



Sandhills
Horticultural Gardens

The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

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Spring 2016

*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.*

Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

Jim Westmen

At this time of year your garden or landscape may be sleeping and needs attention to get ready for the spring and the next growing season. Typically in the Sandhills area we have been routinely picking up pinecones and sticks and cleaning up from winter storms that make additional mess in the garden.

As we get closer to spring emerging there are other activities that will need to take place. Here in the Sandhills Gardens we are starting to clean out beds of fallen debris. In the months of February and March we are cutting back ornamental grasses and perennials, removing last year's growth that has turned brown or withered to the ground. By removing this growth we also remove any diseases and harmful insects that may be harboring in the dead growth. This will make way for the new emerging growth of spring and tidy up their appearance. One should keep in mind that typically the old growth does add protection through the winter to plants, so an adequate layer of mulch may need to be addressed. Please don't over mulch as this can become a problem as well. Usually 2-3 inches is perfect.

Another task that should be taken care of at this time of year is the dormant pruning of ornamental trees and shrubs. On deciduous plants it is easier to see and prune out damaged, dead and diseased branches. Structural



issues like crossing branches or thinning needs can be identified. If you choose to prune crapemyrtles this is also the best time to do this as they produce blooms on the current season's growth.

The application of a preemergence herbicide on lawns and beds to prevent weeds from germinating should be done before the soil warms up. A good indicator of proper timing is the observance of Forsythia in bloom. The use of a preemergence herbicide, if performed, should reduce both the amount of hand pulling of weeds and the need to use other herbicides. I'm not a big promoter of using a lot of chemicals in the gardens but only as a tool that can help reduce labor time.

Preparing annual beds and vegetable gardens for planting is another job that can also be performed now. Tilling and amending these soils to increase organic matter as well as adding lime to raise pH to an optimal level is essential for these parts of your garden.

If there are areas in your garden that you are considering to renovate by removing plants or pruning now is the time to take care of that. Renovation pruning should be done before bud break to take advantage of the stored energy reserves of most plants. So if there are plants that have outgrown a space in the landscape and they will respond from this type of heavy pruning it can also be handled at this time.

Lastly irrigation systems should be made ready for the new growing season. Checking them for proper coverage and performance is essential to give your garden the proper amount of water needed for good plant health and to reduce wasting water. This should be addressed routinely to save on this valuable resource.

Think of this like shaving, showering, getting a fresh haircut and a new suit, but for your garden. "Dress to Impress"



Spring Cleaning

Dee Johnson

Spring Cleaning are two words I dread when it comes to the inside of my house, but if you say spring cleaning for my landscape I am ready to go. After a winter of limited outdoor work I am always itching to get my finger nails dirty and scratch around in the mulch to see what surprises I might find. One of the first things I do on my spring cleaning list for the outdoors is my pond.

Preparing your pond for spring is a big job but is so worth it to have a beautiful pond for the rest of the year. As soon as the weather starts to show consistently warm weather I try to clean my pond. For us in the Sandhills that warmer weather can be anywhere from around March 15- April 15.

Things you will need to clean your pond:

- Pump to remove water from pond
- Wet dry vacuum
- Broom and or brush
- Net skimmer
- Hose
- Net to catch fish
- If you have fish, a container to place them in while cleaning. If you have Koi a net for this container so they will not jump out.
- If you have city water a de-chlorinator when you refill pond.

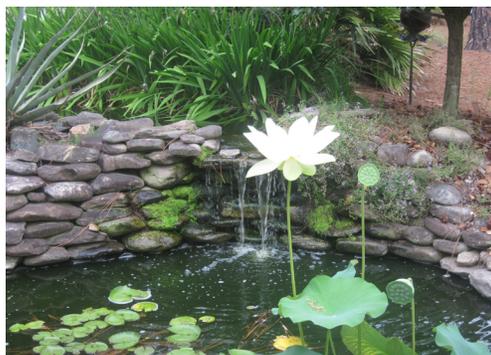
Begin by pumping out the water and using the net skimmer to remove old leaves and any large debris that has fallen into the pond over the winter. As the water level lowers begin to catch your fish and place them into a container that you have pumped water into from the pond. Make sure this container is in a shady place while you are cleaning. Next remove plants from the pond and any bricks or containers they might have been sitting on. Hardy plants will probably need to be repotted and annuals ones discarded. When repotting your plants do not forget to fertilize to get a good start on spring growth.

Once most of the water is out of the pond you may use a broom, brush and hose to start to rinse debris off the sides of the pond. REMEMBER DO NOT USE SOAP OR ANY OTHER CLEANING TYPE PRODUCT. Water only is the rule. Be careful of the rubber liner as you do not want to puncher it while cleaning. Once the pond is free of debris you may return plants to the pond and begin to fill with clean water. Read the directions on your de-chlorinator bottle for the amount needed for the volume of water.

