



The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

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Spring 2018

*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.*

Hand of Fate

Dee Johnson

The term "Hand of Fate" is used when the conclusion of a situation seems left to a higher power's whims. I feel the "Hand of Fate" worked to put me here at Sandhills Community College in the Landscape Gardening Department.

I came to North Carolina in 1976 from West Virginia. Shortly after arriving I was looking at the curriculums at Sandhills and thought that Landscape Gardening looked interesting. It might be fun to take a few courses since I loved the outdoors and grew up gardening. Little did I know that I would still be at Sandhills thirty-eight years later. Hand of Fate maybe, who knows?



Heutte Hall

This will be my last newsletter contribution as I am retiring in June. I wanted to give an overview of the program and gardens since I started as a student and am ending as coordinator of the program.

When I started as a student classes were held in a Butler Building with a dirt parking lot among the pines. The students' hands on gardening was done at Weymouth House which was owned by the College at that time. The beginning of the Gardens the public knows today started with my class designing the Ebersole Holly Garden and beginning to move hollies from Mr. Ebersole's home on Midland Road in 1978.

I started teaching landscape design in the continuing education department of the College upon completion of my degree in landscape gardening. The Gardens continued to develop during this time with the next major garden being the Sir Walter Raleigh Garden in 1984 designed by student, Susan Frett.

Each subsequent garden has either been designed and/or built by students. That kind of involvement has always been the motto of the program. Just like the ancient Chinese proverb says:

Tell me, I'll forget

Show me, I'll remember

Involve me, I'll understand

As I begin my transition to retirement I cannot help but remember each class that helped make the individual gardens. The gardens are more special to me because of those memories from each class. I think each graduate of the program probably has a "remember when" moment about their time in the gardens and program.

Work is continuing on another student designed garden, The Hoad Children's Garden. A good beginning has been made on its completion. The other gardens will continue to evolve and change with the years and student input. I cannot wait to see what happens next.

I will miss the students and all they have taught me. I will miss my coworkers which have kept me excited about learning. As the Rolling Stone song goes "The Hand of Fate is On Me Now." Where it will take me, I do not know. I just know it did a great job the first time around bringing this small-town West Virginia girl to North Carolina and Sandhills Community College. Thank you all that had a hand in my Fate. I cannot wait to see what my next adventure will be.

Happy Gardening!!



Steed Hall



Perennial Gardening

Johanna Westmen



Amsonia

Gardening with perennials can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience, especially with a little know-how. A basic understanding of perennials, their care and needs, is usually all it takes to be a successful perennial gardener.

Perennials are plants that live more than two years. Many plants are perennials - including trees, shrubs and bulbs. The commonly used word refers to perennial flowering plants that are herbaceous. Herbaceous means their stems are soft and fleshy, not woody like shrubs and trees. Herbaceous perennials survive varying degrees of winter cold by virtue of roots that are stronger and more vigorous than those of annuals and biennials. The term hardiness is often used to describe the ability of a perennial to withstand low winter temperatures. The terms hardy perennial and tender perennial were originally coined in England to identify plants that could or could not survive an English winter (equivalent to that of the American Northwest). Most perennials survive much colder winters. Whether or not a hardy perennial can withstand high summer temperatures, drought or poor soil depends on the species. Not all hardy perennials are heat tolerant.

There are many benefits to a perennial garden. The obvious one is that the plants will return season after season. Other benefits include fragrance and attraction to butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Perennials are very diverse and come in just about every shape and size. They also have distinct flowering seasons, so you can have a perennial blooming just about all year long if you plan your garden well.

Deciding where to put your perennial garden is very important. First, you must determine the point where the garden will most often be viewed. Next, are you interested in a formal or an informal garden? A formal garden is composed primarily of straight lines and classical symmetry; for example, the right side of the garden is matched, sometimes nearly perfectly to the left. An informal garden has a predominance of curved flowing lines and a seeming disregard for symmetry. Most perennial gardens are designed as either beds or borders. A perennial "bed" is a cultivated area surrounded by an open expanse, usually a grass lawn. Accessible from all sides, they can

be easy to maintain, admit more sunlight and air circulation and can be viewed from all sides. Perennial "borders" are cultivated areas that bounds or borders an expanse, such as ringing the perimeter of a lawn and usually lies adjoining a walkway. This style allows more open space.

