



Sandhills
Horticultural Gardens

The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

Vol. 09, No. 3

Fall 2014

*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.*

Color in the Fall Garden

Dee Johnson

Many people feel that as summer starts to wind down that color will be fading from their garden. In the Sandhills I think fall colors actually outshine the summer color many times in the garden because we can enjoy it more without heat. If you are looking for color in the garden during the fall you have to be willing to see color in more than just flowers. Plants produce an array of color through, fruit, foliage and bark. Sometimes you are lucky enough to find a plant that does it all, gives you flowers in the spring, gives you brilliant fall color with nice fruit production and then has amazing bark once the leaves fall off. I am always looking for a bargain and these type plants give you your monies worth.

One of my favorite trees for giving you your monies worth is *Cornus kousa*. Common name is Korean Dogwood or Kousa Dogwood. This plant blooms in the spring, produces red raspberry like fruit that the birds love, has nice fall color and has grey mottled bark in the winter. Another maybe less known tree is *Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance' common name of Apple Serviceberry. Blooms white in the spring, followed by blue-black edible fruit and brilliant red orange fall color. My other suggestion for a lesser known tree with year round interest would be the *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, Japanese Stewartia. Like its name it has white camellia like flowers in the spring, brilliant fall color followed by beautiful brown and grey bark.

Now for a few colorful shrubs, *Itea virginica* 'Henry's Garnet' is good for the spring white flowering racemes and like its name has beautiful garnet colored foliage in the fall. A rather old fashion shrub that produces brilliant magenta fruit in the fall is *Callicarpa americana*, American Beautyberry. It also has nice yellow foliage in the fall. I will also add the hydrangeas for fall color, many of their blooms remain on the plant throughout the summer, changing to deeper colors in the fall. Then you have the fall color of their leaves. This is especially true of *Hydrangea quercifolia*, Oakleaf Hydrangea. I would not want to leave out the

Camellia sasanqua for an evergreen shrub that produces wonderful blooms in the fall.

There are even some perennials that really do not come into their peak till late summer, early fall. Naturally the first one that comes to mind is the asters. These plants range in height from 12" to 120" so you have a lot of choices. What about a Carolina native, *Aster carolinianus*? This is an aster that actually climbs and blooms light purple in the fall. Then a shorter aster, 18 inches, that does very well in the Carolinas is *Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome.' Another group of perennials I would recommend is the salvias. *Salvia greggii* comes in many varieties and ranges in color shades from white to deep red. My other favorite salvia is *Salvia guaranitica* 'Black and Blue.' Like its name it has wonderful blue flowers with black calyxes and grows about 36 inches tall.

I have only mentioned a few of my favorite plants for fall color. Remember you also have all those wonderful ornamental grasses to choose from to bring color and texture into your fall garden. Look around you this fall and see where you can add color into your garden.



Japanese Maple leaves on stone



Protecting Pollinators

Johanna Westmen

I am sure with the majority of readers of this publication being gardeners or at least interested in some aspect of gardening, you are aware of the plight of the honey bee. There has been a lot of information published recently in regards to the demise of this most recognizable pollinator. And just like any information put out to the public, there are usually conflicting opinions even when facts are being presented. I try to read as much as I can from both sides, then I can use that information to make informed decisions and choices. Many of these decisions I have utilized within the Landscape Gardening Program and teachings our students.

Regardless of which side of the road you travel, there are many choices you can make as gardeners that will help protect our pollinators. I would like to discuss a few and perhaps you in turn can discuss them with other people and together we can possibly make a small difference in their declining population.

In regards to pesticides, there are choices we can make when we are applying insecticides to our flowers, trees and shrubs. If at all possible, try not to spray your insecticides when the flowers, trees and shrubs are blooming. This will help lessen the impact on pollinators. Review the product labels of the insecticide you are applying. This will help give you a full understanding of any direct toxicity to pollinators. Many chemical companies have information on the label that specifically addresses spraying when bees and other pollinators are present. Make a visual check for pollinators before applying any chemical. Peak times for bees to forage are very close to sunrise, peaking in mid-morning. Their activity can pick up again in early afternoon and then start to diminish by early evening. Keep in mind that bee foraging activity tends to increase when temperatures rise above 50 F. Timing your application when temperatures are below this will help reduce the impact.

One of my favorite ways to protect my pollinators is to attract as many as I can to our garden. For gardeners this is easy. Many flowers, trees and shrubs will attract bees and other pollinators. There are more than I can possibly mention so I will speak more about the importance of bloom



time and the grouping of plants to attract pollinators. Having blooms from spring to autumn is a sure way to attract these insects. Flowers that bloom at the right time, with pollen available is crucial to their existence. Another critical aspect would be planting these plants in masse, as opposed to individual flowers. As gardeners this should not be a problem. I know it's not a problem for me!

