



The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

Vol. 07, No. 3

Fall 2012

*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.*

Sandhills Horticultural Society FALL 2012 EVENTS

Contact Tricia Mabe at 910-695-3882 to register. **Pre-payment required in order to secure your registration.** Send payments to: Sandhills Horticultural Society, 3395 Airport Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374
Att: Tricia Mabe.

Picnic in the Gardens

Thursday, September 20

5:30 to 8:30 PM.

\$30 Horticultural Society Members

\$35 Non-members

Children 10 and under - \$12 Members

\$15 Non-members

Come enjoy a picnic supper catered by Pik n Pig and music for your listening and dancing pleasure by Glen Davis in the beautiful horticultural gardens next to Ball Visitors Center. Part of the proceeds will benefit the Landscape Gardening Department of Sandhills Community College.

Reservation deadline is September 10.

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 6

8 AM to Noon

Sandhills Horticultural Society and Student Horticultural Club will hold their Fall Plant Sale October 6. It will be next to Steed Hall at the Sandhills Community College. Woody plants (azaleas, hollies, camellias), perennials, daffodils, pansies and spring flowering bulbs will be available.

Call 910-246-4959 to pre-order, or plants may be purchased the day of the sale.

Lecture: The Anthology of Flowers

Thursday, October 18

10 AM

Owens Auditorium

\$10-Pay at the door. Checks payable to APMC

Sandy Rusk, educational director of the NC Museum of Art, will give a presentation focusing on the splendid still life paintings found in Still Life Masterpieces: A visual feast from the Museum of Fine Art, Boston. This presentation is prior to the opening of the North Carolina Museum of Art exhibit by the same name that will be on display October 21, 2012 - January 13, 2012. The event is co-sponsored by the Sandhills Horticultural Society, Sandhills Council of Garden Clubs, Moore County Arts Council, Weymouth Center and the North Carolina Museum of Art.

For information call the Arts Council 692-4356.

Winter Evergreen Container Garden

Saturday, October 27

10 AM

Steed Hall/Stephens Laboratory

\$30 Horticultural Society Members

\$35 Non-members

This will be a make it and take it workshop - not the usual pot of pansies but interesting and colorful plant alternatives for the winter will be used to create a winter container garden to take home. All materials will be supplied. Linda Hamwi "The Plant Diva" will be the instructor. Bring an apron, gloves and trowel.

Space is limited to 24 participants.

Aldena Frye's Thanksgiving Floral Arranging

Thursday, November 15

10 AM - 12 Noon

Ball Visitors Center

\$10 Horticultural Society Members

\$15 Non-members

A flower arranging demonstration by Aldena Frye. Get ready for the holidays with this class on creating Thanksgiving arrangements and holiday decorating ideas for the home using natural plant materials from your yard.

Space is limited.

Holiday Flower Arranging

Thursday, December 6

10 AM - 1 PM

Ball Visitors Center

\$25 Horticultural Society Members

\$30 Non-members

Maggie Smith of Maggie's Farm Floral & Garden Designs will conduct a workshop in which participants will make a holiday floral arrangement using live greens to take home for the Christmas holiday. All materials will be supplied - bring gloves, apron and pruners

Space is limited to 24 participants.



☘ May, June, & July Events – A Look Back ☘

Dolores Muller

Master Gardener Linda Hamwi conducted a "Herb Container Garden" workshop in May. Participants each took home a container garden planted with five different herbs. Also in May, hydrangea expert Josh Kardos of Plant Introduction, Inc in Georgia gave a presentation on how to grow hydrangeas. This event was co-sponsored by the Sandhills Horticultural Society and the Council of Garden Clubs.

In June Shawna Smith, also a Master Gardener, conducted a class "Cooking with Herbs." Highlighting the herbs planted in the previous workshop as well as others, Shawna explained how to preserve herbs and use them in cooking. The 40 class members had an opportunity to taste various dishes prepared by Shawna and her sous chef husband Gary and each participant received recipes to take home.



Herb Container Garden



Cooking with Herbs

July 7 was a hot one but we had a full class of 20 people attending the "Taking Better Photographs in the Garden Workshop" conducted by professional photographer Laura Gringrich. Everyone learned how to go from taking drab snapshots to stunning photographs.

Check out the event schedule for the coming months. We have many exciting activities planned for all ages. There will be something for everyone and I hope to see you at one of these events.



Taking Better Photographs

Vegetables for Fall Planting

When it comes to choosing vegetables for the fall planting season, the fall planting season is great for growing vegetables because it is a much easier time to get started. Next. Don't get me wrong, I love a spring garden just as much. It just doesn't come blazing in way too fast for my liking! As a matter of fact, there are many vegetables that can be planted in the spring and in the fall garden as well. Vegetables like carrots, and radishes can be grown in the fall garden, but I have had better success in the spring.

Certain vegetables, however, such as collards, mustard, kale, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts, from that cool, sometimes even frosty fall morning to produce well. There are other wonderful vegetables that do well in the fall such as broccoli, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts. If it or not, I have grown very nice Brussels sprouts here in the Sandhills. The ground through the winter and then harvest them in the spring, the same way. I plant the bulbs or sets in the fall and then harvest in the spring. If you can't harvest in the fall, you can, and the trick is to get them planted in the fall.

Probably the hardest thing about a fall garden is when you want to harvest collards in the late fall or early winter, you need to plant them in the fall. As vegetable gardeners, as we typically are still harvesting from our fall garden. Cabbages, in order to have time to create a head for harvest, need to be planted in the fall. As a matter of fact, you should be seeing cool season vegetable plants in the fall.

