

March 2013

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The Grotto

A Spiritual Journey
in the Garden

Sweet Peas

Chives

Horticulturist
Neil Bell

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Will 8 Be Our Lucky Number?

I say that because this is our 8th season of 'Garden Time' and there are changes. This year we will not be producing our sister program, Fusion. There was not enough advertiser support to put the show back on the air. So that means we will not be seeing Robin and David on the air quite so much, but we still hope to bring some timely home stories to you this season. William and Judy will be tackling some of the home stories on the Garden Time show, and David and Robin will still be writing home stories for the Garden Time magazine. This is a hard change to make; we really loved putting the Fusion show together! We still consider 8 to be a lucky number. We have been able to produce a garden show on TV for 8 years. It really is something special that we are able to continue to put this program on the air thanks to our viewers and sponsors.

Other exciting news from the Garden Time crew. Gardenpalooza (<http://www.gardenpalooza.com>) returns on April 6th to Fir Point Farms. This will be our 11th annual spring event. There's been booking the final spots for this year's show and it promises to be a bigger event with more new vendors! We even have a limited quantity of fertilizer that was donated by Black Gold for us to give away. You will have to find William and Judy at the farm to get yours! Mark your calendars for April 6th and we will see you there.

Spring has arrived and that means it is time to get back out in the garden. We recently got our gardening 'fix' at the Yard, Garden and Patio show. You can check out some of the videos on the Garden Time website. This month's issue of Garden Time Magazine is getting us even more excited! This month we will tell you all about soil. Most of the Pacific Northwest has great soil, even if you have clay. Clay still can be the basis for a big healthy garden if you use the right amendments. You will have to read Therese's article to get the dirt on soil. Also this month William found out about sweet peas. These are one of those spring favorites from your grandmother's garden that will be a nice addition to your garden. If you have a 'taste' for gardening, check out the story about chives from Sarah. Sarah is our daughter and a real lover of chives and she will share the secrets of this tasty and low maintenance herb.

We thank you for joining us for our 8th season. Check your local TV listings for times when Garden Time will air in your area.

Happy Gardening,

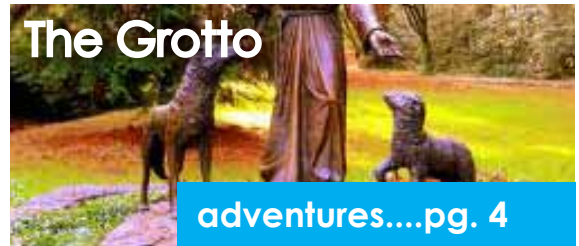
Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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A Spiritual Journey in the Garden

A visit to The Grotto is good for the heart and the soul.

by William McClenathan



If you are searching for a garden to visit in this area which is both beautiful and peaceful, filled with stunning statuary, fountains and plants, but still appeals to the spiritual side of humanity, perhaps you could visit the Grotto in NE Portland.

The Grotto is filled with places to sit or kneel and pray; to contemplate life and do some soul searching. I personally have always thought that nature is the best place to do this and certainly the Grotto fits that bill to perfection.

From the moment you drive into the parking area, you can feel the quietness start to wash away the frustrations of the day. It seems we work better in tandem with nature than in conflict with it. You know this place is special from the first moments you drive in. Massive Douglas Firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) stand like peaceful sentinels all around the parking area. A beautiful gift store, a place you might purchase a snack or beverage and perhaps take home a memento from your visit comes next, but that is where the effects of America's current lifestyle ends.

A large statue of Jesus Christ carrying the cross

comes next. This beautiful artwork reminds us of how one person can have such an effect on humans, even thousands of years after his time on earth.

Glimpses of white draw your eyes to many other saints. These beautiful statues in white you might recognize, some you might not, peppered throughout the natural looking landscape.

Water is heard from a gentle waterfall. The songs of birds are enhanced by the ever present soft sound of monks singing, a beautiful symphony of nature and man together.

A large Cathedral (Chapel of Mary) stands with massive bronze doors, both welcoming and intimidating.

