



Sandhills
Horticultural Gardens

The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

Vol. 10, No. 1

Spring 2015

The Sandhills Horticultural Society - dedicated to the support of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens since 1987.

Perennial Gardening

Johanna Westmen



Perennial Boarder - Sandhills Community College

Gardening with perennials can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience, especially with a little know how. A basic understanding of perennials, their care and needs is usually all it takes to be a successful perennial gardener.

Perennials are plants that live more than two years. Many plants are perennials, including trees, shrubs and bulbs; but the word that is used commonly refers to perennial flowering plants

that are herbaceous. Herbaceous means that their stems are soft and fleshy, not woody as with shrubs and trees. Herbaceous perennials survive varying degrees of winter cold by virtue of roots that are stronger and more vigorous than those of annuals and biennials. The term hardiness is often used to describe the ability of a perennial to withstand low winter temperatures. The terms hardy perennial and tender perennial were originally coined in England to identify plants that could or could not survive an English winter (equivalent to that of the American Northwest). Most perennials survive much colder winters. Whether or not a hardy perennial can withstand high summer temperatures, drought or poor soil depends on the species. Not all hardy perennials are heat tolerant.

There are many benefits of a perennial garden. The obvious one being that the plants will return season after season. Other benefits include fragrance and the attraction to butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Perennials are very diverse, they come in just about every shape and size. They also have distinct flowering seasons, so you can have a perennial blooming just about all year long if you plan your garden well.

Deciding where to put your perennial garden is an important aspect of gardening with them. First you must determine the point for which the garden will most often be viewed. Next, are you interested in a formal or an informal garden? A formal garden is composed primarily of straight lines and classical symmetry; that is, what appears on the right side of the garden is matched, sometimes nearly perfectly to the left. An informal garden has a predominance of curved flowing lines and a seeming disregard for symmetry. Most perennial gardens are designed as either beds or borders. A perennial "bed" is a cultivated area surrounded by an open expanse, usually a grass lawn. Accessible from all sides, they can be easy to maintain; they admit more

sunlight and air circulation and can be viewed from all sides. Perennial "borders" are cultivated areas that bounds or borders an expanse, such as ringing the perimeter of a lawn and usually lies adjoining a walkway. This style allows more open space.

Once you have decided what type of perennial garden design you prefer you can begin to consider the plant material to be part of your garden. If at all possible, a scale drawing of the area you intend to plant should be done. This will assist you in exactly how many plants can be planted in a given area, depending on their size and habit. In a border planting, tall plants should be planted in the back with the shortest plant in the front. In a bed planting, the tallest plants should be planted in the middle of the bed, as it is usually viewed from all sides. When grouping plants, consider planting in odd numbers, 3-5 of a kind. For more effect, try planting even larger groups.

When choosing your perennials, choose those known to do well where you live, be careful of the "spreaders". These seemingly nice plants may do very well in your area but they also tend to take over your garden. Know the season of bloom; with perennials you can have blooms all year round if you plan it carefully. I believe that color choice is a personal preference. Know that cool colors (blues & mauves) do tend to recede visually while warm colors (reds & oranges) tend to advance. Don't forget to consider form and texture when making your decisions; they can play a big part in your garden's overall look and appearance.

Now that you have decided on the design of your garden and the plants you would like to use, it's time to talk about the preparation of your new perennial garden. Know your soil type, this is very important. The type of soil you have will help determine the watering and fertilization requirements for your new garden. I always recommend adding as much organic matter as possible here in the Sandhills. Our sandy soils don't have much nutrient holding capacity; therefore, we try to add as much organic matter to it as we can. It is important that you cultivate any organic matter into the existing soil, either by double digging or using power tillers. Once you have planted your plants, be sure to water them in well and apply a layer of mulch (at least 2-3 inches) on top of the bed. This will help reduce weeds as well as help retain moisture.

I'd like to say that after all this you can sit back, relax and enjoy your new perennial garden. Well you can, but know that there is still some after care that is associated with your new garden. Not limited to, but including the following: staking, dividing to control size, watering, fertilizing, deadheading, cutting back and the monitoring of pests and diseases. All this may seem like a lot of work but the outcome will be more than worth it.



Multiple Uses for Vines

Dee Johnson



Clematis x jackmanii

Vines can be a fast way to achieve a more instant landscape without the high cost of larger plants. They may also serve as food source for you or your wild life, create a screen or be an aesthetic addition to your landscape.

I will first warn you about placing any vine directly onto your home. This can cause mold and mildew and some vines like Boston or English Ivy can actually work their way into the mortar of your house and cause deterioration. If you are going to place a vine on an existing wall a trellis of some type is

recommended. You may place the trellis close to the wall so it appears the vine is climbing on the wall, but the trellis will actually be protecting the structure.

Another structure you might build for a vine is an arbor. This will not only support the vine you plant, but will offer a more instant answer to creating shade quickly rather than planting a tree. You may plant the tree, but you will have the vine to give you the shade till the tree matures.

