



Sandhills Horticultural Gardens

The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

Vol. 08, No. 2

Summer 2013

The Sandhills Horticultural Society - dedicated to the support of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens since 1987. Please help the Gardens grow by becoming a Society member.

My Year at Longwood Gardens

Maddie Maynor

“Longwood Gardens is the living legacy of Pierre S. du Pont, inspiring people through excellence in garden design, horticulture, education, and the arts.” reads Longwood Gardens’ mission statement. And one of those inspired people is me.

The first time I visited Longwood Gardens was the summer of 2011. I was nearing the end of my first year at Sandhills Community College in the Landscape Gardening Program. Every summer students and staff in the Horticulture department work their way up the East coast hitting botanical gardens, commercial nurseries, and farms along the way. Standing out among the many stops as one of the most anticipated, Longwood Gardens is always the highlight of the trip—and in 2011, it was certainly the highlight of my trip.

We arrived at Longwood Gardens in the early morning before it was open to the general public. As we entered the Gardens a vista swept out before me across a grassy lot encircled by large, regal trees, the grand Conservatory stood on a hilltop in the distance.

As I meandered my way to the Conservatory passing large topiaries and an array of roses, I felt moved by my botanical surroundings. Entering the Conservatory, I was overwhelmed by all the sights, smells, and textures laid out before me. It was a magical experience to be in such a wondrous place where plants were displayed so elegantly. At that moment, alone in the Conservatory with thousands of intriguing plants, I knew I wanted to be a part of that world.

A year later I was making my way back to Longwood Gardens not as a visitor but as an Intern. In the summer of 2012 I was starting my yearlong Greenhouse Production Internship after just graduating from Sandhills Community College with an Associate’s degree in Applied Science in Landscape Gardening. I was overjoyed to be back in the place that fueled so much of my passion for horticulture.

Upon moving to Longwood, I was provided with on-property student housing in a community fondly called “The Row.” These historic houses were built by Mr. du Pont to house his gardeners and are now occupied by

a close-knit group of domestic interns, international interns from across the globe, bilateral staff exchanges, and Professional Gardener Students. “The Row” is a great setting to intermingle with other students who all share the same passion for horticulture.

During my time here at Longwood, I have been able to experience this Garden through every season. Summer greeted me with splendid displays of Fireworks & Fountain Shows, Victoria water-platters that bloomed amongst tropical water lilies, and seasonal blooms that sprang up from every corner. As fall arrived Chrysanthemums filled the Conservatory and specialty Chrysanthemum sculptures were spread throughout the display. Christmas at Longwood is the grandest display. All staff are on deck

through the night to help with Christmas changeover, a three-day long process where the entire Conservatory is replanted and covered with seasonal decorations. As Christmas ended, the New Year brought Orchid Extravaganza with thousands of orchids magically displayed under the four acres of glass. With the arrival of spring more than 240,000 bulbs marveled guests in

the outdoor display gardens. Working in Longwood’s production greenhouses and nursery, I have experienced each of these marvelous seasons in a personal way—as an integral part of their ever-changing splendor.

During my first few months I assisted with Longwood’s Waterlily Display, the cornerstone of the summer exhibit. For autumn’s Chrysanthemum Festival I helped form the Thousand Bloom Mum, a single mum with 2,341 flowers, using an ancient Japanese horticulture art form. For the Christmas display I trained poinsettias into 7-foot tall poinsettia standards. For Orchid Extravaganza I sculpted orchid orbs, 200 pound spheres each built with over 150 orchids. Six of these orbs hung together as one of the focuses of the winter exhibit. I helped plant the hundreds of thousands of bulbs that are the highlight of the spring display. All of these experiences add up to a year that has far exceeded the expectations of the girl that walked into the Gardens on that early summer morning. And now this world that I once decided that I wanted to

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Maddie Maynor, left. Longwood Gardens aquatic display.