There are dozens of benches in front of the Grotto Cave (the garden received its name from this) where each Sunday in the season of summer, Mass is held here in this amazing space I can only call a Natural Cathedral. I got the feeling while looking at the Grotto that even those that hold no specific faith would be drawn to contemplation there. Both beautiful and serene, the Grotto was hewn out of the 110 foot basalt cliff. The cliff is a major attraction

of the gardens, also providing the separation between the lower and upper levels of the Grotto.

Within this large 'cave' is a full size replica of Michelangelo's Pieta, a fitting work of art for such a serene place.

And, these are all just a few things in the lower gardens. We have not even begun to visit the upper gardens yet.

To get there, one must take an elevator up the 110 foot high cliff. A four dollar ticket will provide the access to the elevator which will whisk you upward.

To me, one can see the hand of man much more clearly in this part of the Grotto. More specific gardens like the Pond, Rose and Labyrinth gardens are here. But what I really admired about this part of the garden is the inclusion of so many other nations that follow the Catholic faith and the shrines in their honor.

This is not a garden to go through quickly. The sheer size of it (62 acres) will require some time. But the real beauty of it is its history, how it began.

A small boy, whose mother lay dying in childbirth, ran to the church to pray for mercy. His promise was





that if his mother survived, he would one day accomplish something great for the Church. That little boy would someday become known as Father Ambrose Mayer. As an adult, he was sent to Portland to work in the Archdiocese of Portland. Always remembering his promise, he was continually searching for land with which to erect a suitable tribute to Mary the Mother of Jesus. The Union Pacific railroad had such a piece of land for sale. It was 1923 and the asking price was 43,000.00...a seemingly small amount to us today but a fortune back then. All he had was 3000.00, so he offered it...and they accepted.

All gardens begin somewhere. In our minds, in our souls, in a promise made, or sometimes, a promise fulfilled. But begin they do. Now, almost a century later, the promise of a child to the God he believed in has grown into a National Sanctuary (dedicated as such in 1983) and has had well over 10 million visitors of all faiths, and some with none. But, I think that little boy who said a prayer for his mother so many decades ago, would be just fine with that.



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How Sweet It Is!

**“The Queen of Annuals”
has been a garden
favorite since the 1600s.**

by William McClenathan



Lathyrus Sativus

Sweet Peas, what a wonderful flower for the garden.

In 2005 the National Garden Bureau Inc. proclaimed that the Sweet pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*) was the plant of the year.

America's love of this plant is long term and spreads from coast to coast. For more than a century, the blossoms have filled garden

and homes with its beauty and fragrance.

In the early 1930's, box cars were loaded with the seeds and shipped east of the Rockies. It seemed like every garden, from the farms in the Midwest to formal gardens of the wealthy, small homesteads and most neighborhood gardens, had this deliciously fragrant vine growing somewhere in their yards.

The history of this amazing vine is a wonderful tale. You have to go all the way back to the 1600s to find the first documented information on it.

That written record appeared in 1695 by Francisco Cupani, a member of the order of St. Francis, when he noted seeing sweet peas in Sicily. This makes sense as the plant is native to the Mediterranean region.

It was not until 1699 that Cupani passed on the seeds of the enticingly fragrant, small bicolor flowering vine (blue and purple) to Dr.

Casper Commelin, a botanist at the medical school in Amsterdam. In 1701, Commelin published an article on sweet peas, which included the first botanical illustration, eventually the seeds made their way to England.

In England, sweet peas became known as “The Queen of Annuals” and for good reason.

These charming vines are unique among garden flowers with their vivid colors, fragrance, and length of bloom in the garden. Sweet peas' fragrance is sensuous, a captivating blend of honey and orange blossom, with an intensity that varies from one cultivar to another. The ruffled blooms look like little butterflies all aflutter. Sweet peas offer one of the widest color ranges in the plant kingdom, including crimson reds, navy blues, pastel lavenders, pinks, and the purest whites. These colors are found as solid colors, bicolors, and streaked or flaked flowers. Put it all together, fragrance and color, in a climbing plant with voluptuous clusters of



Caspar Commelin

flowers and it becomes obvious why sweet peas are such a favorite among gardeners and non-gardeners alike. The fact that they are long-lasting cut flowers is the icing on the cake.