You may release fish gently back into the clean dechlorinated water once the pond is full. Do not dump them into the water as this can injure the fish. Your pond will be beautifully clear for a few days and then you will probably have an algae bloom unless you have a UV filter. Do not drain the pond. You will only have to start over again if you do that. There are products out there to establish the good bacteria back in your pond. This takes a few weeks so be patient. Once you have that balance of fish, plant life and bacteria you will have a beautifully clear pond and be able to enjoy that wonderful sound of

water, fish and aquatic plants in your landscape throughout the season.

Sitting beside that beautiful pond at the end of a hard day of inside spring cleaning makes it all worthwhile. Happy spring cleaning whichever you prefer.

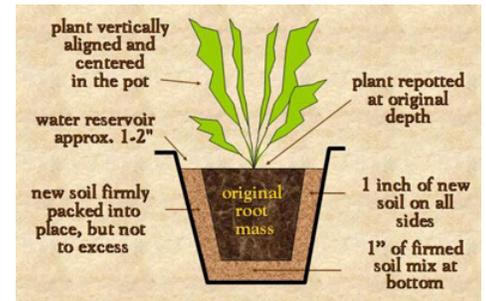


Summer Water Gardening

Preparing Your Interior Plants for Spring

Johanna Westmen

As spring gets closer and closer, it is time to start thinking about transitioning your interior plants to be moved outside. Now, that doesn't mean interior plants have to be moved outside for the season, but it definitely has many benefits if you do.



In order for your plants to be moved outside you need to be sure that temperatures are correct for the move. We try to move interior plants from Steed Hall once the night time temperatures start to stay above 50 degrees. This tends to happen in the month of May. You want to be sure there are no surprise frosts or temperatures in the 30's or 40's. For us, waiting until May is a safe bet.

Before moving your plants outside, I always recommend giving them a good cleaning. This can be done by simply washing all the leaves by hand with either warm water or a mixture of a mild soap and warm water. It can also be accomplished without a lot of mess by placing the plants in your shower and using a hand wand. By washing the leaves you are removing any dust which may have accumulated on the leaves during its stay inside during the winter. By removing the dust and debris the leaves can then absorb sunlight and carbon dioxide and therefore have the ability to make its own food. Don't forget to clean your pots as well during this process. Make sure that the plants have completely dried before placing them outdoors.

If your plants need repotting, this is the perfect time to do so. When you repot an interior plant, make sure you are choosing a pot that is only 1-2 inches larger than its last container. If you choose a much larger container for repotting, the plant could possibly not root in quick enough and the chance of overwatering increases. When choosing a potting media, choose one that is light and not too heavy. I am referring to a media that has good drainage qualities and has such amendments as perlite or bark that will increase the sharp drainage in the media.

Now that you have cleaned your interior plants and possibly repotted them, feel free to move them outside. Realize that you must acclimate these plants to adjust to the higher light situation; it has just spent the last 6-7 months in low light. Never place your interior plants in direct sunlight when they come from an inside environment. Always start by placing them in the shade, such as underneath a tree canopy or a covered patio. Even sun loving plants need to be acclimated to direct light after they have been growing in a reduced light environment inside our homes. Most of the interior plants now sold actually live in low light conditions naturally - that is why they do so well as interiors.

By moving plants outside in the spring, you can actually experience growth on your interiors. This is just one of the benefits of moving them outside. They will also appreciate the fresh air and humidity through the spring, summer and fall seasons. Don't forget to monitor their watering requirements. They will require much more water than they did indoors. It seems like a lot of work, but I guarantee that you will not be sorry.

Horticultural Society Events & Workshops

Dolores Muller

2015 is history and here is the final look back at the workshops offered in the closing months.

A new instructor, Amanda Begins came in November to teach Botanical Print Making. Everyone went home with prints suitable for framing and note cards that they made. It was easy to do and I am sure many went out to the craft stores to buy acrylic paint, paper and a brayer to create more masterpieces. Always a favorite workshop is Maggie Smith's Holiday Flower arranging which was held in December. This year we made a swag for our door or mail box and a floral arrangement. Everyone created something different and all were beautiful. Our final event of the year was the Horticultural Society Holiday Open House held once again at Linda and John Hamwi's on December 12th. It was our thank you to those that have supported the Gardens. It was a rousing success with many theme baskets in our Chinese auctions and wonderful bid items. The business community was very generous in giving us dining certificates, spa packages, food items, original paintings, BBQ grill, plants & planters of all dimensions, theater tickets and ladies beautiful clothing items. We thank them very much.