The Art, Science, and FUN of Terrariums

Rebecca Rodriguez

This past Autumn I saw an article in a local paper on terrariums. Within the following few weeks I noticed two more articles, several books in our library, and many actual terrariums at a local plant shop. Then over Spring Break I had the opportunity to attend a workshop with author Tovah Martin on creating terrariums. I'm not one to ignore the latest fad so I jumped right on the band wagon and dragged my Interiorscapes class along for the ride. Luckily, they were very willing participants.



Left: Common Fern-Shade with Ornamental Stand. Right: Terrarium with Ferns and Ivy. 1870s - from the New York Public Library

throughout Europe and the Eastern United States during the Victorian Period. Wardian cases also helped transport plants back to Europe on ships exploring the tropics and sub-tropics, thus increasing the variety of foliage interior plants available to the European aristocracy.

You can easily bring a little piece of the Victorian Age into modern times by creating a terrarium to suit any décor. First the fun part – shopping (well all parts of making terrariums are fun, but I do like to shop). Search the back of your local discount home stores (Ross, TJ Maxx, Tuesday Morning, etc), garage and antique sales, even your own cabinets. Look for a clear glass vessel. Size only matters in the sense that the larger the container the more plants you can have in it, but something at least 3 inches wide and 6 inches deep will be the easiest to work with. Traditionally, terrariums have covers, but open containers like small round fish bowls work nicely too. You will also need the following:

- any good potting medium (peat based mixtures such as Fafard work well)
- small pebbles (3/8 inch works well)
- horticultural charcoal (also know as aquarium charcoal)
- small growing plants that like low light and high humidity, for example
 - o Ferns
 - o Peperomias
 - o Mini begonias
 - o African Violets
 - o Mini Ivies
 - o Marantas (prayer plants)
 - o Succulents
 - o Mosses



Now for the science part (but it's actually fun too) – preparing your container. Clean your container and add about 1 inch of pebbles to the bottom. Mix 1-2 Tablespoons of charcoal with enough potting medium to have a 2 inch layer in your container. Moisten (don't soak) the mixture evenly before adding it to your container. Pat the mixture down to remove any air holes, dig small holes and insert your plants. Don't worry about fertilizing terrariums as you're not trying to encourage fast growth.

And finally the art part (still fun!) – planting. Decide where you would like to place you plants, dig a small hole and insert each plant, firming them

in gentle as you go. You may want to separate your roots a little before planting if they seemed root bound in the container from the store. Lightly water in your plants. Once you are done planting add some accents such as pine cones, sweet gum seed heads, stones, tiny dollhouse size items, etc. to add interest and a little whimsy to your terrarium. Finally, use a soft paint brush to clean any potting mix off the glass and plant leaves.

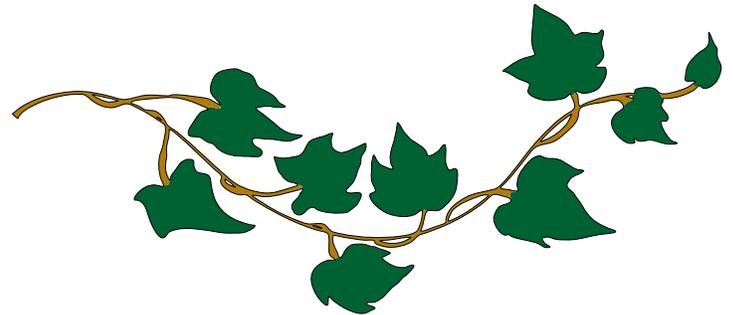
Place your terrarium where it will receive bright indirect light. Direct sunlight will turn your terrarium into an oven and cook your plants. For covered terrariums, remove the cover every 2-3 weeks and let it air out for a few hours. Replace the cover, if condensation forms on the glass you do not need to add water. If no condensation forms after an hour, water your plants lightly. Open terrariums can be watered much like other house plants, look for the soil to dry on the surface and be careful not to overwater.