But let's make sure we do not get the flower and the edible sweet pea confused. Although garden peas, (*Pisum sativum*) such as English peas, edible podded peas and snow peas are edible, sweet peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*) are poisonous—especially the flowers and seeds.

You may also want to try the perennial *Lathyrus latifolius*. This cold hardy perennial is suitable to USDA temperature Zone 5. And *Lathyrus sativus* produces lovely small gentian blue flowers, while *Lathyrus chloranthus* has yellow flowers. One should be able to find all of these available in garden centers or online as seeds.

Sweet peas are very frost hardy, so you can plant them early in our area of the Pacific Northwest. Some varieties will be more fragrant than others; ones like 'Old Spice' or 'Perfumed Delight'. There are also dwarf varieties. Look into the 'Villa Roma' series, with both wonderful colors and fragrance.

They can be started easily by seed. Many people suggest a good soaking of the seeds for 24 hours first or using nail clippers to crack through the outer shell a bit, both will work. Then place them in a good nutritious soil. Sweet peas are heavy feeders but be sure that you do not over fertilize them once they are growing as you may end up with fewer blooms and lots of dark green leaves. A good slow release fertilizer works well. Also, be sure to cut off spent flowers if you are not already doing so, to take indoors as sweet peas are a member of the legume family, so they will bloom and then set their seed. You should

only allow that to happen at the end of the growing season if you want to collect the seeds for the next year. They are also rather like Clematis because they love the sun but would prefer cool roots.

The poet Keats is credited with first using the term 'sweet pea' in the early 1800s. Whether that is accurate or not, once you have smelled this plant's citrus like honey fragrance, you will always want at least one growing in your garden.



Lathyrus Latifolius



"Villa Roma"

Soil 101

Here's the real dirt on that stuff in your garden.

by Therese Gustin



Chicken Wire Compost Bin

PHOTO CREDIT:
CULTIVATORSCORNER.COM

Way back in 1980 I graduated with a degree in Horticulture from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. So when I was put to the task of writing an article on soil, I looked through my library of textbooks I saved from three decades ago (which I haven't cracked open since, but can't quite bring myself to part with...) only to find I did not save that booooring tome from Agronomy 101. Who'd have thought I'd need to crack open that particular textbook 30 years later?! It's just as well that I don't have it as a reference because what I learned in that 12 week period could put an insomniac to

sleep!

Two things I do remember:

1. Call it SOIL! Dirt is what is found under your fingernails.

2. Spend most of your time, energy and money on improving your soil. Your garden will reward you for it.

So why should we care so much about soil? The better the soil quality... the better the plant quality.

What makes up soil? In a nutshell, soil is composed of minerals, organic components, air and water.

Soil forms when rain, wind and fluctuating temperatures break down rock into smaller and smaller particles. The particles that make up most soils are silt, sand, and clay.

The combination of these particles makes up a soil's texture; with soils high in sand being fast draining and subject to drought while soils high in clay tend to hold a lot of water and can tend to 'rot' a plant's roots. A balance of sand, silt and clay makes up an ideal texture generally referred to as 'loam'. Soil is also host to a large number of living organisms, microscopic and larger, includ-



Earthworms

PHOTO CREDIT: GREENLIVING.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM



Silt



Clay

ing bacteria, fungi, insects and even earthworms. Very little soil formation would take place without these organisms. A productive soil helps to physically support a plant and provides water, air and nutrients. Plant roots require sufficient air and water to live. Good soil is porous allowing air and water to percolate through the root zone where it can be available for a plant's roots.

In the Pacific Northwest our soils tend to be heavier on the clay side. While several varieties of plants survive in our clay soils, we can make it a little easier on the plants by amending our clay soils with organic matter. Generally in the form of compost, adding organic matter can help you reduce the amount of water you need to apply to your plants. Adding a layer of organic mulch can further reduce water usage by reducing evaporation from bare soil. Adding organic matter also adds organisms to the soil. Over time a well amended soil will provide more nutrients to your plants, which reduces the amount of fertilizer you will need to add to your garden. I'd say it's a win-win all around!