Fall Garden Tips

- ☘ Remove debris from your perennial border to prevent over wintering diseases and insects.
- ☘ Fall is a great time to plant perennials. They have time to get established before the heat of summer and the cold of winter.
- ☘ Fertilize cool season lawns.
- ☘ Mulch beds as needed to approximately 3 inches.
- ☘ Reduce feed to pond fish.
- ☘ Plant pansies, ornamental cabbage and kale for winter interest.

Dividing Bulbs for Fall Planting

Dee Johnson

Bulbs are a great way to add color to your garden. They continue to multiply throughout the years. As they multiply their bloom production will be reduced. The reduction in blooms is a good indicator that it is time to divide. It is best to divide your spring flowering bulbs in the fall so that you might immediately replant them. You may mark their location in the spring when they bloom in order to make dividing in the fall easier.

The way you divide your bulbs will depend on the type of bulbs you are dealing with. There are different types of basic bulbs. You have true bulbs, corms, tubers, and tuberous roots. The method for dividing each type is slightly different so you must know what type of bulb you have.

Daffodils are an example of a true bulb. These are divided by carefully dividing the original bulb from the small bulbs growing at the base. The original bulb then can be replanted and the smaller bulbs planted in other areas of the garden. Because of their smaller size they might not produce the desired blooms the first year, but continue to fertilize and water and your efforts will pay off. Daffodils are long lived and many times will outlive the person who planted them.

Crocus bulb is an example of a corm. Corms produce small bulbs called cormels on top of the original corm. You should just separate the healthy cormels from the original corm and replant.

Tubers are fleshy, underground stems of a plant. Potato is probably your most recognized type of tuber but for flower garden purpose an example would be a dahlia. Tubers are divided by cutting them into two or more sections, making sure each section has a growth point.

Tuberous roots will contain several growing points. Daylilies are a good example of a tuberous root plant. You may simply pull apart the tuberous roots and have a complete new plant which you may replant in a new location.

Plant each of your new bulbs just like they were originally planted. You

might even decide to give these bulb gifts to friends and family to enhance their own garden. Bulbs are gifts that keep on giving for years to come. I know I have some rain lilies (*Zephyranthes*) that were originally from my grandmother. Many members of my family still have these special bulbs and are now passing them on to another generation. I hope your bulb divisions are just as successful.



Zephyranthes - Rain Lily

Planting

Johanna Westmen

When we are very fortunate. Our fall transition from one season to the next seems that sometimes summer fact, there are several vegetables

vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, and better success with these crops

Cabbage and turnips actually benefit believable flavor and taste. There are collards and Brussels sprouts. Believe it or not, the trick is to leave them in the ground. I also treat onions and garlic the same way. It's not that you can't plant them early.

I personally prefer to plant plants instead of seed, but many of these crops can be direct sown into your garden. Be sure to see what conditions are needed for germination if you choose seeds, as sometimes these conditions may not be able to be met in a non-controllable environment like your garden!

You may note that I have not recommended cultivars. There are so many new ones that I am not even familiar with them all. I tend to buy plants that I can purchase locally, so I am limited to what is available. Even within the types of plants mentioned such as cabbage, there are so many different types it really becomes a personal preference and, of course, what you like to eat!

No matter what you plant, the best part about a fall vegetable garden is the sheer joy of eating the food you have grown. The added benefit of a longer cooler growing season should increase your yields, so be prepared to share with friends and neighbors when it's time to harvest. Also, I know the above list is not inclusive of all that is available. These are just some of the crops that I have grown in the fall and have been successful with. If you have had other successes, please be sure to share them with me. I am always looking to learn from you – as I have already so many times.





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Preparing Your Garden for Winter



Jim Westman

This is a regular question asked by many gardeners just about this time of year. There are many things you can do to improve the wellbeing of your plants and landscape.

The mulch layer in your beds should be checked to see if you have about three inches of cover. This will insure good weed suppression, hold in moisture, add a little organic matter and keep a more constant soil temperature during the winter months. Plants, especially conifers, can be damaged by winter burn, which is caused by desiccation in the winter during dry periods with windy conditions. Do not over mulch beds too deep or make mulch volcanoes around tree trunks. This can reduce oxygen and gas exchange to soil and roots and this excess mulch up against tree trunks at the root flare can cause rot and decay.

Moderate pruning can be done to shrubs and small trees to even up form and remove dead or diseased wood. Heavy pruning should be avoided so as not to stimulate new growth prior to the cold winter and thus having tender shoots killed.

Many perennials that go dormant and turn brown on top can be pruned down and cleaned up for the winter to have a neat and tidy look. Remember to mulch them as well when finished, this helps with winter insulation.

Fertilizing can also be done for the winter and help your plants perform even better in the spring. The type of fertilizer you choose is important and should be very low in nitrogen, as they will not need this for vegetative growth this time of year. The phosphorus

and potassium should be higher in percentages as this will be beneficial for root growth, stored carbohydrates and help improve winter hardiness. Something like a 1-2-2 ratio would be a good choice or you may find a packaged fertilizer designed just for this.

A tree wrap can be used on newly planted thin bark trees to help prevent trunk tissue damage, sun scald, from the strong winter sun. This can also help reduce rapid fluctuations in temperature keeping a more moderate temperature on the trunk, which can help reduce the chance of frost cracks.

This would also be the time to tag plants for transplanting when they become dormant. Relocating a plant or dividing bulbs and perennials are best done while the plants are dormant, so if you tag them now you can go ahead when you're ready and when the time is best.

Have fun and at the same time you can add a little exercise while preparing your garden for the winter season.