A homemade terrarium makes a great present or a unique addition to any décor. Think outside the box when looking for containers and you'll be sure to catch the same terrarium fever that seems to be going around. I know my students and I did!

For more information check out terrariumwise.com, a great blog by Tovah Martin or her new book *The New Terrarium*.



A collection of terrariums made by my Interiorscapes students – Aren't they Fabulous!



My Year at Longwood Gardens

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be a part of will be the one I am living in for a little longer.

I was recently given the chance to become a seasonal employee in the Gardens. For the next seven months I will be working with the Thousand Bloom Mum team to help form the largest Thousand Bloom Mum in North America.

My story at Longwood Gardens is far from over.

I highly recommend this unbelievable internship to all horticulture students. Longwood Gardens has so much to offer upcoming horticulturist whether one is interested in production, display, research, curatorial, or arboriculture. This internship has allowed me to build character and confidence in the green industry and truly find myself as a horticulturalist. I hope all students get the opportunity to experience the self-discovery that I have, whether it's here at Longwood or at another great organization. I wish the best of luck to them.

Maddie Maynor is a 2012 LSG program graduate from Star, North Carolina. In addition to her passion for horticulture she is an artist, runner and creative cook.

Sandhills Horticultural Society

2013 EVENTS

Dolores Muller

The Sandhills Horticultural Society offered a variety of interesting programs/ workshops to begin the year.

In January ninety-six people attended the free pruning workshop given by Moore County Agricultural Extension agent Taylor Williams. Pruning basics were given in the Ball Visitors Center and then Taylor gave hands-on pruning demonstrations outside on several of the shrubs and trees.

Linda Hamwi returned in February to conduct a Dish Garden Workshop. Each participant created a dish garden to take home complete with miniatures.

Orchid growing was the topic in March. Jeff Baldwin of the Orchid Gallery in Pittsboro gave a fabulous program covering everything one needs to know about growing orchids. Jeff had orchids to sell after his talk, at a discounted price, and many of the eighty-one people attending went home with one. The society is planning a bus trip to the Orchid Gallery with lunch at the Oakleaf restaurant some time in late October or early November. Watch for further details in the Bloomin' News.

Also in March, a hypertufa (cement plant container) demonstration was given by Hilarie Blevins. Twenty-nine people learned how to make a hypertufa container.

We have many exciting events planned for the rest of the year. Our programs and workshops have become very popular and fill up fast so look over the list of future events and send in you check to register for those you are interested in before they are filled.

Coming Next . . .

To register for workshops and classes – Pre-payment is required.

Send payment and name of class to: Sandhills Horticultural Society, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Attn: Tricia Mabe. Cancellation prior to 48 hours of the event is required to receive a refund or credit toward another workshop.

The Use and Care of Perennials in the Landscape

June 1 (Saturday) 10AM – Noon. Ball Visitors Center
Sandhills Community College instructors Jim and Johanna Westman will present a program on growing perennials. Horticultural Society members \$5.00. Non-members \$10.00. Space is limited.

Military Appreciation Day

June 15 (Saturday) 1 – 4PM. Ball Visitors Center and Horticultural Gardens. A fun afternoon of activities for military personnel and their families. There will be music, games and refreshments. Plus a demonstration of K2 Military Trained dogs and a Falconry demonstration, Birds of Prey exhibit, crafts, face painting and more. Free – all military personnel and their families are invited.

Summer Floral Arrangement Workshop

July 10 (Wednesday) 10AM – 1PM. Ball Visitors Center
Maggie Smith of Maggie's Farm Designs will conduct a workshop in which participants will make a summer floral arrangement to take home. All materials will be supplied including the container. Space is limited to 24. All must pre-pay to reserve your place. Horticultural Society Members \$30.00. Non-members \$35.00

Succulent Container Garden Workshop

July 27 (Saturday) 10AM – Noon. Steed Hall/ Stephens Laboratory
"The Plant Diva", Linda Hamwi returns as instructor in making this container garden. This is a make-it and take-it workshop. Space is limited to 24. Cost to be determined.

