

The Seedling

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BULB SALE TO OFFER ORIENPETS

Orienpet bulbs, a cross between the Chinese trumpet and oriental hybrid lily, will be a new offering at the Master Gardener Bulb Sale on Oct. 8. They will be ordered wholesale, like peonies, ground orchids, oxbloods and rain lilies. As usual, most of the sale items will be brought by Master Gardeners.



Paul Ferguson, sale committee chairman, asks that we collect bulbs from our gardens now and store them in paper bags in a cool place or take them to the Carriage House. Exception: Do not dig crinum or tropical bulbs until right before the sale. Especially requested are irises, St. Joseph lilies, pink naked ladies and red spider lilies. Please label the bags with the kind of bulb, its color and your name.

Best sellers in 2010 were peonies, crinum, ground orchids and parrot glads. Least popular were ipheons, white spider lilies and daffodils.

Orienpet lily

Want to help with the sale? Contact someone on the committee: Ferguson, Molly Rankin, Evelyn Thomas, Lil Appel, Kay Dixon or Vivian Kennedy. In connection with the bulb sale, Master Gardeners and Friends of Barnwell will present Mary McFarland of Downsville speaking on "Bulbs for All Seasons" at 10 a.m. Sept. 27 at the Barnwell. (Photo from www.whiteflowerfarm.com)

2010 GRANTS PROJECTS SHOWING RESULTS

Less than a year after the first Master Gardener community grants were awarded, changes have been wrought in landscapes and in lives.

1. In Belcher, red maples and crepe myrtles are scattered around the Veterans Memorial Park, and an irrigation system will be installed this fall. Woody ornamentals and a flower bed are yet to be planted.
2. In downtown Shreveport the Parks and Recreation Department has almost finished the new irrigation system at the Barnwell that the grant partially funded.
3. At Holy Angels School, a vermiculture project has been established, and residents are learning to grow worms and package the compost.



Dell at Greenwood Cemetery

4. At the Greenwood Cemetery, 65 native trees and shrubs were planted in February, including cypress, magnolias, sweetgums and mayhaws. The trees were hand-watered for three months until an irrigation system was completed in May and the pond in the Dell filled. Jon Emerson of Baton Rouge, landscape architect, created the plan. The Shreveport Garden Study Club will use the Dell to expand its program for schoolchildren.
5. About 60 third-graders at Eddie Jones West Shreveport Elementary School planted a vegetable garden and tasted their produce. Grant money went for cinderblock borders, compost and seeds. The program will be expanded to the fourth grade this fall and next year to the fifth.

Applications for 2011 grants, to be granted in Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto and Red River parishes, are due Sept. 30. Projects should promote horticultural education, involve the community in gardening, enhance public green spaces, support community or school garden programs, or improve the environment. Government entities, non-profit groups and faith-based organizations that serve the public may apply.

Awards will be announced by Dec. 14, 2011.

WORLD OF GARDENING

You would think that developing a new azalea would be a joyful and heart-warming procedure, but no: “Death runs rampant,” Buddy Lee told his World of Gardening audience in mid-July. “It is not a pretty sight. ‘Encore’ was the most tested azalea in America – we killed them in so many ways.” At his nursery in south Louisiana, he still throws away 95 percent of his seedlings.

Lee, director of plant innovation for Plant Development Services Inc, has been interested in plants since he was a boy working at a nursery. “I’d see a plant and I would want to change it.” The results of his work with azaleas are grown world-wide now.

He had news about other plants too:

- Loropetalum ‘Pixie’ can be finicky but is also tough. It loves containers it can spill out of.
- Loropetalum ‘Emerald Snow’ has white flowers, bluish leaves and strong roots, likes full sun and reblooms until frost.
- ‘Spring Sonata,’ an Indian hawthorn, is resistant to leaf spot and grows in sun or shade.
- The crape myrtle ‘Delta Jazz,’ developed at Mississippi State, has lots of blooms and will be colorful for years.
- ‘Jubilation,’ a gardenia, is cold-hardy and blooms over and over.
- A new orange camellia will bloom from July till first frost.



‘Emerald Snow’

For those who dream of altering plants, Lee had this advice: watch your garden for sports, plants that look different from others of their type. To get a cultivar you must propagate it, so take cuttings (cuttings are genetically identical to the parent). To patent a plant, you must be able to reproduce it asexually. And, of course, it must be desirable; besides a flower, Lee looks for good foliage and disease-resistance.