Compost can be purchased bagged or in bulk and generally consists of yard debris like grass clippings, leaves, brush and tree clippings that have broken down over a period of several months. The piles usually reach a temperature sufficient to kill most weed seeds and the big chunks of sticks and branches are sifted out. Black Gold (www.blackgold.biz) and Grimm's Fuel (www.grimmsfuel.com) are good sources. It is also pretty easy to create your own 'backyard' compost. Just find a spot near your garden to either place a bin or make a box-like structure out of wood and chicken wire. Fill it with vegetable scraps, grass clippings and leaves. If you use tree and shrub trimmings, be sure they are chopped very small or they will not break down. (Leave out meat scraps and dairy products as these can attract animals to your compost pile...also they tend to smell bad!) It will take about a year for your scraps to turn into usable compost, especially if you're like me and you don't turn the pile every so often. I just let mine do its thing all year and come spring, spread it on my garden. I've been adding compost to my garden for over 20 years and my plants are all the happier for it!

Working compost into your existing soil can be done one of two ways; by rototiller or by hand. A rototiller makes short work of the project but if used on very wet soil can add to the compaction of the ground. Although it is definitely more of a work out, if you don't have a huge garden space it is better to use a spade and mix the compost with the soil. This method does the least amount of damage to the soil structure and allows you to mix the compost deeper than you can with a rototiller. Either way, adding compost will improve the quality of your garden soil.

So, all this effort is great for improving your soil in the garden area but if you are gardening in raised beds or containers it is best not to use garden soil. In these situations, roots have to grow in a more confined area and it is best to start with a compost or soil mix that is professionally produced. Again, Black Gold and Grimm's Fuel both offer great products.

Even though soil is not glamorous or exciting, (hey, it's not even pretty!) starting your garden off with fabulous soil will reward you with beautiful, happy, and healthy plants for years to come. For more on soil structure and formation you will have to take Soil 201.... Now where did I put that textbook?



Jump and Chive!

These little onions will never make you cry!

by Sarah Gustin

Chives are a common but often overlooked component of many gardens, and a relatively low maintenance herb. The smallest plant of the onion family, chives are frequently included in fish and potato dishes diced into small sections. Like onions, chives are high in vitamin C and are also high in vitamin A. The chive flowers in spring; most varieties giving a pale purple flower and growing in bunches that are mildly repellent to most insects while the flowers attract bees.

Growing chives is a fairly low maintenance endeavor, mainly requiring watering and weeding, with potential pest problems minimized by the chive's natural repellent of many damaging insects. Traditionally, they

have been used to border gardens to prevent insect problems for the other plants. Chives grow well in full sun and well drained soil, and thrive in the mild climate of Oregon. They constantly regrow their hollow stalks during the spring and summer, allowing the constant harvesting of the leaves by cutting off a few centimeters from the ground. You may find that your chives die down as our Northwest weather cools, but they generally do not ever die back completely.

Chives are commonly available ready grown to pot or plant. To start chives from seed, plant in the garden in mid- to late spring. Choose a sunny spot with rich, well-drained soil, and plant seeds in clusters one foot to

Cheddar Chive Biscuits

3 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ Tbs baking powder
1 ½ tsp baking soda
1 ¼ tsp salt
1 tsp sugar

½ cup (1 stick) cold butter, cut into ½ inch cubes
2 ¼ cups grated cheddar cheese
½ cup chopped fresh chives
1 ¾ cups cold buttermilk*
2 Tbs melted butter (for brushing)

Preheat oven to 425°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Mix chives and cheddar cheese in a large bowl, set aside. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and sugar in a food processor and blend for a few seconds. Blend in the butter cubes until coarse crumbs form, another 30 seconds. Add to chives and cheese, toss together. Gradually incorporate the buttermilk, mixing into a sticky batter.

You may use a biscuit cutter if you have one, or use floured hands to drop about ½ cup dollops 2 inches apart onto the lined baking sheet. Bake until biscuits are golden brown or a toothpick inserted comes out clean, about 18 minutes. Brush butter over biscuits and allow to cool for 10 minutes before serving.

