



Sandhills
Horticultural Gardens

The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

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Fall 2022

*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.*

Volunteers In The Garden

Over many years the Gardens have benefited from so many different volunteers.

The Sandhills Horticultural Society Board are all volunteers that have supported the Gardens from the very beginning. They are people with insight and experience. They are filled with ideas and possibilities to further the wellbeing of the Gardens here at Sandhills Community College. They help plan and organize workshops and many garden events throughout the year. They also show up and participate during these events to ensure they are a huge success. They help raise the funds needed to ensure that the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens continue to thrive hopefully forever. The Gardens will continue very importantly to offer our students of the Landscape Gardening Program a place to train and practice their talents and capabilities. The Gardens will also remain a place of enjoyment and enrichment to others and further enhance our community. To so many talented people that are willing and eager to offer guidance and support I can not say thank you enough. It is through all their efforts from the very beginning that we are what we are today.



The Greeters that meet and welcome our visitors as they enter the Ball Garden Visitors Center are invaluable. They give out informational materials such as our garden brochures to help them navigate the gardens and membership forms to the Sandhills Horticultural Society to help build our membership. Greeters also inform visitors of upcoming events and answer many questions of individuals, groups and families that may be visiting for the first time. They are many times the first impression received, and the first face people see when visiting the Gardens.

The Garden Docents lead tour groups, young and old, through the Gardens. Our Docents are knowledgeable and eager to share and show off the Gardens to others. I like that it is a personal and individualized tour to

Jim Westmen
each different group, this adds to the experience visitors receive and makes their visit much more memorable.

The gardening volunteers that help work in the Gardens truly help keep the many different gardens looking their best. This group of volunteers have really grown in the past few years, and they have had a great impact on the continued beauty and upkeep of the Gardens. We all know how hot things can be during the summer months here in the Sandhills, but these folks continue to work so very hard. They are a great group of gardeners. The Garden staff and I are proud to sweat alongside any of them, and I know we have.

They come from all over the country and even different parts of the world. I hope they all feel at home here and a huge sense of belonging. They are so important to the future of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, and I thank you for being a part of something truly fabulous. You are “my people” and I am better for it.

Early in September we have planned a lunch for us to get together and meet each other and say thank you for everything. All these efforts have led to the creation and support of something truly special.

How to volunteer?

If interested in becoming a volunteer for the Gardens please call Amy Davis, (Volunteer Coordinator) at (910) 246-4958, or email davisa@sandhills.edu to find out how and the process to apply.



Interior Plants - Insect & Weed Control

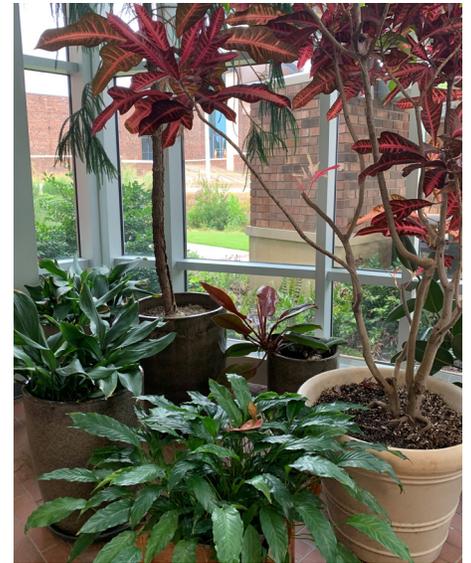
Johanna Westmen

By the time you read this article, hopefully, you have brought inside any interior plants that you have been growing outside throughout the spring and summer. The benefit of having your interior plants outside in the spring and summer is the abundant amount of growth they can have during this time. The downside of this wonderful growth spurt is the creatures that can accompany your plants when they come back inside.