In conclusion, Lee had practical advice for azalea care: Use pine straw for mulch (oak leaves are too alkaline). Don’t prune or fertilize them in the fall (both pruning and fertilizing trigger growth, which you don’t want when cold weather is coming). Don’t prune when the plant is dehydrated. Use an acidic fertilizer in spring, when the soil is moist. Azaleas have a shallow root system, so you need to keep new plants well watered. (Photo from www.SouthernLivingPlants.com)

SOUTH CAROLINA HORTICULTURIST TO SPEAK



Stephens

“New and Unusual Plants for Deep South Gardens” will be the topic of a horticulturist and nurseryman from South Carolina at the final World of Gardening presentation for 2011. Ted Stephens of North Augusta, former president of the South Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association, will speak at the Barnwell Garden Center at 10 a.m. Sept. 7.

Stephens travels to Japan and other countries to find new plants for the American market. He introduces them through Nurseries Caroliniana, a garden center he founded in 1973. He also sells plants he has developed in breeding programs. (Go to www.nurcar.com/ted/html/TedBlog.htm for his account of a 2010 visit to Japan.)

Please email or call Evelyn Thomas (etmerlin@juno.com or 929-3485) if you will attend, and let her know if you can bring cookies or snacks.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Think snow, snow, snow. Maybe if we think cool thoughts it will help us survive these 100° + days (29 as of this writing) we’ve had so far this blistering summer of 2011. I hope your gardens and lawns are surviving as well. If you’re like me, your water bill is going up exponentially. Speaking of cool thoughts, I’ve got the distinct pleasure as Master Gardener president to announce officially the newly selected Lifetime Master Gardeners. Now that’s cool! This year’s inductees are Janet Creech, Sue Crow, Mary Lipsey, Lou Osburn, Glenda Collums, Ann LaVere, Kay Lee, Glenda Jacobs and Jim Collins.

In December, 2010 the Board of Directors began studying the possibility and implication of adding a Lifetime Membership status to our by-laws. The Board unanimously agreed that the Lifetime Master Gardener honor should be adopted. We then began the process of outlining the requirements to achieve this honored status. Other organizations having a Lifetime Membership status were contacted to see what they required, and we combined some of those ideas with our own and adopted the following requirements, as outlined in Article V of our by-laws:

Master Gardeners who have remained active and in good standing for 10 years may receive Lifetime Membership status. Master Gardener years accrue by the calendar. For example, a Master Gardener who trained in 2000 would be eligible for Lifetime membership in 2010. The 10-year time period does not have to be 10 consecutive active years, but inactive years would be subtracted from the 10 total years required for lifetime status.

Lifetime membership entitles a Master Gardener to all of the benefits of an active membership but work and education hours are no longer required. However, Lifetime Members who wish to continue working on projects are encouraged to do so. Lifetime Members are also encouraged to report their hours. Annual association membership dues will be waived for a Lifetime Member. Lifetime Members will receive a pin denoting their new status at the annual Master Gardener Christmas Luncheon and Awards Ceremony.

To have remained an active Master Gardener for 10 years or more is quite an accomplishment. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to achieve this honor and to have “hung in there” for 10 years.

As you look over the list of honorees, it becomes very evident that these Master Gardeners are hard workers and have set the bar for all of us newer Master Gardeners to shoot for. A little side note: In order to achieve this honor, it’s critical that you keep your hours current so Denyse, who does the verification, will have good records available.

- **Don Toppett**

GREEN THINGS

A HYDRANGEA THAT PERFORMS

A hydrangea that really does rebloom is 'Deja Bloom,' a compact mophead introduced in 2009 by J. Berry Nursery. Mine has bloomed continuously since spring even through the 100-plus degree days. It is 'Deja Bloom,' a compact mophead billed as the only reblooming double hydrangea.

The plant must be kept constantly moist; I have mine in almost total shade. Remember this bush next spring! (Photo from www.forum.hortmag.com)

- Cynthia Murray



FIVE FALL PLANTS FOR YOUR CONTAINERS

Mums and asters are all over the place in the fall, but there are lots of other plants that can look great. Here are five fall plants that can turn your garden planters into great fall decorations.