Another warning about vines is their rapid growth. Because of this they can be invasive so make your selections carefully after researching how they spread and how rapidly they grow. For instance the Japanese Wisteria Vine is a beautiful flowering vine. Japanese Wisteria, *Wisteria sinensis* climbs by twining and can grow ten feet in a single growing season killing trees and other vegetation in its way. One way to control Wisteria and other aggressive vines is to prune them severely in late winter. Exceptions to this rule are those vines that bloom early in the spring. Those vines should be pruned immediately after flowering as they bloom on last year's stems

You may choose annual or perennial vines to incorporate into your landscape. The annual vines tend to be easier to control as frost and cold weather control them for you. Here is a list of annual and perennial vines for this area.

ANNUAL Vines

- Hyacinth Bean Vine – *Dolichos lablab* – Edible but not desirable (thick skin)
- Cypress Vine – *Ipomoea multifida*
- Black eyed Susan Vine – *Thunbergia alata*
- Mandevilla – *Mandevilla laxa*
- Scarlet Runner Bean - *Phaseolus coccineus* – Edible

PERENNIAL Vines

- Climbing Hydrangea – *Hydrangea petiolaris*
- Trumpet Honeysuckle – *Lonicera sempervirens*
- Clematis – *Clematis x jackmanii* – many cultivars
- Chocolate vine - *Akebia quinata*
- Cross vine - *Bignonia capreolata*
- Trumpet Vine – *Campsis radicans*
- Grape Vine – *Vitis* – Choose cultivars for your area – Edible

Most of these vines bloom so they will attract bees and other pollinators including humming birds. Because they bloom and some produce fruit they can be messy over outdoor living areas. Their beauty outweighs their maintenance in my opinion. Happy planting!

Horticultural Society Events & Workshops

Dolores Muller

A new year begins and we have many new and exciting programs and workshops scheduled. I hope you were one of the over 100 people that attended our first of 2015 programs, pruning conducted by Taylor Williams Moore County Extension agent. Taylor provided how-to instructions indoors then demonstrated proper pruning on several trees and shrubs outside the Ball Visitors Center.



Christmas Flower Arranging Workshop

I am hoping you will find something of interest in our 2015 schedule as we have tried to offer a wide variety of activities; from creating a rock garden, to a floral painting class, growing veggies, growing herbs and making herbal teas to a tour of North Carolina wineries, to name just a few. Listed here are the workshops that we will offer in the next few months. Payment is required at the time of registration to secure your place. Should you need to cancel you can get a refund with 48 hours notice or you can apply it to another workshop. If you are interested going on the fall wine tour I would suggest you send in your reservation and payment right away as there is limited space on the bus and the first payments received will be accommodated.

2014 ended with two fun activities; a Christmas Flower arranging workshop given by Maggie Smith of Maggie's Farm. We made not one but two arrangements. One in a Christmas sock to hang and another floral arrangement for our tables. Then to top off the year we held a Holiday Open House at the home of Linda and John Hamwi's. It was our special thank you gift to those that support the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens. Over 200 people stopped by to view Linda's incredibly decorated house. So many people enjoyed it and others that heard about it but could not attend, asked that we do it again this year. Linda says, "It is never quite the same each year. I enjoy decorating for Christmas and am delighted to open my home again." So look for the date announcement later this year.

Wishing you all the best in 2015 and I hope to see you at one of our workshops.



Linda Hamwi's Christmas Open House

Coming Up – March, April & May

To register for workshops & classes - Payment due at registration. 910-695-3882 to reserve a space. Please give your phone number & email address and send payment with name of class to: Sandhills Horticultural Society, 3395 Airport Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374 Attn: Tricia Mabe. You will be on the waiting list until payment is received. Receipt of payment reserves your space in class. Cancellation prior to 48 hours of the event required to receive a refund or credit toward another workshop.

Check out our web site: www.sandhillshorticulturalgardens.com or like us on Facebook

Growing Vegetables in Containers

March 21 (Saturday) 10AM – Noon – Steed Hall/Stephens Laboratory

Jan Leitschur, Master Gardener and organizer of “Farm to Table” will conduct this workshop. Participants will go home with a 5 gallon and 1 gallon container of vegetable plantings. Horticultural Society Members \$20, Non-members \$25. **Space is limited to 24. Payment due at registration.**

Creating a Rock Garden

April 10 (Friday) 1PM – Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College

Robert Ward is the speaker at the FREE Sandhills Horticultural Society/Council of Garden Clubs Lecture Series.

Sandhills Horticultural Society Spring Plant Sale

April 11 (Saturday) 8AM – Noon – Steed Hall

Perennials, woody plants and bulbs will be for sale. For information or to pre-order call 910-695-3882

Horticultural Society members receive 10% off orders of \$50 or more.

