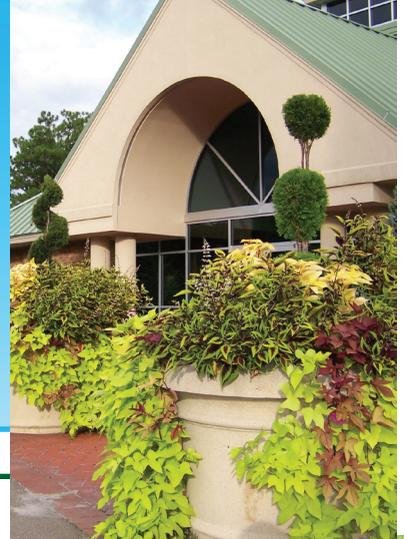




The Bloomin' News



Sandhills Community College

Vol. 10, No. 2

Summer 2015

The Sandhills Horticultural Society - dedicated to the support of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens since 1987.

The Hoad Children's Garden

Johanna Westmen

As many of you are aware or have noticed, the new Hoad Children's Garden has now become a reality at Sandhills Horticultural Gardens. The first phase of this new garden has been completed with the all pathways installed as well as the patio with the recirculating water feature that will encourage water play. Many visitors and members are curious regarding the remainder of the garden so listed below are the remaining features to be completed in the near future.

Raised Beds – this area will include raised beds of either flowers or vegetables where children can participate in planting and or care. Each of the beds is raised making them handicapped accessible so all children can participate in their implementation and upkeep.

Tool Shed – a small tool shed will be part of the garden and will contain small tools for tiny hands to help in such areas as the raised beds. This will encourage children to participate in many aspects of gardening.

Mulberry Hideout – several mulberry trees will be planted throughout the garden. These trees naturally cascade to the ground and provide children a great place to hide and play.

Live Willow Tunnel – this tunnel will be created by planting several small willow trees and then weaving them together to form a tunnel. The tunnel provides the children with a natural avenue to run through.

Plant Exploration Area – the plant exploration area will contain plants that provide different sensory aspects such as textures and scents. Children will be able to spend time in this area noting the differences between varied plant material.

Messy materials - this area will encourage children to build sculptures from chunks of cut logs, sticks, stones or any other natural fallen material.

Nature Art – several tables will be placed throughout this area containing pockets which can be filled with objects from nature such as seeds, cones, nuts and twigs and children will be encouraged to create works of arts utilizing these natural objects.

Open Play – this area has already been created and is simply a mulched open area with large boulders. Children can run through the area and can test their balancing skills by climbing on the large boulders that are placed there.

Nature Music – one of my favorite areas will include an outdoor marimba with mallets for children to play upon. We are hoping to have at least three different types of instruments in this area such as winged chimes as well as large drums which children can sit on and create deep bass sounds.

Cabin with amphitheatre setting - near the bridge into the Hackley Garden there will be a cabin built with an open deck in front so that children can use their imagination and participate in an open air theatre setting with amphitheatre seating in front for onlookers to enjoy. The cabin will contain boxes with items such as brightly colored scarves to encourage children to explore their creativity.

Pole House – in the center of the garden will be a structure which will serve as a central location for parents and/or guests to view the entire garden from one location.



Two sides of the garden will be enclosed with a fence which will allow children to safely and freely play within the garden. Areas of the fence will also contain viewing holes at different heights so that children can view birds which frequent the Hackley Garden during all times of the year. Plans are to have bird feeders and/or bird houses placed behind the fence so that they can be observed without disturbance. One section of the fence will be a slate chalkboard inviting visitors to share sightings, thoughts and artwork. With the tall canopy of longleaf pines, children will be kept cool during the hot summer months. All of the activity areas will of course have plantings within them and have the look of a garden setting.

Sandhills Horticultural Society is very excited about the new Hoad Children's Garden. This is just the first stage of development. From the description of the garden, you can see that we have many more exciting things to incorporate into this garden as funds become available. Remember that all the gardens in the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens have been built by donations from you our members and the community's generous support. I hope you will continue to support this garden as you have done for the other gardens in the past. The students and faculty look forward to participating in its completion and having the community enjoy the Hoad Children's Garden.

Horticultural Society Events & Workshops

Dolores Muller

The landscape is changing, putting on its spring green color. It is an exciting time of the year when nature is renewing herself after winter's rest.