Once you have decided the type of garden design you prefer, you can begin to consider the plant material for the garden. If at all possible, a scale drawing of the area should be done. This will assist you to know exactly how many plants can be planted in a given area, depending on their size and habit. In a border planting, tall plants should be planted in the back with the shortest plants in front. In a bed planting, the tallest plants should be planted in the middle of the bed, because it is usually viewed from all sides. When grouping plants, consider planting in odd numbers, 3-5 of a kind. For more effect, try planting even larger groups.

When selecting perennials, choose the ones known to do well where you live and be careful of the "spreaders". These seemingly nice plants may do very well but they also tend to take over the garden. Know the season of bloom. With perennials you can have blooms all year round if you plan carefully. I believe color choice is a personal preference. Know that cool colors (blues & mauves) do tend to recede visually while warm colors (reds & oranges) tend to advance. Don't forget form and texture when making your decisions. They can play a big part in your garden's overall appearance.

Once you have decided on the design and plants, it's time to talk about the preparation of your new garden. Know your soil type. This is very important. The type of soil will help determine the watering and fertilization requirements. I always recommend adding as much organic matter as possible to our Sandhills soil. These sandy soils do not have much nutrient holding capacity, therefore, we try to add as much organic matter as we can. It is important to cultivate organic matter into the existing soil either by double digging or using power tillers. Once you have planted be sure to water-in the plants and apply a layer of mulch (at least 2-3 inches) on top of the bed. This will help reduce weeds and retain moisture.

Now you can sit back, relax and enjoy your new perennial garden. Well you can, but there is still some after care associated with the new garden. Not limited to, but including the following: staking, dividing to control size, watering, fertilizing, deadheading, cutting back and the monitoring of pests and diseases. All this may seem like a lot of work but the outcome will be more than worth it.

Gardening Tips

- ✿ Prune your Azaleas and other early blooming shrubs after blooming.
- ✿ Prune other shrubs that might have broken limbs from winter or need some shape pruning.
- ✿ Plant your warm season vegetables after danger of frost has passed, usually the latter part of April.
- ✿ You may start annual seeds inside during March and early April. You may transplant outdoors after danger of frost.
- ✿ Prune your roses mid-March and fertilize regularly during growing season. They are heavy feeders.
- ✿ Cut back perennials and ornamental grasses in early March.
- ✿ Apply pre-emergent herbicides to lawns early March and follow up with post emergent herbicides as needed in May to control broadleaf weeds.
- ✿ Test your irrigation system and make sure it is turned on and working properly.

Tools Essential to My Gardening

Jim Westmen

There are many tools that I choose to use in the garden. From hand tools like shovels and rakes, to power equipment for bigger jobs, and also the internet for information and ideas, especially when it's raining.

But the two tools I am seldom without in the garden are my pruners and my pruning saw. My personal choice of pruners is a by-pass type pruner, preferably a Felco #2 pruner, of which I have probably five pair. I like to accompany my Felco pruners with a Felco 60 folding pruning saw (the smaller one), this way I feel I am outfitted with two tools that can accomplish almost any pruning job that I come across.

Both tools are very well made and serviceable. They can be disassembled to clean, sharpen and replace all parts, including the blade. Note: (Don't throw away the little tool that comes with your pruners, this is used to easily disassemble them for service). These Felco tools are not inexpensive but should last a lifetime, if not lost. These same two tools are required for our students to have the first semester in Gardening Laboratory and are stocked for them at the college bookstore.

When I venture outside to walk through my own garden I will clip on my pruners and put my saw in my back pocket. This way when I see something that needs shaping, deadheading or cutting back I'm much more likely to handle it then and it's done, time permitting. Also it helps to have the tool with you when you notice the job that needs doing. When pruning, be wary, you may get so involved you lose track of time, but then again, that's what I call the joy of gardening.