*If you don't have buttermilk you can create it by mixing a ratio of one tablespoon of white vinegar or lemon juice with one cup of milk and allowing it to sit for five minutes.



Chive Blossom



one and a half feet apart. Water the soil enough to keep it steadily moist until the chives are growing heartily.

If you do make the very wise choice to start growing your own chives, you can use them all year round in any number of recipes. Try them finely chopped on any number of things, as a garnish and to add a dash of extra flavor. Try chives on potatoes, eggs or meat. Or test out our recipe for cheddar chive biscuits! They make a great side, or try slicing them in half and using them to make tasty sandwiches!



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Master of the Gardener's Domain

Neil Bell uses his knowledge of plants to grow more gardeners.

by Judy Alleruzzo

Neil in the Tortolita Mountains Preserve in Marana, AZ, north of Tucson. Besides the barrel cactus there's lots of Opuntia as well as some very large Saguaro along the trail in here.

Neil Bell is a many faceted plant guy. He is foremost the Marion and Polk Counties Community Horticulturist. Since 2000, he has worked with the very active membership of Master Gardener programs in these two counties.

Neil is "impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of all my volunteers in Marion and Polk Counties and the amount of service they provide. It's a privilege to work with them".

Neil works each fall to co-ordinate the classes for the January start of the training of new Master Gardeners. The late winter set of classes give a wide view of gardening to the MG students. Neil organizes class topics and teachers and pairs veteran Master Gardeners with the 'newbies'. This rich educational set up has worked training Oregon Master Gardeners since 1976. As the Community Horticulturist, Neil also organizes the community outreach of gardening seminars and workshops through the Master Gardener program.

Master Gardeners are lending their knowledge to assist neighborhood and school gardens and by answering the Gardening Hotline to help people be more successful gardeners.

Neil's second love of Horticulture is research. With his B.S. in Plant Science from The University of British Columbia and his M.S. in Horticulture from Oregon State University, you can see why Neil's second love of Horticulture is research. In Canada, he worked with the Strawberry and Raspberry breeder for the Canadian Department of Agriculture during the summers of 1988 to 1990. From 1992 to 2000, he was a research assistant in berry crops and ornamental plants at The Oregon State University North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC) in Aurora, Oregon.

Even after becoming a Community Horticulturist, Neil wanted to

continue plant trials at NWREC. In 2000, he decided upon a Hebe plant trial which lasted until 2009. The main goal was to identify Hebe varieties that are cold hardy for the Pacific Northwest. Hebes with good flowering and general good landscape attributes also came out of this trial. At that time so little was known about Hebes. They had appeared on the gardening scene as an awesome plant from New Zealand and that was about it.

Gardeners loved Hebes but not much was known about how to be successful with them or which varieties or species were best for our area. Neil, with the help of other staff researchers, students and master gardeners took care of the Hebe plants and recorded data. I know that it is so hard for plant geeks to name favorites, but I had to ask Neil his favorite Hebes from the trials. He loves Hebe 'Hinerua' and Hebe 'Wiri Spears'.

Neil's next trial plants were Cean-

othus 2001 to 2007, Cistus (Rock Rose) and Halimium (False Sun Rose) 2004 to 2009.

The newest plants in trial at NWREC are Arctostaphylos (Manzanita) and Grevillea. These plants will be evaluated through 2016. In the meantime, he is figuring out the next plants to research.

For more information about all of these plant trials, click on the Northwest Plant Evaluations <http://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/content/northwest-plant-evaluation-program>.

Neil's other passion is traveling to botanically rich areas of the world. He was fortunate to see Araucaria araucana Monkey Puzzle Trees in their native habitat of Chile. The botanical area dedicated to preserving Monkey Puzzle Trees is called Sanctuaron el Cani and is located in The Lake Region. This area is about 500 miles south of Santiago, the capital of Chile. The Lake Region is similar to Western

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The 10 mile moderate hike winds through grassy hill-sides as it climbs to a plateau where he passed by familiar specimens of Chilean Fire Tree *Embothrium coccineum*, Azara and Barberries, the huge Southern Beech *Nothofagus dombeyi* and a tall bamboo species, *Chusquea* spp. He describes the Laguna Seca, a mountain lake and surrounding *Araucaria* trees as "Prehistoric". The numerous *Araucaria* in this area can top out at 80 feet and supposedly live to 2000 years.

