

The Garden Gate

A Communication of the Kanawha County Master Gardeners Association

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DNR's Wild Yards Program

Brooks McCabe, KC Master Gardener 2006

If you have not been aware of the West Virginia's Department of Natural Resources Wild Yard Program, visit www.wvdnr.gov/wildlife/PDFfiles/wildyardsbook03.pdf. It is worth a look. The program is designed to help people create a wildlife habitat around their homes. Many master gardeners may have already created a wildlife habitat, and those who have not, might want to consider implementing such a plan.

The Wild Yards Booklet, referenced above, outlines the vegetative and physical components in a manner focusing on native West Virginia vegetation. Water gardens, natural wetlands, and city gardens are discussed. Amphibians and reptiles, bats, birds and small animals are all discussed.

Conservation issues are intertwined throughout the booklet.

Habitat for birds with spring, summer, autumn, and winter gardens are reviewed with a useful list of native plants for nesting. A wildlife landscape planning guide provides a simple template to follow for creating your own special wildlife habitat.

Wild Yards is DNR's backyard habitat certification program for West Virginia residents. The only requirements are to read the Wild Yards booklet and complete the application therein. A rough sketch or diagram of the property should be enclosed sharing existing features and those to be added. The process is straightforward and fun for anyone with an interest in gardening, landscaping, and wildlife habitat.

A Note from our Outgoing President

Dear members,

I appreciate the opportunity you gave me to serve as president of the Kanawha County Master Gardeners Association. As most of you know, I resigned from the presidency effective Oct. 31, 2008. The decision to resign from office was an excruciating one to make and one I spent weeks agonizing over. However, personal issues have forced me to set new priorities in my life. I feel that if I were to remain president I would not be able to dedicate the time and attention to matters that are important to the association.

Therefore, I have called upon our vice president, Carol Fulks, to serve the remainder of my term in

office. Carol is a wonderful person, a dedicated officer and an enthusiastic master gardener, so I have no reluctance leaving KCMGA in her capable hands. Under her leadership and that of the other officers and executive committee members, KCMGA will continue to grow and make a difference in our community.

I thank you for the support you gave me throughout my time in office, and I thank you in advance for the support I know you will show to Carol as president.

Best wishes,

Leslie Fitzwater, Kanawha County Master Gardener

Gardening: A Walk Down Memory Lane

Asley Orr, KC Master Gardener 2007

Many of us come to gardening through our families. Perhaps it was a grandmother that passed on her love of flowers, or a father's love of a vegetable garden. Have you thought of honoring this passing of knowledge through a memory garden? In my own small yard, I have planted lilacs and a snowball bush that reminds me of my great-grandmother's yard. Peonies and poppies symbolize my grandmother's garden.

Interestingly, Alzheimer support and care facilities often incorporate this idea, not only to acknowledge those departed, but to give the living a tangible reminder of their links to the past. Fragrance, color and tactile properties play an important role in jogging memories.

We can take some of these same concepts and use them in our own gardens. My grandmother's middle name is Arbutus (she is not happy about this), her sister's middle name is Rose. Each time I see these flowers, I think of them. My daughter was born in July and when I see a larkspur, I think of her. My birthday is in May, but I haven't had much luck with growing lilies-of-the-valley. It makes no matter, the important thing is to have a reminder, around a bend or in a designated plot, of those you love.

A memory or remembrance garden is a fantastic way to link to your gardening history. So look for those flowers or plants that remind of you of someone or something. Ask a friend for a clipping, transplant a flower from your mother's yard or plant a vegetable in your dad's honor. Whatever you choose, you will have a beautiful yard full of friends.

You know you're a gardener when you visit a friend's home and start pulling their weeds.

10 Holiday Gift Ideas for a Gardener

1. Re-gift garden Items. For those garden items you know you will not use or the ones that you've received more than one. Give it to someone you know will put it to good use. (Zero \$)

2. Share gathered seeds or divided perennials. Did you harvest seeds from this year's garden or divide perennials this fall? Gift them to your gardening buddies. (Zero \$)

3. Share late harvested produce or canned items from your garden. If you have an over abundance of fresh fruit and/or veggies from your garden, why not share? Gift a basket of fresh or canned goodies. (Zero - \$)

4. Catch out of season garden items on clearance. Clearance bins are an excellent way to purchase gardening stuff cheap. Especially if it's out of season. You know your gardener in mind will enjoy the gift, even if they don't know how much you spent. (\$)

5. Magazine Subscriptions Everyone loves a good gardening magazine. Why not give on as a gift? A good quality gardening magazines like Garden Gate or Fine Gardening are a great way to give the gift of gardening. (\$\$)

6. Gift Certificate Sometimes you don't have a whole lot of time to spare. One of the easiest and quickest ways to get a gift on short notice is to purchase a gift card. Get these at your local garden centers and favorite online gardening sites. (\$\$)

7. Send a live Wreath or Poinsettia, The farmers market is the perfect place to purchase live wreaths. Valley Gardens has a booth with one of the best selection. You can also order poinsettias from them and your local floral shops as well. (\$\$)

8. Basket of Garden Goodies. Why not purchase a basket and fill it up with garden goodies, like tools, books, seeds, gloves, etc. What better way, to give a personalize gift. (\$\$)

9. Plant of the Month Club. Give the gift they will receive all year long. The plant of the month club offers a variety of plants suited for any climate. Check it out. www.plantofthemonth.com (\$\$\$)

10. Weekend Getaway. Plan a weekend getaway include tickets to your favorite botanical garden and hotel accommodations. Let them enjoy places like Longwood Gardens or Prabhupada Palace of Gold on you. (\$\$\$)

New Cultivars for 2009!

