plants**



Right: **Conny blends texture with strong color accents.**

Far right: **A playful mix of amsonia and daylilies**

Below: **Miniature hostas frolic amid impatiens and a tiny church.**



is the beech tree, Grandma?"

Conny also has some garden ornaments that the kids just adore, like fairy houses and whimsical sculptures. "First-time visitors to the garden will sometimes say, "This looks like a grandmother's garden,"" she notes. "I always laugh and reply, 'It most certainly is!'" 🍷

"Like a painting, a garden should invite you to step inside it."





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DESKTOP DUTY

10 Tough Plants for the Office

By
George Weigel



An office cubicle is a far cry from the sun-lit, mildly humid environment where many houseplants would rather grow. It takes a tough plant to weather workplace abuse. Lights may be on all the time or turned off altogether

on weekends. Much of the time, there's no natural sunlight at all, just plant-unfriendly fluorescents mounted 9 feet up. Watering may be geared more toward meeting and vacation schedules than when the plants need it. And fertilizer, repotting, and pruning? Yeah, right. Fortunately, some houseplants have the chutzpah to live long and prosper even under near-total neglect.



Here are 10 survivors to “green up” an office:

ZZ plant

(Zamioculcas zamiifolia). Thick, fleshy, glossy, dark green leaves run up the upright 18- to 24-inch stems like rungs on a ladder. From a distance, it looks like a slightly overweight palm. Shove ZZ in a dim corner and ignore it for weeks; it scarcely fazes this botanical camel. No bug problems, either. Relatively new to common trade.

Snake plant

(Sansevieria trifasciata). Stiff, sword-like blades grow straight up 3 feet or more in this versatile oldie-but-goodie. There are lots of choices, but most are variegated green and gold. Snake plants are skinny but can get top-heavy, so plant them in substantial pots to avoid dirt spills on the keyboard.

Cast iron plant

(Aspidistra elatior). The name should tell you something about this 2-foot foliage plant that looks a bit like a bushy corn plant. It laughs off very low light, irregular watering, dry air, near-freezing temperatures, dust, coffee dregs from the lazy cubicle-mate ... you name it. A favorite since Victorian times, cast iron plant has dark green, shiny, leathery leaves. ‘Milky Way’ is a compact version with white speckles.

Peace lily

(Spathiphyllum). One of the most popular houseplants, peace lilies are the dense, bushy plants that put out those hooded, cobra-like white flowers. They tolerate low light and a wide range of conditions, although in very low light, they probably won't re-bloom. Nevertheless, the foliage is lush and adept at purifying indoor air.

Lucky bamboo

(Dracaena sanderiana). Not a true bamboo, these are the pinky-sized canes that send out strappy green leaves when stuck in water. Lucky bamboo will grow in sand or pebble trays—no soil needed. They're typically sold bundled and trained in Zen-like arrangements. Legend has it that they bring good luck when received as a gift ... a great side benefit when impossible deadlines loom.



Above: ZZ plant

Left: Snake plant

Eight more plants to consider for office settings:

Dracaena 'Janet Craig'
(*Dracaena deremensis*)

Jade plant
(*Crassula argentea*)

Prayer plant
(*Maranta leuconeura*
var. *erythraea*)

Rubber plant
(*Ficus elastica*)

Boston fern
(*Nephrolepis exaltata*)

English ivy
(*Hedera helix*)

Kentia palm
(*Howea forsteriana*)

Umbrella plant
(*Cyperus alternifolius*)



Above:
Aglaonema
'Black Lance'
Right:
Lucky bamboo
and **Parlor palm**

Why grow houseplants at the office?

NASA studies from the 1990s found that many houseplant species are adept at removing benzene, formaldehyde, trichloroethylene (TCE) and other pollutants from indoor air.

A recent University of Washington study found that houseplant-adorned surroundings increased productivity in a computer task by 12 percent and resulted in smaller increases in blood pressure during the task.

Hospital studies have found that patients heal faster and report less pain when plants are around, and a Harvard Medical School study found that people with plants in their homes reported less worry and greater compassion, happiness, enthusiasm for work, and energy than a non-plant comparison group.

Besides, most people just find plants to be pretty. Isn't that worth something, too?



Above: **Zen office with ivy floor**

Chinese evergreen

(*Aglaonema commutatum*). Another supposed good-luck plant, the age-old Chinese evergreen isn't needled but is a broadly bladed foliage plant that grows in a dense, rounded form about a foot tall. Most are some combination of green and white or green and gold. Just keep them away from cold breezes, and you'll have color and life with virtually no effort.

Heart-leaf philodendron

(*Philodendron scandens oxycardium*). Here's a vining foliage plant with heart-shaped leaves. It's best grown in a hanging planter or elevated pot so the vines can drape down. Heart-leaf philodendrons actually prefer lower light and soil that's on the dry side. Their main demand is occasional pruning.

Golden pothos

(*Epipremnum aureum*). Another vine, this one has heart-shaped leaves of gold and green. Tolerating poor and abusive lighting, golden pothos trails nicely from a basket or can be trained up a trellis in a pot for a mini-tree effect.

Spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*). Sometimes called the "airplane plant," this easy-to-grow favorite sends narrow, green-and-white variegated leaves out of the plant's center. The cascading stems produce "babies" that are easy to propagate into new plants. Spider plants are usually grown in hanging baskets and are excellent air cleaners.

Parlor palm

(*Chamaedorea elegans*). Also known as the Neanthe Belle palm, this narrow-leafed beauty looks elegant but is as tough as nails. It's one of the least likely palms to get brown tips—the bane of the more common Majesty palm. Grows 3 to 4 feet tall and fakes you into thinking you're in the tropics instead of an asphalt-laden office park. 🌿

George Weigel is a Pennsylvania certified horticulturist who writes two weekly garden columns for *The Patriot-News* in Harrisburg and operates his own garden consulting business in central Pennsylvania.



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OLD ROSES, DEEP ROOTS

We are often reminded that variety is the spice of life. Yet

it seems that in many gardens, particularly in gardens with roses, variety is exactly what is missing. Pressed for time, gardeners often turn to heavily marketed shrubs and perennials that are purported to be both tough and “easy-care”—great plants, to be sure. But the result is that gardens everywhere begin to look alike.

Though traditionally the queen of every garden, the rose suffers from a reputation for being difficult to maintain. It's true that certain varieties require lots of fussy care, and even more objectionable, regular doses of chemical controls to look their best.

But newer varieties are beginning to shift these prejudices. The extremely popular ‘Knockout’ roses are disease-free plants offering more than five months of blooms with additional colors available each season.

While it's easy to fall in love with new plants, don't overlook the possibilities for romance found in older roses, particularly those introduced before the first hybrid tea rose was developed in 1867. These plants have brought beauty and pleasure to gardens for hundreds of years and have survived against the odds on their own merits. Their mere existence is a testament to their toughness, as many have thrived

for years at a time with no human intervention.

You won't see pallets of old roses at the big-box stores, since most are sold via websites by small growers. But they are ten times more interesting



By Nicole Juday
Photos by Rob Cardillo

Old Roses

than the popular varieties that flood the market each spring. Many qualities bred out of newer cultivars abound in old roses—chief among them scent. To stop and smell the roses in a contemporary garden is now purely a metaphor, as one rarely gets a strong whiff of any fragrance from most modern roses. A walk among old roses, on the other hand, is a heady experience. What a delight to learn that not all roses smell like roses. Indeed, many of these flowers have distinctive, intoxicating smells, bringing to mind raspberries, honey, vanilla, musk, or spice. The most powerfully fragrant can perfume a room and even an entire garden.

Adding to their appeal, many old fashioned roses also have distinctive flower shapes. Some of the loveliest produce simple single or semi-double roses exhibiting as few

as five innocent petals with golden centers. Other flowers are anything but simple, bringing to mind the elaborate costumes of eras gone by, with layer upon layer of hitched, ruffled, quartered, and tufted petals. Their colors evoke the past as well. The majority of old roses predate the introduction of the yellow rose from China, and thus exhibit a limited palette of color from deep violet-tinged crimson through every possible shade of pink to white.

Growing these old-fashioned roses doesn't have to be intimidating. Start with varieties that bloom once during the year. These plants burst into head-to-toe bloom in late spring, look respectable the rest of the season, and have few cultural requirements. One dose of fertilizer in spring should suffice, and if desired, you can shape or prune the plants



Rosa 'Tausendschon'

Old Rose Sources

Roses In Thyme

rosesinthyme.com

Roses Unlimited

rosesunlimiteddownroot.com

Vintage Gardens

vintagegardens.com

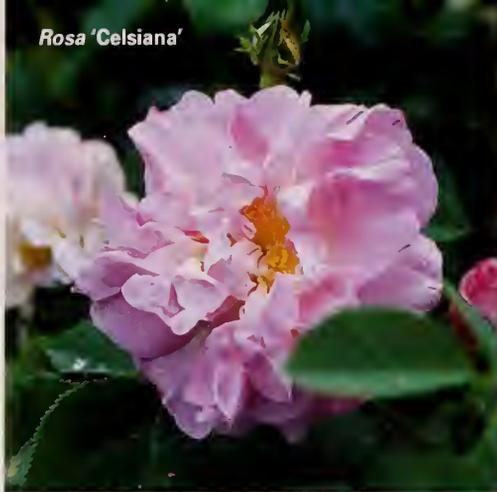
Pickering Nurseries

pickeringnurseries.com

Antique Rose Emporium

antiqueroseemporium.com

Rosa 'Celsiana'



5 Old Roses for Philadelphia-area Gardens

'Celsiana'

Known locally as "Germantown Damask," this rose was documented in Philadelphia as early as 1750. It has bluish-green foliage, reaches 5 feet high, and its pale pink flowers open to expose slightly crinkled petals, reminding one of fragile vintage silk. The fragrance is heady damask, making the flowers of 'Celsiana' highly prized for potpourri and culinary uses.



Rosa 'Rose de Rescht' (Damask)

'Rose de Rescht'

No one knows exactly when this damask perpetual was introduced, but it is among the most reliable of the re-bloomers. Reaching 4 feet tall, the plant is covered in deep crimson, very fragrant cupped flowers packed with petals. Like many of us, 'Rose de Rescht' tends to slow down in hot weather, but it will re-bloom steadily in the fall.

'Champneys' Pink Cluster'

In 1802 American John Champneys created the country's first hybrid rose when he brushed the pollen of a musk rose onto a china rose, and planted out seeds of the ensuing rose hips. One of these seedlings exhibited the features he wanted: strong fragrance and repeated bloom on an attractive, vigorous plant. His namesake rose has delicate foliage with hundreds of small, fragrant, pale pink flowers for months at a time. When not deadheaded, attractive small hips extend this rose's seasonal interest.



Rosa spinosissima 'Doorenbos Selection'

Rosa setigera

For people who want to reconcile an interest in native plants with really beautiful flowers, this is a great rose. Native to the eastern United States, this climber needs a fair amount of space in the garden, but works well grown on a fence or on tree branches for support. Expect single flowers of a lovely innocent pink (so innocent as to be scentless) with golden anthers on canes that can reach 20 feet in late June or early July, after most roses have finished their first bloom.

Rosa spinosissima var. altaica



Rosa spinosissima

A suckering shrub that grows to about 5 feet tall and gradually spreads, the Scotch rose needs practically nothing to thrive. The first rose to bloom in the garden, its fragrant flowers of soft pink or pale yellow, occasionally double but usually single, are followed by large, shiny, black hips in midsummer. Its ferny foliage resists disease and remains attractive throughout the season.

Old Roses



Rosa moss type



The Second Annual Old Rose Symposium will take place at Wyck, one of America's oldest rose gardens, on Saturday, June 5th. This day-long event will bring together America's most talented experts to focus on the history, culture, and preservation of old roses. Registration information can be found at wyck.org.



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in July before leaving them to their own devices. You do not need to deadhead once-blooming roses, and indeed, if the spent blossoms are left alone they form attractive rose hips that provide food for wildlife. It's as if these plants have an inferiority complex and try to make up for their limited blooming season by being as undemanding and pleasant as possible in every other way.

Re-blooming roses have an obvious advantage in extended seasonal interest, and with adequate care their blossoms will continue to adorn a garden well into fall. Regular deadheading of the spent blooms encourages continual production of flowers. The tri-athletes of the rose world, re-bloomers need more fertilizer to keep from running out of steam partway through the season. Monthly applications of fertilizer (try cheap, organic dehydrated chicken manure) in the spring and summer keep them going. These plants require more water as well, as they do not enter into summer dormancy.

Old roses have a mellowness, gracefulness, and delicacy rarely found in modern plants, and they assimilate well into most landscape styles. Gardeners willing to give these inexpensive and long-lived roses a chance will find themselves among their many admirers, both past and present, who have been entirely captivated by their charms. 🌹

Nicole Juday is the horticulturist at Wyck in the historic Germantown section of Philadelphia, where she cares for one of the oldest rose gardens in America. For more information go to wyck.org.

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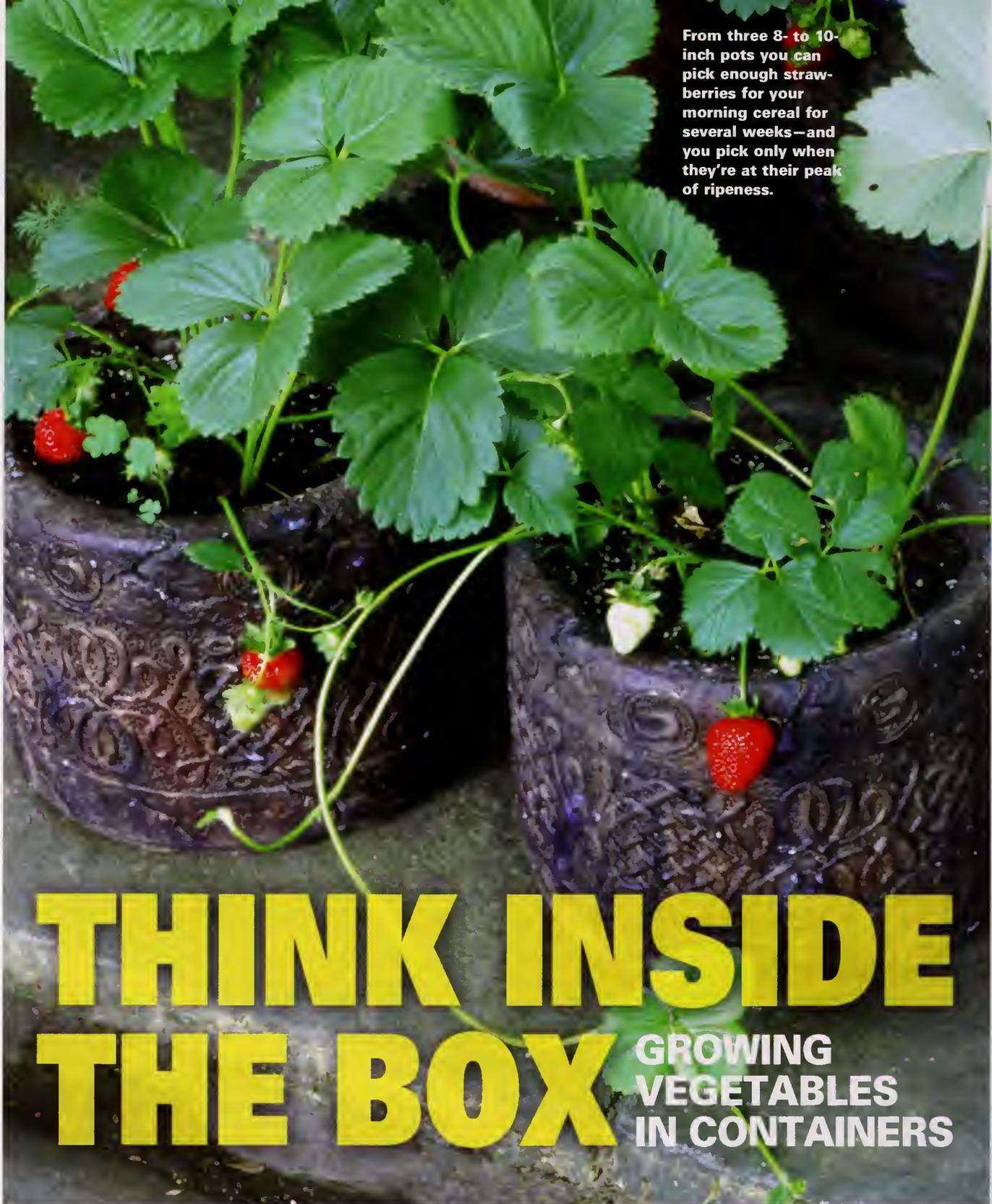
Step into stunning beauty as Azalea Woods, H. F. du Pont's eight-acre masterpiece, bursts into glorious bloom. Stroll the Peony Garden and witness a show-stopping paradise, with enormous blossoms unfurled in delectable colors. To discover what's in bloom, visit gardenblog.winterthur.org or call 302.888.4856. *Included with admission. Members free.*

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Can't get enough of the garden? Then come inside! The *Flower Power* exhibition explores H. F. du Pont's floral-arranging prowess. Spring house tours reveal elegant rooms filled with glorious flower arrangements, and a multitude of fascinating programs take a closer look at the garden's unfolding beauty. For complete details, visit winterthur.org.

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From three 8- to 10-inch pots you can pick enough strawberries for your morning cereal for several weeks—and you pick only when they're at their peak of ripeness.



THINK INSIDE THE BOX

GROWING VEGETABLES IN CONTAINERS



By Ilene Sternberg
Photography by Walter Chandoha

Are you longing to be the Farmer in the Dell but find yourself dell-less? Or, perhaps you've been growing produce in the ground for years and suddenly your back is staging a mutiny. If so, growing edibles in containers may be a good alternative for you.

For one thing, pots take up less space, fitting nicely along fences and in corners; in and around flower beds; adjacent to walks and drives; near the house foundation; in window boxes; and on patios, porches, balconies, decks, fire escapes, and rooftops. (Note: pitched roof—not good.) Even boaters have been known to have a few container gardens at railside. Container gardening is easier on the back than growing in-ground, as pots can be set at a convenient height and raised and lowered when necessary.

Container gardening lets you choose the best site for each plant. You can rearrange pots to position different plants for optimum light exposure. You can move smaller plants from the shade of larger ones and rotate them frequently to encourage vigorous growth. Most vegetables need 6 to 8 hours of sun per day, but some leafy crops, such as lettuce, arugula, cabbage, spinach, and parsley, grow well with less, so these can be in the rear of your container garden. Place fruit-bearing plants like cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, and eggplant where they'll receive the most direct sunlight. For heat-loving plants, south or southwest exposure is best. A southeastern exposure will keep lettuce productive all summer, offering light early in the day and protecting it from strong afternoon sun.

You can protect plants better from rabbits, deer, and other marauding vegetarians by keeping containers close to the house, since wildlife may not risk raiding your rutabagas where there's frequent human and pet activity about. And you may have fewer soil-borne diseases and pests using a soilless planting medium, sterilized soil, or your own gourmet compost concoction. If plants do run into problems they're easier to treat, monitor-

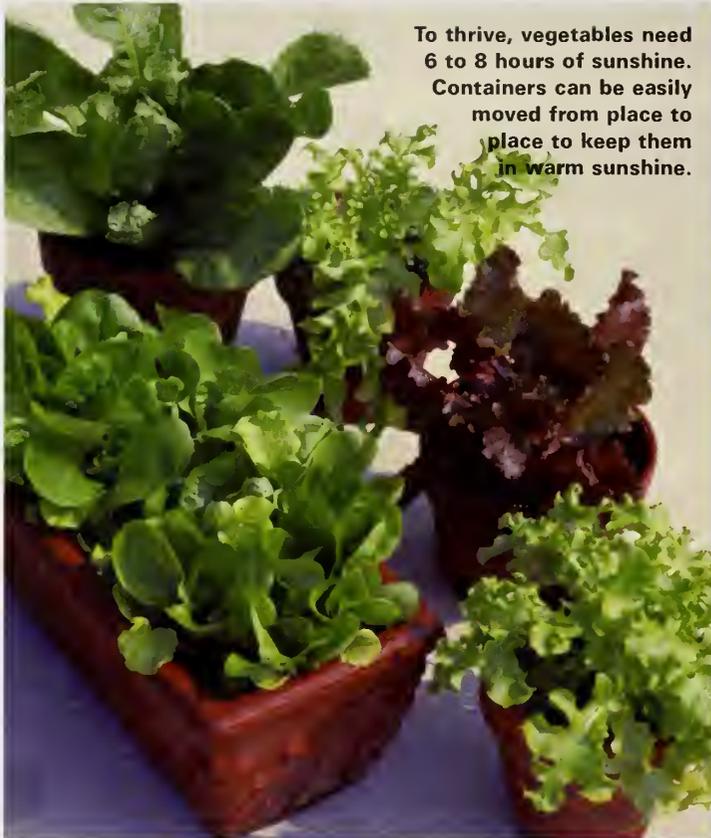


A wooden melon crate lined with slate shingles and filled with rich compost makes a perfect cucumber garden. As the cukes grow, their tendrils curl around the supporting wire directing growth.



Dried herbs are ok, frozen are better, but fresh are the best. Grow them in containers outdoors when the weather is warm, then bring them indoors to spend the winter.

Growing Vegetables in Containers



To thrive, vegetables need 6 to 8 hours of sunshine. Containers can be easily moved from place to place to keep them in warm sunshine.



A pot-grown 'Meyer' lemon tree stays indoors when temperatures fall but goes outdoors in the warmer months.



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ing them closely and talking to them soothingly daily, offering encouraging affirmations. And if all looks hopeless, you can oust them posthaste.

With containerized plants you can also deliver precise doses of fertilizer and water. You can give lettuce and spinach extra water and nitrogen for rich leaf growth or kick-start tomatoes with a high-nitrogen fertilizer, switching to one with more phosphorous and calcium as fruits develop. It's convenient to water plants that are nearby rather than hauling a hose over acres of land—assuming there's a close-at-hand water source and spigot.

Hanging baskets are ideal for cherry tomatoes, most herbs, leaf lettuce, and other salad greens to keep them above rabbit-chomping level. You can also cultivate dwarf and minaret fruit trees, which need very little space. (Minarets have an upright stem and short, fruit-bearing side shoots.) Compact blueberry and thornless blackberries make great patio plants. Containerized tropicals and

'patio' tomatoes, aptly named, are ideal for growing in large containers on a patio. Although a determinate, these large tomatoes need support to keep the plants growing vertically.



Photographer and avid gardener Walter Chandoha offers more tips:

On my 46-acre farm I have a variety of gardens. My herb and vegetable gardens are about a half city block away from my back door, a daunting hike when I need something to amend a recipe. In addition to being an amateur gardener, I'm also an amateur cook—and a lazy one.

The cooking and the laziness are why I always have an assortment of potted herbs immediately outside my kitchen door. The closer they are to the cooking pot, the tastier the food. Before I figured this out, I ruined many a recipe because I was too lazy to schlep out to the garden to pick the required herbs. Now, with the herbs just outside the kitchen, my food rarely lacks the zip they provide. I always have fresh herbs growing in pots indoors during the winter, too.

And in more years than not I also have a few pots of assorted lettuces growing along with the herbs so I can quickly pinch off some leaves for a garnish or for building a quick BLT sandwich when tomatoes are in season. Caring for my potted stuff is no big deal. I keep plastic gallon jugs filled with water near the pots, and when I think of it I stick a finger into the top half inch of soil in the pots. If it's dry, I water; if it's damp, I don't.

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Growing Vegetables in Containers

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out-of-zone specimens (olives, figs, passion fruit, lemons, oranges, bananas, etc.) can come indoors for winter.

Harvest your edibles at peak maturity for the best flavor. If all your babies ripen simultaneously, pick them and keep in a cool place rather than letting them grow on too long and chance having them spoil or rot. If you stagger planting seeds a few weeks apart in spring, there's a better chance of reaping veggies throughout summer, rather than having all your tomatoes or cucumbers ripen at once. Put fresh soil mix in containers each year.

At the end of the day, nothing beats lounging on the terrace and reaching over to pluck a ripe, aromatic, homegrown peach and biting into its warm succulent flesh, the luscious syrupy nectar drizzling down your chin (casual dress required). 🍷

Many vegetables are ornamental as well as delicious. Some tasty vessel-worthy veggies bred for compact size are:

Tomatoes: 'Patio Prize', 'Pixie', 'Tiny Tim', 'Saladette', 'Toy Boy', 'Spring Giant', 'Tumbling Tom', 'Small Fry', 'Better Bush Improved', 'Sweet Baby Girl', 'Super Sweet 100'

Lettuce: 'Baby Oakleaf', 'Buttercrunch', 'Salad Bowl', 'Bibb', 'Romaine', 'Dark Green Boston', 'Ruby', 'Tom Thumb'

Cucumbers: 'Spacemaster', 'Salad Bush Hybrid', 'Bush Pickle', 'Burpless', 'Liberty', 'Early Pik', 'Crispy', 'Salty', and 'Bush Champion'

Carrots: 'Thumbelina', 'Little Finger'

Peppers: 'Friggitello', 'Cubanelle', 'Sweet Banana', 'Jalapeno', 'Robustini', 'Yolo Wonder', 'Keystone Resistant Giant', 'Canape'

Eggplant: 'Ichiban', 'Bambino', 'Slim Jim', 'Florida Market', 'Black Beauty', 'Long Tom'

Green onions: 'Beltsville Bunching', 'Crysal Wax', 'Evergreen Bunching'

Radishes: 'Cherry Belle', 'Scarlet Globe', 'Icicle'

Green beans: dwarf French, 'Topcrop', 'Greencrop', 'Contender', 'Blue Lake', 'Kentucky Blue', 'Kentucky Wonder'

Squash: 'Ronde de Nice', 'Gold Rush', 'Dixie', 'Gold Neck', 'Early Prolific Straightneck', 'Zucco', 'Diplomat', 'Senator'

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INVOLVING YOUNG VOLUNTEERS IN YOUR GREEN PROJECT

By Daniel Moise



Summer is fast approaching, which means teenagers across the country will soon have far too much time on their hands. Why not put their able bodies and active minds to use by involving them with greening projects? Not only does volunteering get them off the couch and into the sunshine, but it helps foster a new generation of environmental advocates.

To recruit young people for a summer project, it's best to seek them out en masse. Before the school-year ends, approach your local schools to see if they can help disseminate information. After-school programs, church groups, and organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the 4-H Club are also ideal for finding eager participants.

Left: Participants in PHS's Youth Environmental Stewardship project harvest plants at a community garden.



Left: A group of teenagers helped out at a recent PHS volunteer tree planting.

In theory, the opportunity to beautify their community should be enough to motivate teenagers, but as any parent knows, they usually need a bit of coaxing. When asking them to volunteer, consider how to make your offer sound enticing to *their* priorities. Could your project be considered an internship? Might it strengthen a college application or satisfy their school's community service requirement? If nothing else, remind the youths that the opportunity you present allows them to spend time outside with their friends—hardly a tough sell.

The key to overseeing a group of young volunteers is to keep them busy. They can remove litter from parks, plant flower beds in public spaces, or launch a recycling campaign. Make it an enriching experience by teaching them new skills, such as how to prune trees. Do your best to keep it fun and be sure to supply plenty of positive reinforcement—and snacks and water.

Even if you encounter eye-rolling early on, young people are bound to have a change of heart once they see the results. A job well done can truly be its own reward. And even if they don't admit it freely, it's likely they'll gain a new-found understanding of their relationship to the environment.