He continued on the trail up to El Mirador where there

was still snow in the Southern Hemisphere summer month of December. The vista was a wondrous view of the Andes Mountains and volcanic peaks in the distance. What a hike!

Neil's other favorite botanical adventures are his 3 visits to The United Kingdom.

These trips were a bit less adventuresome than Chile, but showed him a treasure trove of plants. He toured The Royal Horticultural Society's Garden, Wisley in England and Logan Botanic Gardens in Southwest Scotland. Neil has a long list of gardens and natural areas to visit. Just this past winter, he hiked through a few desert preserves in Arizona.



View of part of Neil's garden



The perennial borders at RHS Garden Wisley, UK

I would be remiss to not ask about Neil's favorite plants. Since this is March, he is sharing his favorites for late winter/early spring.

Winter Honeysuckle *Lonicera x purpusii* - Small white fragrant flowers in early spring.

Fuchsia Flowered Gooseberry *Ribes speciosum* - Early March bright red to fuchsia colored flowers loved by Hummingbirds.

Grevillea victoriae - Red flowers from Dec to April. Probably the hardiest *Grevillea* for the PNW.

Neil's family includes State Berry Crop Specialist for Oregon, Bernadine Strik and 2 teen age daughters. Their 2 daughters are not that interested in gardening but are getting interested in cooking. He is glad they like to cook but said he will be happier when they develop an "interest in raking leaves".

Neil's home garden has taught him about drought tolerant plants and practices.

He planted an orchard and small fruits area about 10 years ago. At that time, he was on a strict watering schedule. A few years later, Neil hooked up his water supply to a local water co-op. He now has a larger supply of water for his edible garden and orchard.

"The apples and pears are noticeably bigger now".

The lawn and other sections of the landscape are not irrigated in the summer months. We all work with what we have in our gardens even the professionals.

Neil Bell is an interesting "Hortie" that helps our community in such a big way in training Master Gardeners and they in turn help to educate new gardeners. He also is bringing solid research to help the horticulture industry grow a better selection of plants for our gardens and landscapes. In all this, he is having fun at work and in plant exploration. I can't wait to hear where he travels to next.

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On top of El Mirador in
Santuario el Cani with Araucaria



Putting the “Fab” in Fabric

When it comes to trendy, it's all about color and scale.

by Robin Burke

Trendy means fashionable, up-to-date, stylish; but to some it also means “temporary”. When a \$40 poncho goes out-of-style you may not be riddled with buyer’s remorse, but a four-thousand-dollar sofa that hits the fashion skids in just two years, can bring on tears.

The good news is that fabric for the home does not go “out” as quickly as our garments do. With clothing, what was “in” last fall can be oh so “last year” by this fall. Home fabrics can be trendy, yet still look fresh in five years, and last even ten years.

Of course, trends do come and eventually go. Remember the deep red wall? Then it was taupe, then gray, and now possibly a huge throwback to white? The truth is, taupe is still here. It’s what Amy Estrin calls a “flexible neutral”. Estrin is the owner-buyer-

designer of “The Whole 9 Yards” on East Burnside. Her store is a maze of beautiful, touchable fabric that appeals to every taste, from modern to the true traditional, yet nothing is out-dated. That is her gift.

“It’s all about color and scale,” says Estrin. “Patterns like hounds tooth, flame stitch, irongate are all brought from an older time, but they have a modern look by increasing the scale of the pattern.”

Combining patterns with unexpected color (above) can bring them new life as well. “Combinations with a twist, like gray and yellow. A bright color can bring a different value when combined with gray—cool or warm. Gray gives other colors sophistication,” says Estrin.



There are examples of this all over her store. The traditional black and white hounds tooth breathes new life when enlarged in chartreuse and cream. Flame stitch is back with its lines a little more blurred and colors more current. Even damask gets a facelift with color and scale. The latest geometric pattern trends like chevron, tile, and basketweave are still in with the same practice applied—different sizes, interesting colors, and paired with other patterns.



