



**Sandhills**  
Horticultural Gardens

# The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

Vol. 12, No. 2

Summer 2017

*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.*

## Children's Art Competition & Exhibit

*Dolores Muller*



*O'Neal School – First Place*

February 5th was the reception and awards presentation for the first Children's Art Competition & Exhibit sponsored by the Sandhills Horticultural Society. Refreshments were served and approximately 175 people attended to honor the winners.

Fifth through eighth grade children from five middle schools participated and exhibited their talents: Classical Christian School/teacher Susan Baer, Crain's Creek/teacher Mary Wright, New Century/teacher Brandon Clothier, O'Neal/teacher Judy Browne and STARS charter school/teacher Leslie Hill.

The theme was the interpretation of 'Nature.' Awards were given to the over-all school entry. It was the distinct pleasure of the Sandhills Horticultural Society to bring public awareness to the creative work being done in our schools and award the winning art departments prize money to continue their wonderful work.

Congratulations to the winners: O'Neal school 1st place was awarded \$300, Crain's Creek 2nd, \$200 and 3rd was the Classical Christian school awarded \$100. The 'People's Choice' award was voted on by the public and the winner was Darrah Harrison of New Century Middle school for her entry "Natures Nymph." A

gift certificate for art supplies was awarded to her at the close of the exhibit which ran from February 4th through the 11th at the Ball Visitors Center at the Horticultural Gardens.

Without community support this event would not be possible. A special thank you from the Horticultural Society Board to artist Harry Neely who judged the exhibit, all the people that came to the awards ceremony and visited the exhibit and to all those that helped make it happen. Because of the huge turn out and public interest, the Society plans to make this an annual event.



*People's Choice Award  
Nature's Nymph  
by Darrah Harrison*

## Summer Gardening Tips

- One time yearly fertilization of Centipede Grass
- Aerate your warm season turfgrass
- Fertilize your summer annuals to promote continual blooms
- Prune shrubs that bloomed early in the spring
- Apply pre-emergent weed control for winter weeds in turf. Should be applied in August
- Mulch annual and perennial beds to discourage weeds and hold in moisture.

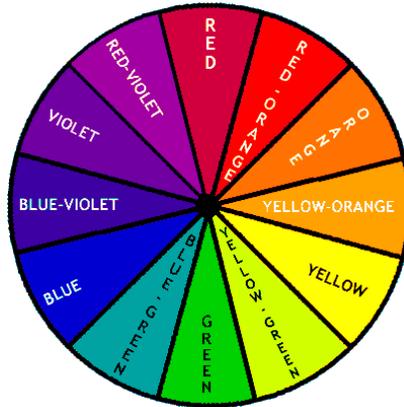


# Color, Color Everywhere!

Johanna Westmen

It's that time of year again when we spend glorious amounts of time with seed catalogs trying to decide on our plant selections for the upcoming spring season. We are inundated and bombarded with thousands of plants in hundreds of colors. Sometimes it can be overwhelming to make a decision on plant choices, not to even mention what colors we would like to use. The catalogs and various other sources tend to give us a plethora of information regarding the cultural requirements of the plants, such as light and water, but the choice of color combinations is one that is hardly ever mentioned or suggested. This leaves us on our own when it comes down to choosing the purple one to go with the yellow one or the pink one to go with the yellow one. Many people will choose colors based on what they like, which isn't necessarily a bad thing, and not realize that an amazing array of color variations are options which they might enjoy if only tried.

When understanding color combinations there are a few rules one should consider. Cool colors (blues and mauves) tend to recede visually and warm colors (reds and oranges) seem to advance towards you. With this in mind, plants in the cool color range should perhaps



be planted in the front of a border or bed so that they will not get lost amongst other colors, especially if you want to see and enjoy them. Since warm colors want to advance, perhaps they would be better planted in the rear of the bed or border so that they do not seem overpowering or overwhelming.

When it comes to design ideas with colors, it is always handy to have a color wheel available to work with. A color wheel will help you to understand the different color schemes available. A few terms are necessary to understand when working with the color wheel. A pure color can also be referred to as a hue, with tints being the lighter color of the pure color. A shade is classified as a color darker than pure color. There are generally four color schemes that you can work with. They are - Monochromatic, Analogous, Complementary and Polychromatic. A monochromatic color scheme utilizes flowers in various tints and shades of one color. An analogous color scheme uses colors closely related to one another on the color wheel, such as red, red-violet and violet. All three of these colors are side by side on the color wheel.