Another option is to plant as many flowering native plants as you can.

In many cases, there is already a relationship established between the native plants and pollinators. They have managed to coexist over many, many years. Having diversity in the garden is important for success in attracting pollinators. The more diverse your collection of native plants, the more diverse your population of pollinators will be.

The last thing I suggest is to support pollinators any way you can in your community. You can work to educate yourself and others, particularly children, to the importance of these necessary insects. Many children, as you know, have a certain fear of insects (some rightly so!) and may or may not be aware of the role they play in our food production. You could sponsor a school garden or just volunteer your time to give presentations to schools or community groups. By educating ourselves first and then by educating others, we can hopefully make a difference.

Thanks – CCNC Book Club

Rebecca Rodriguez



Members of the CCNC Book Club

*Front Row: Left to Right – Emily Bredeson, Dorothy McAllister, Janis D. Kamp
Back Row: Left to Right – Ilene A. Wells, Harriet McCollum, Becky Smith, Pam Bradley*

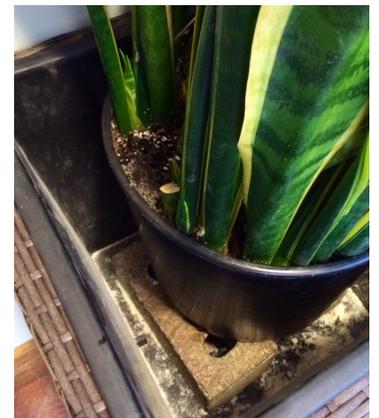
The Landscape Gardening Students and Staff and the Members of the Sandhills Horticulture Society would like to thank the Country Club of North Carolina Book Club for their generous memorial donation of seven beautiful new decorative containers for the interior plants in the Ball Visitor Center. The planters are given in memory of Ruth Verhyden.

Ruth was a woman ahead of her time. She led a fascinating life. She had a degree in social work, but had a strong desire to see the world. To that end, she joined the Foreign Service Division of the U.S. State Department and was assigned to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. She and her husband, Mack, lived in Brazil for many years, then moved to Mexico, and finally to Peoria, IL, where she started her first book club.

She was a consummate volunteer. She moved to Pinehurst in 1987 and soon founded the CCNC Book Club with 11 other women. She established a third book club at Belle Meade. She was an avid reader, had a great love of gardening, and was a cracker jack bridge player. She was involved in the Boys and Girls Club, the CCNC Garden Club, the Garden Club of the Sandhills, and Sandhills Community College. She was a true Renaissance woman, always a lady and much loved by those who knew her.

Previously our interior plants were in a variety of mix-matched containers that while being functional, were not the most attractive. Our new containers not only provide a finished and professional look for our interior plantscape, but they also provide several benefits for the care of the plants.

A common practice in interior plantscaping is to use a method called 'pot-in-pot' planting. Our new containers work perfectly for this method. The decorative containers are a high-grade synthetic wicker that is weather proof and fade resistant. Inside the wicker container is a heavy grade plastic liner. The actual plant remains in a plain black plastic growing pot which is placed on top of bricks inside the liner. This allows an interior plant manager to thoroughly water the plants, allowing for a small bit of drainage to reduce soluble salt buildup in the soil. The liner catches the water, preventing any spills or damage to the flooring. The excess water will evaporate from the liner over several days providing welcomed humidity to the plant. The bricks keep the growing pot elevated above the sitting water protecting the plant from overwatering, one of the biggest killers of interior plants. Finally, a layer of floral or crafting grade Spanish moss is used to cover the



"Pot In Pot"



Spanish moss gives a finished look

growing pot. This helps maintain soil moisture and gives the plant a finished look.

In addition to the cultural benefits of 'pot-in-pot' planting, this method allows an interior plant manager to quickly change out a plant if it is not doing well or if a new plant with seasonal interest is desired in the interiorscape. Please take a look at our new containers the next time you come to the Ball Visitor Center, and thank you again to the CCNC Book Club and may Ruth enjoy everlasting peace.

Horticultural Society Events

Dolores Muller

Our community has survived the back to back US Opens and the Sandhills Horticultural Society is ready to resume a full schedule of workshops and classes. So many people were either involved with the Opens or leaving town to get away from the hustle and bustle that the Horticultural Society decided to trim down our workshops during that busy time.