Discover the Wines of North Carolina



Prior to 1919, North Carolina was the largest wine producing state in the country. In 1919 an act of Congress, prohibition - decimated the wine industry in the United States. Today North Carolina is the ninth largest wine producing state in the country boasting more than 400 vineyards and 100 plus wineries with an annual economic impact of over one billion dollars.

You don't have to travel to Napa Valley California for a winery tour and taste of first class wine. Sign up for “The Great Grape Expedition” scheduled for Thursday, October 22. The Horticultural Society is planning to visit three wineries: Medaloni Cellars, a twenty-two acre vineyard in Lewisville, Hanover Park Vineyard in Yadkinville and RayLen Vineyard in Mocksville. Check out the history and products for these vineyards on the internet.

Cost for “The Great Grape Expedition” is \$145.00 per person for Sandhills Horticultural Society members. This includes motorcoach transportation, a guided tour and tasting at each winery. A gourmet box lunch will be served.

Space is limited. We encourage you to make your reservation early. Guarantee your place by sending a check payable to SCC-SHS to: Sandhills Horticultural Society, Attn: Tricia Mabe, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst NC 28374.

Bedding Plant Sale for the Benefit of Student's Educational Field Trip

Friday, April 24, 1PM – 5PM and Saturday, April 25, 10AM – 2PM.

Annuals, herbs, tomato, pepper plants and sweet potato vines are available. Pre-orders are recommended. Order forms are available at the Ball Visitors Center or by email. Mail to SCC-Landscape Gardening Dept., 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst NC 28374. Email johnsond@sandhills.edu or fax 910-695-3894. To order by phone, call 910-695-3883/3882.

Lunch & Learn

April 27 (Monday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center

JJ Faulk of JJ's Place, *Greenhouse & Nursery* in Sanford will talk about Annuals & Perennials in the Landscape. Bring your lunch and the Garden will provide drinks. **FREE** – Register by email: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu

Growing & Using Herbs – a Culinary Workshop

May 6 (Wednesday) 10AM – Noon – Ball Visitors Center

Norma Burns instructor. Garden instruction for growing edible plants, herbs and flowers. Followed by a Culinary Workshop, including kitchen demonstration and tastings. You will take home a collection of fresh herbs to continue using your new-found knowledge.

Horticultural Society Members \$30 – Non-members \$35

Space is limited to 40. Payment due at registration.

Lunch & Learn

May 18 (Monday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center

Janet Peele of Aberdeen Florist & Garden Center will share her years of experience with the plants that “love” our Sandhills soil and climate. Bring your lunch and the Garden will provide drinks.

FREE – Register by email: landscapegardening@sandhill.edu

Art in Bloom

Of interest to members of the Sandhills Horticultural Society is the North Carolina Museum of Art's inaugural festival of art and flowers called “Art in Bloom.”

Designers and garden clubs will create floral interpretations of works of art in the Museum's permanent collection. It will feature 45 floral masterpieces. There will also be classes, floral demonstrations and speakers. It will take place March 19-22, 2015. Visit the museum web site for additional information. www.ncartmuseum.org.

Gardening Tips

- ✿ Apply Pre-emergent herbicide to warm season grasses.
- ✿ Cut back ornamental grasses in March.
- ✿ Prune your hybrid roses in mid-March
- ✿ Plant warm season vegetables after last chance of frost.
- ✿ Mulch planting beds after spring clean up.



Sandhills Community College
3395 Airport Road
Pinehurst, NC 28374
www.sandhills.edu

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 55
PINEHURST, NC

Sentinel Plant Network *Jim Westmen*

The Sentinel Plant Network is an organization created to bring public awareness to the many devastating insects and diseases that have the potential to wreak havoc on plants in our landscapes. They are working together with the American Public Gardens Association and other organizations to detect and reduce the spread of these devastating insects and diseases.

Many of the insects themselves are the direct cause of plant damage like the Asian Longhorn Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer, while others are the vectors that carry a disease and through their activities allow infection to trees and other plants.



Asian Longhorned Beetle, *Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org*

The SPN's main goals are to heighten awareness to botanical gardens across the country to these pest problems as a focused front line of detection and defense. They are also trying to reach out and educate the visiting public to these same pest and the problems they bring, in hope to have many more eyes observing and detecting them.

In the next months you will see some new signage in the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens. These signs are designed to educate everyone to some of the most devastating pests. The signs were provided by the Sentinel Plant Network at no cost to us. Thank you.



Emerald Ash Borer, *David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org*

On your next visit please take the time and read them. They display information about the potential threats with pictures of the insects or signs of damage used to detect them. Keep a sharp eye and you could be a plant detective and help stop the possible movement and spread of these pest.

Their Mission:

The Sentinel Plant Network contributes to plant conservation by engaging public garden professionals, volunteers, and visitors in the detection and diagnosis of high consequence pests and pathogens.



Sentinel Plant Network

Early detection of high consequence plant pests and diseases

The Sentinel Plant Network now includes over 190 member gardens in 44 states, the District of Columbia, three Canadian provinces and Mexico.