If you have a successful summer working with teens, don't let it end there. Find ways to keep them involved with your greening project all year, be it after school or on the weekends. Best of all, since young people tend to operate in groups, your volunteers can recruit others to the cause. Once you tap into teen spirit and youthful energy, you'll be amazed by what they can accomplish! 🌱



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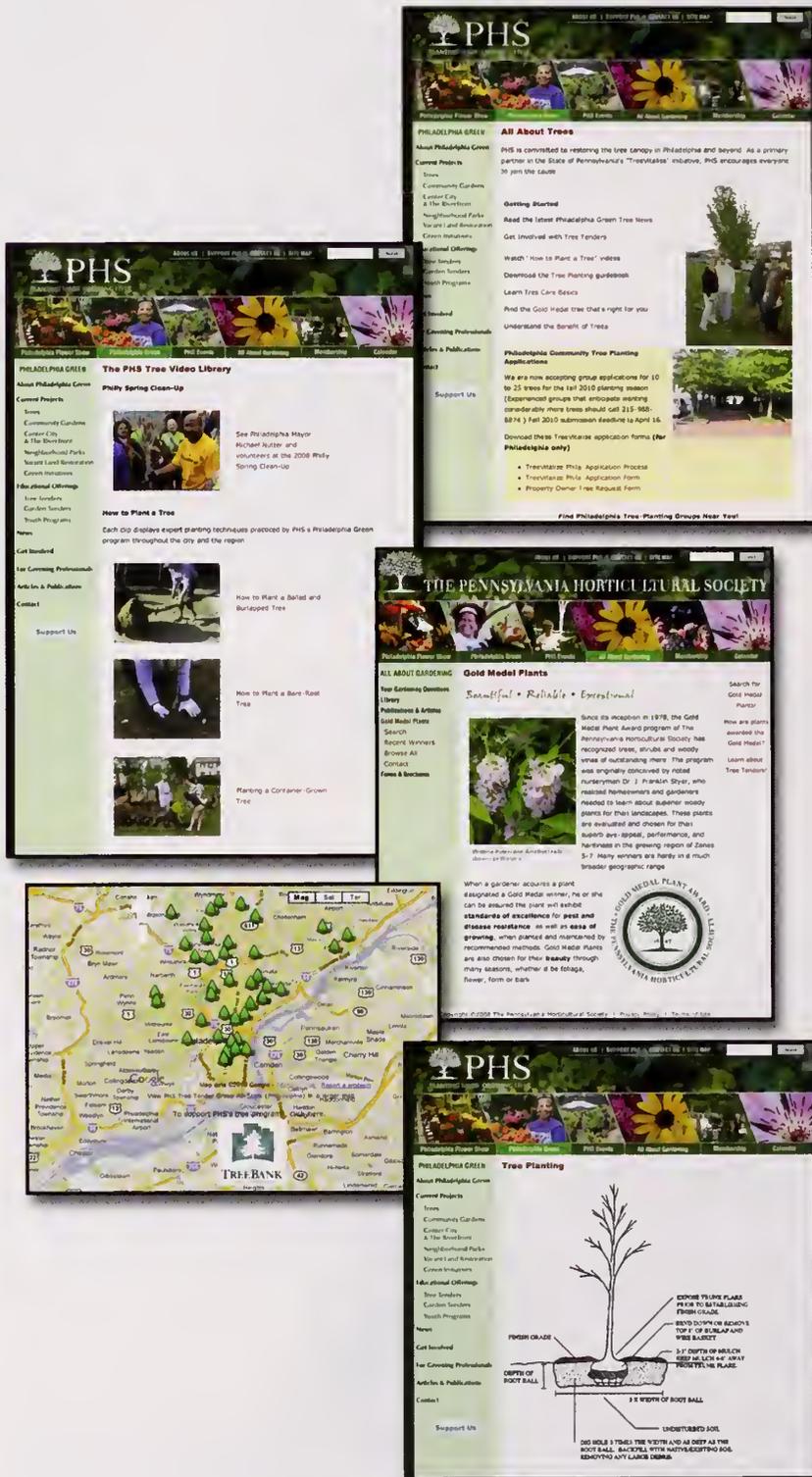


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Learn about Trees . . .

ONLINE

By Pete Prown



There is plenty of information about trees on the Internet, but it can be dizzying to wade through countless web pages to find what you're looking for. If you want to start locally, come to the PHS website for a variety of useful tree tools. Here you will find everything from planting tips to locating an area volunteer group to work with. Let's get started!

Your first stop is *Philadelphia green.org*, and then click either "Trees" or "Tree Tenders" on the left. The first link will take you to the **ALL ABOUT TREES** page, where you can watch videos on how to plant a tree; learn about tree care; and search through the PHS Gold Medal Plant database, which is full of photos, facts, and info on nearly 100 woody plants.

Philadelphia residents can file applications to obtain trees for fall planting. You'll also find interactive maps showing you PHS Tree Tender groups in the city and throughout the region. This handy tool allows you to search your area for nearby groups and find contact information in case you want to join the fun. Also on the left, you can click on the link for Tree Tenders, PHS's noted training class on tree care. This page will show you the dates of upcoming training sessions and contact information.

In just a few minutes, you learn a lot about how to properly plant a tree, care for it, and then join a group that will ensure there are healthy trees in your neighborhood for decades to come. Moreover, you will be contributing to the beauty and wellbeing of our region, because trees contribute environmental, social and economic benefits for all. Come visit *Philadelphigreen.org* to learn more!



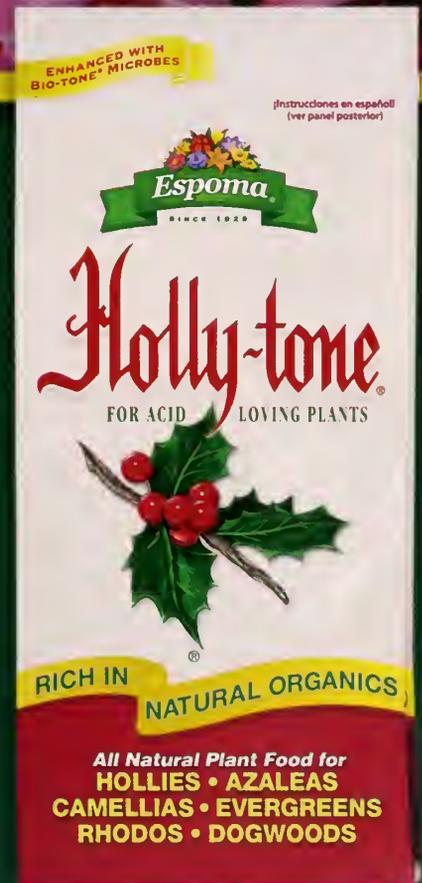
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A photograph of a forest path with tall, thin trees and a yellow Y-junction sign in the foreground. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting autumn. The path leads into the distance, and the sign is positioned at a fork in the path.

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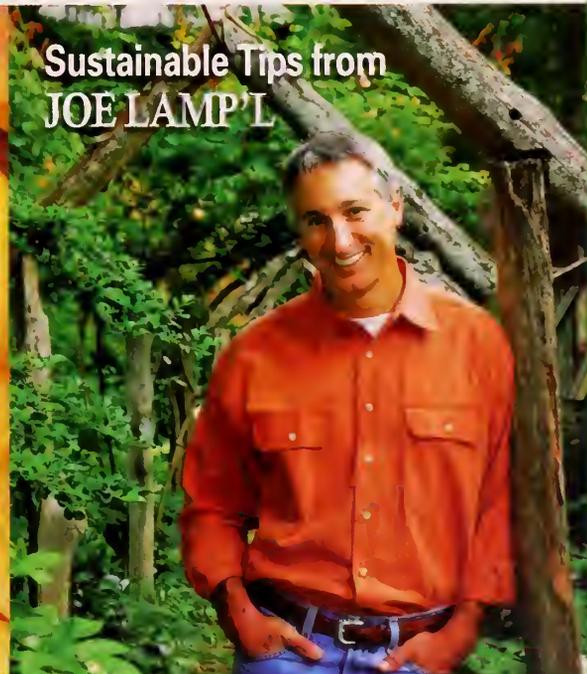
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JOE LAMP'L





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8



22



26



32

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POTTING SHED

8

Lavender Globe Lily

Learn about this lovely late-summer performer.

9

Hidden Treasures

Visit a pair of lush shade gardens in Philly's Mt. Airy neighborhood.

12

How to Garden in Dry Shade

In the shade of a large tree, plants often languish and die. But as Patricia A. Taylor shows us, the gardeners at Chanticleer have created a plant palette that thrives in dry shade.

FEATURES

16

Greening Up!

Join Laura Brandt as she asks "green gardening" expert Joe Lamp'1 about new techniques for greening up your lawn and garden work. A few easy steps will make a world of difference.

22

Creating Habitat for Our Woodland Friends

In today's increasingly urban environment, wildlife frequently suffers from loss of habitat. Susan and Bernard Cooker, however, are combating the problem by creating an animal-friendly environment throughout their Devon, PA, property. Learn how you, too, can create a home for critters.

26

Go Native with Heucheras and Tiarellas

Ilene Sternberg brings us up to speed with the latest hybrids and cultivars in this popular group of perennials.

32

Dining on Your Landscape

There are many edible plants in the landscape, says Ellen Zachos. Here, she shows us six plants that can all be served for supper. *Tuck in!*

COLUMNS

38

Greening Basics

Motivating Volunteers for a Workday

42

The Backyard

PHS's latest contribution to the fast-growing field of urban agriculture.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture

Cover photos: Bird by Steve Byland, Dreamstime.com; *Heuchera* courtesy of Proven Winners



8

Gardening Questions for DREW BECHER

Drew Becher recently became the 36th president of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and he's bringing his innovative concepts for greener living to PHS, its members, and constituents. But people also want to know about Drew's gardening background, so we recently talked with him about plants, design, and the environment.

Tell us about your early gardening adventures.

From a young age, I always was planting, weeding, and trimming at my grandmother's house. And at home, my father never needed to ask me to help with yard work. In fact, at 12 or 13, I won a contest for Most Beautiful Yard in Washington Township, Ohio. In high school, we had a great-looking school building, but they never kept up the landscape, so I started a grounds crew. We planted the front entrances and improved the atmosphere. Later, at the University of Cincinnati, whose campus wasn't very attractive at the time, I developed a grounds management system with students and created a master plan. It was recently named one of the top 10 most beautiful campuses in the country.

Who were your biggest influences?

I was really inspired by my grandmother, Ruby Rinko—she taught me so much. She would start plants from cuttings in those Gerber baby-food jars; to me, it seemed that she could grow anything. When I was older, I was influenced by landscape architects like Douglas Hoerr, who designed the exquisite median plantings in Chicago; New York's Michael Van Valkenburgh, whose spaces are truly innovative; and Lynden Miller, a designer who has worked in New York's Central Park and Bryant Park.

How did you get into greening?

I focused my college thesis on the idea that plants are relatively cheap, at least as compared to paving materials. I wondered, why do cities replace all these sidewalks when there are easier, less-expensive green solutions? For example, if you look at one city block, you might see that only part of a sidewalk is in disrepair. You can remove just the bad sections and add greenery and planters. And in our own gardens, we know that in one day you can clean it up, take out leggy plants, and put in attractive new ones. So my thought was, "Let's do the same thing, but on a larger, urban scale."

What is your own garden like?

I started it about four years ago, but since I haven't lived in Philadelphia full time until now, it's still a work in progress. The bones are in place. It's a mix of formal ideas and evolves into a more natural setting. I love white flowers, so there are lots of them, but they are

punctuated with exclamation points of color. Design-wise, I skew more to the somewhat "kept" look. Even my wild section might seem a little too groomed to some folks.

What part of the gardening process do you enjoy the most?

I like moving plants around and editing things in the landscape. At the end of the day, I'll sit on our patio with a glass of wine and think about what changes I want to make. I might even move a plant six inches if it will look better to me. I just love getting in there and digging. There's nothing better than going to a bed, pulling out the old plants, and redesigning it into something new. At the end of the day, you look at it and think, "Wow, I did this." As you know, it's incredibly satisfying.

Everyone wants to know:

What is your favorite flower?

I adore hydrangeas. They last all summer, and if you leave the flowers on, they look great for most of the winter, too.

Has the Flower Show influenced your planting plans?

Absolutely. I got some great plant ideas this year from that part of Hall B that insiders call the "Horticourt." One of them is to get a trough and do a rock-garden planting for my outdoor table. There's a rock gardening expert at Meadowbrook Farm named Bernard Pettit. So I'm going to take a class there; it'll be my summer project.

What can anyone do to become a greener gardener?

That's easy: compost. We all have uncooked food waste at our houses; plus as gardeners, we know how much leaf and flower litter floats down onto our properties. You can rake up that material and suddenly you have a big pile of green stuff that's perfect to throw on the compost pile. These days there are compost bins available in all sizes. To me, composting is one of the most important things you can do for your garden and the environment. Fortunately, it's really easy, too.



Pete Prown

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The Lavender Globe Lily

By Patricia Taylor

SOURCES

- **Klehm's Song Sparrow Nursery**
800-553-3715,
songsparrow.com
- **McClure & Zimmerman**
800-546-4053
mzbulb.com
- **Lazy S'S Farm**
lazyssfarm.com

August can be the cruelest month for gardeners, but thanks to lavender globe lily (*Allium tanguticum*), we can stay a little saner. Even when heat and humidity are beating down, and disease and nasty insects run rampant through the beds, lavender globe lily remains a reliable, no-fuss perennial, one I've been growing for more than 20 years in my gardens. It is good looking in sun or shade, long-blooming, and a bee magnet. What more could one ask?

Well, on my part, I wish it were better known. Perhaps even more important, I wish botanists or horticulturists could agree on its name—a situation that may account for this *Allium* being rarely found in gardens.

Alliums constitute a huge genus—up to 1,000 members—and come in either bulbous or rhizomatous forms. Lavender globe lily is among the latter and has rich, slightly bluish green, strap-like leaves from spring through fall. This 1- to 2-foot-tall plant forms clumps that spread very slowly, and I have never found a seedling.

I have placed it among the similarly colored foliage of irises, a dwarf blue baptisia, and a native white-flowered spiraea (*S. betufo-lia* var. *lucida*). The first two bloom in mid spring. The last blooms in late spring and sporadically thereafter and has purple foliage in fall. Lavender globe lily takes up the slack period in this grouping.

Starting in mid July, swanlike flower buds, encased in a white sheath, rise from the clump. Even if they never opened, I would grow the plant just for this lovely sculptural effect. As the stems straighten, the pendulous buds lift and form right angles, so that the effect is of a gaggle of geese. And now—here comes the popular name—the buds open to form upright pale lavender globes. This symphony of form and color goes on for six to eight weeks.

My plants came from McClure & Zimmerman. I ordered two cultivars, 'Summer Beauty' and 'Blue Skies', at different times and wasn't paying close attention when I planted them, with the result that I couldn't tell the difference between the two and have no idea which clump I took with me when we moved five years ago.

What I have learned, however, is that Mark McDonough, aka "The Onion Man" and a superb source of *Allium* information, believes that there is no such creature as *A. tanguticum*. He first thought the plants that I bought were *A. senescens* ssp. *montanum* and has since told me that the accepted nomenclature is now *A. lusitanicum*. However, you will still find quite a bit of information about this plant under *A. tanguticum*. Why should one care about all of this? The problem is that plants are sold under all three botanical names, and many are definitely not the ones I have. If you want to purchase my kind of lavender globe lily, look for a description that specifies late-summer blooming. For example, Lazy S'S Farm Nursery sells a plant similar to mine online, but it is listed as *A. senescens*.

Thus, while lavender globe lily is an easy perennial, finding it is not. But now with the information here, you should have no trouble. You can keep yourself sane, if not cool, in the midst of August heat. 🌿

The Potting Shed

In the Mount Airy section of Philadelphia where I live, lots of big old trees offer cooling shade but pose a challenge for gardeners who crave sun. Nevertheless, two local artists have turned their shady properties into neighborhood gems.

Eric Sternfels earned a first prize in the 2008 PHS City Gardens Contest. When I visited his garden on a drizzly day last May, purple camassia, celandine poppy, St. John's wort, white azalea, and yellow-green creeping jenny brightened the small yard in front of his nineteenth-century millworker's house.

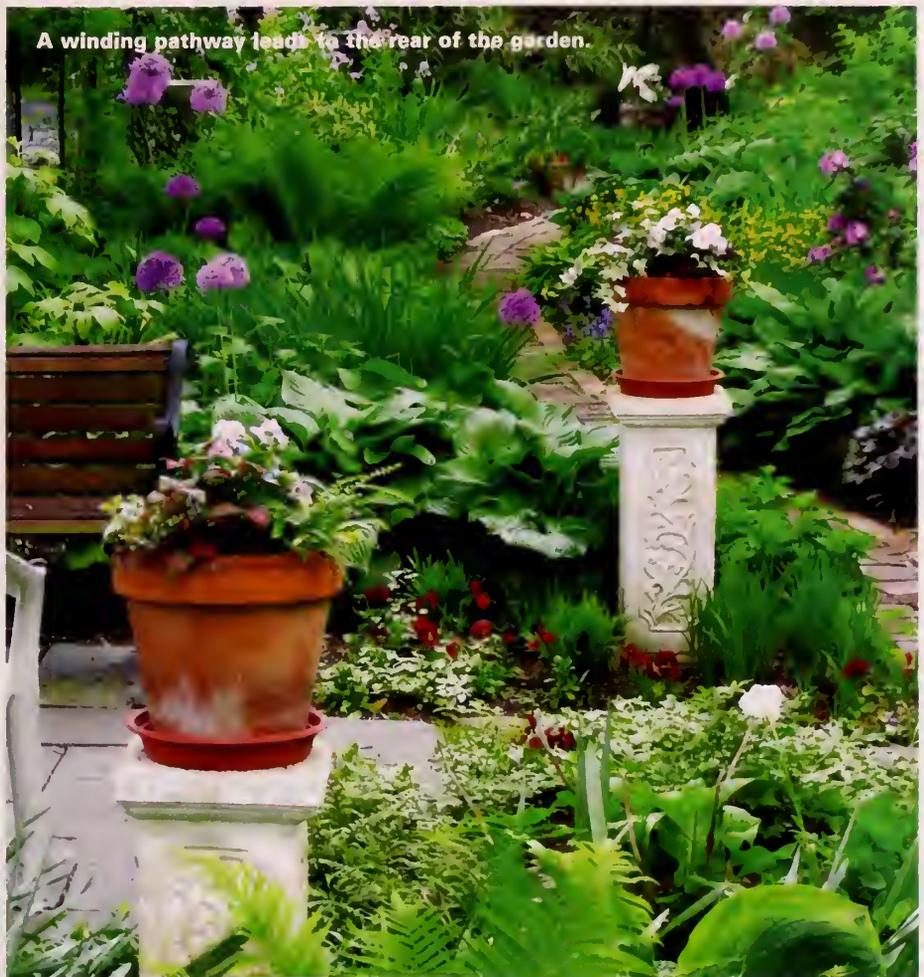
But the front garden was just a teaser. An alleyway alongside the house led to a back garden twice the length of most yards in the neighborhood. Trained as an architect but now focusing on sculpture and design, Sternfels said that when he moved in, the back space contained mostly ivy and lamiastrum along with a few trees and shrubs. One of his first projects was to re-lay a straight brick walkway that ran from the house to the back fence. By simply giving it a gentle curve, he turned it into an inviting garden path.

"The bones of the garden were good," Sternfels recalled. He began to add sweeps of plants and create interesting combinations, all on a shoestring budget. "I started adding handoffs from friends, stuff they thought too aggressive like yellow ranunculus. If you catch the runners at the right time, you can control the spreading."

He inter-planted the ranunculus with a long sweep of yellow-leaf hosta, which he

A Pair of CHARMING GARDENS in Mount Airy

By Jane Carroll
Photography by
Margaret Funderburg &
Eric Sternfels



A winding pathway leads to the rear of the garden.



Eric Sternfels



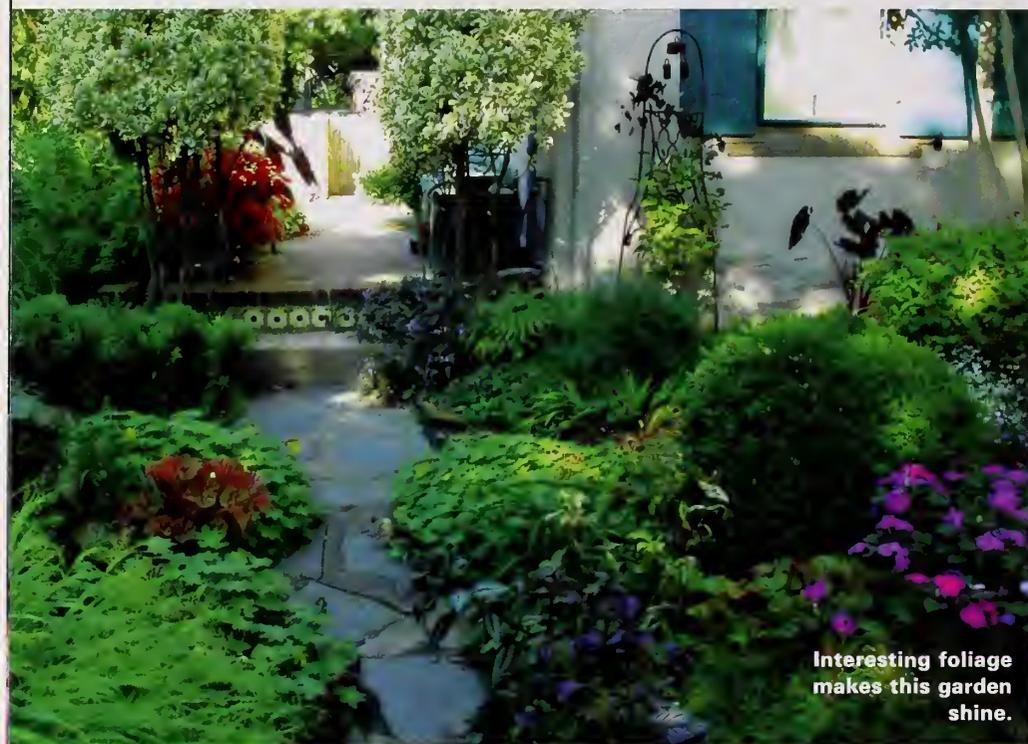
Recycled bricks frame a curved bed of lirope.

established over the years by dividing a clump grown from a single plant. Tall fronds of Solomon's seal poked up between the leaves of another group of hosta.

He matched a stunning leucothoe, an evergreen whose foliage emerges copper red, with rose-pink *Heuchera* 'Georgia peach' and *Ajuga reptans* 'Burgundy Glow'.

The City Gardens Contest prodded Sternfels to do more. "Having the judges come in late summer—when the garden might not look its best—forces you to improve things," he said. After winning he used his \$50 prize to keep on improving things: "I immediately went out and bought a

The Potting Shed



Interesting foliage makes this garden shine.



Carpenter's pottery adorns the garden.



Syd Carpenter

Scattered throughout the garden are hanging sculptures Sternfels made from old watering cans picked up at flea markets. This habit of making good use of simple things has served Sternfels well. He's created a prize-winning garden by mixing standard shade plants with a generous helping of ingenuity.

On another shady plot a few blocks away, sculptor Syd Carpenter has transformed a small corner property into a wonderland of form, texture, and color. An emphasis on foliage makes this garden shine year-round. "It's not just about blooms; it's the leaves," Carpenter said when I saw the garden last fall. "Basically I don't bring a plant into the garden if it doesn't have a leaf I can work with." Even though her summer-blooming plants had begun to fade, the foliage continued to hold the design together.

A ceramic artist who teaches at Swarthmore College, Carpenter draws inspiration from the Scott Arboretum on the Swarthmore campus. Not surprisingly for a sculptor, she loves branches. Consequently many trees and shrubs on the property have been "limbed up"—the lower branches pruned off to reveal the trunks. A Japanese maple twists gracefully skyward, two euonymous shrubs framing a walkway are pruned into tree form, and the upper branches of a trimmed beautyberry cascade over a sweep of variegated liriop.

Carpenter likes to use large perennials as "anchor plants" and complement them with under-plantings. In early fall, a stand of *Pericaria virginiana* (mountain fleece) with tall spikes of magenta flowers anchored a central bed in the back garden. Around it stood mounds of hellebore, heuchera, daylilies, spirea, and hosta. One of Carpenter's large ceramic pots sat under the leaves. Nearby, Rozanne geranium, lamium, and Japanese painted ferns grew beneath two rocket junipers.

Carpenter's husband, artist Steve Donegan, has adorned the garden with hanging bells that gently ring as they bounce up and down on coiled wire, but they don't scare away the hummingbirds that visit a trumpet vine on the back fence in summer.

Small as it is, the garden attracts a lot of wildlife, partly because Carpenter doesn't use pesticides or chemical fertilizers. "I see toads, salamanders, and snakes, too," she said. "It's reassuring, because if they're here, then I know it's okay for me to be here." She points out that chemicals migrate into the environment. "They end up in our water; they don't just stop on your property line," she said. She tolerates having a few plants "sampled" by insects, and if a plant starts to look really bad, she pulls it out and tries something else.

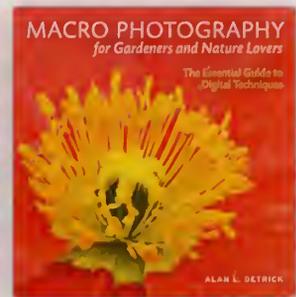
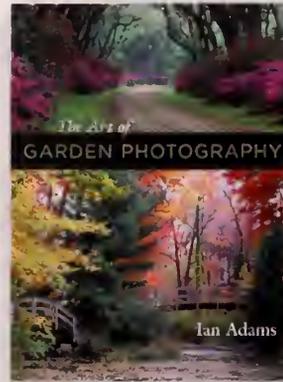
To keep things interesting, Carpenter digs things up, moves them, and adds containers if necessary. "Because the garden is small I don't have the luxury of creating a new bed, so I'm always changing things," she explained. "The challenge for all of us is to orchestrate something that's constantly changing—not only day to day, but minute to minute." 🌿

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SEE PAGE 40 FOR CONTEST RULES & MORE PRIZES

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Formerly lawn, this bed now shines with the golden foliage of *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola', the fluffy seed heads of *Anemone sylvestris*, and the delicate pink blooms of *Geranium macrorrhizum* 'Ingwersen's Variety'.

Gardening in Dry

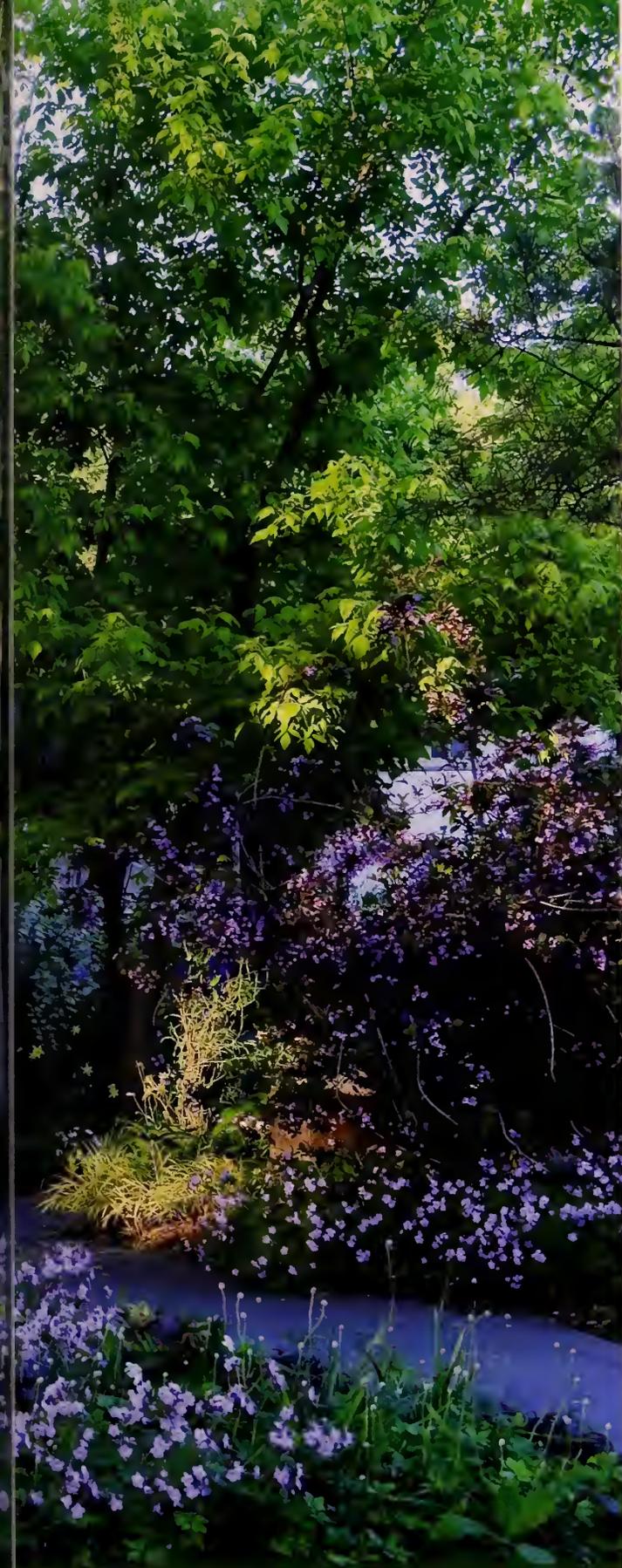


Photo: B. Cobb / iardline.com/epi/where-noted

Shade

A few years ago, Jonathan Wright, a horticulturist at Chanticleer in Wayne, PA, looked at a rather barren spot underneath a large oak tree near the pleasure garden's entrance and decided he could do better. And he most certainly has.

Under his careful tending, a patch of scraggly grass competing with oak tree roots has been transformed into an area filled with contrasting color and foliage from early spring to late fall. I first saw the garden on a hot, humid July day and was amazed at how charming this dry shady spot looked under such difficult circumstances.

Jonathan explained that as one of the seven horticulturists at Chanticleer he is given almost free rein in designing and selecting plants for assigned garden areas. There's one little catch: Jonathan, like the others, is personally responsible for upkeep (and, yes, that does include hand weeding). As a result, he designed his new shade garden with minimal maintenance in mind. That did it. I had to learn more, and Jonathan obliged.

Both height and color are driving forces behind this superb display. All plants are less than 2 feet tall and have either blue, purple, pink, lavender, or white flowers. Proven old-time favorites, as well as little known garden gems, are included in the plant palette.