There are a couple ways to handle this problem before you bring the plants back inside. The first thing you need to do is inspect the plants. Look on top and underneath the leaves for any insects that may be hiding in the foliage. You should also look in the axils of the plants. This is a common place for insects to hide. Insects you could possibly find would be mealybugs, spider mites, scale or aphids. One simple solution to the problem is to wash the plants with a solution of mild dish soap mixed with water. This simple mix will wash away any insects and kill them at the same time. Another option is to use some type of horticultural oil. This is a very effective way to eliminate harder to control insects such as scale and mealybugs. The oil actually suffocates the insects by closing up its breathing holes. This product can also serve as a plant shine. A trick interiorscapers use to rid plants of insects and at the same time showcasing them with shiny green foliage. Either one of these applications will work a second time if at first you do not succeed and these pests rear their ugly heads again. Be sure to check along the rim and underneath the pots for insects. They have a habit to hide in cracks and crevices.

Weed control of interior plants does not seem to be much of a

problem as long as you remove any existing weeds before you bring them inside. Most of the weeds that grow in interior plant pots probably don't care for the low light of most interior settings. If you do continue to have a problem, simply pull them as they germinate. Another option is to place gravel or small stones in the pot and this should help in reducing the amount of weeds that may appear there.



Always inspect your plants well before bringing them in. You can also receive surprises such as anoles (small green lizards) and tree frogs which are famous for hiding out in your interior plants. I know this all too well as we obviously brought in a rather loud tree frog this year when Jim brought the plants inside. If you ever tried to find a tree frog in your house, you know what I'm talking about. Hopefully, before you read this, the frog has been found by Jim or me and not by the cat!

All About Hydrangeas

Hydrangeas are one of the stalwarts of the southern garden, especially from mid-summer through fall, due to their lush foliage and jewel-toned flower heads. There are 75 species of hydrangeas, native to Asia and the Americas, that can grow from Zone 8 north to Zone 3 in the US. Growing hydrangeas is not without challenges, especially 'black spot' and uncertain blooming. A talk in the Sandhills Horticultural Lecture Series, on Friday October 14 from 1 – 2pm at the Ball Visitors Center on the SCC campus will share information about:

- Identifying the Hydrangea(s) you have
- Soil requirements
- Changing the flower color
- Where to plant – sun or shade
- Watering
- How to eliminate 'black spot'
- When and how to prune

In addition to hearing expert gardeners from Wake County, you will also see a video of the Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival. Registration is not required but seats are limited. Arrive early to assure a seat.



Fall Gardening Tips

- **Your spring blooming bulbs should be fertilized in the fall season.**
- **Plant a cover crop over the areas of your vegetable garden if not currently in vegetable production.**
- **Prune back herbaceous perennials after a killing frost.**
- **Fall is a great time to dig up and divide many flowering perennials.**
- **Soil samples can be taken now to prepare for the next growing season.**

Horticultural Society Talks & Workshops

Tracye Reiland

As I write this it certainly doesn't feel very fall like; more like 102 degrees in the shade! But that's the Sandhills for you. We must endure a little discomfort between the awesome weather we do enjoy the rest of the year. I hope all of you had a pleasant summer, wherever you spent it, and are ready to return to the Gardens. We have developed an online registration and payment process via the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens website to make it easier and more convenient to sign up for our events, so please join us and experience a variety of interesting and informative talks; a little exercise; and some fun workshops. Please check our website and Facebook page often for updates on event offerings.

<https://www.sandhills.edu/horticultural-gardens-upcoming-events/>

Upcoming Events at the Ball Visitors' Center...

Registration required for all events. To register for Free Events, you can register online, e-mail landscapegardening@sandhills.edu, or call (910) 695-3882. Please leave your name, phone number and e-mail address. To register for workshops with fees, please visit: <https://www.sandhills.edu/horticultural-gardens-register/>

All classes and workshops are held in the Burlingame Room at the Ball Visitors Center, Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, unless otherwise noted.

A portion of the workshop fee goes to support the Gardens.