Melissa Hines, KC Master Gardener 2004

It's never too early to get a heads up on the new cultivars coming out soon to a garden center near you. I recently visited a local garden center to pose the question. "So, what's new and exciting coming that's in next year!"

Susan Bryant, store manager at Valley Gardens express to me that it was a little to early for them to have a list of new cultivars that they will be carrying for 2009, since they haven't even order them. She explained that they go to Cent Show (Central Environmental Nursery Trade Show) held ever January in Columbus, Ohio were they make there purchases for the spring/summer gardening season.

This year however, Valley Gardens added a new addition to their collections of Knock out Roses. Sunny Knock Out® Rose 'Radsunny' was introduced by The Conard-Pyle Co/Star roses and the breeder was none other than William Radler. As the newest introduction it is the most fragrant member of The Knock Out® Family of Roses. This landscape rose has a compact habit with glossy dark green foliage that contrast nicely with its canary yellow to cream blooms. But, do not despair my fellow plant enthusiast. She pointed me in the direction of just were to look to find those elusive new cultivars. Terra Nova Nurseries has become a world leader in plant breeding.

Plant growers and garden centers a like flock to this nursery for the best in new cultivars. Terra Nova is introducing a fantastic array of new varieties to be released into the market in 2009. Among the introductions are a plethora of Echinacea, Agastache, and Heuchera to name a few.

There has been an explosion of new Echinacea come on to the plant scene in recent years and 2009 is no exception. Echinacea 'Mac 'n' Cheese' PPAF PVR is a deep golden color and paired with Echinacea

'Tomato Soup' PPAF PVR a tomato red, it will be a feast for the eyes come summer. If you are planning a new humming bird garden or are looking to add to your collection, then look no further than these new Agastache varieties.

Agastache 'Summer Glow' PPAF PVRA, with its glowing pale yellow flowers Agastache 'Cotton Candy' PPAF PVR with its light pink flowers and Agastache 'Summer Sky' PPAF PVR with violet blue flowers are sure to light up you garden for weeks to come. Heuchera, is a well known cultivar that need no introductions, well except for maybe one more.

Introducing Heuchera 'Plum Royale' with it's amazing purple foliage that last all year round, it will soon be your new favorite plant for . It is great paired with silver foliage perennials. Make sure you keep an eye out for these new cultivars coming soon to a garden center near you.

"The Sunny Knock Out® Rose "The Knock Out Rose® Family of Roses," Sunny Knock Out® Rose , Sunny and Super Fragrant" 2008
<http://www.theknockoutrose.com/factsheets/CP_sunny_knock_out.pdf>

"New for 2009", Copyright © 1999 - 2008, Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc. 2008
<<http://www.terravanurseries.com/wholesale/>>

Inactive Status

Certification requires volunteer and CE hours; however, active status requires hours plus membership dues.

If a member has not caught up on certification within three years, he or she will be considered as inactive. An inactive member must re-take the educational classes to become certified again.

Submit CE and Volunteer hours on the Web site at:

kanawhamastergardeners.homestead.com

or by mail to Keith Morgan, 521 Sheridan Circle, Charleston, WV 25314, or email to Keith.Morgan@afnetwork.com

Message from our Interim President: Carol Fulks

As I write this column, I have begun to feel melancholy as Winter approaches and I tend to my Fall work. Planting bulbs, harvesting my late crop of kale, lettuce and mesclun. Also, pruning, dividing and preparing my garden(s) for Winter. However, I get a “spark of enthusiasm” as I remember how beautiful Springs comes to life and as I ponder the many agenda items we must accomplish through our Association. The down time of late Fall and Winter will provide us all the opportunity of planning not only our own gardens and landscapes, but to prepare the landscape of the Kanawha County Master Gardeners Association (KCMGA).

First of all, we MUST have volunteers. Without volunteers we really have no Association. The immediate need for volunteers includes a new 2009 leadership team of the KCMGA Board of Directors. If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone as an Officer or Board Director, please contact me at carol@wvhta.com or at home (304) 343-9090 immediately as we plan a nominations committee meeting very soon. We also need Co-Chairs for the 2009 Plant Sale. If we do not get these

Chairs appointed and in place very shortly, we will not have a plant sale in 2009. These are the two most important and “pressing” pieces we need to prepare our Association’s Spring Beauty. Without planting the seeds and planning the landscape as we all do, we know we have a barren plot. So, PLEASE contact me today so we can get the new leadership team and committees in place for a productive 2009.

These are only two of many agenda items the new leadership will need to sow but working together we can accomplish a beautiful garden. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Leslie Fitzwater for all her work as Past President. Leslie has done an excellent job in guiding the Association and I, along with the KCMGA Board, wish her the best as she works through her personal agenda. Any volunteer organization such as ours takes time, commitment and leadership to continue it’s mission and goals. KCMGA is no exception to this rule, we must ALL work together through volunteerism to keep the Association as productive and great as it has become and will continue to be. Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!