The bulbs, which bloom throughout spring, include bright blue *Chionodoxa forbesii*, deep blue *Chionodoxa sardensis*, and electric blue *Scilla siberica*. 'Festival Blue' hyacinths were planted right next to the meandering oak tree roots to create a stream of color in May. These last are new to me. They feature the incredible fragrance of the common garden hyacinths, but instead of each bulb producing one thick cluster of flowers, it shoots up several stems forming loose flower sprays.

Among the readily available perennials Jonathan chose for this area are snowdrop anemone (*A. sylvestris*), the extra fragrant 'Sherwood Purple' creeping phlox (*P. stolonifera*), *Niveum epimedium*, 'Montrose Ruby' heuchera, and 'Golden Tiara' hosta.

The anemone is decked with satiny white nodding flowers in early spring. 'Sherwood Purple', which grows easily from cuttings (just bury a snippet in soil and mist well for a week or so),



Story by
Patricia A. Taylor

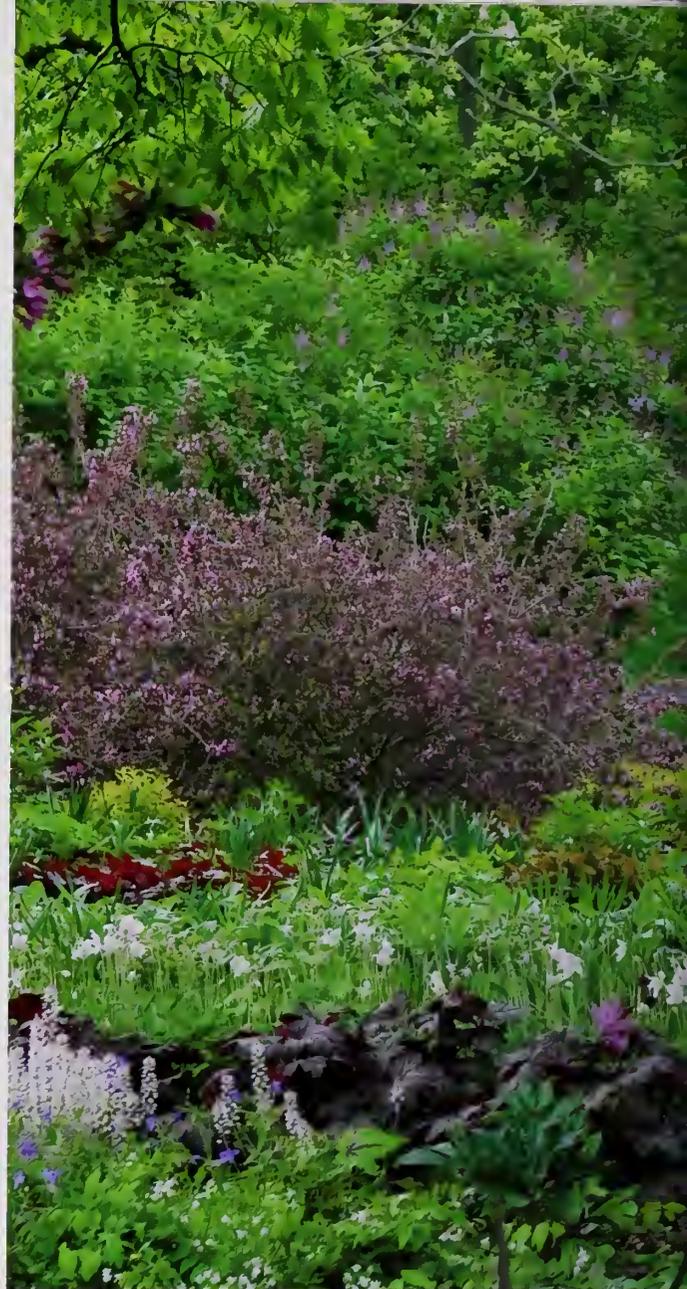
Gardening in **Dry Shade**

forms a thick, green mat over the area. The epimedium features dainty white flowers in spring and has small, delicate leaves. 'Montrose Ruby' is a wonderful plant. It has warm purple foliage throughout the growing season and won't conk out in a year or two, as so many of the new heuchera introductions do. The mat-forming 'Golden Tiara', with its greenish-yellow leaves, complements the heuchera foliage and sports bluish-purple flowers in July.

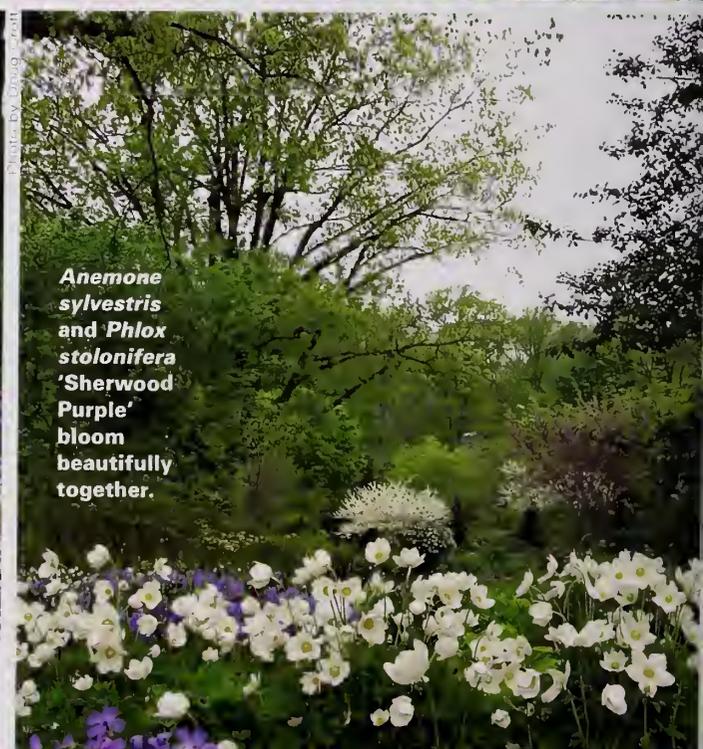
New-to-me native perennials (and, alas, hard to find—but keep searching on the Internet) include the thin, grasslike sprays of 'Ivory Sedge' (*Carex eburnea*) and a small, white-flowered amsonia (*A. montana f. alba*).

Well, with that explanation and list of plants, I no longer had an excuse for not doing anything with the bare, dry-shade spot on my property. And now, dear reader, neither do you. 🌿

Located at 786 Church Road in Wayne, PA, Chanticleer is open 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Wednesday through Sunday. The garden is also open on Friday evenings until 8:00 pm through August. PHS members receive a special discount on admission. Learn more at Chanticleergarden.org.



Plantings of *Daphne x burkwoodii* 'Carol Mackie' and *Phlox stolonifera* 'Sherwood Purple'



Anemone sylvestris and *Phlox stolonifera* 'Sherwood Purple' bloom beautifully together.



Tiarella cordifolia,
Phlox stolonifera,
'Sherwood Purple',
and *Anemone*
sylvestris provide
flower color while the
purple foliage of
Heuchera 'Montrose
Ruby' picks up on the
rosy hues of *Weigela*
florida 'Foliis
Purpureis' in the
neighboring bed.



Nearby, the same *Geranium* and *Heuchera* tie the beds together while the dark foliage of ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diablo') and the white variegated willow (*Salix integra* 'Albo Maculata') echo the floral and foliar color scheme.

Tips for Becoming a GREENER GARDENER

Garden Expert Joe Lamp'1 Shares Ideas for an Earth-Friendly Garden

By Laura A. Brandt



We all want to become greener gardeners, but it's a journey. First, you need to educate yourself about gardening practices; be willing to forego old ways; listen to new ideas; and above all, have patience.

Garden expert Joe Lamp'1 has done all of these things and more as he tours the country this year listening to the stories of eco-friendly gardeners. As a garden writer, lecturer, and host of the new PBS TV series *Growing a Greener World*, which debuted in mid-May, Lamp'1 promotes environmental stewardship principles to various audiences. This year, I attended his talk at the Philadelphia International Flower Show, where he demonstrated some of his favorite eco-friendly tools then gave them away to lucky winners. His second book, *The Green Gardener's Guide*, further shows us how to incorporate green gardening principles.

"As gardeners, environmental stewardship is our responsibility," says Joe. "Many people don't realize that their actions have a big impact on the environment. When we use 'time-saving' products and equipment in our gardens, we are often inadvertently polluting our waterways, soil, and air."

Most of us are familiar with the terms organic gardening, sustainability, green- or eco-gardening, but do we really understand the issues? Joe explains, "While many gardeners want to be more environmentally responsible, they can become confused. They may shop with good intentions of purchasing eco-friendly products, but then come home with the same old thing. Greener products don't necessarily work in the same way or in the same amount of time as products gardeners are used to using."

Here are some simple steps to becoming a greener gardener. Also, visit Joe's website, joegardener.com, for more tips.

Welcome to the Gardener's Studio

presented by Subaru



Joe presenting at the Flower Show's "Gardener's Studio"



"As gardeners, environmental stewardship is our responsibility."

Joe Lamp'l



Use leaf litter and yard trimmings to improve your compost pile.

REDUCE WATER USAGE. Gardeners can cut their water consumption in half by selecting plants that are native to their area, because they are better adapted to local soil and moisture conditions. By planting a variety of native species, you can create a diverse habitat that provides pollen, nectar, and shelter that beneficial insects need to thrive.

Placing a rain barrel beneath a downspout is an easy way to collect gallons of water every time it rains. “Why use potable water for your garden when you can easily collect rainwater?” asks Joe. “At my house I have a barrel under every downspout. Some people connect two or more rain barrels in a series to satisfy their watering needs.” For a 100-square-foot garden, you’ll need about 50 gallons available. You can find a variety of new and recycled barrels listed online. Be sure to purchase a “food grade” barrel that has not contained caustic chemicals.

REDUCE HARMFUL CHEMICALS TO PROTECT OUR WATER. Of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 16 are toxic to birds, 24 are toxic to fish and aquatic organisms, and 11 are toxic to bees, according to *The Green Gardener’s Guide*. Suburban lawns and gardens use about two and a half times more pesticides per acre on average than commercial agriculture does. Joe advocates handpicking some of the annoying garden pests.

“In our quest for the picture-perfect instant garden, it’s too easy to reach for a spray bottle of chemicals,” Joe says. “Many pest insects have built up a tolerance to some of the chemicals we’ve been using for years. You’ll just be killing beneficial insects and decreasing the amount of food available to birds and other wildlife.”

GROW THE RIGHT PLANT IN THE RIGHT PLACE. When grown in the right place, plants will thrive. “When plants are in an ideal location, they’ll be naturally more pest and disease resistant because they won’t be under stress,” says Joe.

Plants that prefer shade will quickly become stressed in full sun, and those that like wet soil will not be happy in dry areas. As



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Taking it Over the Fence

So you're already an eco-conscious gardener? Consider going the extra mile to get others on board:

- Request that your local nursery or garden center carry eco-friendly products.
- Start an eco-friendly garden in your community as an example to others.
- Talk to your neighbors about "green gardening" when they admire your yard.
- Get involved in tree preservation and planting in your neighborhood.
- Get involved in local bird habitat programs.
- Certify your yard as a wildlife habitat through the National Wildlife Federation.

Source: *The Green Gardener's Guide: Simple, Significant Actions to Protect & Preserve Our Planet*, Joe Lamp'l, 2007.

we try to *fix* our droopy plants with extra fertilizer, pesticides, or water, we are only harming the environment. You can find helpful cultural information on plant tags, at garden centers with knowledgeable staff, or online.

USE COMPOST AND MULCH. Adding compost and mulch to your garden will go a long way toward creating a greener garden. "For every item that you throw in the compost pile, that's one less for the landfill," notes Joe. Yard trimmings account for about 13 percent by weight of the total solid waste

generated in the United States, which is 32 million tons every year.

Mulch keeps soil cooler and protects it from the drying effects of sun, heat, and wind. Apply a 2-inch layer around your plants. "If you use bagged mulch, make sure it's certified by the Mulch & Soil Council (mulchandsoilcouncil.org) as free from chemical wood preservatives," adds Joe.

A GREENER WORLD

Through his *Growing a Greener World* TV show and through online social-media blasts,



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SHOWROOM BY APPOINTMENT

Joe hopes to reach a broader audience, including generations X and Y. Says Joe, “The show features people, places, and organizations doing good things for the planet, with an emphasis on eco-friendly flower and vegetable gardening. We’ll also show people how to harvest, cook, and enjoy what they grow.”

The new show features gardens and public spaces around the country, including in the Greater Philadelphia Region. In the pilot show, Joe and his crew visited Greensgrow Farms, a sustainable urban farm and nursery in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. He also visited Emmaus to interview Maria Rodale and her daughter Maya.

“Don’t be afraid to take that first step into gardening or sustainability, and don’t feel that your efforts won’t matter,” Joe says. “Even a journey of 1,000 miles begins with the first step, and it’s the collective efforts of all that really will make a difference.” 🌱

Laura Brandt is a garden writer and landscape consultant who writes about sustainable gardening and lives in Bucks County.

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ISBN: 978-0-87169-264-1

Peter Collinson's life is a microcosm of eighteenth-century natural history. A London Quaker, a draper by trade, and a passionate gardener and naturalist by avocation, Collinson was what we would now call a facilitator in natural science, disseminating botanical and horticultural knowledge during the Enlightenment. He influenced men such as Comte de Buffon and Linnaeus. He found clients for the Philadelphia Quaker farmer and naturalist, John Bartram, at a time when the English landscape was evolving to emphasize trees and shrubs. In this monograph, Collinson "speaks to the reader in a distinct voice.

POLAR HAYES: The Life and Contributions of Isaac Israel Hayes, M.D.

Douglas W. Wamsley
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ISBN: 978-0-87169-262-7

As a member of the harrowing American Arctic expedition under the command of Dr. Elisha Kent Kane in search of the lost British explorer Sir John Franklin, Isaac Israel Hayes became obsessed with making his own mark in the far northern polar regions. He organized his own privately funded voyage to the Arctic in 1860, during which he claimed to have reached a 'farthest north' and to have stood on the edge of the fabled "Open Polar Sea," a mythical ice-free zone in the high northern latitudes.

Polar Hayes brings to light the complete story of an immensely talented individual. Drawing upon Hayes family papers, little-viewed diaries from Hayes's own expeditions, and unpublished primary sources, Polar Hayes is the story of a remarkable but forgotten explorer, writer, politician, and humanitarian.

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Greifenstein after the death of Dr. Bell in early 2009. The three-volume set is a worthy testament to a much loved member of the APS and a handsome addition to bookshelves.

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Peter Heering, Oliver Hochadel,
David J. Rhees (editors)
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ISBN: 978-1-60618-995-5

In 2002 the world commemorated the 250th anniversary of the invention of the lightning rod. In 2006 the tercentenary of the birth of its inventor, Benjamin Franklin, was celebrated. In spite of this attention, the development and adoption of the lightning rod remain poorly understood.

Playing with Fire reveals the complex histories of the lightning rod in a multidisciplinary and multifaceted manner. To reflect on the development of the "Franklin rod" is to understand how science and technology have entered our world and changed it in profound ways.

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Christopher Carter
Vol. 99, Pt. 4 - \$35.00 • Paper
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Magnetic Fever explores the links between science and empire in the 19th century, focusing on the mutual interactions of British imperialism and geophysical empiricism. Science was becoming global, in part due to European colonial and imperial expansion. Both the scientific theories and the geopolitical realities played a role in creating the tool for studying global science still in use today.

Choosing Selection: The Revival of Natural Selection in Anglo-American Evolutionary Biology, 1930-1970

Stephen G. Brush
Vol. 99, Pt. 3 - \$35 • Paper
ISBN: 978-1-60618-993-1
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Choosing Selection describes the establishment of the hypothesis that Charles Darwin's natural selection is the primary or exclusive mechanism for biological evolution. During the 1930s, alternatives such as Lamarchism, macromutations, and orthogenesis were rejected in favor of natural selection acting on small mutations, but there was disagreement about the role of random genetic drift in evolution. By

the 1950s, research by T. Dobzhansky, E. B. Ford, and others persuaded leading evolutionists that natural selection was so powerful that drift was generally unimportant.

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Ronald Hoppes always admired the David Rittenhouse astronomical musical clock and over the years he found historical accounts on the clock, but discovered that information on the indications and the mechanical details were absent. During the clock's restoration he had the opportunity to examine the movement and list detailed descriptions for each of the clock's various indications and operations. With this book, it is ensured that the clock's mechanical details, previously undocumented and unavailable, will not be lost or forgotten.

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Joe Cain and Michael Ruse (editors)
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This volume arises from a symposium held in Philadelphia in October 2004. Scholars convened to focus on the "synthesis" period in evolutionary studies, when fundamental changes occurred in the discipline. How does recent scholarship change our understanding of the period? How does it alter our sense of connection across the generations? How do activities in evolutionary studies relate with developments elsewhere in biology? The papers presented at the conference both informed an assessment of the state of the history of evolutionary studies and pressed it forward with new and thoughtful scholarship. Collectively, the papers selected for inclusion in the book make a significant, and occasionally provocative, contribution to their field.

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GROWING A HABITAT GARDEN



The words “wildlife habitat” may conjure up images of vast forests or murky marshes buzzing with activity, but a habitat can be as simple and small as a backyard garden. Take, for instance, the home of Susan and Bernard Cooker of Willistown, PA. A brick-and-stone suburban home set among a good bit of trees, this property hosts not just a human family, but those of rodents, reptiles, birds, and bugs.

By Daniel Moise



Moss pink (*Phlox subulata*) provides color in mid-spring.

"It's been in the last seven years that we've really embraced this new way of looking at gardening," Bernard says. "You have your house and that's yours to enjoy. But everything that surrounds it is an opportunity to restore nature and welcome back native plants and animals."

Nearly every plant now found at the Cooker home is native to the region. Most impressive are the gray dogwoods (*Cornus racemosa*); elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.); chokeberry (*Aronia* sp.); and Hercules' club (*Aralia spinosa*), also known as devil's walking stick. Susan is certainly knowledgeable about her leafy friends; she points out an eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and says that "54 species of songbird will eat from that tree."

Reintroducing so many natives has made the garden popular among the local animals. In addition to a resurgence of birds, Susan and Bernard have spotted less-common critters like voles, salamanders, and red squirrels. Even the everyday chipmunk wasn't

seen scurrying about the property until three years ago.

Of course randomly plopping down natives isn't going to usher in such a menagerie automatically. The Cookers strategically selected plants that would appeal to certain kinds of wildlife. Perhaps most surprising is the vines and crisscrossed sticks that make the "snakearium" (-arium, a suffix denoting a place or container, and *snake* ... well, that doesn't require a definition). Although people become quite squeamish on this subject, Susan demurs, "Snakes serve a purpose, too."

This open-armed approach toward animals makes the Cookers one of nearly 150,000 landowners across the country certified by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). The criteria for creating a wildlife habitat include providing animals with food and water sources, plants that can be used for cover, and places to raise young (such as dense shrubs or vegetation). The NWF also



Going GREEN

Susan and Bernard in the garden



Susan points to an eastern red cedar and says that "54 species of songbird will eat from that tree."



Flowering natives bloom alongside the garden shed.



A rustic birdhouse

RESOURCES

Willistown Conservation Trust
wctrust.org

National Wildlife Federation
nwf.org

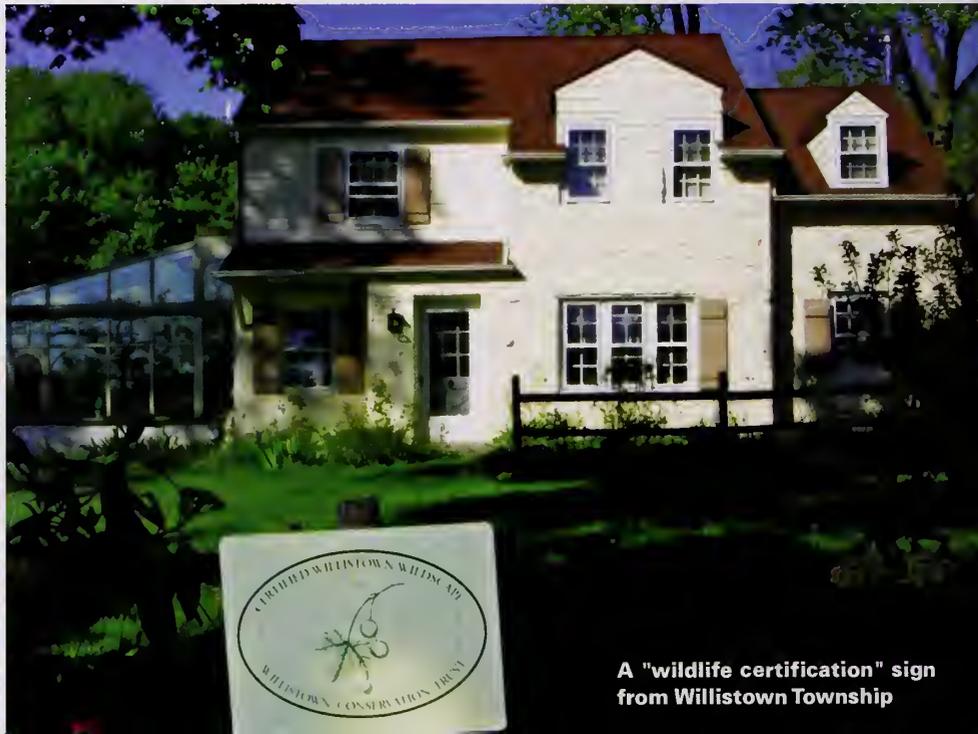
Habitat Resources of Southeastern PA
habitatresourcenetwork.org



The "Snakearium"



Bee balm is terrific for attracting wildlife.



A "wildlife certification" sign from Willistown Township

The Barnes Foundation Arboretum School

requires that certified habitats are maintained with sustainable gardening practices.

The Cookers are also registered with the Willistown Conservation Trust, an organization that promotes land protection and stewardship among property owners in the Chester County town and its surroundings.

While continuing to make their property increasingly eco-friendly (their garage, for instance, has solar panels on the roof and rain barrels along the back), the Cookers enjoy sharing the message of conservation with others. Susan often imparts her knowledge to garden clubs and occasionally acts as a consultant to homeowners interested in becoming a bit greener.

The long-term goal—one that causes Susan and Bernard's eyes to light up when they discuss it—is to convert their barn into an interactive classroom. There they could share with interested adults and, perhaps, students from the school across the street, the merits of native plants and the importance of protecting wildlife.

In short, Susan would offer this advice to anyone thinking about making their property a wildlife habitat: "Pick a spot and put in some plants, a bush or two, and a tree. Consider species that bear berries, as they usually attract animals. Of course a feeder works well, too. If possible, install some sort of water element. Last, but not least, add a bench so you can sit and enjoy the space you've created."

Bernard adds, "Even someone living in a condominium can pitch in by placing a birdhouse in a tree or a few native plants on the patio. Conservation is something everyone can participate in."

Susan chimes in, "If you build it, they will come." 🐸



In 1940, Laura Barnes established the Arboretum school to provide students of horticulture, botany, and landscape architecture the opportunity to work under professional guidance. The Barnes Foundation carries on the tradition today offering a three-year program in ornamental horticulture which offers a comprehensive curriculum of botany, plant propagation, practical horticulture techniques, and landscape design. The curriculum develops skilled horticulturalists through a combination of classroom lecture, self-directed learning, and hands-on practice. The Foundation also offers one and two-day workshops during the summer.

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HEUCHERA TIARELLA

and their Children

COLORFUL NATIVES FOR YOUR GARDEN

"Few perennials have undergone as dramatic a makeover as *Heuchera* (coral bells), *Tiarella* (foamflowers), and their offspring, the *Heucherella* (foamy bells)," says Dan Heims. Dan is head of Terra Nova Nurseries, a renowned wholesale establishment specializing in choice perennials. "Drawn from species with small white flowers and unremarkable foliage, these native woodlanders and crevice dwellers are now among the world's most popular nursery plants," he says.

Thanks to avid hybridizers like Heims, today's *Heuchera* come in a stunning array of leaf colors, shapes, sizes, and textures, making them striking as groundcovers, in borders, containers, and floral arrangements and adding new design possibilities for most of the year.

Formerly, few of the 70-plus species and sub-species, all North American and Mexican natives, were grown as ornamentals. Alumroot, the original common name for

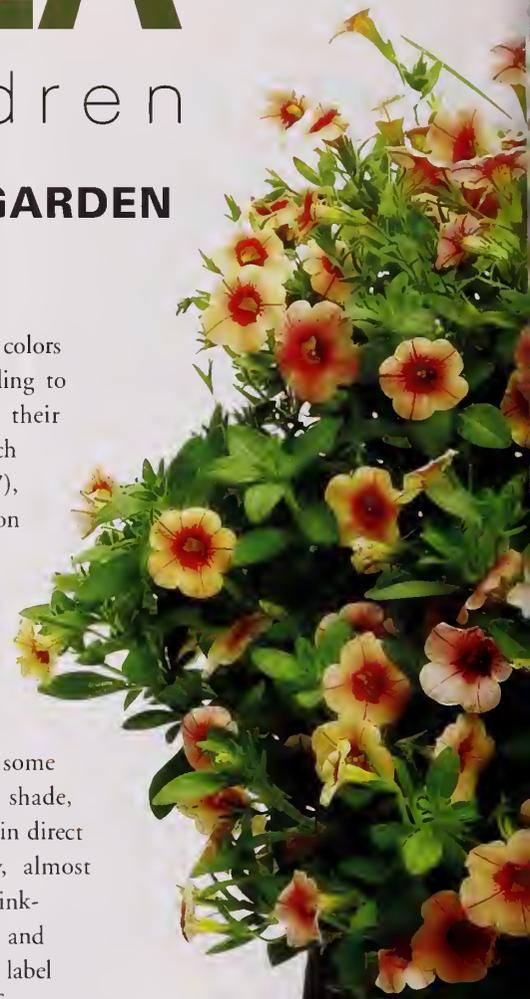


By Ilene Sternberg

Heuchera, was for centuries used medicinally for a myriad of ailments, from tuberculosis to dysentery. The root can be substituted for alum (aluminum sul-

fate), a mordant used to fix colors when dyeing fabric. According to Heims, in deference to their namesake, Johann Heinrich von Heucher (1677-1747), the proper pronunciation should be "HOY-ker-uh." (Here's your chance to out-snoot your Latin-literate friends.)

Depending on their respective origins, some coral bells do better in shade, others in sun. I grow most in direct sunlight, including shiny, almost black 'Obsidian'; dark, pink-freckled 'Midnight Rose'; and swarthy 'Mocha'. Check the label of your purchased cultivar for recommended siting. Favoring rich, well-drained soils with pH of 5.8 to 6.3 and cool night temperatures, *Heuchera* are remarkably forgiving and drought tolerant once established. *Heuchera* are evergreen in all but the most severe climates; in our area the foliage deteriorates as winter progresses, and plants sometimes heave out of the ground. Most crucial, *never cover their crowns with soil or mulch.* (You'd die, too, if someone buried your face.) If the stems become woody, the plant goes bald at the center, or flowering diminishes, divide and replant them, preferably in spring.



H. 'Key Lime'

Chris Brown Photography



Thanks to avid hybridizers like Heims, today's *Heuchera* come in a stunning array of leaf colors, shapes, sizes, and textures.

Going GREEN



H. 'Chocolate Ruffles'

Flowers are light and airy variations of white, pink, coral, lilac, or red. They are showy in some cases and inconsequential in others, compared to the lovely leaves.

Heuchera cultivar names are as delectable as their leaf variation. Who can resist plants dubbed 'Peach Flambé', 'Caramel', 'Marmalade', 'Crème Brûlée', 'Plum Pudding', 'Mint Julep', 'Key Lime Pie', 'Champagne Bubbles', 'Berry Smoothie', and—heaven help us—'Chocolate Ruffles'. (Thank goodness that isn't 'Truffles' or I'd be chomping my way across the garden right now.)

Still more enticing are those that change color as the seasons progress: 'Georgia Peach' matures from rose in spring to red-violet in summer, then deep amber in winter; 'Southern Comfort' from orangeade with hot pink undersides to copper; 'Tiramisu' from yellow to chartreuse with a predominant rosy central blotch and lime-green veins; 'Miracle' starts pale yellow, turning brick red with a bright gold edge and silvered undersides by fall; and 'Electra' from red-veined yellow spring leaves to chartreuse in summer and fall,



H. 'Mint Julep'

then tan in winter.