Upcoming Events...

Register by emailing, landscapegardening@sandhills.edu,
or call Tricia Mabe at 910-695-3882

Plants that Nurture and Attract Hummingbirds

March 16 (Friday) 1PM to 2PM – Ball Visitors Center

Ornithologist and wildlife ecologist Susan Campbell will speak on a wide range of hummingbird information – including physical attributes, the best way to attract them and tips on hummingbird friendly plants and feeders. Sponsored jointly by the Sandhills Horticultural Society and Sandhills Council of Garden Clubs.

The event is FREE; however, registration is required.

Sandhills Horticultural Society Spring Plant Sale

April 14 (Saturday) 8AM to Noon – Steed Hall

Perennials, woody plants and bulbs will be for sale. For information or to pre-order call 910-695-3882. Horticultural Society members receive 5% off orders of \$100 or more.

Lunch & Learn

April 16 (Monday) Noon to 1PM – Ball Visitors Center

JJ Faulk of JJ's Place Greenhouse and Nursery in Sanford will talk about **annuals and perennials in the landscape**. The program is FREE. Bring your lunch, the Garden will provide drinks.

“Yes You Can!!!” – Bonsai

April 21 (Saturday) 9:30AM to Noon – Lab in Steed Hall

Bonsai specialist and Master Gardener Harold Johnson will conduct a hands on workshop to help you create, style and care for these living landscapes. Cost includes all materials – container, planting material and the plant – plus individual instruction. Cutting tools will be provided. Horticultural Society members \$50, non-members \$60. Class is limited to 10 people. Please register by April 14.

Care and Feeding of your Bonsai

April 21 (Saturday) 1PM to 3PM – Lab in Steed Hall

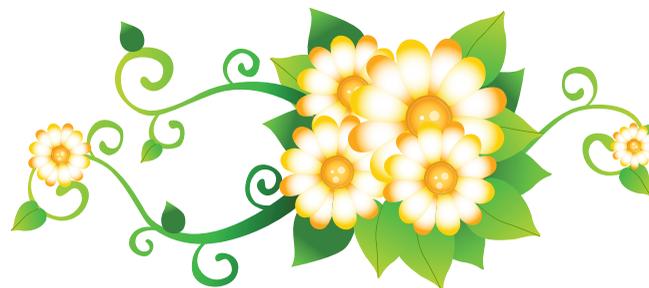
Bring your Bonsai and questions to specialist Harold Johnson's afternoon workshop. Your Bonsai is alive and you want to keep it alive. Cutting tools and supplies will be provided if needed. Horticultural Society members \$40, non-members \$50. Class is limited to 15 people. Please register by April 14.

Annual Bedding Plant Sale – Benefits Student's Educational Field Trip

Friday April 27, 1PM to 5PM, Saturday April 28, 9AM to Noon – Steed Hall

Annuals, herbs, tomato and pepper plants are available. Pre-orders are recommended. Order forms are available at the Ball Visitors Center. Mail to SCC-Landscape Gardening, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst NC 28374.

Email – johnsond@sandhills.edu, phone 910-695-3382/3383 or fax 910-695-3894





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50 YEARS
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1968 - 2018

Landscape Gardening

You are invited to a celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary for the Landscape Gardening Program at Sandhills Community College, Saturday, June 9, 2018. Special guests will be former students going back to 1968, coming home for a reunion. The event will take place from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. – **Rain or Shine** - in and around Steed Hall and the Gardens. Mark this date on your calendar – and, make your reservation.

- Southern BBQ lunch (or vegetarian) by the catering team of Stubbs & Sons
- Drawings for many great prizes
- Participate in a 50/50 raffle
- Self-guided tours of Steed Hall and the Gardens
- Live music with Larry Allen and Emily Whittle

RSVP by March 30 – number and name(s) of who will attend – specify BBQ or vegetarian lunch.

You may phone or email your reservation:
Tricia Mabe – 910-695-3882
landscapegardening@sandhills.edu