Mary Ann Sale
Body Flower Workshop

Our workshop are getting into high gear as well. We had two workshops in February, Carol Dowd's "Body Flower" workshop in which participants made floral items to wear. A brooch, bracelet and small corsage using fresh flowers were created and taken home by participants. Later in the month Joan Williams returned to conduct another Follow the Leader oil painting class. Pansies and pears were the subject matter.

Jan Leitschuh, organizer of the "Farm to Table" program, conducted two workshops on Growing Vegetables in Containers. This class was so popular we had to add an afternoon class to accommodate everyone and we still had a wait list. Each person planted a potato and tomato plant to take home.

We learned about Creating a Rock Garden in the Sandhills at the Horticultural Society/Council of Garden Club's joint lecture series in April. I hope you attended one or both of the plant sales held that month. The Horticultural Society's sale offered

perennials and woody plants locally grown and at wonderful prices while the Annual Bedding Plant Sale later in the month offered annuals, herbs and vegetables and benefitted the Landscape Gardening student's

educational field trip. Ending this busy month of April was our first Lunch and Learn in the Gardens presentation. JJ Faulk of JJ's Place Greenhouse and Nursery in Sanford spoke about using "Annuals and Perennials in the Landscape." I hope to see you at one of our monthly Lunch & Learn programs that we offer on the last Monday of the month. Bring your lunch. We provide the refreshments and from 12 to 1 hear a talk on a different topic.

Look over our schedule of workshops and sign up. We have a variety of fun and informative programs scheduled. They fill up quickly so don't miss out.



Follow the Leader Class

Awarding Winning Plants

Dee Johnson

Have you ever wondered what AAS means on a plant label or a seed package? Well it is like the academy award for plants. AAS stands for the All American Selections. This is an independent, non-profit organization that tests new varieties of annuals and vegetables and gives them their seal of approval. These plants are tested at various test gardens across the United States. These gardens each have an independent judge who scores the plants on various criteria such as hardiness, disease resistance, fruit production, flower color, etc. The scores are totaled by an independent accounting firm and only the highest scores receive the AAS symbol on their label. AAS has a tagline that says "Tested Nationally and Proven Locally." As a gardener you know that AAS plants are reliable for your area.

For woody and perennial plants you have seen the "Proven Winner" sign hanging at garden centers and at big box stores along with the name on the side of many pots. Proven Winners searches the world to find and select plants which are clearly superior to others of their type in their trials in Michigan, New Hampshire, California, Germany, Japan, and Florida. Just remember that unlike AAS this is a for profit organization. They do say that gardeners are more likely to be successful with their plants because they are starting with the healthiest plant possible.

Another reviewer of plants is the Perennial Plant Association. The PPA was established as the most credible and reliable source of unbiased information concerning perennials. Each year they choose a perennial plant of the year. This started in 1990. The selection is based on several criteria and judged by various member growers across the United States. The 2015 Perennial Plant

of the Year is *Geranium x cantabrigiense* 'Biokovo.' Biokovo Geranium has pinkish-white blooms in the spring and in the fall has reddish orange foliage.

One of the newest exciting AAS winners that were featured at the California trials this year was Impatiens 'Bounce Pink Flame.' Bounce is an interspecific impatiens from Selecta and thrives in sun and shade but best of all is its resistant to the downy mildew that so many of us experienced the last two years on our impatiens here in the Sandhills

An AAS tomato winter for 2015 is 'Chief's Choice Pink.' It yields 12-14 ounce pink beefsteak tomatoes. This tomato is great for canning or stewing. The plant is indeterminate type (Keeps on growing) and has good disease resistance.

These are just a few of the examples of high quality plants that have been extensively tested and proven successful before being released to the public. Some award winners might cost a little more the first few years of their release but their success in your gardens should offset any increase in price. If you have been successful with certain varieties there is no need to change unless you just want to experiment, but if you have had some problems with certain types of plants in your garden you might shop for some of these that have proven success stories.

Happy Summer Gardening!



Bounce Pink Flame

Coming Up – June, July & August

To register for Horticultural Society Events and Workshops call 910-695-3882. Send payment and name of the event to: Sandhills Horticultural Society, Attn: Tricia Mabe, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Cancellation prior to 48 hours of the event is required to receive a refund or credit toward another workshop.