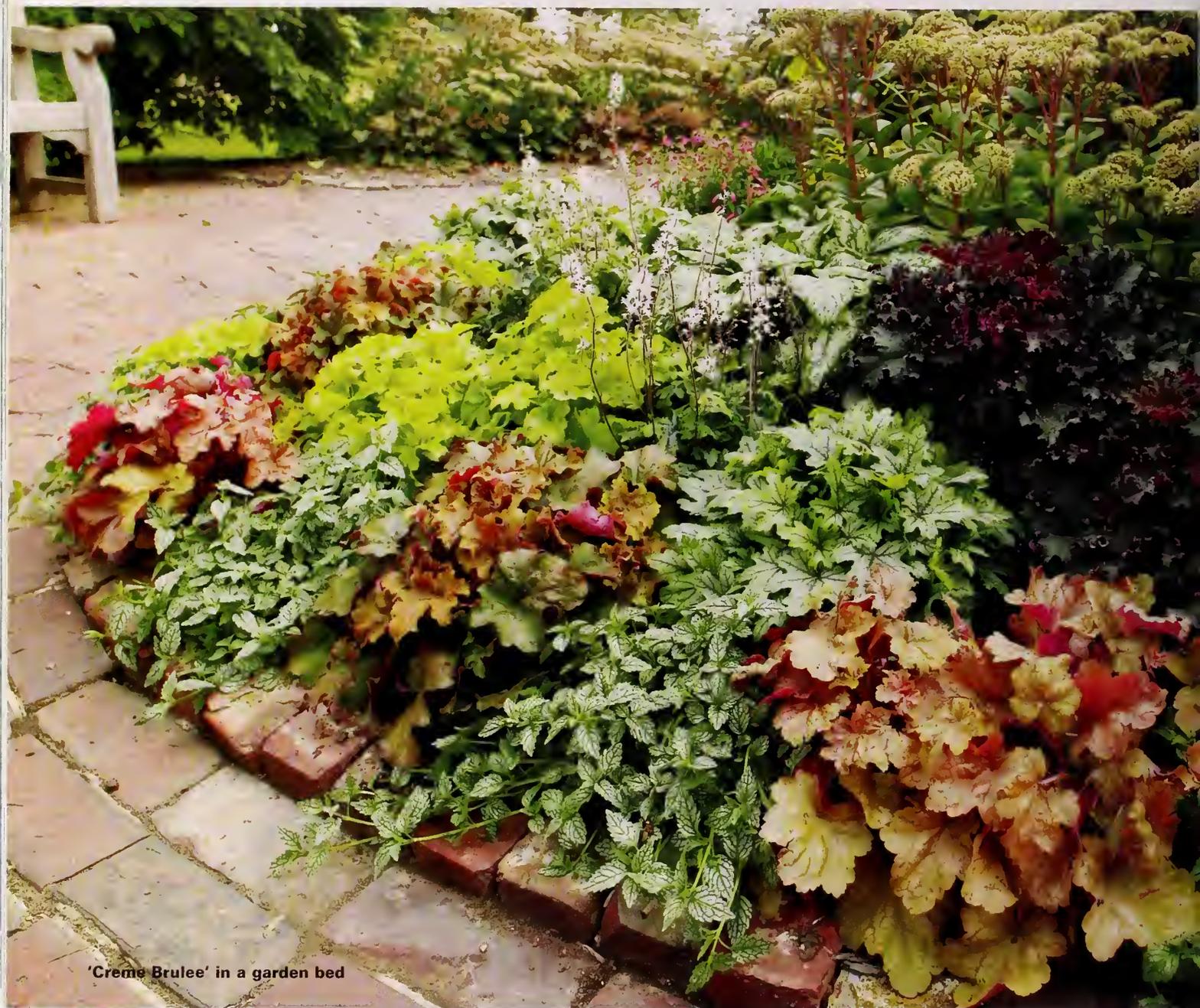
In his book, *Heucheras and Heucherellas* (Timber Press, 2005, \$27.95), and on his Website (terranovanurseries.com), Heims suggests numerous companion plants and shows how to use them in floral arrangements, woodland or dry gardens, and even in the winter garden. (Of course, Heims lives in Oregon, where snowblower is rarely spoken.)

H. 'Creme Brulee'



H. 'Berry Smoothie'

Best of all incentives to create a *Heuchera*, *Tiarella*, and *Heucherella* tapestry is the fact that deep notorious garden vandals seem completely indifferent to their charms.



'Creme Brulee' in a garden bed

As for foamflowers, *Tiarella cordifolia* cultivars are widely used as shade-loving, drought-tolerant, spreading groundcovers. Many are clumping, non-running types, such as *T. wherryi* 'Skids Variegated', an eye-catching plant with brick-tinted foliage that surprisingly presents speckled cream-colored

leaves when its frothy pinkish flowers appear.

Although too high-minded to do so by their own devices, *Tiarella* and *Heuchera* were first crossbred in 1912. The result and subsequent intergeneric crosses have produced interesting plants, *Heucherella*, with blended characteristics of both parents. They're not

stoloniferous; prefer morning sun and afternoon shade; and, being sterile, are prolific repeat bloomers. 'Stoplight' has deep red hearts on Day-Glo yellow leaves—great for illuminating a shadowy path. Newcomer 'Sweet Tea' boasts large, deeply-lobed russet leaves that retain their intense coloration

bbits, slugs, and other



Chris Brown Photographs

through summer heat and humidity.

Best of all incentives to create a *Heuchera*, *Tiarella*, and *Heucherella* tapestry is the fact that deer, rabbits, slugs, and other notorious garden vandals seem completely indifferent to their charms. They'll head straight for your hostas instead. 🐇

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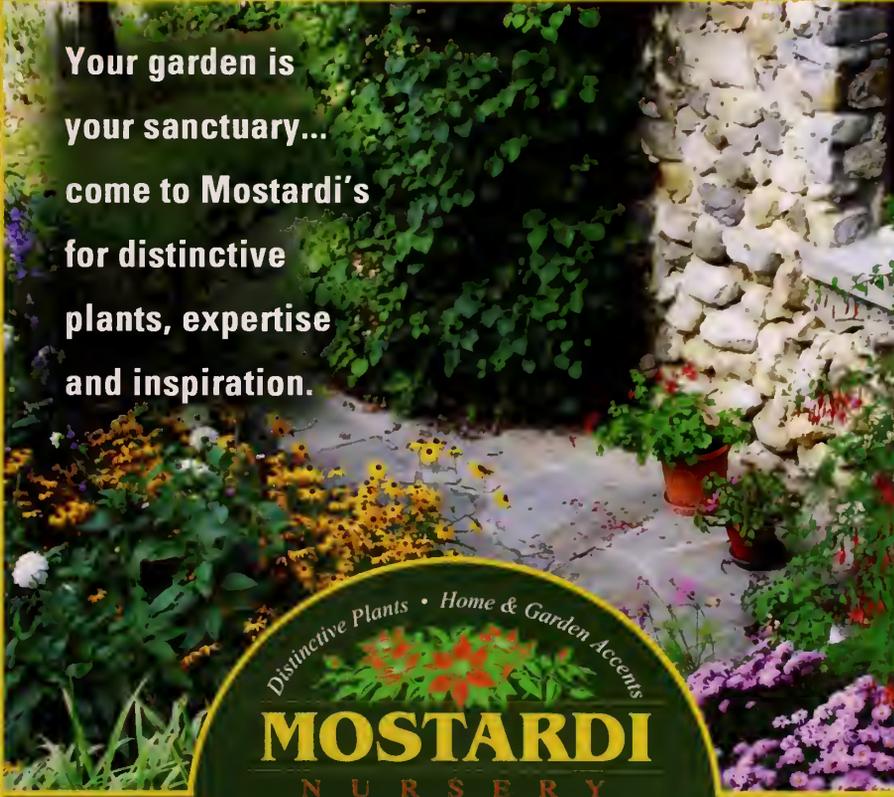


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The

EDIBLE GARDEN

When someone says “edible garden,” do you think lettuce and tomatoes? Why limit yourself to traditional edibles when you can plant a garden that is ornamental and delicious? In today’s small gardens, plants that do double duty are especially valuable. Consider these perennially tasty beauties and you’ll never think of edible gardening in the same way again.

Asarum canadense (wild ginger) is primarily known for its demure, heart shaped foliage that grows as a groundcover in shady woodlands throughout the eastern United States. Not as showy as its European cousin (*A. europaeum*), its leaves are a bright, medium green with a matte finish and soft texture. Pinkish, tubular flowers grow at soil level, only visible when the exploratory gardener pushes aside the leaves.

A. canadense isn’t related to tropical ginger, but its aromatic stolons can be used the same way you’d use



By Ellen Zachos



The hopniss flower is not only wildly gorgeous, but also has an exceptional perfume.

supermarket ginger. To harvest, gently dig up a clump in late fall and sever the stolons that connect the plant to its neighbors, then replant the original clump. The stolons can be used fresh or dried, and the taste is spicy and addictive.

Amelanchier canadensis (serviceberry) is native to Pennsylvania and worth planting for its good looks alone. Delicate, bright white flowers precede foliage, lighting up the early spring garden. Then there's the exceptional orange-pink fall foliage and striated gray bark, which stands out nicely against winter snow. Serviceberry grows to be 20 to 30 feet tall in the landscape or about 12 to 15 feet in containers. This tree tolerates a wide range of soils and light conditions but blooms best in sun to part-shade. Sold? I've saved the best for last. Its succulent berries (slightly larger than blueberries) are delicious in pies, jams, jellies, or out of hand. Berries start out red and ripen to a purple blue; they taste like a straw-blueberry with a touch of almond thrown in. This is a four-season plant that feeds the body as well as the gardener's soul.

Matteuccia struthiopteris (ostrich fern) gives us the gourmet fiddlehead. A native woodland treasure and a familiar ornamental in shade gardens, this is also a traditional spring edible. Not all fern fiddleheads are tasty, but this one is sweet and crunchy. Harvest a few furled fiddleheads from each fern (being sure to leave at least half the fronds behind to unfurl), rub off the brownish papery scales, then wash.

Fiddleheads can be eaten raw in salads, or steamed and served like asparagus. Since some wild populations are threatened or endangered in

These *Amelanchier* berries will darken to purple-blue when ripe.



These young hopniss tubers don't even need peeling; tubers larger than a ping pong ball will have tougher skins that should be removed.



The neat foliage of our native wild ginger would make it worth growing even if the stolons weren't spicy and delicious.

the Northeast, why not plant a crop of your own? Other ferns, like the ultra-furry *Osmunda cinnamomea* (cinnamon fern), are hard to clean and bitter, so be sure you plant the tasty species.

Apios americana (hopniss, potato bean, groundnut) is an underappreciated vine that grows best in full sun and blooms profusely in August. Its

leaves resemble those of wisteria, and its flowers are intensely fragrant and visually compelling: round clusters of bi-colored blooms that would make Georgia O'Keefe smile.

Since the edible part of this plant is the tuber, and since the tubers form chains connected by subterranean rhizomes, it's possible to harvest multiple tubers (in fall)



Feeling Adventurous?

Podophyllum peltatum

(mayapple) is a shade perennial, native to the woods of the eastern United States. And yes, you may have heard that it's poisonous. Which it is, except for the ripe fruit, which is sweet, pulpy, and complex, tasting like a combination of banana, guava, and passion fruit.

The fact that the roots, stems, leaves, and flowers are poisonous can work to your advantage, however: deer won't touch mayapple in your garden. Its large (8- to 10-inch diameter) palmate leaves are held horizontally, and mature plants produce a single, luminous, white flower in the V formed by the plant's two leaf petioles. Ripe fruit is the size of a small plum, and is squishy soft when ready to be eaten, often just before the plants go dormant in July or August. Scoop the fragrant pulp from the skin, then remove the numerous seeds (pulp = good, skin & seeds = bad/poisonous) and use the pulp as a pie filling or for sorbet.

— E.Z.

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Going GREEN

from each clump without sacrificing the vine. Wash and peel the tubers (average size similar to a ping-pong ball), then bake, roast, boil, or slice and fry like potatoes. The nutty taste is unique and delicious. In southern climes *A. americana* also produces edible beans (it is a legume, after all) but up here in PA the season isn't long enough. (P.S. this vine grows happily in containers.)

Did you ever think you'd eat a viburnum? *Viburnum trilobum* (high bush cranberry) is not only a garden-worthy flowering shrub with vibrant red fall foliage, but its berries are tart and tasty. The white flowers of *V. trilobum* are borne in flat cymes of small fertile flowers surrounded by larger, sterile flowers, like those of lacecap hydrangeas. The berries will definitely make you pucker up and each has a large seed, so this isn't a pick-and-eat snack. *V. trilobum* fruit is high in pectin and makes excellent jam or jelly. While many viburnum species produce showy berries, they're not all equally delicious, so be sure to try *V. trilobum* or you may be disappointed. 🍷

Pick the fiddleheads of *Matteucia struthiopteris* when still tightly curled and only a few inches tall.



Serviceberry in spring bloom



These ruby red viburnum berries are ripe and ready for harvest.



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THE WORKDAY



Workday volunteers often become long-term stewards of community spaces.

By Daniel Moise

Anyone involved with a community garden or park knows that continual upkeep is essential for long-term success. However, it's hard to argue with the immediate results that can come from a well-promoted, well-attended workday. By concentrating a community's energy on one day of dramatic transformation, you can reach new people and make major physical improvements.

Planning Ahead

Those planning the workday should meet at least a month beforehand to start preparing. From the onset it's imperative to involve the city or landowner to get the "green light" to proceed. Once done, discuss and determine with your group exactly what you hope to accomplish—the larger the event, the more planning required.

Set the date and get to work. Think about how many volunteers you'd like to have, how you're going to generate enthusiasm for the day, and what tools and supplies you'll need. The devil is in the details, so think things through.

Don't underestimate the importance of refreshments. A cup of coffee or a piece of fruit can go a long way in making volunteers feel welcome and cared for. Always have an abundance of drinking water available, especially on hot summer days.

While we're on the topic of water, it is crucial for planting days. Contact the landowner and ask about gaining access to a fire hydrant or other water source. You should also contact local officials regarding trash removal, locating utility lines, and reserving parking if possible.

During the workday people may need to use the restroom. If your public space doesn't have a permanent facility, consider renting portable toilets. If members of your planning team live adjacent to the project site, perhaps they'll agree to make their bathrooms available.

Make a List; Check it Twice

Contact your department of recreation or park department to see if you can borrow tools for the day. If the tools belong to you or your planning team, mark the tool handles in a bright color or with tape labels so they are easier to find. It's good to keep a log of who supplied what. At the end of the day have at least one person make rounds to ensure that all tools are picked up.

Other must-haves include a first-aid kit, nametags, hand sanitizer, bug repellent, and an endless supply of trash bags.

You'll also want to reach out to volunteers beforehand to suggest sturdy shoes and sunscreen. Most importantly, each volunteer should bring a pair of work gloves, but have a few on hand for those who will inevitably forget.

The Big Day

Greet each volunteer with a smile and a sign-in sheet. These people could be future stewards of your project, so collect contact information such as phone numbers and email addresses. Once everyone is assembled, divide them into small teams. Each team should have a leader, but more importantly, there should be someone who supervises the



entire event—maybe you! This person's sole responsibility is to stay on schedule and keep people happy and busy.

Safety should always be the top priority. It's strongly advised that power tools are *not* used for workdays, but if you must, choose your operators with great care (and experience), conduct a safety seminar first, and have goggles available. Let people (especially children) know what should *not* be picked up by hand when collecting trash: syringes, broken glass, etc. Also let the volunteers know of any poisonous plants, such as poison ivy, that may be lurking.

At some point, likely at the beginning or end of the day, gather the group together and recognize everyone's contributions; this is not only a recruitment pitch, but it makes the volunteers feel connected to the work.

Keep tallies on what's accomplished. In the future, if you're looking to attract sponsors or leverage resources, it helps to have hard data to support your claims. Make sure to designate a photographer too. Get pictures of people as well as the park or garden. Remember to take pictures *before* any large improvement projects. After completion, take photos again—preferably from the same vantage point—to show the progress.

These photos can be used in flyers or online to promote future workdays. What better way to show off your beautiful space and remember all the fun you had making it look its best? 🌱

Workday Sponsorship

If your park or garden doesn't have a long-term partner, perhaps a local business would agree to sponsor a workday. Whether the business donates funding, the manpower of employees, or snacks, make sure the contribution is recognized.

Identify the corporate contact person and provide him or her with what's needed to make the workday a success. Both the park/garden and the business benefit from good press, so get in touch with local news outlets and see if you can find an inexpensive way to get signs and T-shirts printed.

GREEN SCENE GARDEN PHOTO CONTEST OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

WHO MAY ENTER

- Amateur photographers (those who earn less than 1/4 of their annual income from photography) age 18 and older.
- Employees of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and its affiliates are not eligible.

SUBMISSIONS

- Photographers may *only* enter images as 4 x 6-inch or 5 x 7-inch prints, either in color or black-and-white.
- To be considered complete a submission must include a filled out entrance form (see page 11) and entrance payment.
- **IMPORTANT:** On the back of each image, you must write your name, address, email and/or phone. *Optional:* You may also include technical information about the photograph (camera type, f-stop, speed, film type, etc.), as well as background information.
- If you'd like your images returned, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your submission.
- Original images may be shot on print film, slides, or digital cameras, but all submissions must be prints as stated above (no slides or CDs accepted).
- All photographs must be previously unpublished.
- All photos must have been taken within the past three years (since August 1, 2007).
- Photos may eventually be mounted on cardboard if we choose to display them.
- Photos that violate or infringe upon another photographer's copyright are not eligible for entry.
- The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is not responsible for loss of or damage to any photographs submitted for the contest.

ENTRY FEES

- Photographers may enter 1 photo for a fee of \$15; 2 to 5 photos for a fee of \$25; or 6 to 10 photos for a fee of \$40. Fees are non-refundable.

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- 3rd** \$25 gift certificate to Meadowbrook Farm in Abington Township, PA (meadowbrookfarm.org)

The three winning images and 10 **Honorable Mention** recipients will be featured in the January/February 2011 issue of *Green Scene*.

IMPORTANT DATES

- All entries must be postmarked by September 18, 2010.
- All winners will be notified by November 16, 2010.

For more information:

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Photos by Margaret Funderburg

VEGGIES WITH A PURPOSE

By Jane Carroll

“In many urban neighborhoods, it’s much easier to find a fast-food restaurant than a supermarket.”

– Claire Baker, PHS Program Manager

throughout the city.

Through a partnership with SHARE (Self Help and Resource Exchange), the resulting produce is distributed to food cupboards, where clients can take part in tastings and cooking demonstrations offered by the Health Promotion Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania. City Harvest gardeners donate more than 13,000 pounds of fresh food annually.

In a greenhouse at Weavers Way Farm in northwest Philadelphia, trays of seedlings take up every inch of available space. There are tiny lettuces of all colors, as well as carrots, beets, collards, potatoes, eggplant and more.

The baby veggies are destined for community gardens and small private growing operations. Ultimately, they will end up on the dinner plates of Philadelphians who might not otherwise enjoy such healthful fare.

It’s all part of PHS’s newest food-gardening initiative, the City Harvest Growers Alliance. Launched with a \$300,000 grant from the US Department of Agriculture and supported by the Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation, the Growers Alliance is aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship among local growers and making fresh produce more available.

“In many urban neighborhoods, it’s much easier to find a fast-food restaurant than a supermarket,” explains PHS program manager Claire Baker. “So fresh vegetables can be hard to find or expensive, and some families experience hunger or eat unhealthy foods simply because their choices—or their means—are limited.”

To help address this problem, PHS taps the skills and energy of urban gardeners. The Growers Alliance builds on the success of PHS’s City Harvest project. Through City Harvest—launched in 2006 with a founding grant from The Albert M. Greenfield Foundation—inmates of the Philadelphia Prison System grow seedlings at a prison greenhouse, and more seeds are started at Weavers Way Farm. The seedlings are transplanted and grown to maturity by volunteers in dozens of community gardens

The new Growers Alliance establishes Green Resource Centers to help urban farmers get started. It will also support farmers markets to give them a place to sell their produce. The Resource Centers will act as distribution hubs where growers can pick up seeds, plants, lumber for raised beds, and other supplies.

In return, participants must commit to the Growers Alliance for three years, attend workshops on sustainable food production and marketing, volunteer time back to the program, work with the Philadelphia Green team on crop planning, and donate a portion of their produce to City Harvest.

“In the first year we’ve chosen 15 participating growers, two of which are youth initiatives,” Baker says. “A total of 66 will participate over the three years of the grant. Growers are chosen on the basis of experience and likelihood of success, but we want to include people of all ages, from all parts of the city, and from a wide range of backgrounds.”

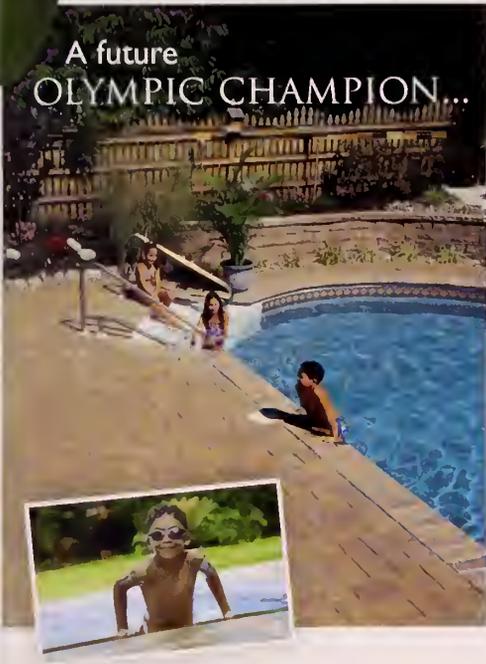
The City Harvest Growers Alliance supports a goal of the City of Philadelphia’s sustainability plan, *GreenWorks Philadelphia*, which calls for bringing local food to within 10 minutes of 75 percent of city residents and creating 86 new fresh food outlets by 2015.

“We’re thrilled with the opportunity to take urban food production to the next level at PHS and throughout the city,” says Joan Reilly, senior director of Philadelphia Green. “This program will allow PHS and its partners to increase their growing capacity, boost the supply of fresh produce, and help individuals or groups earn money growing healthy food.”



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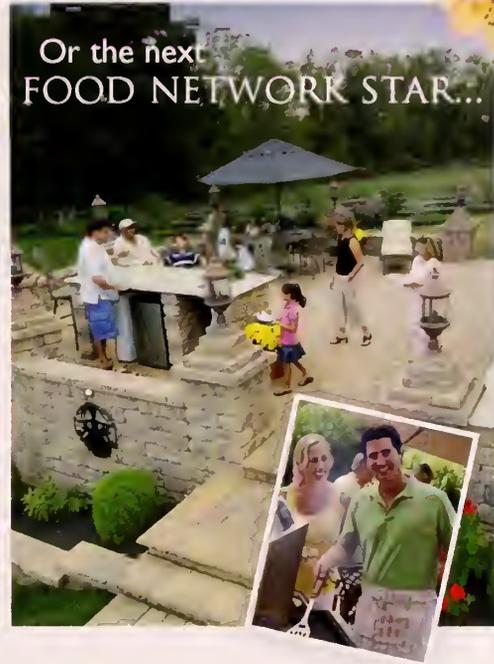
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A photograph of a forest path with a yellow Y-shaped signpost. The path is made of dirt and is surrounded by tall, thin trees with sparse, yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The lighting is warm and golden, creating a serene atmosphere. The signpost is a yellow diamond shape with a black border and a black Y-shaped symbol in the center, indicating a fork in the road.

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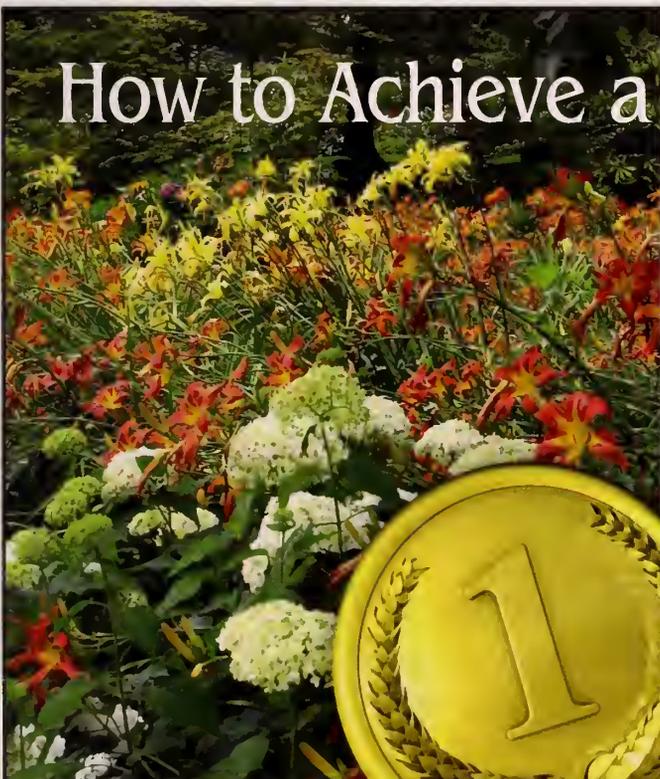


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12

Photo by Laura Brandt

POTTING SHED

8 **Creating Wildflower Bouquets**
Nancy Ondra shows us how to create beautiful flower arrangements using blossoms from your own garden or from a nearby meadow or field.

10 **Across the River**
Lorraine Kiefer leads a tour of three notable gardens in Camden, NJ, including the Harleigh Cemetery, where Walt Whitman is buried.

FEATURES

12 **Woodland Gardens**
David Benner is one of our region's true masters of woodland gardening. Here, he shares his tips for growing in deep shade and tells us how to cultivate moss.

18 **2011 Gold Medal Plant Winners**
The new PHS Gold Medal Plants are here. Program manager Joe Ziccardi raises the curtain on this year's bevy of horticultural beauties.

24 **Growing Ornamental Grasses**
Let Jo Ann Gardener teach you about wonderful annual grasses, which are more manageable than their large perennial cousins. You can even grow them in containers!

30 **Flowering Shrubs**
Stephanie Cohen shows us some new, small-to-medium-sized shrubs that are perfect for the garden border in more than one season. Better yet, they're easy to grow and care for.



30

COLUMNS

34 **Greening Basics**
The Art of Fundraising

38 **The Backyard**
Learn about PHS's inspiring "Roots to Re-entry" program.



34

Cover photo:
Rob Cardillo

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society motivates people to improve the quality of life and create a sense of community through horticulture



Looking Up

Fall is a fine time for gardeners to look *up*. We've spent the last five or six months gazing down at our terrestrial flowering plants, but autumn is the time to look skyward at the lush tree canopy above us. From late September through early December, our arboreal friends are going through dramatic changes, from the first hint of drying leaves in late summer through the wondrous parade of fall color, until the leaves finally come down in November. Even then, the ghostly silhouettes of the recently denuded trees are nothing short of remarkable—in just a few weeks our entire landscape changes. It's why you hear time and again people say that fall is their favorite time of year.

At PHS, we're into trees ... *big time*. In this issue, you'll read about the 2011 Gold Medal Plant Award winners, our annual rite of fall. These are trees, shrubs, and woody vines that grow great in our region. You can find the whole lot of them—now totaling about 100 plants—at goldmedalplants.org. If you're

tired of plants that die after only a year or two, then check out these indestructible woodies for your property.

If you've been gardening for a while, you know that autumn is a wonderful time to plant trees as well, as the cool temperatures give them time to acclimate to their new homes. Better still, getting them in the ground in early to mid fall gives trees a real jump on the following year's growth. So while you're looking for spring bulbs to put into the ground, also grab a tree or two; you'll be doing wildlife a favor since trees provide habitat, especially if you plant a native specimen.

PHS is heavily invested the region's tree health through Tree Tenders, our acclaimed training course for volunteers, offered in the city and, more recently, throughout the suburbs. Tree Tenders are taught not only how to care for trees, but also how to organize their neighbors to plant and tend them, which benefits the larger community. If that sounds appealing to you, come to one of the upcoming sessions in 2011 (for more information, visit Philadelphiangreen.org and click on "Trees"). Also look for the Arbor Day Foundation symposium this fall (November 9 - 11), which will be held in Philly and will feature a Philadelphia Green tour of garden and park sites citywide.

Last but not least, PHS will soon launch TreeVitalize 2020, a campaign to plant thousands of trees per year in the city and surrounding counties in partnership with the city, state, and region. We always welcome volunteers at PHS-led tree plantings, which are held seasonally throughout the region. So whether you're out tree-gazing or trying to beautify your town or neighborhood, fall is clearly a time when things are looking *up*. Come join the fun!



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Photo: Paris Alejandro

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September 8 Soil Structure: A Garden's Foundation

September 15 September Showstoppers

September 22 Warning: Nursery Stock to Avoid

September 29 Working Buildings of Farm Hill, from Past to Present

October 6 Wrought Iron to Nylon Webbing: Seating in the Winterthur Garden

October 13 Oak Hill: Fruits and Restoration

October 20 Bark: More than Just Noise

October 27 Winterthur Garden History

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For more information call 800.418.3883 or visit winterthur.org.

† Included with admission. ‡ Members free.

Winterthur is nestled in Delaware's beautiful Brandywine Valley
on Route 52, between I-95 and Route 1.



Rich purple and hot pink New England asters hold their own against bright goldenrods and orange coneflowers (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), with added interest from spiky Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and nodding northern sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*).

Wild Bouquets

by Nancy J. Ondra

Fields and roadsides filled with colorful wildflowers and feathery grasses signal that late summer and early fall have arrived in our part of the world. You can enjoy this abundance indoors too by making bouquets with these late-blooming beauties. There's no need for special supplies or skills; just find a wide-mouth jar or vase, grab your clippers, and head outdoors to collect some flowers.

