



The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

Vol. 06, No. 2

Summer 2011

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 Garden

Johanna Westmen

One of the easiest ways to enhance any garden is to simply add color. Color can be added in a variety of ways. You can bring color into your garden by including art, furniture, and of course, flowers and shrubs. My favorite way to bring color into the garden is with the addition of annuals. Annual color can be brought into your garden year round. In the early part of the fall, we can bring in chrysanthemums. They not only supply you with a plant that will come back year after year, but I believe, they represent a season that is definitely worth recognizing after the heat of summer has passed.



After that, we can plant pansies which will last all the way into the spring. Then, we can bring in a plethora of summer annuals that will last until our first frost arrives.

When it comes to choosing which colors of annuals to plant, you are only limited by your imagination. There are a few rules, which I think are worth mentioning. You can select to do a monochromatic color scheme, which utilizes one color and various tints and shades of the

chosen color. Another option is to choose the analogous color scheme. This is also sometimes called color-next. The name comes from the fact that colors are next to each other on the color wheel. One of my favorite color next choices is red and violet. You will be amazed at how well they look together. And, once again, it can be tints and shades of red and violet,

and it still works well. One of the more popular color schemes is the one people use and don't really know they are doing it. It is called complementary. This is where colors are chosen from the color wheel opposite of each other. Examples are blue and orange or yellow and violet. The last scheme is what we call the polychromatic color scheme. This is where any or all colors are used together, kind of like the carnival effect.

Don't forget to include the

use of bulbs and perennials in your color planting. One of my favorite color combinations is to place tulips underneath beds of pansies. Try planting purple tulips underneath a bed of yellow and light yellow pansies; it will look like an Easter basket when they bloom together. Another trick I have discovered when planting dark colors together is to throw a little white in with the dark colors. It seems to have the effect of intensifying the darker colors, making them more visible. Perennials can make a splash with color in your garden as well. This spring, I walked to the perennial border at Sir Walter Raleigh Garden and could not help but notice the Baptisia "Carolina Moonlight" blooming alongside a dark purple Iris. I did not plan it that way, but the effect was amazing. This exemplifies the use of a complementary color scheme.

Regardless of your choice of colors, know that the use of color in your garden can have the effect of brightening your spirits as well as brightening your garden planting. It always brightens mine, and here's to yours being brightened as well!



Whenever you are thinking of how to enhance your landscape or garden, the choice of a water feature can be the perfect addition. Water features can be as simple as a still water container with a few small aquatic plants to the more complex garden pond with a water fall and possibly some gold fish or koi.

The sound of moving water can mask outside noises and help create a tranquil and relaxing space to enjoy. The visual movement of flowing water can add to the serene atmosphere. The movement of a vertical water fountain can actually stimulate and excite.

Water plants should also be incorporated to make a water garden come alive. They will also add texture, form and color to the garden. What could be better than coming home from a hectic day to see your tropical night blooming water lily in full spectacular bloom? Now that's an 'Oh Yea' moment.

You can take your water garden a little further and add some gold fish or koi to really add life and create a more complete ecosystem. These fish can become part of the family and add to the water gardening experience for you and others.

The location of your water feature should be where it can be viewed and enjoyed. Adjacent to a patio or ground level deck will bring it close enough to appreciate the sounds, movement, and

interaction with plants and animals. The hours of direct sunlight the pond will receive, about six, is another consideration for choosing a location. Most important, I think is to make it a place of destination, to sit, relax and enjoy. Make it your own – the way you want it to be – and have fun with this garden addition.



Edible Landscapes

Lee Ivy

Most gardeners know that it takes much effort and investment to beautify a landscape. This can include beautiful shade trees, fast-growing screens and ornamental shrubbery. Edible landscaping is an emerging trend where edible plants are integrated into the same areas as

ornamental plants. Imagine walking to the door of your house at the end of the day and snacking on the landscape's bounty.