Nature's Treasurer Trail Adventure

August 24 (Saturday) 9AM – Noon. Ball Visitors Center and Horticultural Gardens

This event is geared for children ages 5 to 13. All ages are welcome. Parents and grandparents will have as much fun as the little ones. A treasure map guides your adventure to six areas of discovery in the garden. Refreshments will be served. Free – Contact Tricia Mabe to register at 910-695-3882.

Summer Gardening Tips

- Remove spent blooms on annuals for continued bloom during the summer.
- Mulch your plants well to discourage weeds and hold in moisture.
- Fertilize warm season turf like Bermuda, Centipede and Zoysia.
- Fertilize annuals with liquid or slow release fertilizer to keep them healthy and blooming.
- Apply a pre-emergent herbicide on lawns in August for winter weed control.
- Plant vegetables in succession in order to harvest all summer.

Drought Tolerant Plants

Jim Westmen

We all know that water is one of our most valuable resources. In the landscape industry and in our own home gardens, this is becoming more and more evident. Either by way of our own conservation efforts or restrictions that are being placed upon us by municipalities, we must learn to utilize plantings that are more drought tolerant. You may have heard of the term Xeriscaping, a term which means landscaping for efficient water use. One of the ways we can landscape for efficient water use is by knowing what amount of water is needed for your landscape as well as choosing those plants which have a low requirement for water.

A lot of the plants we chose for our landscapes here in the Sandhills are more drought tolerant than you may realize. Once your plantings become established, there is less of a need for supplemental irrigation that you may be aware of. It is in the critical time of first planting a new shrub, tree or perennial that water becomes a necessity until such time the plant has become established. We should also consider weekly rainfall. If we receive at least one inch of rain per week, there should be no need to provide supplemental irrigation or watering.

If you are interested in planting plants which are termed to be drought tolerant, I have listed below several plants under several categories which can be considered. This is by no means a complete list; just a few that we have had personal experience with.

Trees

Japanese Zelkova
Laurel Oak
Live Oak
Crapemyrtle
Hollies

Shrubs

Elaeagnus
Japanese Privet
Yaupon Holly
Forsythia
Barberry
Quince
Viburnum
Glossy Abelia

Ground Covers/Vines

Mondograss
Liriope
Wintercreeper
Periwinkle

Annuals and Perennials

Annual Vinca
Black-Eyed Susan
Coreopsis
Globe Amaranth
Strawflower
Verbena
Butterfly Weed
Gaillardia
Liatrix
Sedum
Stokes Aster



Perennial favorite,
Black-Eyed Susan

By using drought tolerant plants, we become better stewards of our environment without sacrificing beauty in our landscape. Many of the above listed plants can provide colorful foliage as well as stunning flowers. We can use these plants everyday and do our part towards water conservation as well as creating attractive gardens in our own back yard.



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PLANET's 37th Annual Student Career Days

Johanna Westmen

This year Student Career Days was held on the beautiful campus of Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. Seventeen students and two faculty members attended this year's competition. After four stops along the way to Moore Farm Botanical Garden, Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden and Carter and Holmes Orchids we arrived in Auburn, Alabama for four days of workshops and competitions. Sandhills placed 26th this year with over 68 schools in attendance. Our arboriculture team of Nick St. Sauveur and Jessica Smith placed 11th this year and John Privott placed 10th in Compact Excavator. Ryan Cadwalader received a 9th placement in Business Management and Nick St. Sauveur placed 10th in the Skid Steer competition. In addition to competitions, students were able to network with over 30 green industry companies in attendance at the Career Fair. After the competition was over time was spent touring a Japanese Maple Nursery owned by former Auburn coach, Pat Dye as well as the newly opened Gibbs Gardens in Ball Ground, Georgia.



Staff and students with Pat Dye at his Japanese Maple Nursery in Alabama