1. Heuchera –Coral bells, also known as heuchera, is one of my all-time favorite container plants. Coral bells come in a mind-blowing assortment of colors and leaf textures, and they are a very good-humored plant, almost impossible to kill. Some heuchera are happy in full sun, shade or anything in between. Most are hardy down to -25° F and perennial in zones 4-9. They are mounding plants and look great on their own or paired with either contrasting plants or in shades of the same color. Coral bells can look great with gourds, mums and ornamental grasses. Choose a dark, almost black leaf, like 'Dolce, Licorice' or choose 'Dolce, Peach Melba' for a terrific fall plant that works well with many fall decorations.

2. Verbena – a prolific bloomer that will look good from spring well into fall. Many verbenas are hardy down to 15° F and will continue flowering even after the first frost. They look great either on their own or filling in spaces and spilling over edges of garden planters, window boxes or hanging baskets. Colors range from brilliant reds to deep, dark blue to purples and pinks. They are drought-tolerant and need only an average amount of water. They do need good drainage and, like most flowering annuals, need to be fed every couple of weeks. Though deadheading isn't necessary for most common varieties, your plant will look much better if you cut it back when the blooms fade.

3. Oxalis – I love the look of oxalis. It is elegant and at the same time kind of cheerful. It is exceedingly easy to grow and likes partial or full shade. It is hardy to 15° F, and is an annual except in zones 8-10. Oxalis is a mounding plant and grows to be 12-18 inches high, making it a good plant to use in filling out a container. It comes in several colors including a really dark, almost black, 'Charmed Velvet,' and my favorite, a burgundy color called 'Charmed Wine.' (Pink bloom on the right is fuchsia.)



4. Decorative Cabbage and Kale – Decorative cabbages are delightfully chubby and cheerful plants, while the kales are all spiky and radical looking. However, both of these plants will take you well into fall with style and beautiful sagey greens with pinks and purples. As a bonus flowering cabbage and kales' colors only intensify as the weather gets colder especially after a frost. I particularly love cabbages grouped together in either rustic garden planters or low baskets. They also can bring some great color and texture to mixed container gardens. Kales can look great in funky shallow baskets, window boxes or modern metal planters with clean lines. These are really bold plants, so don't be afraid to put them in unusual containers or combine them with unlikely plants.



6. **Sedum** – Also known as stonecrop, this is a classic fall plant for container gardens because that’s when it looks its best. Blooming in late summer to early fall, sedum is easy to grow in containers, preferring good drainage and full sun, though most will tolerate some shade. Sedum is a particularly good choice of plant for a fall container that you want to leave out all winter, because the dried flowers can look beautiful, especially covered with snow or frost. Sedum is hardy to a whopping -40° F and is a perennial in zones 3-9. Sedum can get pretty tall so it’s great to use in the center or back of a container.
- Kerry Michaels, www.about.com (photos by Michaels)

KITCHEN SINK

LEMON CHESS PIE

CRUST

1 ½ cups sifted flour ½ tsp salt ½ cup shortening (I used butter-flavored)
 3 T. water.

Mix these, roll out and put in pan. Bake about five minutes at 425 degrees before adding the filling.

FILLING

5 large eggs 6 T. butter, melted ¾ cup fresh lemon juice (3 or 4 big lemons)
 1 2/3 cups sugar 1 T. cornmeal 1 ½ T. cornstarch

Beat eggs until fluffy. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well. Put filling in crust, reduce heat to 375 degrees and bake on the bottom shelf for 45 minutes. Top should be golden brown (if it’s darker, don’t worry, the pie is still good).

Master Gardeners liked this pie at the July meeting. The recipe came from the King Arthur Flour website, but the original crust recipe takes nine steps, so I used one my mother gave me (straight from *The Joy of Cooking*, 1964). If you want the original crust, ask me.

- Sara Burroughs

OUT AND ABOUT

A LUSH GARDEN IN SOUTHWEST CANADA

What a blow – on sitting down with my map and guide to Butchart Gardens to write this, I discovered that on two visits I had totally missed the Rose Carousel, Bog Garden, totem poles, Begonia Bower and Mediterranean Garden. That means, first, that it is possible to wander the gardens for more than two hours and still not see everything and, second, that I’ll have to go back.