Nature, Yoga, and Meditation

September 10 & 24, October 8 & 29 (Saturdays) 8:30 - 10:00 AM

Marcia Woodfield, certified Yoga instructor will lead you through a yoga practice designed to nourish your soul as well as your body and mind while you enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds you. This workshop is for anyone looking to: relax the nervous system; quiet a chattering, worrying mind; and increase awareness and connection to body, mind, and soul. You can sign up for the whole series or just come to a single class. Price for members: \$35, nonmembers: \$40. If you register and pay for all 4 classes in advance there will be a \$5 discount per class. Classes are limited to 10 and will be held in the Sir Walter Raleigh Garden or the Burlingame Room in the Ball Visitors' Center in case of inclement weather. Bring a large towel/beach towel or yoga mat.

From Garden to Kitchen to Cloth

September 13 (Tuesday) 11:00 - 12:00

Vickie Mehta, local textile artist, educator, and naturalist, will share her expertise and love of the natural environment as she shows you how to use plant materials from your garden such as purple cabbage, beets, blackberries, yellow onions, and marigolds that you can grow and then use to create your own natural dyes. She will provide a demonstration using different types of fabric samples with purple cabbage and discuss the chemistry and techniques involved to produce the desired color outcome.

Ancient Herbs

October 13 (Thursday) 11:00 - 12:00

Karen Frye, owner of Nature's Own Market in Southern Pines, will share her knowledge of bitters (they're not just for cocktails!) and other ancient herbs and their health benefits.

Succulent Pumpkin Workshop

October 21 (Friday) 11:00 - 12:00

Carol Lucas, Carol Lucas Designs, is back to guide you in creating a living succulent pumpkin centerpiece using a variety of succulents and pumpkins that will last through Thanksgiving and beyond. Participants will leave class with a unique creation, care and replanting instructions, and the confidence to make more with friends and family. Price for members: \$50, nonmembers: \$55. Class size limited to 12 so sign up early.

A Healthy Home

November 10 (Thursday) 11:00 - 12:00

Helen Gibbons is returning to discuss ideas on how to incorporate essential oils in different rooms in your home to support your activities of daily living. Basic essential oil safety will be covered, and participants will have an opportunity to learn about different oils and experience their aroma along with trying some different products.

Santa in the Gardens

November 27 (Sunday) 1:00-4:00

Santa and Mrs. Claus will return to the Hoad Children's Garden for a fun and festive outing in the Gardens. Bring your children for a visit with Santa and storytelling as well as face painting, reindeer food craft, Letters to Santa and refreshments. Take your own pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus in plenty of time for your Christmas cards. Visits with Santa will be from 1:00-2:00. Santa and Mrs. Claus will tell Christmas stories from 2:00-2:30, more time to visit with Santa will be from 2:30-3:30 and then another story time will be from 3:30-4:00. This event is free, but registration is required, and space is limited. Please indicate when you register how many children you are bringing and which visitation time you plan to attend.

Live Greenery Holiday Wreaths

November 28 (Monday) 9:00am-5:00pm

ARTworks Vass will be onsite to help you create your own holiday wreath masterpiece using a vast array of greenery and embellishments. Please refer to the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens website or go directly to the Artworks Vass website for a full description of this event and for registration and payment details. Gardens website: <https://www.sandhills.edu/horticultural-gardens-upcoming-events/>

Atworks website: [https://www.artworkspotteryworks.com/store/c2/Classes and Events.html](https://www.artworkspotteryworks.com/store/c2/Classes%20and%20Events.html)



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 [scc_landscape_gardening](https://www.instagram.com/scc_landscape_gardening)



Best of the Pines Nominee

I would like to thank everyone that voted for us in the “Best of the Pines” in the “Outdoor activities” category. First, it was an honor to be nominated, then in the top eight for this designation. We will find out later in September where we placed. Wherever we place, we are excited and honored to have your support. I’ll let you know in the next Bloomin News of our final placement. We are filled with anticipation.

The Fall Plant Sale has been rescheduled for the Fall of 2023