The complementary color scheme utilizes colors opposite each other on the color wheel. This color scheme could be represented using flowers which were yellow with ones that were violet. Another option could be blue and orange flowers. The last color scheme often used by us all is the polychromatic color scheme, utilizing any and all flowers found on the color wheel. No matter what color choices you make, remember to take time to enjoy your creation.

# How to Lay Sod for a Great Lawn

Jim Westmen

One of the first questions to answer about your future lawn is what type of grass to choose. To make a good choice you should analyze



your area for the amount of sun, type of soil and the amount of traffic and wear it will receive. All of these aspects need to be understood when making your choice of grass. Warm-season grasses such as Bermuda, Zoysia, and Centipede as well as cool-season Fescue blends are available as sod.

Once you have decided on your grass type the site must be prepared. Killing or cutting out any existing grass or weeds may be necessary before tilling the soil. When tilling the soil the removing of roots and other debris should be performed. This is a good time to apply lime and a starter fertilizer like 5-10-10 and till them into the soil. A soil sample should be taken to find out the pH and nutritional needs of your soil through your Ag. Extension Office. Continuing to rake out debris and bring the area to a seedbed consistency would be ideal. There is another process that I always try to perform which will help prepare a smooth and firm surface for your sod lay. Raking the surface smooth and rolling it with a hand roller that has water in it for weight will firm the soil and show where the low spots will be. I try to rake/roll, rake/roll, and rake/roll and each time the area will get smoother. Doing this really

eliminates holes and depressions and will help prevent scalping the new sod when mowing.

When starting to line out the sod, start with the longest straight line in the area. You can use a string-line if necessary to keep the first row straight. Setting the next row you would want to stagger the seams like a brick pattern. This will help the sod nit together well and provide less noticeable seams. Tuck the edges tight to one another without overlapping. Keep the surface smooth by raking out foot prints and wheelbarrow tracks out as you progress across the lawn area. When all the sod is set roll over the sod again with the roller and cut and trim the shape and edges. Also be sure to cut out for irrigation heads if needed. Rolling over the sod will eliminate air pockets and push the sod flush with the soil surface. When cutting the edges I use a strong knife or bush-axe and create the shape needed.

Pay particular attention to the edges so they don't dry out by pulling soil up to the edges with a rake and maybe roll the edges again with the roller. Water the sod well as soon as you are finished. Monitor the water needs daily, paying attention to areas that may start to dry out. Keeping the water requirements met will be important for success.

The new lawn will need its first cut in about two weeks. Check for new roots periodically by pulling on the grass to see how connected it is becoming. New roots should be growing in about 2-3 days. After your first mowing you can start reducing the water intensity as needed. Later in about 30 days you will need to start on a routine fertilization, watering and mowing schedule.

Enjoy your new lawn.

# Horticultural Society Events & Workshops

Linda Hamwi

Our average frost date has come and gone, which means we've made it through another Sandhills winter!!! Now it's time to get out and enjoy our gardens!

We've had several fun events these past few months. In February, Matt Whittiker, owner of Green Haven Plant Farm in Carthage took us on an educational tour of his hydroponic lettuce operation. Everyone left with a head of delicious lettuce and an understanding that growing in water is a lot more complicated than we thought! Our Lunch & Learn series started in March with Jean Walker from the NC Bluebird Society giving us tips on attracting and taking care of our bluebirds. Also in March, Bruce Fensley demonstrated planting vegetables in an earth box. Ace Hardware kindly supplied each participant with a discount coupon for an earth box and set up. At this time they have already gotten orders from 28 people! Who knew planting in a box would be so popular!?

April started with the Sandhills Horticulture Society Plant Sale, followed by a workshop given by Tim Ward, head designer from Jack Hadden Florals in Aberdeen. He taught us how to put together a live floral arrangement with spring blooms & greenery and gave us lots of tips on using live flowers. Next was the Annual Bedding Plant Sale for the Benefit of Student's Educational Field Trip. Our April Lunch & Learn had JJ Faulk of JJ's Place Nursery in Sanford teaching us about annuals & perennials in the landscape. She brought lots of gorgeous geraniums for us to purchase too!!!