The 55-acre garden, formerly the estate of Jennie and Robert Butchart (say BOOSHart), is about 14 miles north of Victoria, British Columbia, on Vancouver Island. In the early 20th century Jennie had Lombardy poplars and Persian plum trees planted to block the view of her husband’s limestone quarry; in 1904, disliking the ugly appearance of the abandoned quarry, she ordered tons of topsoil (which had to come via horse and cart), bought plants and seeds and created

the Sunken Garden. She had herself lowered by ropes and chair along the quarry walls so she could stick dirt and plants into crevices. Today hundreds of bushes and flowers and several Japanese laceleaf maples fill the base of the pit, and a deeper part is Quarry Lake. There the Butcharts' grandson in 1964 installed the Ross Fountain, sending water 70 feet high. Two arborvitae guard the path to a heap of limestone in the center of the pit; the heap is covered with flowers and foliage.

I gave the Rose Garden short shrift (it lost 1,200 plants in the recent harsh winter) and headed for the Japanese Garden, which is just past the Fountain of Three Sturgeons (another contribution by a Butchart grandson). Visitors enter through a torii gate flanked by two huge purple beeches, then go down steps and over a small bridge between two ponds. (A torii gate, two columns and a lintel, marks the line between sacred and profane at Shinto shrines.) The most spectacular flower in June was a Himalayan blue poppy; Jennie Butchart got the seeds from the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens and had some of the first flowers in North America. A hedge borders one end of the garden, and a carefully maintained hole in it frames a view of Tod Inlet (where the Butchart limestone was shipped out).

From the Japanese Garden you can walk up stairs or take a winding path to the Star Pond, where Robert Butchart once kept ducks. Between the points of the star, many of the million bedding plants used in the gardens every year are planted. From the Star Pond it is a short walk to the formal Italian Garden, where the pond is in the shape of a cross.

My little group, from Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi, was surprised to see azaleas in full bloom (had to remind ourselves we were in Canada), delighted by the profusion of fuchsia and columbine in hanging baskets, and astonished by the size of begonias and hostas (the long northern spring days make them larger than we are used to).



The Sunken Garden

Visitors, both invited and not, started coming to the gardens while the Butcharts still lived there, and Jennie served tea to all until it became impossible – one source says she had 18,000 guests for tea in 1915. Robert died in 1943, Jennie in 1950. The gardens are now in the hands of their great-granddaughter Robin-Lee Clark and have a staff of 240, including 50 gardeners. They are open year-round, with fireworks and music on summer evenings, special exhibits in the house in the winter.



Himalayan blue poppy

I had just one complaint about the gardens: according to a guide, “To maintain the graciousness of a private garden, we leave most plants unlabelled.” I for one would prefer a little less graciousness and a little more labeling. Happily, there is in the Visitor Centre a friendly horticulturist who is willing to look at your digital camera and identify flowers. (Who knew an osteospermum? Not me.) And all visitors get an excellent *Flower & Plant Guide*, illustrated with photos arranged by color. I’d still like labels, but who can criticize a place where the tops of garbage cans have tiny flowerbeds?

- **Sara Burroughs**

NORTON GALLERY SHOWS FLOWER PAINTINGS

By September our grass is brown, our roses gasping, our impatiens leggy, and spring seven months away. This year gardeners who need a flower fix can go to the Norton Gallery, 4747 Creswell, and enjoy the 83 works in a traveling show called *Blossom II: Art of Flowers*. Curators have added several flower depictions from the Norton collection.

The works depict more than flowers. Several show butterflies, and one shows a datura with a hawkmoth feeding on it. A mouse peeks from under a nasturtium leaf, whiskered and pink-eared, and a wren perches on a limb. Humans feature in several: a woman at a flower market, a girl wearing a wreath of flowers, a wigman of Papua New Guinea wearing a costume with flowers painted on it. Then there is the semi-nude woman lying on water amid water lilies (no gardener she).

But those are the exceptions. Most of the nearly thousand artists who submitted work concentrate on the flowers, and what a range they present: the usual roses, lilies, dahlias, magnolias, camellias and irises, and then some less common, a thistle, a saguaro cactus with buds, a tsutomu tomita (that painting is from Hawaii). Some works are of botanical quality, showing root systems as well as flowers, while others are dreamily impressionistic.

My favorite painting depicts two glass jars with labels showing a bird and a rose; there is a rose in one vase and a small bird in front of the other. The bird on the label is sharper than the real bird; but then you think, wait, both birds are works of art, as are both roses. It won an Award of Excellence for the Brazilian artist.

The exhibit, sponsored by the Susan Kathleen Black Foundation, is open through Oct. 16. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.