Here are a few examples of plants that can be integrated into your landscape to make it a little tastier:

Tomatoes – great for adding color and interest

Blueberries – small cultivars provide aesthetic qualities with nice leaf colors

Peppers – try swapping out the commonly used ornamental cultivars for the edibles instead

Peas – these plants can climb on structures like a trellis or lattice and have nice blooms

Broccoli – unique short term addition in the spring and fall

Fruit and vegetable plants are similar to ornamentals in their need for sunlight, water and nutrients. The pH ranges from 6.0 to 6.8 for vegetables and many fruits just as for many ornamentals. One exception is blueberries. They prefer a more acidic soil, so try planting them near your azaleas.

Integrating vegetables and small fruits into your landscape beds in private areas will add unique interest and taste to an already flourishing landscape. We spend a lot of time maintaining plants for their beauty. Why not reap other benefits as well?

Art in the Garden

Dee Johnson

Monet used his garden to create art; however, most of us do not have Monet's talent. Instead, we can use our garden to showcase art that will enhance the space. When placing art in the garden, you first must decide how it can be paired with your garden to have the maximum affect with consideration to your budget. Art in your garden can be as simple as a well placed stone or as elaborate as an original piece created for your space. Even gnomes and gazing balls can be considered art, especially if you are trying to create a whimsical theme in your garden.

Once you decide on the budget and the style of art for your garden, you must decide on placement. How will you view the art? Will you view it from inside the home or while participating in the garden? Remember, art in the garden is three-dimensional; it will look different from whatever angle it is viewed. The seasonal changes around it will also change the art's interaction with the garden. Art should be placed where you need more visual interest. You might even create a special spot in your garden for the art you have chosen. When you have decided on a location, you must look at the scale of your garden and choose art that will enhance, not overwhelm the space. Visiting local gardens and museums to see how they have utilized art in their gardens should help you with placement in your own garden.

Finally, remember quantity. Too many pieces of art in a garden, even when original, will lose their impact. The art you choose for your garden should reflect your personal tastes, and it should complement the nature surrounding it.



2011 Sandhills Horticultural Society EVENTS

Saturday, July 16: Pen and Watercolor Floral Painting Class 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(20 participants maximum) Cost is \$45 for Horticultural Society Members; \$50 for non-members. Call Tricia Mabe to register at 695-3882. All participants must pre-pay.

Friday, August 19: "A Trip to Cypress Bend Winery"

The Horticultural Society is hosting a bus trip to Cypress Bend Winery. This includes a tour of the vineyard and a wine tasting at this beautiful facility. The day will conclude with everyone enjoying hors d'oeuvres and listening to relaxing music at the "Jazzy Friday" event. The bus will leave Steed Hall at 4 p.m. and return at 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person, which includes the bus trip, the wine tasting and tour, and the "Jazzy Friday" admission. Please contact Tricia Mabe at 695-3882 to make reservations.

Container Gardening



The Container Garden Workshop was a great success with 23 participants. Shown above are several with their creations.

On the right, Instructor Linda Hamwi is shown helping create a container garden.





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

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

- ❖ Liquid feed your annuals regularly during the growing season to have continual blooms until frost.
- ❖ Remove spent blooms on annuals to prevent them from going to seed.
- ❖ Remove spent blooms on roses, and remove any diseased leaves to prevent its spread.
- ❖ Apply post emergent weed control on turf, if needed.
- ❖ Aerate warm season grasses to encourage deeper water and nutrient penetration.
- ❖ When setting your irrigation timer, water for longer periods and less frequently to allow deeper water penetration in the soil while encouraging root growth and water conservation.
- ❖ Apply a good mulch to a depth of three inches to hold in moisture, reduce soil temperatures, and reduce weeds.



How to Grow Hostas



The "How to Grow Hostas" presentation was a huge success with 168 people attending the lecture by Bob Solberg. Pictured are two participants who were photographed as they shopped for hostas.