May featured a hands on workshop with Dolores Muller and I planting summer annuals. Our Lunch & Learn speaker was Pete Gulley from Gulley's Nursery in Southern Pines. He talked about what's happening in our gardens in the month of May. Hollyhocks Art Gallery opened their doors for an evening of Wine & Art Appreciation - topic was Artists and their Gardens. Part of the proceeds from this event will benefit our Children's Art Exhibit next year.

More events & workshops are planned for the upcoming months. Be sure and check out the schedule and sign up early for workshops to assure your spot!



*Green Haven Plant Farm tour*

Upcoming Events . . . register by emailing [landscapegardening@sandhills.edu](mailto:landscapegardening@sandhills.edu)  
or call Tricia Mabe at 910-695-3882

## **Growing Garlic**

**June 8 (Thursday) 10AM to Noon – Ball Visitors Center**

Instructor Norma Burns will teach you how to plant, grow and harvest garlic – plus a “hands on” cooking demonstration. Horticultural Society Members \$15, non-members \$20.

## **Create a Birdbath**

**June 16 (Friday) 10AM to Noon – outside Steed Hall, Sandhills Community College**

This popular workshop will be conducted by Pat Banville. Pat will show participants how to create a cement birdbath in the shape of a leaf. All materials will be furnished. Horticultural Society Member \$25 non-members \$35. Space is limited. Please register by June 9

## **Lunch & Learn**

**June 26 (Monday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center**

Tim Emmert, **Sandhills Farm to Table Cooperative**, will talk about the challenges and opportunities of this very popular program. Bring your lunch, the Gardens will provide drinks.

**FREE**

## **Finger Painting Flowers**

**July 20 (Thursday) 10AM to Noon – Ball Visitors Center**

Local artist Magda Sonderfan will demonstrate how easy it is to paint on canvas using your fingers. Participants will take home their own painting of blue hydrangeas. Price includes an 11” x 14” canvas, paints and expert instruction. Horticultural Society Members \$30, non-members \$40. Space is limited. Please register by July 14.

## **Lunch & Learn**

**July 24 (Monday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center**

Jon Davis, Wild Birds Unlimited, will give you tips on how to attract more birds to your backyard habitat. Bring your lunch, the Gardens will provide drinks.

**FREE**

## **Children's Treasure Trail**

**August 26 (Saturday) 9AM to Noon – Sandhills Horticultural Gardens**

Join us for a morning of fun for kids. All ages are welcome but the event is geared to ages 5 to 12. There will be crafts – painting garden stones and face painting. Plus educational programs – learning about pollinators, snakes, gems, minerals and planting veggies. Watch hummingbirds get banded and learn about honey bees. There will be music and refreshments.

**FREE**

## **Lunch & Learn**

**August 28 (Monday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center**

Bill Barber, Washington Co. NC, will talk about **growing and propagating camellias**. His collection has had over 60 camellia varieties, including his first, a “Professor Sargent” from the 1950's. Bring your lunch, the Gardens will provide drinks.

**FREE**



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## New Board Members

Our newest Board members bring many skills to the Sandhills Horticultural Society. We are delighted they have joined us.



**Michael Currin** is founder and past president of Greenscape Inc., Holly Springs NC. He is a 1976 graduate in Landscape Gardening from Sandhills Community College. In 1979 Mike started Greenscape, a design, build and manage landscape contracting business for both residential and commercial properties. Michael's son Daniel is now president and CEO. Currently Michael manages Franklin Hill Farm Nursery in Oxford NC. Franklin Hill grows large plants, primarily hollies, crapemyrtles, magnolias and other evergreen screening material. He has been active in many industry associations and the recipient of numerous awards.

**Tess Gillespie** moved here in 2004 and immediately became involved in community affairs. She is a Moore County Master Gardener and Pinehurst Garden Club member. Tess has also served on the Village Appearance Committee. Representing the Garden Club, she was responsible for revamping the Memorial Garden located in the center of the Village. For seven years she held this position, selecting the flowers and scheduling monthly clean-ups. Additionally, she worked on the flowers at the entrance to the Pinehurst Village Hall.