If you have access to a meadow, gather whatever appeals to you. Make sure you first get permission to pick if you're not on your own land. No meadow? No problem! Many of the showiest native wildflowers are also popular garden plants, so you may have plenty of fixings for a fine fall bouquet right in your backyard.

Collect a variety of flower sizes and shapes: some spikes; some daisies or domes; and some lacy, feathery, or ferny fillers. Leaves, berries, and seed-heads are fair game too. Cut the stems to about twice as tall as the container you plan to use and put them in a bucket of water as soon as you cut them. Insects love late-season flowers, so it's a good idea to arrange them outside. That way, you can easily shake off any bugs before you use the stems. Cleanup will be much easier, too.

You can choose one of several methods to help the stems stay where you put them. Lightly wad up

some chicken wire and gently tuck it into the top of the jar or vase. Run a few pieces of masking tape in a crisscross pattern over the top of the container to make a support grid. Or insert a bunch of well-branched stems first; asters and goldenrods (*Solidago*) work especially well for this.

Begin building your bouquet with larger blooms like those of coneflowers (*Echinacea* and *Rudbeckia*) and Joe-Pye weed (*Eupatorium*). Next I like to add smaller-flowered fillers, such as ironweed (*Vernonia*) and sneezeweed (*Helenium*), and then finish with spiky grasses or flowers like Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), but you can do the opposite if you prefer. For a variety of heights, trim some of the stems before you add them.

Remember: the goal is country casual, not florist-formal, so go wild and have fun!



Above: The author with her pet Alpacas.

Left: Pink and lavender New England asters (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*), purple coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*), spiky 'Dallas Blues' switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), and barely-in-bloom goldenrods (*Solidago*) make a pretty pastel arrangement. Add an extra touch of country by tucking their container into a rustic basket.



Pennsylvania Wildflowers

- Lavender Hyssop
- Nodding Wild Onion
- Wild Columbine
- Red Milkweed
- Common Milkweed
- Butterflyweed
- Canada Milk Vetch
- Blue False Indigo
- Marsh Marigold
- New Jersey Tea
- Lance Leaf Coreopsis
- Canada Tick Trefoil
- Shooting Star
- Fireweed
- Joe-Pye Weed
- Sweet Joe Pye Weed
- Helen's Flower
- Showy Sunflower
- Maximilian's Sunflower
- Downy Sunflower
- Ox-eye Sunflower
- Wild Iris
- Blue Flag Iris
- Roundhead Bush Clover
- Prairie Blazingstar
- Cardinal Flower
- Great Blue Lobelia
- Wild Lupine
- Bergamot
- Dotted Mint
- Evening Primrose
- Stiff Goldenrod
- Wild Quinine
- Smooth Penstemon
- False Dragonhead
- Jacob's Ladder
- Mountain Mint
- Prairie Coneflower
- Yellow Coneflower
- Meadow Rose
- Black-eyed Susan
- Green-headed Coneflower
- Branched Coneflower
- Wild Petunia
- Wild Senna
- Compass Plant
- Cup plant
- Showy Goldenrod
- Smooth Aster
- New England Aster
- Spiderwort
- Blue Vervain
- Hoary Vervain
- Ironweed
- New York Ironweed
- Culver's Root
- Golden Alexanders

Source: wildflowerfarm.com

Camden Gardens, Old and New

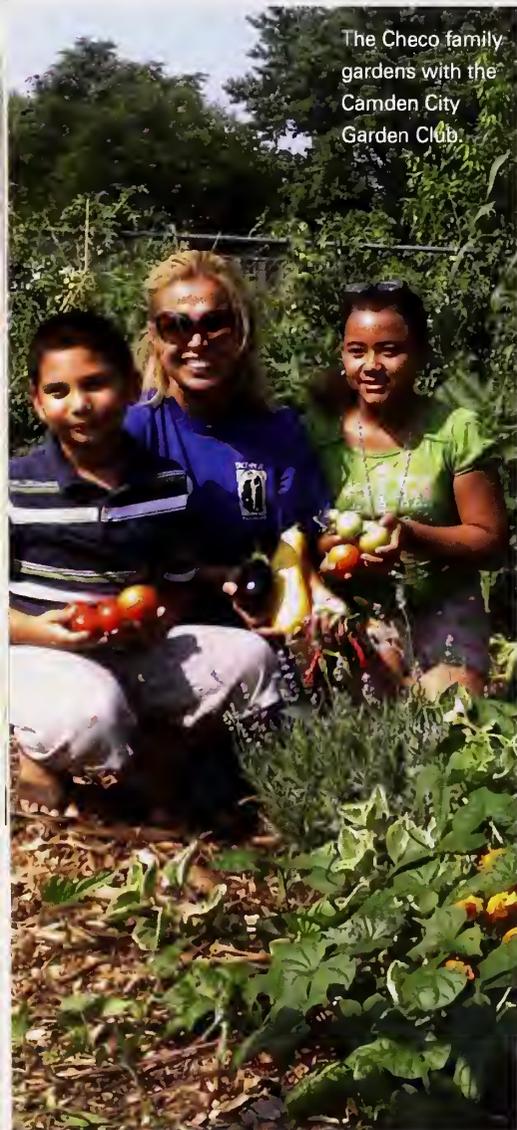
by Lorraine Kiefer



Below: Volunteers plant flowers at Ronald McDonald House. **Bottom:** American poet Walt Whitman is buried at Harleigh Cemetery



The Checo family gardens with the Camden City Garden Club.



Camden, New Jersey, home of the Adventure Aquarium, Campbell's Field Baseball Park, and the Walt Whitman House, also includes some fine gardens well worth a visit. Let's explore a few:

The **Camden City Children's Garden** (3 Riverside Dr.) is a delightful spot where children can discover nature in four acres of imaginative gardens. The seeds for this project were planted in 1985 when the **Camden City Garden Club**, a nonprofit educational association, began to assist residents with gardens. The children's garden became a reality in 1999.

Children love to play in this outdoor garden and flock to the Dinosaur Garden, Maze, Tree House, Picnic Garden, Cityscapes Garden, Storybook Gardens, and the Fitness Garden. An old fashioned carousel, a train, and the spring butterfly

ride fascinate kids of all ages. Indoor attractions include the Philadelphia Eagles Four Seasons Butterfly House; a tropical exhibit, Plaza de Aibonito; and Ben Franklin's Secret Workshop.

The organization has been exhibiting at the Philadelphia Flower Show since 1997, and its display includes a special message each year. The 2010 soup-and-salad theme emphasized plants that can be grown in city gardens to make healthy meals.

Across the city is the **Harleigh Cemetery** at 1640 Haddon Avenue, near Collingswood, NJ. Entering the garden with its venerable trees and ancient-looking tombstone is like stepping back into history. The cemetery contains many famous graves, including that of Walt Whitman. Manager Chris Mojica leads a special Walt Whitman Tour each year. It was established in 1885, when it was the fashion of the Victorians to

The Gardener's Bookshelf

Information

CamdenChildrensGarden.org

HarleighCemetery.org

RonaldHouse-snj.org

stroll through a cemetery or have a picnic there, much the same as one would do in a park. This historic cemetery is still used today, and Camden County veterans are buried there.

Ronald McDonald House of Southern New Jersey, the newest of these gardens, “provides a home away from home to families of seriously ill and traumatically injured children who are being treated at nearby hospitals,” according to its website. This year more than 100 volunteers celebrated Earth Day by planting a garden that will provide a peaceful place for visitors to nearby Cooper Hospital and other local facilities. Margie Leone, a member of the Haddonfield Garden Club, and fellow gardener Terry Bylone have been volunteering in the garden for the past few years, along with director Teddy Thomas. Margie says, “When Teddy told us of an offer from Kohl’s to send employees from area stores to help out and also make a generous donation, we were delighted! I had suggested the butterfly garden idea, which Teddy loved.”

On Earth Day, the weather cooperated and more than 80 volunteers arrived. Terry also brought volunteers from Target where she works, and members of the Haddonfield Garden Club shared their expertise. By lunchtime, hundreds of plants were in the ground, mulch was spread, and sunflower seeds planted. The place was transformed by bee balm, daylilies, coneflowers, and jasmine vines.

Lorraine Kiefer is a longtime *Green Scene* writer; Flower Show volunteer; and owner of Triple Oaks Nursery in Franklinville, New Jersey.



WILD URBAN PLANTS OF THE NORTHEAST

By Peter Del Tredici
(392 pp, \$29.95)

Peter Del Tredici contends that we should celebrate, not eradicate, “spontaneous urban vegetation”—plants we unenlightened humans commonly call weeds.

In his field guide, *Wild Urban Plants of the Northeast* (Cornell University Press 2010), Del Tredici says these plants, which grow freely in neglected landscapes, actually improve the quality of urban life by lowering temperatures, producing oxygen, providing food and habitat for wildlife, and controlling erosion on slopes.

Del Tredici highlights 222 wild urban plants, from the tiny birdseye pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens* L.) to the towering silver maple (*Acer saccharinum* L.). A senior research scientist at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, he lists them in taxonomic order, which can be tricky for readers who just want to identify that pretty yellow-flowered plant growing in the park. Fortunately, each entry is accompanied by at least five color photographs that clearly show leaf structure, flower size, and growth habit, all of which makes for accurate identification.

One piece of information you will not find, however, is how to get rid of these plants, unless you count harvesting the tastier specimens. (Who knew the young shoots of *Polygonum cuspidatum*, or Japanese knotweed, are edible after boiling and have a lemony flavor?)



THE PRUNING BOOK

By Lee Reich
(240 pp, \$21.95)

Pruning tends to bring out the yin or yang in many gardeners, who can be typed by their comfort level with a pair of loppers: those who rarely perform this essential task, worried they’ll do irreparable harm to their plants, and those who happily chop away past the point of no return.

Lee Reich’s revised and updated *The Pruning Book* is the ideal reference for every gardener, ensuring that all future cuts are “well reasoned, well timed, and well made.”

With these three keys in mind, Reich, who holds a doctorate in horticulture and is a frequent contributor to Taunton’s *Fine Gardening*, has organized the book into three parts: the basics, the plants, and specialized-pruning techniques. With clearly written text and visuals (nearly 400 photographs and illustrations), Reich empowers gardeners to tackle these unruly plants in their gardens, such as vines growing out of control. (Whack the entire plant almost all the way down, then selectively train one or a few new stems to rebuild it from the ground up.) Plant-specific advice—especially for roses and clematis—and information on the best time to prune is invaluable.

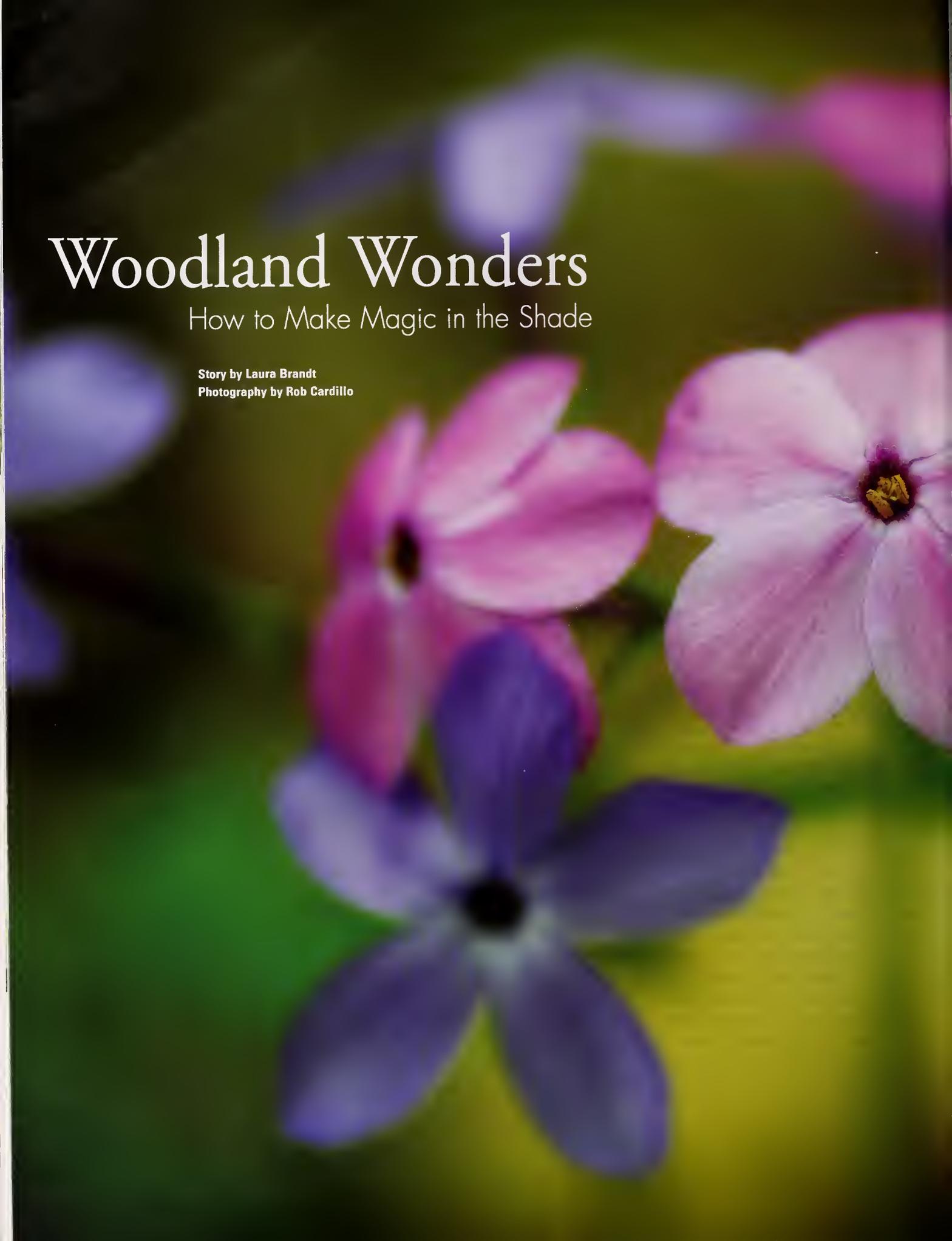
- Betsie Blodgett

Woodland Wonders

How to Make Magic in the Shade

Story by Laura Brandt

Photography by Rob Cardillo





Phlox divaricata

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD GARDENERS LAMENT, “I can’t seem to grow grass in the shade,” or “Darn, I’ve got moss in my garden.” According to David Benner, the best solution is to stop growing grass in the shade, plant shade-loving plants and, most of all, learn to love the moss.

When Benner saw his lawn deteriorating with patches of moss growing at the property he acquired in 1962, he decided he would stop wasting his time fertilizing, watering, and mowing grass and instead, encourage the moss to grow. “I’m not a slave to turf grass,” Benner says. “As the plants have spread, there is less maintenance and more time to enjoy the garden.”

In fact, Benner loathes grasses so much that he refuses to grow even ornamental grasses or sedges. He found out that moss provides a perfect growing medium for many woodland plants.

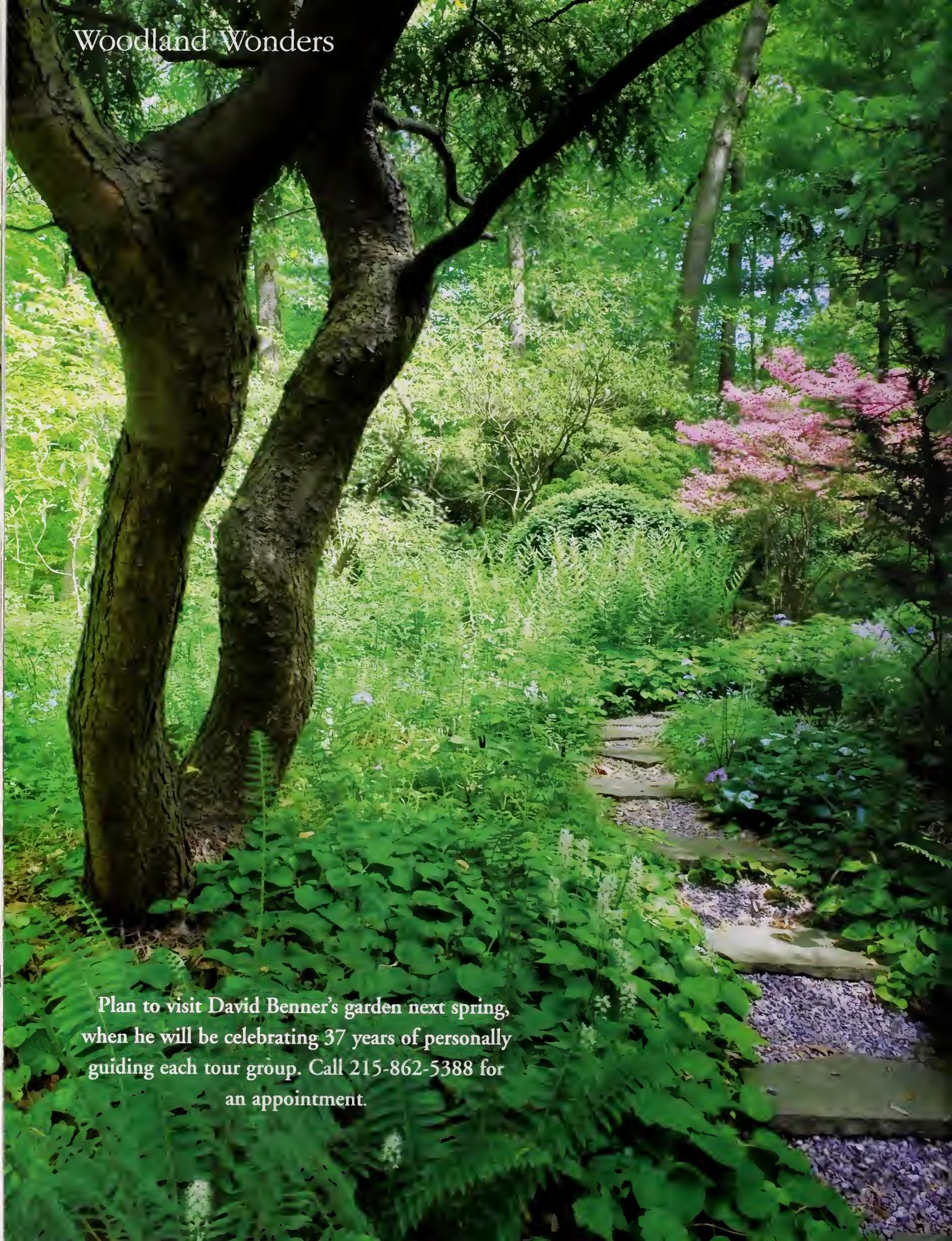
He encouraged the moss by dusting the soil with powdered sulfur to create an acidic environment that killed both weeds and grass after a few months.

Benner’s magnificent two-acre woodland hillside garden near New Hope in Bucks County, PA, has been nourished by nearly 50 years of love and patience. After winter snows, he and his wife, Sue, eagerly await the spectacular flower display in April and May. When I visited the garden during the third week in April this year, it simply took my breath away.

The Basic Elements

Four basic structural components comprise a true woodland garden: canopy, understory, shrub layer, and groundcover. Deciduous trees such as mature red maples, various oaks, sycamores, native beech, and tulip poplar provide the shady setting in Benner’s garden. Early spring flowers such as Virginia bluebells bloom in the sunlight before the trees leaf out and disappear until next spring. Evergreen trees and shrubs accent the garden in winter.

What is the secret to Benner’s success? “Location, location, location,” he says. “One of the biggest mistakes is putting plants in the wrong place. Do your research to make sure the plants you want will thrive under your conditions,” he adds. Another common mistake is planting something that gets too large for the space.

A photograph of a lush garden path. On the left, a large, dark-barked tree trunk curves towards the center. The path, made of flat stones and gravel, leads through dense green foliage, including ferns and various leafy plants. In the background, a tree with bright pink blossoms stands out against the greenery. The overall scene is vibrant and verdant.

Woodland Wonders

Plan to visit David Benner's garden next spring, when he will be celebrating 37 years of personally guiding each tour group. Call 215-862-5388 for an appointment.

Design with Nature

When it comes to design, Benner recommends visiting a wooded area or preserve for inspiration. "My idea of design is a naturalistic approach that emulates nature," he says. Luckily, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve is just down the road in New Hope. Visitors can choose from a wide selection of native plants at the Preserve's spring and fall plant sales.

Use natural materials such as stone found in your area. Benner's property contains a stone wall from the 1940s, and numerous moss-covered boulders dot the landscape. The natural-looking pathways are delineated with old logs from fallen trees and paved with moss, leaves, or stone and gravel.

While color combinations are key, texture and foliage become important when little else is in bloom. Thirty different ferns add dimension and texture and function as fillers that hide the decaying foliage from spring-blooming plants. One of Benner's favorites, shiny, evergreen Korean tassel fern (*Polystichum polyblepharum*), has young fronds that resemble graceful tassels.

Benner prefers the soft pastel colors of early spring, but he also has a few brightly-colored plants. Scarlet cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), a hummingbird favorite, blooms from July to August, and orange flame azalea

(*Rhododendron calendulaceum*) flowers in June. Fire pinks (*Silene virginica*), a bright red star-shaped native perennial that blooms in late April to early May, lights up shady areas. Bright yellow wood poppy, or celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), combines well with the soft blues of Virginia bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*) and other spring bloomers.

"Invisible" black fencing around the perimeter of the property eliminates deer browsing. Fallen leaves can smother moss, but Benner lays fine netting on it in the autumn, then rolls it up once the leaves are down and shakes them into a compost pile.

Unexpected Elements

While you won't find gnomes and little fairies dancing around the moss carpet, you will find a few moss-covered items that will catch you by surprise, such as shoes, gloves, and a tiny man. Along several paths you'll see rare Chinese boxwood (*Buxus harlandii*), a naturally-growing vase-shaped shrub that Benner has been propagating for decades. Rare Oconee bells (*Shortia galacifolia*) produce small pinkish white flowers in April. "This wonderful groundcover with shiny, round evergreen leaves spread from two specimens I planted 25 years ago," explains Benner.



Left: Simple paths lead visitors through sloping hillsides filled with ferns and flowers.

This Page: A pair of sneakers gathering moss.

Woodland Wonders

While there is little sunlight on the property, Benner receives enough to grow his favorite David Austin shrub rose, 'Abraham Darby'. "I've always loved its peach/pink color and intoxicating fragrance," he says.

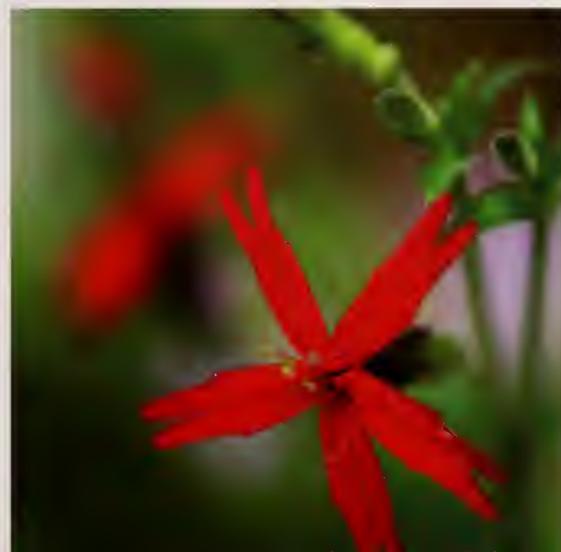
The Patient Gardener

Benner never planted moss on his property. Once he killed the lawn with sulfur, a green film slowly appeared. Tiny moss spores are so lightweight that wind can carry them for miles. "I waited the whole summer and the moss came in by the fall. It takes patience to plant and appreciate a woodland garden," he says. "You can't be in a hurry."

Laura Brandt designs gardens and writes about gardening from her Bucks County home.

Making a Moss Milkshake If you want to grow moss easily and quickly, try a "Moss Milkshake." Even Martha Stewart likes this product. She has featured it on her show. Benner gave a sample to Moss Acres on her show. Add water to the carton and spread the gel-like paste over soil or a shady surface. Or sprinkle the dried moss directly onto bare soil and water it in. The 16-ounce carton covers 10 to 20 square feet. The product is sold through Moss Acres, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, and some garden centers.





Resources

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

bhwp.org
215-862-2924
Native plants, information

Moss Acres

866-GET-MOSS
mossacres.com
Fine netting, moss-growing supplies

Benner's Gardens

bennersgardens.com
800-BIG-DEER
Deer Fencing

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by John Mason
(Globe Press, 1991)

Moss Gardening

by Robert Condit
(Little, Brown, May, 1987)

Wildflowers: A Guide to Growing and Propagating Native Flowers of North America (The New England Wild Flower Society)

by William Cronquist
www.newenglandwildflowersociety.org
(2002)

Clockwise from top: Sue and David; delicate bonnets of Quaker ladies (*Houstonia caerulea*) make natural companions to moss; an endangered box huckleberry (*Gaylussacia brachycera*); yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*); and a fire pink (*Silene virginica*) **Opposite:** Northern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)

G

OLD for the GARDEN

by Joe Ziccardi, PCH



 **GOLD MEDAL
PLANT AWARD.**
A PROGRAM OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

THE PHS GOLD MEDAL PLANT AWARD PROGRAM

honors and promotes woody plants of exceptional merit. Nominations for plants come from home gardeners, garden designers, horticulturists, landscape architects, nursery owners, propagators—just about anyone who loves trees, shrubs, and vines. This year, the volunteer Gold Medal Award Committee selected four great plants that deserve a place in your garden. Three are cultivars native to the eastern United States; the fourth, a tough shrub from Europe, is an absolute must for winter interest.

Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire' (Blood twig Dogwood)

This is a truly superior winter-interest plant. A large deciduous shrub, it spreads by suckers to form a dense clump. In the fall, its leaves turn greenish-purple and then drop to reveal spectacular stems that provide an intense display of yellow, orange, and red hues from late fall to early spring, especially when placed in front of a dark backdrop. "It looks as though it's lit from within," says Richard Hesselcin of Pleasant Run Nursery. Full sun and a hard spring pruning will produce the best stem colors. Abundant clusters of white flowers appear in mid-May. It grows about 8 feet high by 10 feet wide. Urban-tolerant and adaptable to almost any soil condition (except wet), 'Midwinter Fire' looks great in the shrub border, in masses, or in containers. Plant it in full or part sun. Hardy in Zones 4 to 7.

Photo by Richard Birner



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Gold Medal Plants

Diervilla sessilifolia Cool Splash
'LPDC Podaras' (Southern
Bush-Honeysuckle)

Native to the southeastern United States, Southern Bush-Honeysuckle is a low-growing deciduous shrub. Vigorous and adaptable, it spreads by suckers into a reliable mass. Cool Splash tolerates all light conditions but performs best in full sun, where its variegated glossy leaves develop vivid tones of green and cream. "It's the only readily available variegated form of this under-utilized shrub," says Gold Medal Committee chair Steve Mostardi, of Mostardi Nursery in Newtown Square, PA. The plant's small yellow flowers, borne on new wood, huddle together from June to August. Perfect for massing or the perennial border, it grows 2 1/2 feet high and 3 1/2 feet wide and benefits from a moderate spring pruning. Hardy in Zones 4 to 7.

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SHOWROOM BY APPOINTMENT

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Slender
Silhouette' (American Sweetgum)

'Slender Silhouette' is a very narrow, low-maintenance cultivar of the American sweetgum tree, growing 50 feet high and only 4 feet wide. Unlike the species, 'Slender Silhouette' produces little fruit (those brown spiky orbs), which when dropped lands in a small, easily cleaned-up area. The tree's dark green glossy leaves turn yellow with a tinge of red in the fall. This is a great park or allée tree, but you can use it anywhere you need a narrow tree. It prefers moist soil and space for root development. Hardy in Zones 5 to 9.