Repurpose Found Items Into Garden Art

June 24 (Wednesday) 10AM to Noon – Ball Visitors Center

Matt Hollyfield of King & Hollyfield is the instructor. Learn how to turn found items into garden art treasures – such as, plant bed edgings using wine bottles, bicycle trellis, brass bed flower bed, broken pot creations. All you need to bring is your imagination.

Horticultural Society Members \$25 – Non-members \$30.

Space is limited to 40. Payment due at registration

Lunch & Learn at the Gardens

June 29 (Monday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center

Joe Granato of Star Ridge Aquatics will discuss Water Gardening. Bring your lunch and the Garden will provide drinks.

FREE – Register by email: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu

Cooking with Curt

July 13 (Monday) 10AM to 11:30AM – Ball Visitors Center

Curt Shelvey of Curt's Cucina in Southern Pines will conduct a cooking demonstration and tasting which will include an appetizer, main dish and sweet.

Horticultural Society Members \$35 – Non-members \$40.

Space is limited to 40. Payment due at registration.

Lunch & Learn at the Gardens

July 27 (Monday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center

Adele Kushe & Peggy Hudson of Big Bloomers in Sanford will discuss the plants that are new this year. They will also answer any questions about the many offerings of Big Bloomers. Bring your lunch and the Garden will provide drinks.

FREE – Register by email: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu

Nature's Treasurer Trail Adventure

August 22 (Saturday) 9AM to Noon – Ball Visitors Center

All ages are welcome but this event is geared to ages 5 to 12. Parents and grandparents will have as much fun as the little ones. Upon arrival receive a treasurer map and begin your adventure visiting eight areas of discovery. Refreshments will be served.

FREE – To register contact Tricia Mabe at 910-695-3882

Lunch & Learn at the Gardens

August 31 (Monday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center

Chris Burrows, Grounds Superintendent of Pinehurst Resorts will discuss Turf Grass Management for the Home Lawn. Bring your lunch and the Garden will provide drinks.

FREE – Register by email: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu

Discover the Wines of North Carolina



Sign up for "The Great Grape Expedition" scheduled for Thursday, October 22. The Horticultural Society is planning to visit three wineries: Medaloni Cellars, a twenty-two acre vineyard in Lewisville, Hanover Park Vineyard in Yadkinville and RayLen Vineyard in Mocksville. Check out the history and products for these vineyards on the internet.

Cost for "The Great Grape Expedition" is \$145.00 per person for Sandhills Horticultural Society members or \$170.00 if not a current member (includes a one year membership). Trip includes motor coach transportation, a guided tour and tasting at each winery – plus a gourmet box lunch.

Space is limited. We encourage you to make your reservation early. Guarantee your place by sending a check payable to SCC-SHS to: Sandhills Horticultural Society, Attn: Tricia Mabe, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst NC 28374. Commitment needed by August 1st.

Gardening Tip

Usually there are several garden tips, but this summer's newsletter we are offering one important tip. **WATER!** The rule of thumb for watering is one inch of water per week. How are you going to know if you received an inch of water in a week? A rain gauge that is the least expensive and most important tool a gardener can have. Too many times in the summer we get those late afternoon rains and people think they received sufficient rain. The rain gauge is the only way to know and if you are using an irrigation system put your rain gauge out there and see how much water you are actually putting out. Don't have your irrigation coming on everyday for short periods of time. It is always better to water less often and water deeply, get those roots to go down into the soil. Finally remember that your irrigation system is not going to be enough for those newly planted shrubs or trees in your garden. Supplemental water for newly planted items is always a good idea. **Have a Great Growing Season!**



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Introducing Water into your Garden

Jim Westmen

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. Disappearing fountains and waterfalls have also become very popular in recent years. We have three such features installed behind the Ball Visitor Center. They are self contained with a ceramic vase with water gushing on the surface and overflowing down to a hidden basin below covered with river rocks and pebbles. The sound and movement of water can easily be introduced to your garden this way and these types of features are lower maintenance overall.

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 or with a vertical water fountain the movement can actually stimulate and excite.

Water plants should 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.

Some of these projects you can maybe tackle yourself but for the more intense or larger projects I would definitely seek professional help. This is really a good idea to make your investment successful and worthwhile rather than a headache or disaster.

The most important thing 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.