Animal prints at this point have just about reached “timeless” proportions. They are still in force from leopard to zebra to giraffe. But like other well-worn



patterns, they too, are being stretched, tinted, shaded and ikatified. "Animal prints are more playful now, such as leopard in pink or chartreuse, but take it in proportion. Would you wear a dress, shoes and coat in leopard? No. Mix it in the home like you would your wardrobe—maybe just a pair of leopard-print heels."



Flower fans will be happy that big florals are back, too. You'll see subtle differences such as updated, stylish colors. Several designers are predicting that Chintz is back and we will be seeing it much more next year.

Color

For many years, a few decades even, beige was a bad word. Now, designers from Manhattan to Los

Angeles are saying beige is back for all things interior. But the truth is, says Estrin, "Beige never left." Instead, beige morphed into different names with different tones; sand, camel, tan, mushroom, buff, cream and my new favorite-- grayeige.



"This is not a washed-out beige", Estrin says. "Don't layer everything with the same color. You want a change in the value of color. Value is the light and dark of color. You don't want the room to be flattened. You want it to be richer by seeing the different values of the color." For example, Estrin says, "It's like coloring your hair. Using the same tone all over will look flat. You want to bring out the highlights. Same thing goes for a plate of food. A chicken breast, potatoes and cauliflower would look bland. You want to mix in some broccoli, something with color."

Beige may be the perfect neutral, but it can be a surprising chameleon. "Because it's in the taupe family, it really depends on lighting," Estrin explains. "The lighting in our store is different from the lighting in your home. Take home a sample and a particular color of beige fabric. It will be different in each room, depending on the lighting."

Gray has been a big hit recently as a grounding, back-ground color. The trick is keeping it on the warm side to be inviting and not cold.



Amy Estrin

That's where lavender steps her ladylike shoes into the room. It's being touted as one of the "new" interior colors for 2013 and for good reason says Estrin, "It's a fresher version that looks great with grays. In fact, there's more gray in the lavender."



Continuing with "hot" colors of the year we go back, way back. Pantone, the color matching gurus, claim Emerald green is the color of 2013. Estrin says it been a while since we've seen a jewel tone take center stage and it may be about time, but it's still all about the value of the color.



"I was just in Colombia, the home of emeralds. There are a lot of different shades of that gem. I think what we will be seeing is a clearer, more flexible version of that color coming to the marketplace."

Check out Pantone.com you will see the emerald color as a lively, fun hue and not the dark green reminiscent of vintage British wallpaper.

The last word on color is just what I had hoped to hear. If you love it-- it's "in". It's all about how you use it. One East Coast designer claims red is dead. Hold on a minute! "I'm a Color Girl!" exclaims Estrin. "I would never take a color out of the mix. Red is a primary color in the universe! I may not use it as a dominant color in the room, and remember there are a million shades of red. That large-scale hounds tooth (mentioned earlier) would look great with red piping. I think when people talk about what's "in", they also have a craving to say what's "out". But you can't just boot red out the door." Take that, East

Coast Designer.



Trending Up

And, if you think fashion on the runway eventually walks right into our living rooms, then expect to see lace overlay coming to the forefront. Yes, soon enough, even your grandmother's lace tablecloth could be called trendy.

It could happen, but for now, Estrin says, there is one, related trend she would very much like to see make a comeback: "The use of sheers behind drapes. When you have a window that opens, the body of the sheer billowing in the wind is so lovely. It's a bit more expensive because you have to use two rods and it's doubling the fabric, but it's so calming and beautiful."

Texture Trends

Wool is very big in Europe according to "Dwell" Editor Kelsey Keith.

"From chunky knit ottomans to trimly tailored sofas in bright hues to felted accessories, wool is omnipresent." Estrin says, "Wool is an exceptional product. It wears beautifully as upholstery and is a nice base texture to mix in other fabrics. A wool sofa is great with a velvet chair."

Whether you dream of the latest home fashions or you're happy with what you have; it's fabric—on pillows, upholstery, draperies, cushions, that is key to a fresh look, one yard at a time or the whole nine.