I look forward with great anticipation to the new year as I have scheduled many new and exciting programs for all of us. We will have some of the

ever popular workshops & instructors back and some new surprises. In March

two new instructors will be teaching workshops. On March 2nd chef, nutritionist, writer and teacher Sueson Vess will present a class on simple, delicious solutions for gluten and dairy-free cooking. Included in this class will be tastings. I have attended her talk and although I do

not need to be gluten or dairy free what she prepared was delicious and beautiful looking too. March 22nd artist Jane Casnellie will lead a class in which everyone will paint and take home flower painting... no experience or talent required. Be sure to check out the complete list of events and workshop details in this newsletter and sign up and send in your check. I look forward to seeing all of you in this new year.



Maggie Smith's Christmas Flower Arranging Workshop

Upcoming Events . . . 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 **Att: 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.

Demonstration & Tasting of Springtime Foods with Benefits

March 2 (Wednesday) 10AM to 11:30AM – Ball Visitors Center

Sueson Vess will present ideas for eating nutritious and delicious natural foods. She will demonstrate food preparation and there will be tasting. Horticultural Society members \$20, non-members \$25. Payment due at registration.

Breakfast and Painting with Jane

March 22 (Tuesday) 10AM to 12:30PM – Ball Visitors Center

Local artist Jane Casnellie is our instructor. Join Jane for coffee, tea and scones as she leads this workshop in painting a floral bouquet with acrylics. Each participant will take home a work of art that they have painted. All materials included . . . no experience necessary. Horticultural Society members \$40, non-members \$45. Space is limited. Payment due at registration.

Shrubs and Trees Suitable for the Sandy Sandhills

March 31 (Thursday) 1PM – Owens Auditorium

Dr. Barbara Fair, NC State University specialist on woody plants, will talk about the shrubs and trees that are happy here in the Sandhills. This program is part of the Lecture Series sponsored jointly by the Sandhills Horticultural Society and the Council of Garden Club. FREE but registration is required. Register at: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu

Growing Vegetables in Containers

April 2 (Saturday) 10AM to Noon – Steed Hall / Stephens Laboratory

Master Gardener Jan Leitschuh 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. Payment due at registration.

Sandhills Horticultural Society Spring Plant Sale

April 9 (Saturday) 8AM to 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 5% off orders of \$100 or more.

Annual Bedding Plant Sale – Benefits Student's Educational Field Trip

Friday, April 22, 1PM to 5PM – Saturday, April 23, 10AM to 2PM – Steed Hall

Annuals, herbs, tomato and pepper plants are available. Pre-orders are recommended.

Order forms are available at the Balls Visitors Center, by phone 910-695-3882 or email: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu.

Mail your completed order to: SCC – Landscape Gardening, 3395 Airport Rd, Pinehurst NC 28374. Or, email johnsond@sandhills.edu or fax 910-695-3894.

Lunch & Learn

April 25 (Monday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center

Back by popular demand is Janet Peele of Aberdeen Florist. Janet will discuss "Planting for Success in the Sandhills". Bring your questions and lunch. The Garden will provide drinks. FREE – register by email: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu

Lunch & Learn

May 23 (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. A must for planning a full season showing of flowers.

Bring your lunch and the Garden will provide drinks.

FREE – register by email: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu



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Meet Our Two New Board Members

Dolores Muller



Bruce Fensley & Kirk Adkins

With the start of 2016 two of the Board members of the Sandhills Horticultural Society terms have expired. I would like to introduce our two new Board members and tell you a little about them. We are delighted to have these two highly qualified gentlemen join us.

Kirk Adkins is currently assistant superintendent of Pinehurst Resort course #2. He attended Sandhills Community College and has an Associate of Applied Science degree in Turf Management. He earned his B.S. Business Administration at Florida State, and Masters at Wake Forest University. He has been an International Chief Executive Officer with leading global companies working in Europe, South Africa and the United States and brings to us key skills in business development and planning, leadership development, marketing and public relations.

Bruce Fensley holds a Bachelor's Degree from Clark University and is a graduate of the Worcester Polytechnic Management Institute. He is retired from the communications industry where he was a software engineering director. Bruce is certified as a Master Nursery Professional and managed a garden center in Massachusetts. He is a Moore County Master Gardener and conducts gardening lectures at SCC in the Continuing Education program. He has served on the Advisory Board for Kids Gardening, is a member of the National Gardening Association, is on the Southern Pines Appearance Commission, and is a docent here in our gardens.

Spring Gardening Tips

- ✿ Prune you Azaleas and other early blooming shrubs after blooming.
- ✿ Prune other shrubs that might have broken limbs from winter or need some shape pruning.
- ✿ Plant your warm season vegetables after danger of frost has passed, usually the latter part of April.
- ✿ You may start annual seeds inside during March and early April. You may transplant outdoors after danger of frost.
- ✿ Prune your roses mid-March and fertilize regularly during growing season. They are heavy feeders.
- ✿ Apply pre-emergent herbicides to lawns early March and follow up with post emergent herbicides as needed in May to control broadleaf weeds.
- ✿ Make sure your irrigation system is turned on and working properly.