Photo by Joe Ziccardi



Joe Ziccardi, Pennsylvania certified horticulturist and Gold Medal manager at PHS

Photo by Joe Ziccardi and PHS





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Taxodium distichum var. *imbricarium* Debonair 'Morris' (Pond Bald Cypress)

Heidi Hesselein of Pleasant Run Nursery in New Jersey describes Debonair 'Morris' this way: "A particularly beautiful deciduous conifer with interesting green pendulous foliage that strikingly contrasts with its formal, pyramidal habit." With lovely bronze fall color and a dramatic winter silhouette, Debonair flourishes in most landscape situations, especially those with moist soil. It grows to 60 feet high and 20 feet wide. Hardy in Zones 5 to 9. 🌿

A Thank You to the PHS Gold Medal Committee

A working committee meets twice each year to evaluate nominations and select the winning plants for the PHS Gold Medal Plant Award. PHS extends warm thanks to these volunteers for their hard work, high standards, and enthusiasm for superior woody plants. The team includes:

Steve Mostardi, Chair
Richard L. Bitner
Jack Blandy
Sheila Gmeiner
Richard Hesselein
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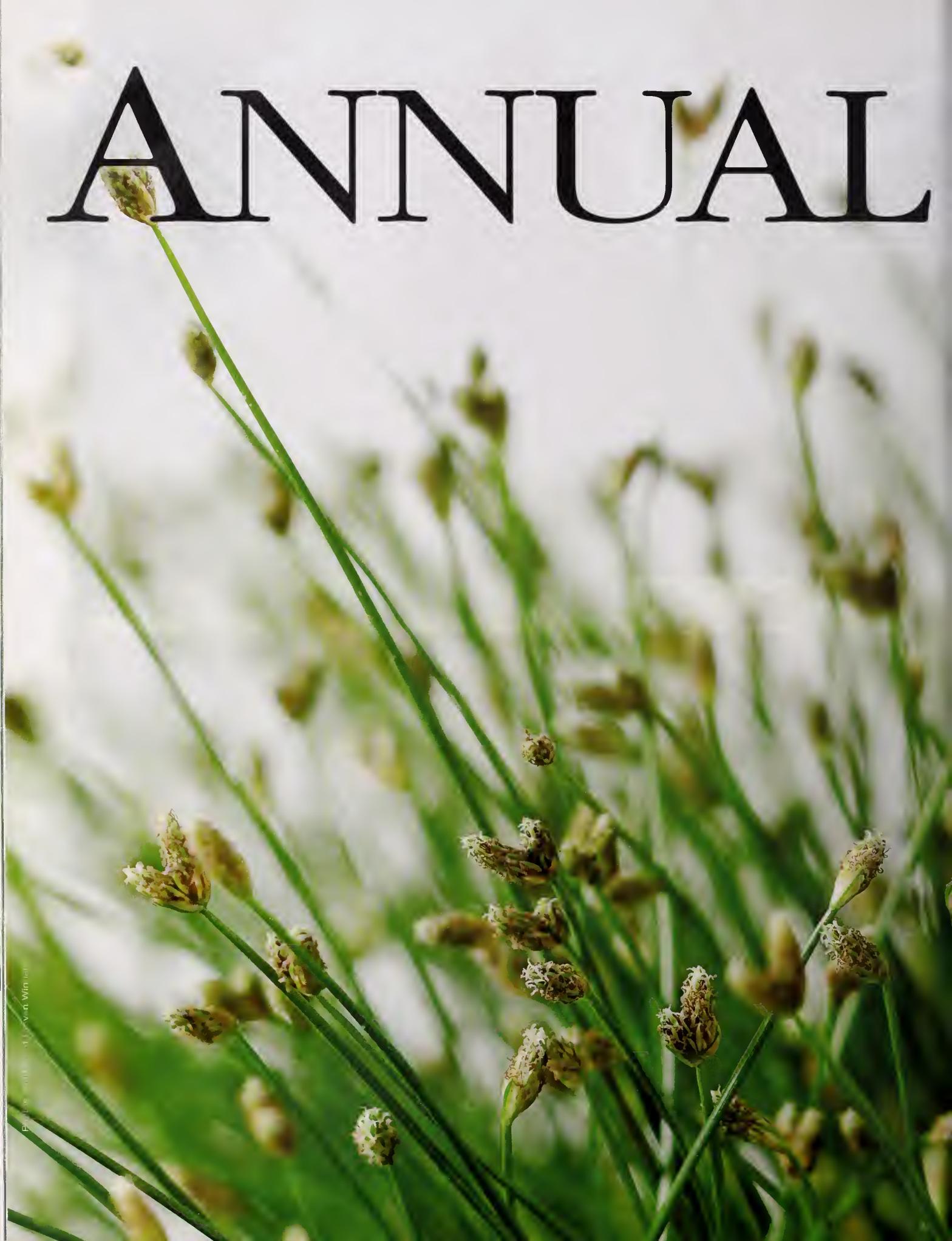
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ANNUAL



GRASSES

Low-Maintenance Beauty for Small Spaces

Story by Jo Ann Gardner

FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, I've had trouble growing perennial grasses of the ornamental kind in my garden, and when I heard other gardeners complain about the difficulty of having to move them, divide them, or cut back their stiff stems in the spring, I was secretly relieved.

Yet, I still craved the swaying forms, burnished foliage, and nodding flower heads in late summer, when ornamental grasses transform gardens with beauty that lasts well into winter. So I decided to try growing annual grasses in containers.

Fiber Optic grass

Annual Grasses



'Baby Tut'



Carex flagellifera 'Toffee Twist'



Here & below: *Pennisetum* 'Rubrum'

I started with the annual (*Pennisetum glaucum*), which burst onto the horticultural scene with a 2003 All-America Selections award. Just a few seeds produced a handful of plants that I grew in tubs. The plant reaches 3 to 5 feet in height (less in a tub), and its corn-like green foliage gradually turns dark purple. I placed these wherever I wanted their dark purple, nearly black foliage to accent the silvers and greens of my herb container garden. As the plant matures, the spike forms a twelve-inch-tall seed head, similar to a cattail, packed with dark brown seeds. After a few light frosts, I cut a handful of stems to add to winter bouquets. That's it



These easy-to-grow plants, with their varied foliage, flowers, and graceful forms, offer a long season of beauty.



'Red Riding Hood'

for maintenance unless I want to save spike heads for their seeds.

The annual grasses I trialed for Proven Winners Graceful Grasses collection, all heat tolerant, were a delightful addition to my garden. I gave them a good start with an appropriate site and favorable soil and watered them as needed in containers; after that, all survived my 'sink or swim' treatment.

I also grew two sedges, a group of grasses that like water. The narrow, upright, sweeping foliage of Proven Winners *Carex flagellifera* 'Toffee Twist' is iridescent bronze on plants that form an 18-inch-tall by 24-inch-wide twist. It looks great alone in a container near the water's edge, tucked into rocks, or massed on a slope in partial sun wherever the soil is moist. Proven Winners Fiber Optic Grass (*Scirpus cenusus*), 10 to 14 inches tall, is also a sedge. Give it moist soil and grow it where you can look down on its bright green grassy foliage, said to resemble an optic fiber, with tiny white flowers at their tips.

Another group I explored was the Fountain Grasses. 'Rubrum' purple fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum') has bronze-purple foliage topped with arcs of pink flower heads. Plants are 30 to 36 inches tall and make an impact when massed, either on slopes or in the border, in sun or partial sun, and since they are grown as annuals, there is no need to worry about them overtaking their neighbors. 'Red Riding Hood' is a dwarf variant of Purple Fountain Grass, growing 18 to 30 inches tall with similar

Annual Grasses



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black purple foliage and pink flowers. It is suitable for containers or tucked into a small-space border.

The most dramatic introduction to the Graceful Grasses collection is 'King Tut,' or Egyptian papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*), a wondrous version of the original that grew along the banks of the Nile and was the ancient source of paper. Don't worry if you have no water source yourself, because these plants are easily accommodated in a large tub filled with moisture-retentive soil and placed in sun or partial sun; you can even line the tub with plastic to create a bog effect. Small greenish flower spikes that can measure 1 inch across grow from large pendulous leaves on hard triangular stems 48 to 72 inches tall. If you plant it in pots along the edge of a pond or in the pond, be sure it's in shallow water so just the bulk of the soil or root mass is wet. Grow 'Baby Tut' umbrella grass (*Cyperus involucratus*) the same way.

My experience with annual grasses has opened up a new world of plants to me. These easy-to-grow plants, with their varied foliage, flowers, and graceful forms, offer a long season of beauty. 🍴



Jo Ann Gardner

Jo Ann Gardner is a noted garden writer who lives in New York State.



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Floweri

Shrubs

Story by Stephanie Cohen

Forsythia viridissima var. *koronana* 'Kumson'

ng



COLOR
WITH
MINIMUM
CARE

Photo: Du, Marek / iStock

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE ALL WANT TO KICK BACK IN THE RUSH OF SPRING, the dog days of summer, and the Indian summer days of autumn (some of us more than others). That's why I've been adding small to medium-sized flowering shrubs to all my perennial beds. Most need minimal care and provide color in more than one season. I look for a shrub that blooms in spring and offers good fall color—if it gets berries, too, even better. I'm not getting lazy, I'm just getting old.

I very seldom talk about **forsythia**. I'm not a snob, but I too often see them overused or cut like squares or meatballs. Also, once they finish flowering they are just another green thing in the garden. But one recently caught my eye: 'Citrus Swizzle' has soft yellow flowers, a variegated yellow edge on the leaf, and cool burgundy red foliage come fall. It is super hardy up to Zone 4. The best thing is its small size; it's a real dwarf, coming in at 2 feet tall—no need to lop off those long stems after flowering.

I have grown another forsythia, 'Kumson', for four years. It has typical forsythia flowers and arching habit but has dark green leaves with a superb network of silver veins running through them.

When this turns orange red in the fall, it grabs your attention. Hardy to Zone 5, it grows 4 to 6 feet tall, but mine has never reached more than 4 feet. 'Citrus Swizzle' and 'Kumson' both grow in full sun and average soil. Easy!

I love **lilacs** (*Syringa vulgaris*) for their lovely, delectably fragrant flowers that usually appear near Mother's Day. By late summer, however, the green leaves often turn white from powdery mildew. Now, we have a small choice plant called *Syringa* 'Bloomerang'. I'm always a disbeliever until I grow a new plant, but this one flowered in September and October in my garden. I thought perhaps it wouldn't bloom in spring, but it did. Hardy to Zone 4, this energetic little shrub will grow 4 to 5 feet tall. It came from a sporadic re-bloomer called 'Josee' that appeared in the trade in 1976. The shrub has a full flush of wonderfully fragrant, pink-purple flowers in spring. So far it has not developed mildew. I'm keeping my fingers and toes crossed.

Shrub fans can also choose from a plethora of **hydrangeas**. A PHS Gold Medal Plant, 'Limelight' is a top seller. It is hardy to

Flowering Shrubs

Zone 3 and grows 6 to 8 feet tall. It has strong stems and produces lime green flowers, which isn't to everyone's taste. In the fall, though, the flowers take on shades of pink as they fade out of bloom.

A hydrangea called 'Pinky Winky' has reliably produced two-toned flowers in midsummer. The elongated heads grow at least a foot long; they emerge white, turn pink, and push out a few more white flowers on the top. Hardy to Zone 3, it's a great hydrangea for gardeners who can't remember when to prune. Regardless of pH and soil type, it keeps on blooming and grows 6 to 8 feet tall.

Both of these hydrangeas bloom in full sun or part shade. I hesitate to recommend another cultivar, 'Incrediball', until I make sure it deserves its hype. It has especially large blooms and more flowers than *H.* 'Annabelle', but will its huge blooms allow it to stand up straight? Let's keep an eye on that one.

Hypericum
Sunny Boulevard™



Hydrangea 'Pinky Winky'



Hydrangea 'Incrediball'



Syringa Bloomerang®



St. John's wort gets no respect, but I think *Hypericum Sunny Boulevard*[™] rates a second look. And *booray*—this one happens to be native. Tightly branched with fine-textured leaves reminiscent of a willow, it blooms from July into September. The small, plentiful, bright yellow flowers remind me of miniature daffodils. 'Sunny Boulevard' is hardy to Zone 6 and grows only 2 to 3 feet tall. If you want a shorter

one, try 2-foot-tall 'Golden Tutsan', which has bright yellow foliage, a mounding habit, and produces dark red fruit in fall. The good news is that deer very seldom eat them.

I could have listed at least 20 more way-cool shrubs, but if you have a small property or a medium container, these four make terrific choices. If you have more space, mass them for a glitzier effect. 🍵

The Knockout Rose 10 Years On

Back in 2000, I was quoted in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* saying that Knockouts[®] were the roses for the new millennium. After 10 years I haven't changed my mind, nor have the countless people who have planted them on their properties or in public spaces. They come in singles and doubles, and the newer ones include 'Sunny Knockout', a yellow variety, and 'White Knockout', though I'm still partial to the reds and pinks. They flower from May to October and sometimes even longer. One drawback: you have to shove your nose into the flower to detect any fragrance—check for bees first.

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Raising Money for your NEIGHBORHOOD GREENING PROJECT

by Daniel Moise & Jane Carroll

aring for a neighborhood green space is a labor of love, and you and your fellow volunteers are willing to do the work. However, there are limits to what volunteer labor alone can accomplish, and sooner or later, you may find that you need to think about that other kind of “green”—money. That’s why fundraising should be seen as an integral part of your greening project.

You may want to create a new garden; build a tool shed; purchase new trees, plants, mulch, or equipment; replace an aging playground; or pay for services such as concrete work, signs or tree pruning. Or, you may decide to enlist the services of a professional landscape designer or launch an outdoor concert or film series.

Whether you decide to seek donations from individuals or a business, fundraising is most effective when your group is well organized. You will need to develop a clear, well-thought-out vision of what you want to accomplish and clearly communicate your ideas to potential donors.

Don’t let a shortage of cash stop you from making your green space everything you want it to be. Here are some fundraising tips to help make your vision a reality:

GRASS-ROOTS FUNDRAISING

People power: Don’t be afraid to ask family, friends, and neighbors for contributions; the worst they can do is say *no*. If they cannot donate money, perhaps they will volunteer their time. Keep a list of contributors and add their names to a potential volunteer file for follow-up.

Community institutions: Begin with organizations in your neighborhood, especially those near your green space. Examples include religious institutions, colleges, parent-teacher organizations, and community groups (Kiwanis, garden clubs, etc.).

Local businesses: Ask home and garden centers, hardware stores, print shops, supermarkets, and coffee shops for cash donations or “in-kind” services, such as donations of snacks for an event or tools for volunteer use. These can be as beneficial as a cash contribution.

Organize a fundraising event:

Special events are a great way to raise money and generate publicity. Tried-and-true fundraisers include bake sales, flea markets, raffles, car washes, and concerts, but your group may come up with something unique for your site. Fund-raising events also present good opportunities for recruiting additional volunteers.

Government Officials: Local government officials, such as city council members, state representatives, and even members of Congress have access to funds that may be available for neighborhood projects. They also can help facilitate relationships between your group and other funders.



Photos by Margaret Funderburg

OBTAINING GRANTS

Grants are available from foundations; organizations; and city, state, and national agencies. You just have to know where to find them. Before approaching an organization for a grant, you must do some research. Grant-making organizations usually have specific areas of focus, so check to see if your project is a good fit. Take care to follow all of the institution’s application guidelines, especially deadlines.

Visit your local library:

Your library provides free access to online databases and print directories where you can search for grants. Many databases of foundations are available online. Your librarian can help you find and access these materials.

An online resource:

One of the most widely used online resources is the Foundation Center (<http://foundationcenter.org>), a national organization that maintains a comprehensive database of foundations all over the country. The Foundation Center is also a valuable resource for learning about the art of fundraising, offering books, online courses, and other training resources.

The Foundation Center operates “Cooperating Collections,” a network of free funding information centers within libraries, community foundations, and other nonprofit resource centers throughout the country. These provide a core collection of Foundation Center publications and a variety of supplementary materials and services. The Foundation Center website has a list of Cooperating Collections.

Tap into business:

Learn about the corporations, banks, utility companies, and other industries operating in your city. Many corporations have charitable foundations, and their websites explain their areas of interest and give guidelines for applying for grants. Most cities have a locally focused business journal or newspaper that covers business affairs in your region. These journals also publish a “Book of Lists,” which identifies philanthropic organizations in your area.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Simply stated, "leveraging" is the process of using resources to gain more resources. In other words, money raised can be used to raise more money. If your organization or group secures a grant from a foundation or corporation, it serves as an important "stamp of approval" that will help you make your case when soliciting funds from others.

Leveraging applies not only to money, but also to other resources such as volunteer labor, also known as "sweat equity." If your city government or a local foundation sees that people feel so strongly about improving a green space that they are willing to volunteer their time, this can convince them to commit more funds.

Visible improvements to your site are a great leveraging tool as well. They create excitement, show that positive change is underway, and can inspire others to help fuel the momentum. The accomplishments of your group will attract other volunteers, and in-kind gifts you receive may inspire other local businesses to offer their services and have their name added on your banners. 🌱

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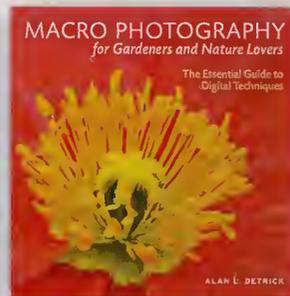
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Photos can be shot in any format, but *must* be submitted as 4 x 6- or 5 x 7-inch prints with your name, phone number, and email address on the back. No submissions by email or on CD will be accepted. The **deadline for entries is September 18, 2010**. For more information, please visit the PHS website at PHSonline.org or email greenscene@pennhort.org. You can also call 215-988-8871.



SEE NEXT PAGE FOR CONTEST RULES & MORE PRIZES

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Please mail your entries to: GREEN SCENE GARDEN PHOTO CONTEST, PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495

The contest is open to photographers 18 years and older. To be eligible, all entries must be postmarked on or before September 18, 2010.

Warranty and Permission

By sending this photograph(s) to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's *Green Scene* Garden Photo Contest, I warrant that I am the sole author of this photo(s). I grant the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society the right to publish this photo in its publications and electronic newsletters; on its website; and in collateral publications, including, but not limited to, promotional materials. I understand that beyond granting PHS these rights, I retain all other rights to this photograph.

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WHO MAY ENTER

- * Amateur photographers (those who earn less than 1/4 of their annual income from photography) age 18 and older.
- * Employees of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and its affiliates are not eligible.

SUBMISSIONS

- * Photographers may *only* enter images as 4 x 6-inch or 5 x 7-inch prints, either in color or black-and-white.
- * All submissions must be accompanied by a completed entrance form (see page 36) and entry fees.
- * **IMPORTANT:** On the back of each image, you must write your name, address, email and/or phone.
Optional: You may also include technical information about the photograph (camera type, f-stop, speed, film type, etc.), as well as background information.
- * If you'd like your images returned, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your submission.
- * Original images may be shot on print film, slides, or digital cameras, but all submissions must be prints as stated above (no slides or CDs accepted).
- * All photographs must be previously unpublished.
- * All photos must have been taken within the past three years (since August 1, 2007).
- * Photos may eventually be mounted on cardboard if we choose to display them.
- * Photos that violate or infringe upon another photographer's copyright are not eligible for entry.
- * The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is not responsible for loss of or damage to any photographs submitted for the contest.

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- * Photographers may enter 1 photo for a fee of \$15; 2 to 5 photos for a fee of \$25; or 6 to 10 photos for a fee of \$40. Fees are non-refundable.

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The three winning images and **10 Honorable Mention** recipients will be featured in the January/February 2011 issue of *Green Scene*.

Important Dates

- * All entries must be postmarked by September 18, 2010.
- * All winners will be notified by November 16, 2010.

For more information:

For more information, please email greenscene@pennhort.org for fastest response. You may also call 215-988-8871.

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By Jane Carroll and Beverly Vandenburg



PHS's "ROOTS TO RE-ENTRY" INITIATIVE

entry, inmates from the Philadelphia Prison System receive fourteen weeks of training, which includes life-skills and job-readiness training as well as hands-on experience in landscaping and horticulture, including plant identification, crew leadership, and equipment operation and safety.

The hands-on work takes place both at the prison and at Bartram's Garden, a historic garden located in southwest Philadelphia, where the inmates help maintain gardens, repair fences, and build new beds, among other tasks. The participants live in a Prison System halfway house while working at Bartram's Garden during the day. At the completion of the program, trainees are released or paroled and can work for KJK Associates or another

In June PHS celebrated the first graduates of its new Roots to Re-entry program. A green jobs initiative run in partnership with the Philadelphia Prison System, Bartram's Garden, and local landscaping firm KJK Associates, Roots to Re-entry gives prison inmates a chance to learn new skills and secure employment upon their release.

er landscaping firm. A total of 15 graduates of three sessions are expected by the end of the summer.

Roots to Re-entry is aligned with of PHS's widely heralded City Harvest program, in which prison inmates start vegetable seedlings that are grown to maturity in community gardens throughout Philadelphia; the resulting produce is donated to food cupboards.

Roots to Re-entry helps maximize the chances of job placement, allows inmates to give back to the city, and will help them more easily make the transition to life outside the prison system.

"Roots to Re-entry gets at the heart of the PHS mission, which is to empower people and change lives through horticulture," says Philadelphia Green's Bob Grossmann.

At the graduation ceremony of the first class in June, Roots to Re-entry participant Troy Johnson said, "It's not just about us; I won't let you down." Fellow graduate Jonathan Paulson added, "I'm just proud to be a part of this program and have a chance to be a productive member of society again. I don't know where I'd be without it."

Prison Commissioner Louis Giorla summed it up this way: "Through the combined efforts and goodwill of the many partners here today, this program is yielding jobs for ex-offenders and helping to build a greener Philadelphia." 🌱



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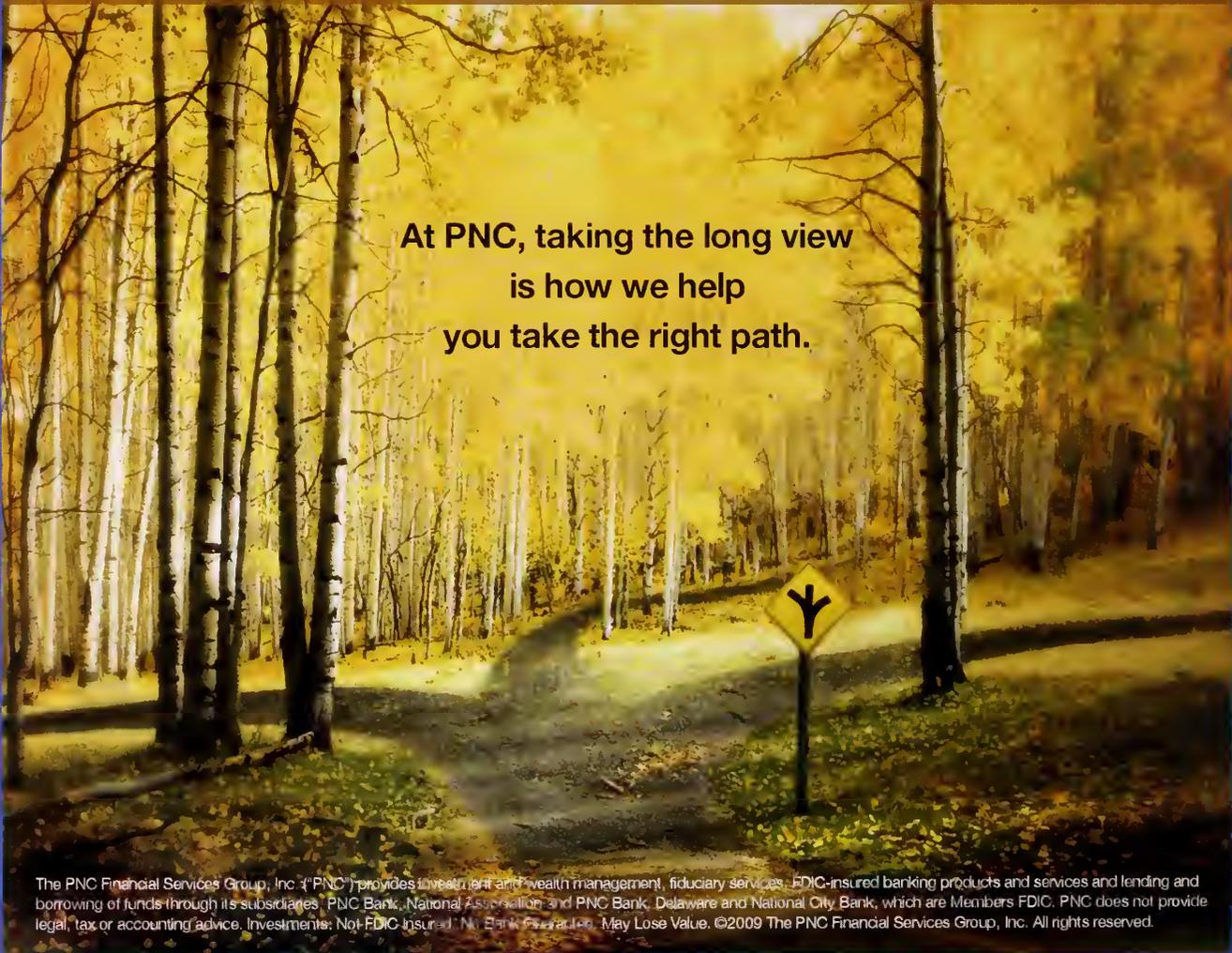
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A photograph of a forest path with a Y-junction sign. The path is dirt and leads through a forest of tall, thin trees with yellow and orange autumn foliage. A yellow diamond-shaped sign with a black Y-junction symbol stands at the fork of the path. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

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features

- 8 Up on the Roof** Visit Dan Dagle's spectacular rooftop garden in Philly's Old City neighborhood.
- 10 A Spirea for All Seasons** Learn about the versatile *Spirea lucida*.
- 11 Garden Treat** Savor a tasty salad recipe from Noble: An American Cookery restaurant.
- 12 Bog Bonanza** Denise Cowie takes us to a magical bog garden in South Jersey.
- 18 Recycle It!** In this timely piece, Laura Brandt teaches us how to recycle our plastic pots and more.
- 24 Black Magic** Need some sex appeal in the garden? Try some alluring black flowers, says author Jennifer Zurko.
- 28 Up Front** Adam Levine shows us the marvelous Swarthmore gardens of designer Judy Penney, including the front-yard beds she recently put in.

columns

- 34 French Floral Design** *New Column!* Top flower arranger Jane Godshalk returns with a new range of design tutorials.
- 38 Local Heroes** *New Column!* Meet organic "garden whisperer" Pam Ruch.

Cover photo: Rob Cardillo



Here & There

I recently returned from eight days in Scotland and, beyond the kilts, bagpipes, and excellent ales, it was eye-opening to compare that country's garden and landscaping practices to our own. Much has been written about our different climates and approaches to gardening, but books can't quite describe the thrill of standing next to an 8-foot-tall fuchsia shrub—a stark contrast to our diminutive hanging-baskets here. Talk about *fuchsia shock*.

Another striking difference is the Scottish approach to lawn care. In America, of course, it's recommended to cut your grass no shorter than 3 inches, as anything shorter than that can stress the grass and cause disease or death during our long, hot, and humid summers. With the UK's abundance of Gulf Stream rainfall, however, turf can be cut to under half an inch—a veritable green *carpet*. In fact, one of the lawnmowers I inspected actually had a big metal roller on the front to further complete the flattened effect. It's no wonder lawn bowling is such a popular sport—as in Edinburgh where I witnessed a game on a sunny afternoon.

In the outer suburban neighborhoods of St. Andrews, there was very little in the way of high horticulture, aside from its pleasant botanic garden (*st-andrews-botanic.org*), but colorful annuals were in profusion everywhere. One property even had meticulously edged beds resembling hearts, clubs, spades, and diamonds—clearly, the home of a bridge or pinochle player!

It's hard not to be jealous of the ease with which Scottish garden-

ers can grow brilliant blue lobelia in containers, often coupled with hot red, yellow, and orange tuberous begonias. In fact, I saw far more containers and window baskets than terrestrial gardens. Perhaps like us, British gardeners are feeling the squeeze of time and are opting for smaller gardening projects instead of grander designs. Such is life in the twenty-first century.

Certainly, a highpoint of my trip was a drive through the Highlands—the Trossachs, Glencoe, and up to the Isle of Skye. The dramatic, jagged landscapes there rival the stunning geography of the western United States, but the area's wildflowers can grab the eye as well. In early September, the heather was in full bloom, coloring the hills and crags with its muted lavender tints. Goldenrod proved another punctuation point at this time of year, though if you go earlier in the summer, yellow-flowering gorse is apparently quite a highlight. (Put the Scottish Highlands on your “bucket list,” no matter what. It's worth the trip.)

At the end of my visit, I was pleased by everything I had observed but resisted the temptation to indulge in the UK *vs.* US “whose garden is better” argument. It seems a fruitless waste of time; in the end, I simply enjoyed the fact that our climates, gardens, and landscapes are different and have their own merits. Secretly however, I admit that I'd love to grow deep-blue lobelia like the Scots can!