We did continue our Lunch and Learn series, on the last Monday of each month, which has been very well received by you our members and the community at large. Our first one in April featured Janet Peele of Aberdeen Florist & Garden Center speaking about Selecting Plants for Success. Thirty five people attend, learned about the best plants for our area and were able to purchase some to take home for their gardens. For the grass growers in our community, the second in the series featured Charles Harris of Sandhills Turf. Attendees learned about the best grasses for our area and how to take care of them. Pete Gulley of Gulley's Garden Center was our June speaker. He told us what we needed to be doing in the garden during the summer months. July's speaker was Adele Kushe of Big Bloomers. If you haven't been to Big Bloomers, you have to go. They have the very latest varieties of plants and Adele talked about What's New in the Plant World and brought some along to show, and tell and sell. Everyone brings their lunch and the society provides a drink during these one hour sessions which are free. Because the Lunch and Learn Series has been so well received, we will once again offer them in 2015.

In May, Matt Hollyfield of The Shop on the Corner in Pinehurst taught a class on making Armatures for the Garden. Participants went home with a trellis that Matt taught us to make. The Society also hosted the second Follow the Leader Floral Painting Class. Joan Williams the instructor had so many people interested in attending her first class in February we held a second class in May. Participants painted a picture of hydrangeas. See the photo of the wonderful works they created.

The last 2014 Lunch and Learn class on August 25th featured Matt Whittiker of Green Haven talking about Fall Perennials and their care and our 3rd Annual Treasure Trail Adventure for Children took place on August 23rd. Many other workshops will be offered through the end of the year. See our schedule of activities.

We try to offer a variety of classes so sign up early for those that interest you. Just a reminder, because our workshops are becoming so popular, payment for the class reserves you spot. Until payment is received you will be considered on the waiting list. And remember, you can always cancel and get a full refund or apply it to another class.

A little teaser... on December 13th we will have a special event for Horticultural Society members so mark your calendars and save the date.

Upcoming Events . . . September, October & November

Propagation Workshop

September 13 (Saturday) 10AM to Noon— Stephens Laboratory. Sandhills Landscape Gardening instructors Jim and Johanna Westmen will conduct a program on the various ways to propagate plants. Each participant will receive a propagated plant to take home. Horticultural Society Members \$15, Non-Members \$20. Space is limited to 24. **Registration & payment due by August 22nd.**

Winter Evergreen Container Garden

October 4 (Saturday) 10AM to Noon— Steed Hall/Stephens Laboratory. This will be a make it and take it workshop. Participants will create a container garden to take home using winter hardy plants and a conifer. Linda Hamwi "The Plant Diva" will be the instructor. Horticultural Society Members \$55, Non-members \$65. Space is limited to 20. **Registration and payment is due by September 18th.**

Sandhills Horticultural Lecture Series – The Truth About Garden Remedies

October 17 (Friday) 1PM – Owens Auditorium. Jeff Gillman author of several books on the subject will be the guest speaker. FREE Presented by the Sandhills Council of Garden Clubs and the Sandhills Horticultural Society.

Fall Plant Sale

October 18 (Saturday) 8AM – Noon – Next to Steed Hall Purchase woody plants (azaleas, hollies, camellias plus other assorted woody plants), perennials, daffodils, pansies and spring flowering plants. Sponsored by the Sandhills Horticultural Society and the Student Horticultural Club. Pre-orders are recommended. Look for pre-order forms in the mail or on our Garden Facebook page.

Magnolia Wreath Workshop

November 18 (Tuesday) 11AM to 4PM – Ball Visitors Center Erin Weston of Weston Farms (westonfarms.com) will conduct this workshop and cover the basics of Southern Magnolia wreath design. Each participant will leave with their own limited edition "Regal Tapestry" Magnolia Wreath. These wreaths dry beautifully and provide years of enjoyment. All materials supplied to make a 22 inch wreath that retails for \$165.00. Horticultural Society Members \$80, Non-Members \$90. Bring a lunch, the Gardens will provide a drink and dessert. Space is limited – minimum 15 and maximum 25.

Registration and payment is due by October 28th.



Follow the Leader Painting Class



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Fall Gardening Tips

- Fall is a good time to divide those early blooming spring perennials.
- Inspect all interior plants for insects and diseases before returning them inside for the winter.
- Remove leaves and dropped blooms from around plants so that insects and diseases do not over winter.
- Plant Chrysanthemums and Pansies for fall and winter interest.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, crocus and hyacinth.
Cut back hybrid tea roses for the winter.
- Cool season vegetable transplants can go in the garden as early as August.