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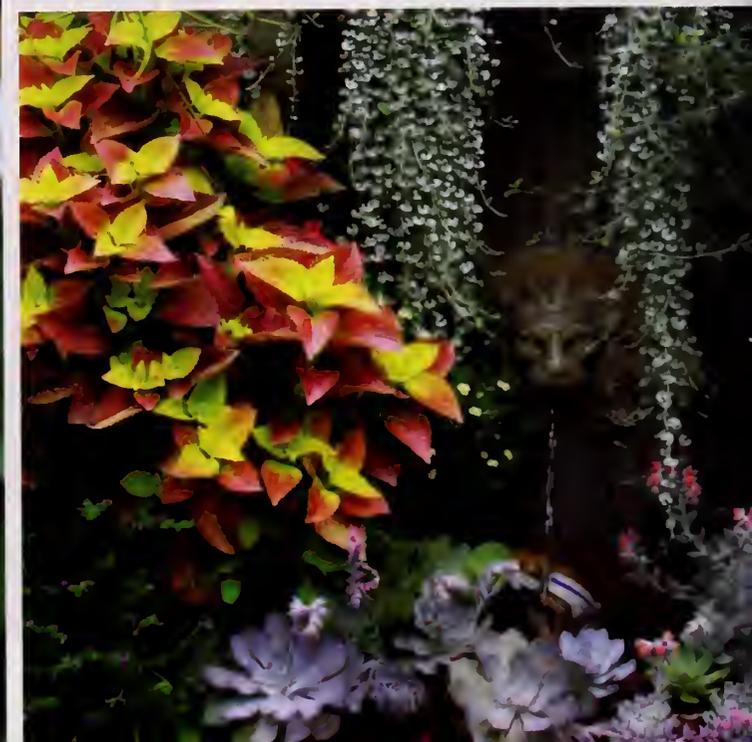
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The Potting Shed



Memories

AS PEOPLE WALK UP 3RD STREET near Market in Philadelphia's Old City neighborhood, they behold glorious plantings that spill over the top of a tall row house in the middle of the block. This skyward garden belongs to Dan Dagle, who lovingly maintains the lavish landscape in memory of his late partner, Matt Drozd, who passed away earlier this year. Matt and Dan were former owners of Old City Florist, which still inhabits the street level of their building. They started the rooftop garden about 25 years ago and, in fact, it has been featured in past issues of *Green Scene*. The garden even won a prize in PHS's City Gardens Contest.

Today, Dan alone expertly keeps the roof garden looking immaculate. The style is modern and eclectic, with an accent on tropical annuals, tender perennials, succulents, vines, and small trees. Indeed, it's hard to believe you're four stories up from street level. "Each spring, we put in lots of new annuals, as well as the geranium 'Cascade,' which a friend grows for us in New Jersey," says Dan, who is still in the habit of saying "we." "It's a wonderful plant."

Other favorites include bromeliads, cannas, and a wide array of cacti, including a pencil cactus that Dan is fond of. He ducks into a secluded part of the deck and comes back with a strange, alien-looking succulent that bears an equally unusual flower. "This is a *Stapelia*, and it has a fleshy, star-shaped flower," he explains. "It gets pollinated by flies, not bees, so

the blossom is hairy and emits a bad smell. But that's nature at work."

The tricky part, one wonders, is how Dan and Matt got all these trees, tender plants, and soil up to the roof. "We would buy the trees when they were small, of course, but still, everything has to be lugged up the stairs by foot," he says. "Occasionally, the trees do get too large and we have to remove them, mostly so they don't fall over and hurt anyone. Then we have to start all over again and bring a new tree up the stairs. It's all part of the process."

In addition to keeping the garden in tip-top shape, Dan also crafts lovely birdhouses and the occasional a bat house. "I'm an artist by training and have been influenced by the colors and designs of Mexico and South America, which is reflected in my birdhouses. They take a long time to build, but I enjoy the work." He adds smiling, "It also keeps me out of trouble."

Dan and Matt also put an outdoor dining set in their roof garden, and often entertained friends there. But Dan says that when he goes up there to relax now, he instead starts weeding and puttering about the plantings. "It's work, but you have to love it. It keeps me in shape, too."

No matter what Dan's doing on the roof, though, thoughts of Matt are never far away, and the garden is a continuing tribute to his memory. 🌱

Opposite page:

Top left: Geraniums edge the roof along 3rd Street.

Top right: Caladiums, Persian shield, and other tropicals give the deck a festive look.

Bottom left: Dan holds a *Stapelia* plant in bloom.

Bottom right: Coleus and a variety of succulents surround the fountain.

Right: Dan's jubilant bird feeders decorate the garden.



A SPIREA by Many Names

By Patricia A. Taylor

Eight years ago, I came across an interesting description of a shrub in the Forestfarm catalog, describing a spirea with flat clusters of white flowers in spring and colorful fall foliage. Even more intriguing, it was touted as more drought tolerant than many spireas, native to western North America, and hardy to Zone 5. Although the shipping cost from the Oregon nursery to my Princeton, New Jersey, garden was high, I bought it. And I've been praising it ever since.

Interested? Here are more details: Its warm green spring foliage assumes glaucous tones in summer. After a light, late-spring shearing, white blossoms sporadically appear in July and August. It's about 2 feet tall and mounded in full sun and about 3 feet tall and more vase-shaped in bright, open shade. (I now have two because I successfully divided it by splitting the roots.) I've never fertilized or used pesticides on this shrub.

When my husband and I moved five years ago, there was a planting gap of three months. A good friend created a storage area for my shrubs by wrapping wire mesh around a pile of leaf compost in a shaded area. This one came through fine.

Now I've told you just about all you need to know except for the name. Ah yes, the name. Forestfarm (forestfarm.com) sells it as western white spirea (*S. lucida*). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (plants.usda.gov) says that the correct nomenclature is shinyleaf spirea (*S. betulifolia* var. *lucida*). There is, according to the government website, a white spirea (*S. betulifolia*) that is native not only to the northwest, but also to the East Coast, from Pennsylvania south to Georgia. You can find a cultivar of this plant, 'Tor', at many garden centers and mail-order nurseries. While slightly taller and more fulsome, it offers the same lovely spring flowers, summer re-bloom, and colorful fall leaves.

No matter by which name you call it, I'm sure you will like this shrub. 🌱





Heirloom Tomato Salad

1 lb. heirloom tomatoes (or substitute your favorite off-season variety)
 lemon verbena vinaigrette
 lemon balm leaves
 grilled sourdough bread cubes
 sprigs of red currant
 salt and pepper
 pesto Genovese*
 almond blanchmange*

- Cut the tomatoes into attractive pieces, place in a bowl, and season with salt and pepper.
- Add bread cubes and vinaigrette and toss to combine.
- Arrange the tomatoes and bread cubes on a plate and dot them with pesto.
- Arrange blanchmange cubes, lemon balm leaves, and currant sprigs on top.

Lemon Verbena Vinaigrette

Arbequina extra-virgin olive oil
 Champagne vinegar
 1 tsp. lemon verbena leaves

- Combine oil and vinegar in a 3:1 ratio, add the leaves, and let stand in a container for 24 hours. 🌿

*Note: Brinn follows his own special recipes for pesto Genovese and almond blanchmange, but feel free to substitute your own.

Organic Delights from Noble: An American Cookery

A rising star on the Philadelphia restaurant scene, Noble: An American Cookery specializes in gourmet dishes made from simple, seasonal ingredients—some of them grown right in its own rooftop garden. Executive chef Brinn Sinnott and his team, aided by gardener Grace Wicks, grow a variety of tomatoes in the garden, including heirlooms and yellow types, as well as Genovese and Thai basil,

peppers, and other herbs.

Brinn notes that growing the restaurant's own produce gives him—and Noble's dinner guests—the sense that it is important to nurture and take care of the food that ends up on one's plate. It's a simple message for all of us: *good, healthy food benefits everyone.*

Brinn also agreed to share one of the eatery's sublime tomato recipes. Enjoy!

—Pete Prown



Photo by Margaret Funderberg

Noble: An American Cookery is located at 2025 Sansom Street in Philadelphia. Visit the restaurant online at noblecookery.com or call 215-568-7000.



The Beautiful

Bog

A Pine Barrens Masterpiece in South Jersey

By Denise Cowie
Photos by Pete Prown

The sign marking a driveway on the outskirts of the tiny New Jersey Pine Barrens

hamlet of Warren Grove simply says "The Bog." Turn up that driveway, walk past a sweep of daylilies, and you come to a fenced area. Is it a huge container garden? A raised-bed garden that is *really* raised? How about the largest above-ground bog in North America? That's what A. William (Bill) Smith, the man who built it, likes to call it. "And if it isn't," he adds with characteristic good nature, "I'd love to get the phone call from someone who has a larger bog."

The bog in question is 30 feet long, 10 feet wide and 2 feet deep. But it's not the only bog garden on display. Surrounding it, like satellites around a star, are dozens of dish-garden bogs, and anchoring it at one end is a newer above-ground bog that's only a little smaller.

From spring through fall, the bogs offer a constantly changing kaleidoscope of shapes and colors as the flowering spikes of scores of swamp pinks (*Helonias bullata*) and blossoms on rhodora

The Beautiful Bog



(*Rhododendron canadense*) give way to hundreds of pitcher plant blooms, followed by the native orchids rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*) and grass pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)—and, of course, the colorful “pitchers” that give the insect-eating *Sarracenia* plants their common name.

Interspersed are numerous other carnivorous plants and their bog companions, including the delicate-looking, gnat-trapping sundews (*Drosera filiformis*), bog asters (*Oclemena nemoralis*), nodding ladies’ tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*), white colic root (*Aletris farinosa*), Barbara’s buttons (*Marshallia grandiflora*), and bog iris (*Iris prismatica*).

Built in 2007 from surplus materials Smith had on hand, and planted the following year as a joint venture with Jason Austin, a young native plant expert and carnivorous plant aficionado, the original above-ground bog began as a combination of experiment and educational demonstration to illustrate the horticultural possibilities of bog gardening.



“We’re looking at the horticultural applications—could this become another form of gardening? There’s a lot of interest, flowing out of native plant gardening,” says Smith, who regularly teams up with Austin to teach build-a-bog workshops at RareFind Nursery in Jackson, NJ, where Austin is greenhouse manager and Smith has worked part-time since he retired from a civil-engineering firm in 2006.

“I’ve brought together species you’d find from Maine to Florida and put them in one spot, so that’s artificial,” he says of the variety of native plants in the bog. “The experimental aspect was to see, if we created the conditions, would the plants survive. And they pretty much have. The first full winter of 2008-09, out of 600 individual plants, we lost about half a dozen—mostly Southern things.” Smith then added several inches of pine needles to the surface of the above-ground bog as winter insulation: “It was like a solid cake. You could knock on it.”

Some of the plants that thrive at The Bog face an uncertain future in the wild, Smith points out, including some New Jersey natives with which he is familiar, as he has lived in the Pine Barrens for 45 years. “The bog asphodel is a rarity, found only in the Pine Barrens,” he says, indicating a native wildflower that produces yellow flowers followed by orange seed pods that give the impression of another flower. “Also unusual is the Pine Barrens goldenrod, which likes it moist and throws up a tall spike of brilliant yellow flowers.”

Opposite page : The bog in summer (top) flaunts numerous *sarracenias* and other natives, including *Calopogon tuberosus* or grass pink orchid (bottom right). Bill Smith (bottom left).

Below : The *Dionaea muscipula*, or Venus flytrap (below left) is a popular carnivorous plant. A Pine Barrens native pitcher plant, *Sarracenia purpurea* (below right) snuggles up to a delicate looking *Drosera filiformis*, or threadleaf sundew. Author Denise Cowie (bottom right).



The Beautiful Bog

The plants that probably attract most gardeners to bog gardening, however, are the flamboyant and fascinating sarracenias. Their elongated pitchers may make them look like cheerful chatterboxes as they grow together in groups, but they trap their insect dinner with merciless cunning.

The tube of the New Jersey native, *Sarracenia purpurea*, is open and fills with rain water in which insects may drown, but other pitcher plants have hoods that act as umbrellas. Insects may be lured by bright colors, flowers, or an inviting scent, then trapped in a variety of ways, but all generate enzymes that dissolve the prey into a nutrient solution that can be absorbed.

“Inside most tubes are hairs that point downwards, so that an insect can get in easily but can’t get out,” Smith says. Pitchers may secrete a nectar-like fluid on their waxy rims, and have sticky or slippery inner walls. And some “have white patches in the tube that are almost transparent, like windows. When an insect goes toward the light to escape, it gets even more trapped.”

As he talks, Smith checks pitchers for trapped bees, which he shakes out. “I like to free the bees to build up good karma,” he notes with a smile. Smith’s attachment to bogs isn’t his first horticultural fling. For 25 years, he bred tropical orchids under the name Rainforest Orchids and was a judge for the American Orchid Society. He was involved with orchid judging at the Philadelphia Flower Show for about 10 years. “That was fun,” he recalls. “I really enjoyed that first day.”

It wasn’t until he retired and met up with Austin at RareFind, however, that he fell in love with bogs, which promise to be his final passion—even if someone does build a *bigger* above-ground bog. But on that claim, he says with a grin, “I’m still waiting to be challenged.” 🍃



White-flowered spikes of *Aletris farinosa*, or colic root, grow alongside the pitcher plant that Bill Smith calls “the star of the collection,” *Sarracenia* ‘Adrian Slack’, with its white-hooded green-and-red tubes.

Building an Above-Ground Bog Can Be a Bargain

When Bill Smith decided to build an above-ground bog garden, he used materials he had on hand to cut costs. First, he chose a site that would get full sun. He covered the ground with landscape cloth to prevent weeds, then built a rectangular garden, using double-size cinder blocks, two rows deep.

He lined the garden with 20mm vinyl pool liner, to the height of the second row. Then he added a third row of cinder blocks. This allows excess water to bleed through the walls above the liner. He also slashed the liner on the bottom of the garden to allow more seepage.

Two inches of sand were added to the bottom, and then the garden was filled with peat moss—it took 72 bales, each 4 cubic feet, to fill the 30 x 10 x 2-foot garden. He topped it off with a couple of inches of live sphagnum moss, which grows along a stream on his Pine Barrens property. “You can see little bits of it growing,” he says. “It has the seed in it, apparently.”

Finally, he spray-painted the outside of the cinder blocks black and placed square white pavers from Lowe’s on top to give it a finished look and to create a platform for bog dish-gardens. The garden is watered with rain or well water, as pitcher plants are very sensitive to chlorine and other chemicals.

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Mums potted up for fall sale in plastic pots



Photo by Laura Brandt

By Laura A. Brandt

DRASTIC

Reducing, Reusing & Recycling Nursery Containers

It's ironic that the business known as the "green industry" is not always so green. Same goes for us *green* gardeners. We dig, we plant, we mulch, and then what? Many of us throw the plastic plant containers into the trash without a second thought. However, millions of those containers sit in landfills and some are burned or incinerated, releasing toxic pollutants into the air. Once plastic enters our landfills, it can also leach harmful chemicals into the ground and take hundreds of years to decay.

Plastic pots began to replace clay pots in the 1950s. Today, the horticultural industry relies heavily on plastic, not only for nursery pots and trays, but also for row covers, plant tags, twine, stakes, horticultural films, peat moss bags, and other supplies. However, most plastics are the product of natural gas, a non-renewable resource.

So what's the solution to all the plastic clutter from the nursery industry? We all remember the 3Rs from the twentieth century: *reading*, *riting*, and *rithmetic*. This century it's *reduce*, *reuse*, and *recycle*.



Laura A. Brandt

PLASTIC

Drastic Plastic

Photo by George Chevalier



Urban Art
eco-friendly flower
pot manufactured
from "e-waste"
plastic by
TerraCycle

Less is More

Used nursery pots come in handy for transplanting perennials and giving away prolific spreaders to your gardening friends. I save my pots for digging up perennials that grow too large and need dividing. I have also used plastic pots and seedling tray packs as lightweight fillers for large decorative planters, instead of using heavy rocks or extra soil. Just place a few upside-down on the bottom and add some landscape fabric in between, if necessary, then add soil to the rest of the container.

In our region, most municipalities offer curbside recycling; however, many only take plastics #1 (PET or polyethylene) or #2 (HDPE or high-density polyethylene). Plastic nursery pots and trays are usually

either #2, #5 (PP or polypropylene), or #6 (PS or polystyrene).

Some trash haulers have partnered with RecycleBank, a recycling service that takes most types of plastic in certain geographic areas, such as plastics #1 through #7. It will also accept used plastic nursery containers as long as they are rinsed out and free from debris.

Green Garden Centers

A handful of garden centers in southeastern Pennsylvania have stepped up to the recycling plate by offering to collect used nursery pots and flats from their customers. For example, both Primex Garden Center in Glenside, PA, and Mostardi Nursery in Newtown Square, PA, have recycling areas near their park-

In the United States,
75 BILLION pounds
of plastic are produced
every year; unfortunately,
most of it ends up
in landfills.

RECYCLED, UPCYCLED & BIODEGRADABLE POTS

Trenton, NJ-based TerraCycle, Inc. collects different types of materials such as juice pouches and snack food wrappers and makes various products out of them, some of which are used in the garden. TerraCycle is known for its creative “upcycling,” or producing functional items from non-recyclable materials or items that have outlived their usefulness.

To make its new Kid’s Grow Kits, TerraCycle fills used Stonyfield Farm yogurt cups with organic potting medium made from the company’s famous worm poop, and either vegetable, herb, or flower seeds.

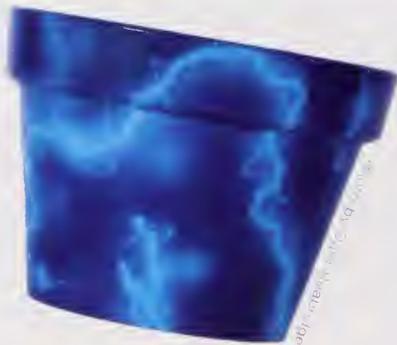
“Kids love to grow things, and this gets them thinking about reusing containers, gardening, and upcycling,” says TerraCycle’s George Chevalier.

Other TerraCycle containers include Urban Art eco-friendly flower pots made from e-waste plastic recovered from computers, VCRs, and TVs. TerraCycle makes pots out of other materials, such as a combination of rice husks, bamboo, and coconut fibers that is 100 percent biodegradable.

—LB



New markets for recycled agricultural plastics include plastic lumber and retaining-wall ties.



"Blue Lightning" Urban Art pot is made from e-waste plastic by TerraCycle.



Photo courtesy of East Jordan Plastics

The plastic containers made by East Jordan Plastics are 100% recyclable. The company accepts plastic nursery pots labeled 2, 5, or 6, which are ground into plastic chips and melted for use in molding new nursery products.

RESOURCES

earth911.com

eastjordanplastics.com

epa.gov/osw/conserve/materials/plastics.htm

terracycle.net

meadowbrookfarm.org

Drastic Plastic



Photo courtesy of Mostardi Nursery



Photo by Steve Mulrann, Mt. Cuba Center

ing lots where shoppers can return clean used plastic pots.

"We're glad to be part of the green revolution," says Steve Mostardi. "We collect everything we use here at the garden center, sort them by plastic type, and put them onto racks. We either reuse these containers on site, or we send them to growers who in turn, send them to recycling facilities." Also, a local trash hauler picks up some containers and takes them to a recycling facility.

Other garden centers are getting on board with recycling as well. If your garden center does not accept plastic from its customers, ask them to consider doing so. Just remember that old retail adage: "The customer is always right!"

Wayne Kunkelman owns Carousel Gardens in Newtown, PA. He has collected a huge pile of various plastics and hopes that other garden centers will follow suit. He has also experimented with biodegradable pots such as those made from rice hulls and peat, but he likes coir from coconut hulls for growing big, healthy plants. "If we can get more area garden centers on board with recycling, we'll be able to get a company such as East Jordan Plastics to come and collect the containers," he notes.

Closing the Loop

Michigan-based East Jordan Plastics, Inc. (EJP) has been manufacturing plant containers since 1947. Today, however, every container they produce is 100 percent recyclable and many of their containers are made with post-consumer recycled plastic, according to Nathan Diller, recycling manager. The company accepts plastic nursery pots labeled #2, #5, or #6, which are ground into plastic chips and melted for use in molding new nursery products.

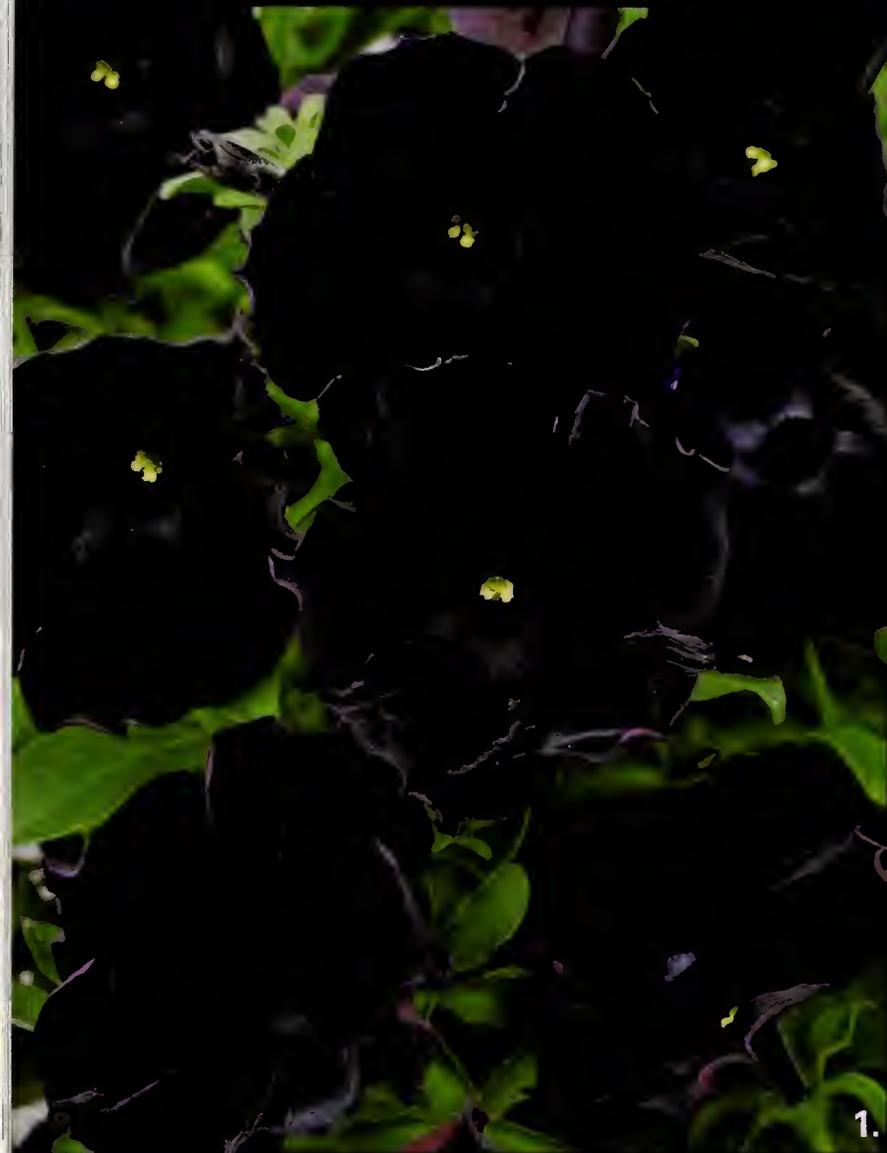
EJP picks up used pots, trays, and even plant tags from garden centers and nursery growers throughout the United States and Canada. "We encourage gardeners to find a local garden center or local group that is involved in collecting plastic containers," says Diller. "Also, we encourage small independent retailers to work with others in their area to consolidate recyclables at a single location for pickup. That way, we can all pitch in to green up our industry." 🌱

Laura Brandt is a garden writer and landscape consultant who writes about sustainable gardening and lives in Bucks County.

A pot-recycling bin at Seasons Garden Center in Washington Crossing, Pa.



BACK IN BLACK



1.

Ball Horticultural Co.

EuroAmerican Propagators



2.



3.

Don't be turned off by dark-colored plants; they offer unique ways to dress up other plants that may need a little more pep. And, of course, black goes with everything!

The ancient Egyptians used the color black to portray scenes of the afterlife and the River Nile, which covered the land with pitch-like silt after each flood. In movies about the Old West, the bad guy always wore black. And it's always the black cat that makes an appearance on Halloween—a Tabby or Calico just wouldn't have the same spooky effect.

Alluring Dark Flowers for your Garden

By Jennifer Zurko

Chris Hansen



4.



5.

Photos from left: 1. The brand new 'Black Velvet' is being touted as "the world's only black petunia." It will be available at garden centers in spring 2011. 2. The fully double flowers of 'Onyx Odyssey' hellebore mature from a slate purple color to black. 3. The finely cut foliage of Black Lace™ *Sambucus* looks similar to Japanese maple. 4. 'Black Velvet' looks great in a pot. 5. Black Scallop *Ajuga* has very deep purple-to-black foliage that is larger than other varieties.

Black Flowers



Sorbet™ Black Delight



Cryptanthus 'Black Mystic'

What's the fascination with this peculiar color? (Technically speaking, though, black is the absence of color.) Karen Platt, a British writer and gardening professional recognized as the world's leading expert on dark-colored plants, says it's because it's "sexy and intriguing."

"The color black is indeed very rare in the plant world, and most black plants are simply dark," she says. "True black would be rather difficult to place in the garden in any quantity, but these plants are immensely beautiful and therefore very appealing."

In 2000 Karen published her first book, *Black Magic and Purple Passion*, and it's now in its third edition. She founded the International Black Plant Society because using dark flowers and plants continues to be a hot trend in the gardening world.

Perhaps another wave of black flower fanaticism could begin with the introduction of 'Black Velvet', a new petunia variety set to hit garden centers in the spring of 2011. The company behind the breeding of this novel number, Ball FloraPlant, is promoting it as "the world's only black petunia." Ball is also promoting two other dark, star-patterned petunias—Phantom and Pinstripe—and anticipates a lot of enthusiasm for these breeding breakthroughs.

It took *four years* for flower breeder Jianping Ren to develop the three varieties, and she says it was no easy task. But all of her hard work will be worth it if they're the hot topic in next year's gardening magazines and blogs.

"The black color did not exist in petunias before, so ... it is difficult and very different from breeding true blue flowers, because at least there are blue flowers you can start with," she says. "It's unique and unusual and opens the door for more new colors."

"Unusual" is a great word to describe black flowers, but many people have pre-conceived notions about this color. People often link it to the occult or death, and may see black flowers as a creative way to let someone know how you really feel about them. Sure, you can send a bouquet of black roses or carnations to your ex-girlfriend or nasty neighbor, but Karen says that's not really the popular choice for these ebony ornamentals.

"I have never actually come across anyone giving black plants to anyone they dislike," she

says. "I always associate funerals with white flowers, and I did once meet a very innovative lady in the United States who makes black wedding bouquets. It's true that black plants get a bad rap—some people do associate them with evil—but they are far too lovely to have such connotations attached to them."

Plus, dark flowers and foliage make great accents in combination with other plants, allowing their surrounding companions to really stand out. Karen says she uses chartreuse, golden, or silver-colored plants to complement her favorite black-toned varieties.

Still wary of adding these black beauties to your garden? Worried about what your neighbors might think? Don't be. There are thousands of dark-colored plants that are great for more than just the fall season, Karen explains. So you don't have to assume they should be pigeonholed for "a one-night Halloween stand."

Jennifer Zurko is associate editor of *GrowerTalks* and *Green Profit*, trade magazines for commercial greenhouse growers and garden center retailers. She can be reached at jzurko@ballpublishing.com.



Jennifer Zurko

Opposite page top:
Sorbet™ Black Delight *Viola* is the most consistently pure black viola on the market.

Opposite page bottom:
The bizarre and awesome succulent *Cryptanthus* 'Black Mystic' features zebra-striped foliage and makes an ideal indoor plant.

DARK DELIGHTS

Here are a few flower and foliage varieties available in shades of black and deep purple. Of course, we can't list them all, but these are the most common plants.

Actaea simplex 'Black Negligee'

Ajuga reptans Black Scallop

Colocasia esculenta 'Black Magic'

Colocasia esculenta 'Midnight'

Cordyline 'Dark Star'

Cryptanthus 'Black Mystic'

Helleborus 'Onyx Odyssey'

Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens' (Black Mondo Grass)

Pansy 'Halloween II'

Petunia 'Black Velvet'

Sambucus Black Lace

Viola Sorbet™ Black Delight

Black is the color of objects that do not emit or reflect light in any part of the visible spectrum; they absorb all such frequencies of light. Although black is sometimes described as an "achromatic," or hueless, color, in practice it can be considered a color, as in expressions like "black cat" or "black paint."

—Wikipedia



IN PLAIN VIEW

The Art of Planting One's Front Yard

By Adam Levine

Photos by Rob Cardillo



WHEN JUDY PENNEY AND LARRY ANASTASI MOVED INTO THEIR SWARTHMORE HOUSE IN 1966, about the only worthwhile plant on the quarter-acre property was a rhubarb. Larry immediately added another, a small fig tree, and to finish the impromptu composition planted a ring of portulaca around its base.



Front Yard Garden

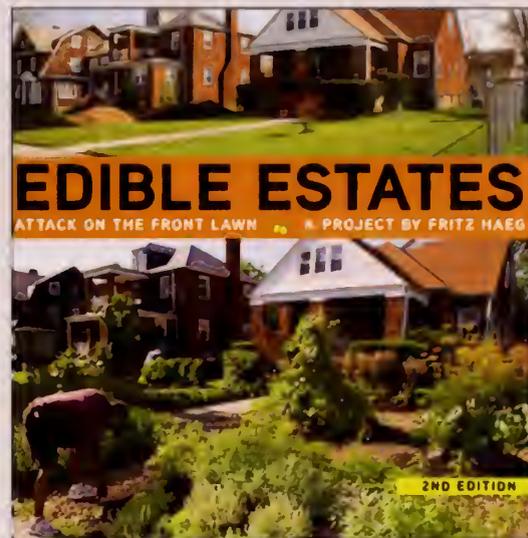
Clockwise from top left: 1. This attractive rock feature and fountain serves a practical purpose, hiding a drain that carries away excess water during storms. The tree on the left is *Cornus controversa* 'Variegata'; the white flowering vine is *Hydrangea anomala* ssp. *petiolaris*.

2. The garden has a Mediterranean feel, as reflected in this paved area and surrounding garden behind the house. The building covered with vines may seem like a romantic cottage, but is actually the garage. The flagstone tabletop was saved when the front sidewalk was redone in concrete; it sits on two large terra cotta flue tiles.

3. Hedges provide much-needed privacy in the front garden, as the house sits on a lot only 70 feet wide.

4. Judy Penney

5. This garden beside the garage is mostly a study in texture and foliage, with a hint of color in the red-flowered clematis. The tall yew sits on the property line and helps hide a neighboring house.



Read Edible Estates

The phrase “edible landscaping” is a hot buzzword in gardening and design circles these days. Just as in Judy Penney’s Swarthmore garden, the concept is to replace lawn and traditional plantings with those that yield fruits, vegetables, nuts, and herbs.

Landscape architect Fritz Haeg tackles the subject head-on in the second edition of his noted manifesto, *Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn* (176 pp., softcover). In its pages you will read about eight edible gardens Haeg has planted in different growing environments, from California to Great Britain. The homeowners also relate the pleasures and challenges they experienced when growing food “publicly” on their properties. These stories are supplemented by essays written by such notables as Michael Pollan (“Why Mow: The Case Against Lawns”) and Rosalind Creasy (“My House in the Garden”). Also featured is urban-farming icon Will Allen, who was the keynote speaker at the influential Compost Conference that PHS co-sponsored earlier this year.

Most symbolic is a new chapter on the White House vegetable garden, an effort led by First Lady Michele Obama. We learn that it contains lots of veggies and herbs, including cilantro and tomatillos, but absolutely *no* beets. Apparently, the President does not eat them.

—Pete Prown



Front Yard Garden

A modest beginning, for sure, but these first simple plants started the couple off on what has become a decades-long gardening adventure. The property today features a wide variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals grown for their flowers and foliage, their scent, and their ability to please the palate. Judy loves to cook, and both she and Larry love to eat, and this shared passion for food has motivated their newest garden area, in the front yard.

Replacing energy-intensive lawns with beds of tasty edibles has become a national horticultural obsession, thanks to Michelle Obama's vegetable garden on the White House grounds. But it doesn't take a presidential pedigree to know what any foodie has known ever since Adam and Eve were kicked out of Eden: the best way to get fresh food for the table is to grow it yourself.

Judy had been growing things to eat in her gardens beside and behind the house for a long time, but as the years passed, the shrub border on the property line and trees in a neighbor's yard grew so tall that the backyard became too shady for most of these plants. Consolidating food production in the sunnier front yard was a logical step.

Earlier parts of the garden were designed mostly by "whim and fancy and somewhat impulsively, as I was feeling creative or found plants that I loved," Judy says. "But when we decided to put an herb and vegetable garden in the front yard, where the whole neighborhood would see it, I knew it couldn't just be in rows, it had to have some structure that would hold up through the seasons." She modeled the small garden after a French *potager* or a monastery garden, making it balanced and geometrical and attractive even without any plants.

Judy and Larry began making this new garden in March 2009. First they stripped most of the sod from the front and, using a roto-tiller, worked in all the compost they had along with some

organic fertilizer, going down about six inches. Next they put in paths that divide the garden into distinct beds and are mostly made of materials left over from Larry's work as a professional mason. The beds are planted with onions, tomatoes, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, leeks, potatoes, lettuce, corn, heirloom Italian beans, squash, and a variety of herbs. Several fruit trees, figs, and potted citrus are sited here as well, along with a couple of urns as focal points.

This new garden, and the entire property, has a decided Mediterranean feel that Judy has consciously aimed for over the years. "I should have lived in the south of France," she says, but despite this longing, she loves her garden in the south of Pennsylvania. "Being out in the garden is an absolute necessity for me. Even if dust bunnies are running rampant around the house, I have to be outside, looking or touching or digging or tying up, doing what gardeners do."

The extremely cool summer of 2009, and this past summer's extreme heat, have stressed out even long-established gardens. Like many gardeners Judy is a perfectionist: she wishes they had tilled the new bed twice as deep and that they had a better handle on how often to water the new garden, how often to fertilize, and how to deal with pests and diseases.

She has two friends nearby, both professional gardeners, whom she intends to ask for advice. "Their vegetables are all perfect," she says, expressing an updated version of the classic horticultural lament. Not "the grass is always greener," since she and Larry took out most of the grass, but how the vegetables always seem tastier on the other side of the fence.

Larry just smiles when he hears this. He knows that even if some leaves are a bit eaten by insects, the fruits of their labors, when cooked up by his wife, still taste very good indeed. 🌱

Replacing energy-intensive lawns with beds of tasty edibles has become a national horticultural obsession.

Clockwise from top left:

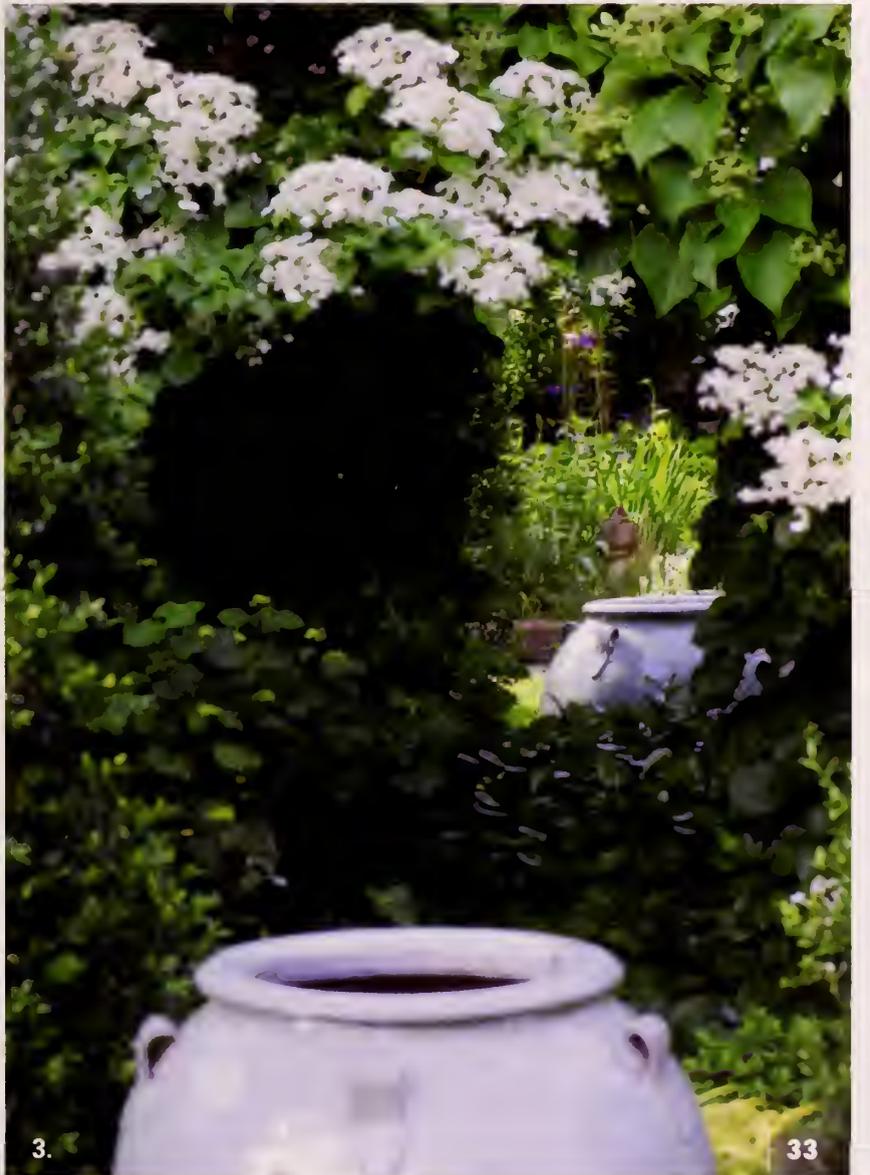
1. This beautiful brick archway and attached wall, built by Larry Anastasi, separates the backyard from the end of the driveway, which is now used as a dining area and a place for staging potted plants.
2. In this detail, a collection of unusual plants, including a variegated acanthus (left) and an unusual begonia (right), sit on a flagstone bench supported by terra cotta flue tiles.
3. Many visitors are fooled into thinking that this view looks through a hole cut in the hedge, into the neighbor's yard, until they see a familiar face—their own—in the mirror's reflection.
4. This neat gravel path leads from the front garden to the backyard, beyond the arbor. Compost bins are tucked away behind where the shovel and garden fork sit.



2.



4.



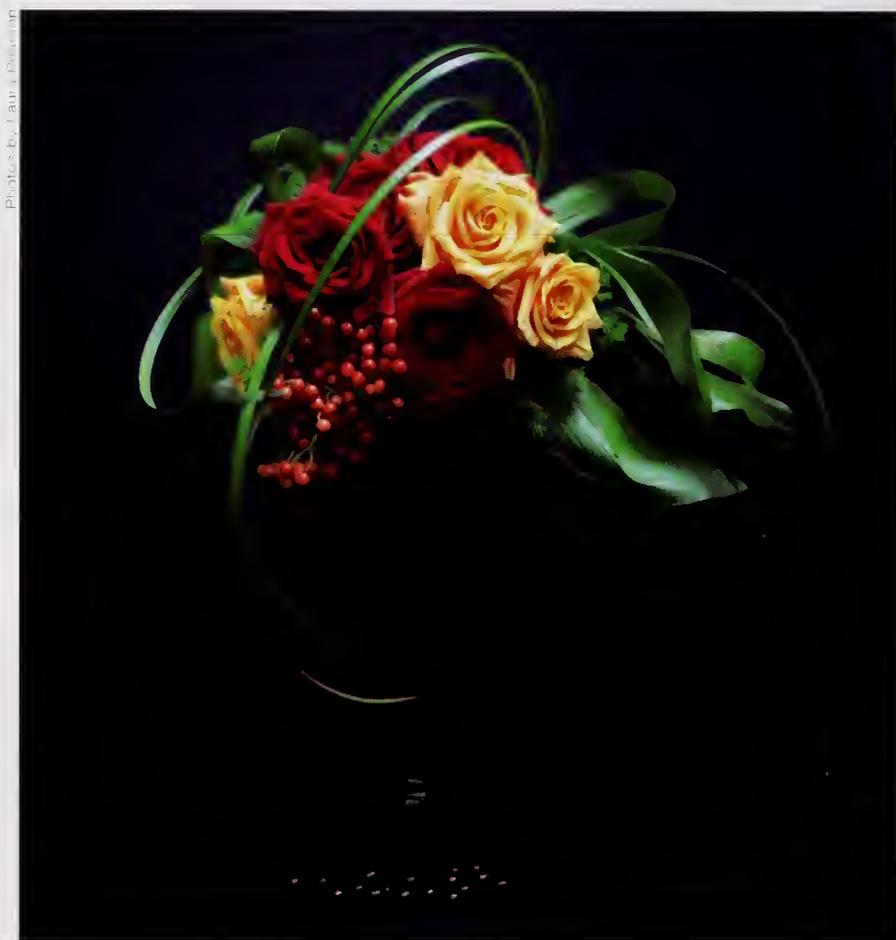
3.

33

French Floral Design: Couture Arranging

By Jane Godshalk, AIFD

The upcoming Philadelphia International Flower Show (March 6 - 13, 2011) will bring us *Springtime in Paris*. Along with stunning horticultural displays, there will be lots of fabulous floral designs, many of them in the French style. Long known as the world center for fashion, France also has a distinct and elegant contemporary floral design approach. Much like French *haute couture*, French floral design often works foliage into folds, braids, and pleats to create an elegant foundation for flowers.



DESIGN 1:

A tall black vase holds folds and pleats of aspidistra and roses. The use of red with orange accents creates a soft look that contrasts strongly with the green leaves. The flowers are grouped and placed tightly onto the vase to create a gentle transition of color and texture. Height and lightness are achieved with lily grass, *lirope*, wired to create an overlay that falls gracefully over the cluster of roses and *viburnum* berries.



DESIGN 2:

A French *Art Nouveau* vase is filled with aspidistra, galex leaves, purple carnations in two tones, and blue hydrangea. The overlay of bear grass provides movement and is tied with decorative wire. The rule in most flower show competitions is "mechanics may not show unless they are part of the design." Repetition of the wire used in the composition as green wire orbs reinforces the idea that the wire is decorative as well as mechanical.



DESIGN 2 BACK:

The back of the arrangement is as important as the front.

Foliage Manipulation Techniques

Galex leaves are folded back to back to create a gentle ruffle.



Aspidistra folded and pinned make a graceful curved form.



Aspidistra cut and pulled leaf gives movement to a design.



Folded leaf may be pinned and stacked.



Lirole may be wired with a wooden pick to create a curved overlay.



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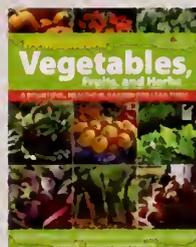
By Jim W. Wilson

Photography by Walter Chandoha

192 pp., paperback

Creative Homeowner, 2009

\$16.95



Growing your own vegetables makes sense in these times, and whether you want to cultivate them because of a thin wallet or a thick waistline, Jim W. Wilson's

Homegrown Vegetables will give you the knowledge to raise bumper crops for seasons to come.

Wilson, who has written 13 books and co-hosted PBS's *The Victory Garden South*, collaborated on this book with Walter Chandoha, who lives on a farm in New Jersey and is a professional photographer. (His work includes photographing the Philadelphia Flower Show for PHS.)

With a century of experience between them, Wilson and Chandoha have done all the research and made all the mistakes for you. They guide you through the (at

first) bewildering steps of soil preparation, which tools you need (fewer than you think), and why not all bugs are bad (braconid wasps are natural born killers when it comes to the tomato hornworm).

Wilson, especially, writes with a gentle tone: for example, he describes no-till planting, his great experiences with this technique, and why he no longer gardens this way. Then he encourages you to decide what's best for you and your own garden. And even seasoned gardeners who know the difference between determinate and indeterminate tomatoes will appreciate some new tips. (Such as avoiding bovine-based products like bone meal and blood meal, two organic soil amendments that could harbor the protein that causes mad cow disease in humans.)

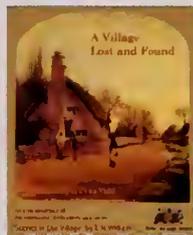
Their book is multigenerational in scope, as well. What better way to get kids to eat their vegetables, Wilson and Chandoha contend, than to have them take ownership of the growing process? With chapters on specific vegetables, fruits, and herbs, they encourage even the pickiest of eaters to trying something new. With Michelle Obama leading the way at the White House, and PHS locally through its City Harvest program and collaboration with community gardens, homegrown vegetables should soon be the rule, not the exception.

—Betsie Blodgett

A VILLAGE LOST AND FOUND

Brian May & Elena Vidal

(239 pp., \$60)



This is one of those books that inevitably changes the way you think about history, mostly because it brings it so vividly to life. It is based on stereographic

images of the English village of Hinton Waldrist, captured on film in the 1850s by photographer T. R. Williams. The book comes with its own plastic viewer, enabling the reader to enjoy these images in 3-D.

For garden historians, *A Village Lost and Found* offers insight into early Victorian landscapes and gardens. There are the formal grounds of "The Squire's House" and dirt lanes edged with cot-



Authors May & Vidal

tages topped with what today we'd call a green roof, sporting mosses and other live plants. You'll also find interesting examples of thatched roofs, pollarded trees, and Hinton Waldrist resi-

dents involved in everything from fishing to agriculture to enjoying the out of doors.

Beyond the idyllic landscapes, the stereographs betray the rough living conditions of these village folk, who lived hand-to-mouth by dint of hard, manual labor. Yet Williams's pictures are a marvel for students of history, showing us a window on everyday life in Britain 160 years ago.

—Pete Prown



Pam Ruch

On Living With Nature

By Laura Brandt

Pam Ruch is an organic “garden whisperer” of sorts. Whether she is tending her vegetables or sketching in her field journal, the garden has been a personal oasis for most of Ruch’s life. She has honed her craft as an organic gardener through tending various public and private gardens over the years. As a former professional test gardener for *Organic Gardening* magazine in Emmaus, PA, she not only evaluated tools and garden accessories, but she learned which new varieties of annuals and vegetables performed well in the Mid-Atlantic region.

This vast experience serves her well in her current role as a garden coach. “Today, I enjoy working side by side with homeowners in their gardens to teach them how to nurture their landscapes. This may involve designing flower and vegetable gardens, transplanting, pruning, or just taking care of their soil in a sensible, earth-friendly way.”

Ruch maintains a few non-residential properties including

the gardens at the Glasbern Country Inn in Fogelsville, PA. Favorite drought-tolerant annuals include verbenas, pentas, begonia ‘Big’, and silvery-blue Tidal Wave petunias. She also mulches the gardens with straw. “It’s local and isn’t dyed or packaged. Plus it’s easy to move around,” she says.

A course she took through Green Mountain College in Vermont inspired Ruch to start a field-journaling workshop. She uses the journal to sketch plants, insects, and animals and to record information observed in the field. “I learn something every day,” says Ruch. “I really believe that field journaling can make a difference by helping to connect people with nature. It helps us explore our own backyards and take a close look at the plants and insects. Before you know it, you are involved in the web of life.”

Follow Pam’s garden adventures at helpinggardenersgrow.com.

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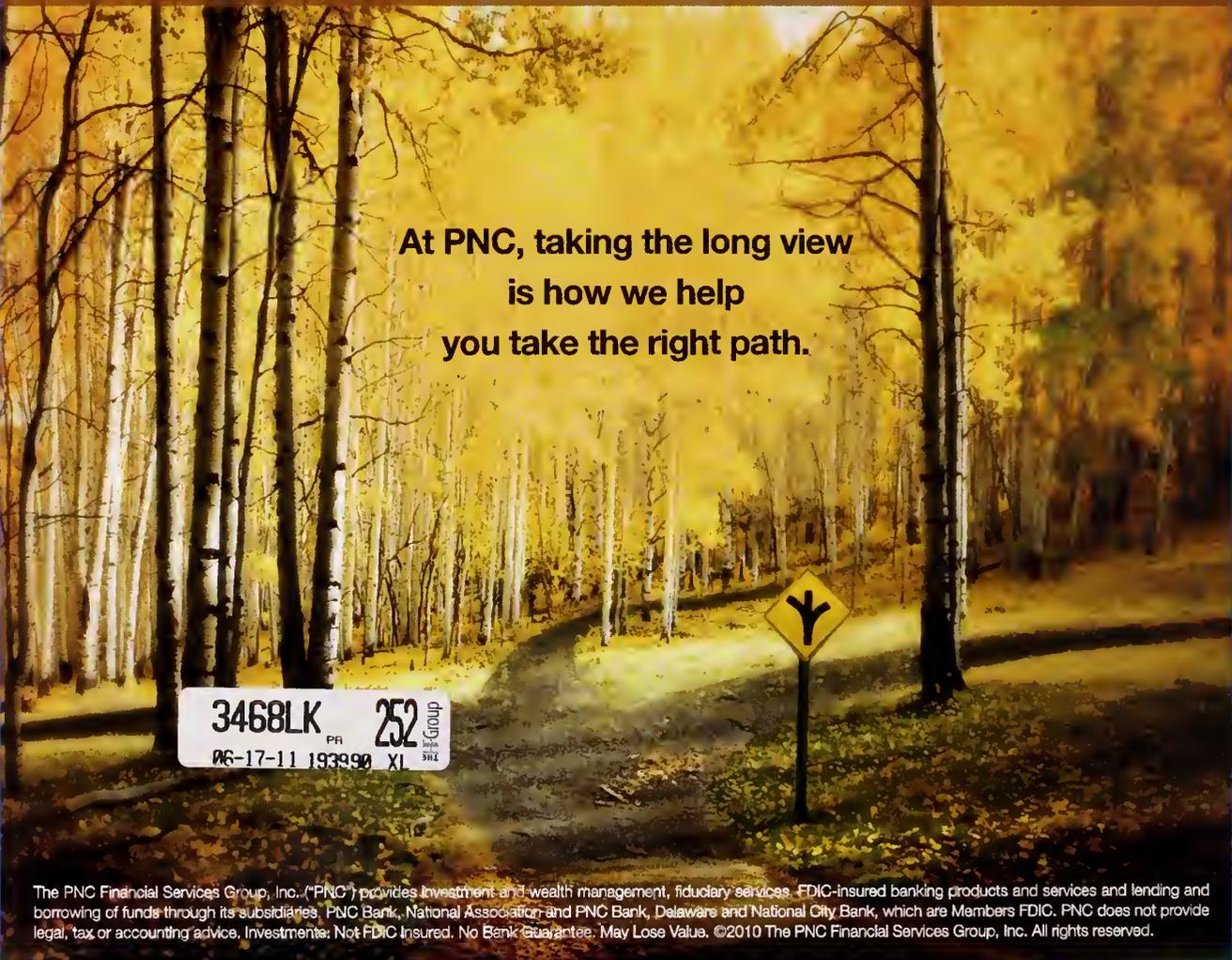
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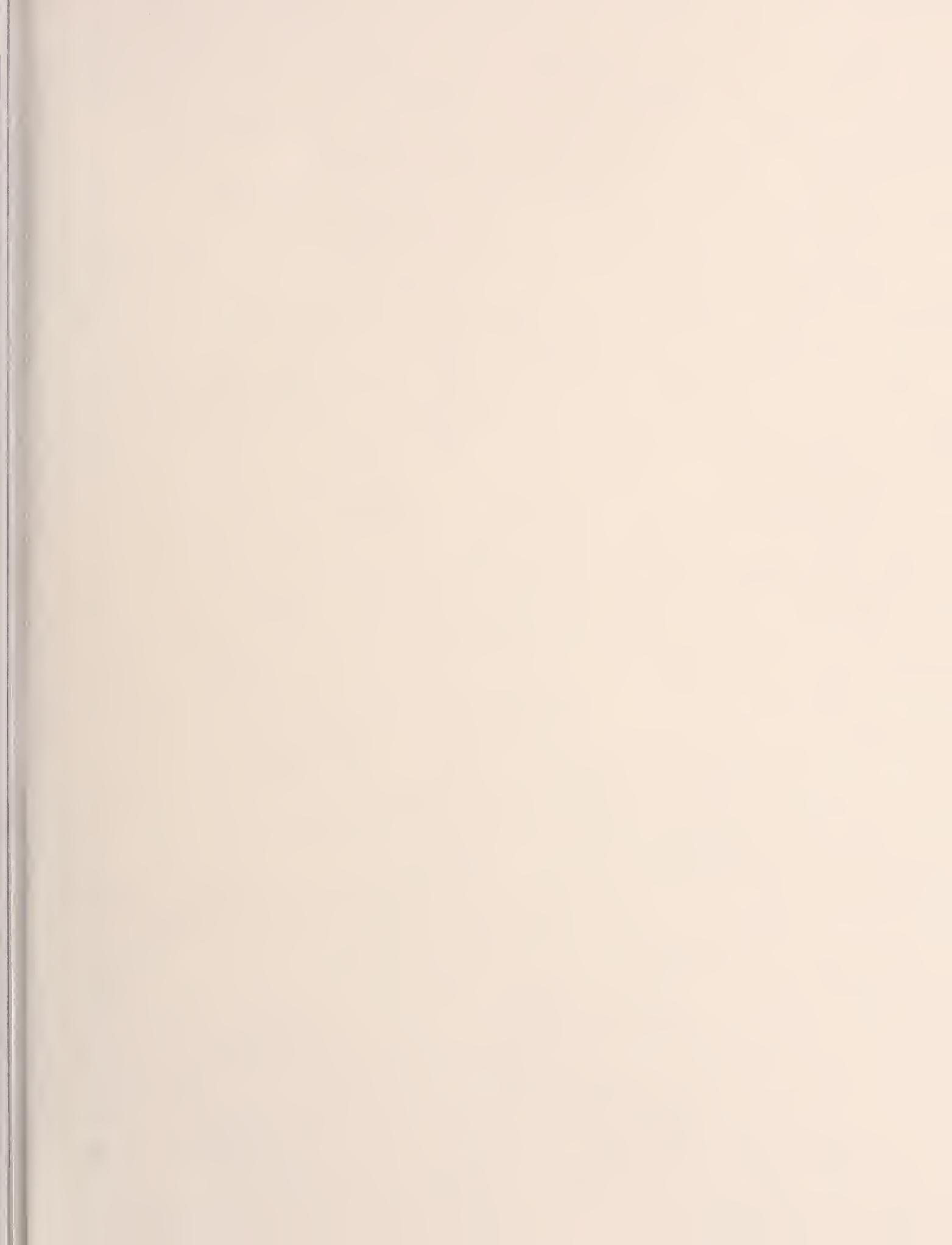
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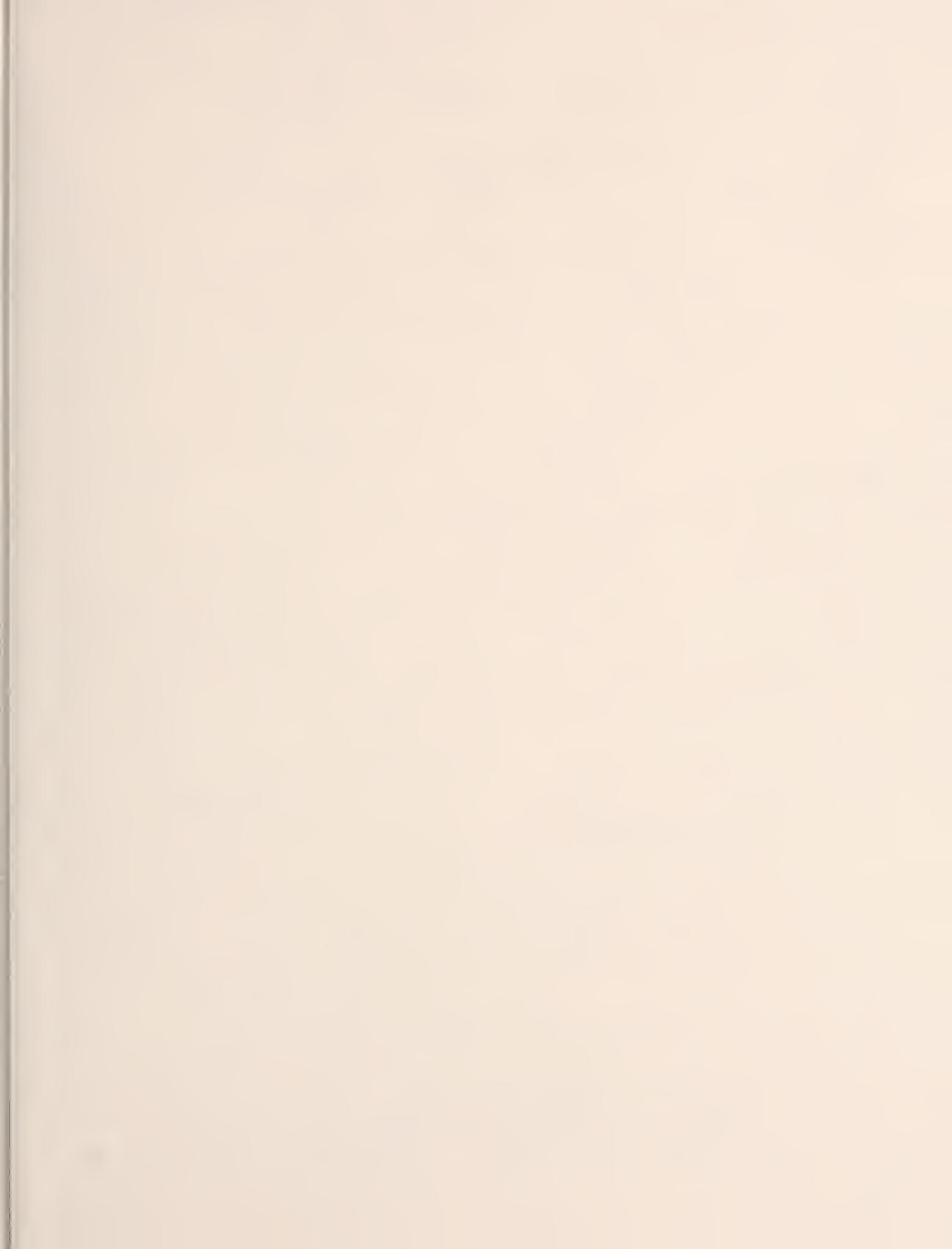
A photograph of a forest path with a yellow Y-shaped signpost. The path is dirt and leads through a forest of tall, thin trees with yellow autumn foliage. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The signpost is a yellow diamond with a black Y-shape inside, indicating a fork in the road.

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