WTDITG

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. But, for gardeners, March is more like a turtle: Slow and steady wins the race. Keep up with your gardening regimen, prune and fertilize--and stay ahead of the weeds. March is the month of Spring, and the bare branches of winter will soon be sprouting forth with color!

PLANNING

- Have you been making notes in your garden journal? It'll be fun to see what all you were able to accomplish this year when you look back on your notes!



- Do more vegetable garden planning to take advantage of all the space available. For instance, planting pole beans at the base of corn plants is a great combo! As the beans grow they have the corn to grow on for support and the beans add back to the soil nitrogen needed by the corn.

- We recommend you research some additional companion planting for your vegetable crops. By planting 'companion plants' together and keeping disagreeable plants apart, you can have the best production ever! If you can tweak your planting

plan to allow for these little natural friendships to develop, then your harvests will be more bountiful than ever!

Ed Hume's seed website has some good info on companion planting or you can find lots of companion planting information in a book by Louise Riotte, "Carrots Love Tomatoes".

Here are just three examples;

Beans like celery and cucumbers but do not like onions and fennel.

Corn lives happily with pumpkins, peas, beans and cucumber but does not like tomatoes!

Tomatoes like carrots, onions and parsley but don't plant them near cabbage or cauliflower.



PLANTING

- This is a good 'general' planting and landscaping month, an excellent time to start looking at what's available to add color and drama to your landscaping. More stock will be available this time of year and the plants can get off to a great start as the soil begins to warm up.

- Your last chance to buy bare root fruit trees is this month. You want to get the bare root trees planted before they leaf out, so hurry in to your local garden center to see what's available.

- Plant berry crops: Strawber-



ries, blueberries and all the cane berries like raspberries and blackberries, currants and gooseberries.

TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Clean up perennials and divide daylilies, hosta, asters, garden mums and other summer and fall blooming perennials. Cut back dormant perennial grasses to 2" above soil.

- Fertilize trees and shrubs, if you haven't yet, with an all purpose slow release fertilizer. This is the 'last chance' month to apply this six-month slow release formula. You want it to be used up by

What To Do In The Garden

MARCH

your plants by the end of July. This way your plants will have the months of August and September to get toughened up for winter.



- Prune roses if you haven't yet. Thin them out, spacing the branches you leave for best sun exposure. Fertilize

roses with a granular slow release fertilizer to keep them strong and healthy, making the rose bush better able to resist disease and insects. Watch for aphids as they love the new growth on roses.

- Prune flowering trees and shrubs when they finish flower-

ing. After forsythia's blooms fade is when you should prune it. Cut out up to 1/3rd of the stems or branches all the way down to the ground. This allows for the new stems to grow that will bloom next season. Look up pruning tips for each plant you are thinking of working on. Your research now will payoff later in better looking trees and shrubs.

- Spread compost over the veggie garden and landscape beds to help enrich the soil.

- Early spring is a good time to apply a lawn fertilizer with extra iron for moss control. The seed germination inhibiting iron will be gone in time for your grass seed- ing in late April.

- Weeds? Remember that if weeds are allowed to go to seed, more and more work will be added to your garden. Keep up with this task by pulling them or covering the weeds with newspaper and compost, letting them rot beneath and then turning them into the soil once rotted.

- Watch for slugs. Use Bonide's slug bait called 'Slug Magic' to kill slugs safely with its active ingredient, iron phosphate.



VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Check soil temperatures often this month to see what can be planted out by seed. Refer back to the soil temperature chart (in our January issue) for planting vegetables by seed out into the garden. The chart also lists the best soil temperatures for planting young starts.



- Vegetable garden: Apply organic compost to the soil. Spade in this amendment or roto-till. (If soil is still too wet, just spade in amendments as spading is better for the soil structure anyway).

- Start plants indoors, using good organic seed starting soil; broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chives, green onions, leeks, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

- Plant seeds outdoors, unless otherwise specified; beets, garden peas, fava beans, cabbage starts, cilantro, garlic cloves, green onion starts, onion sets, shallots, mustard greens, spinach, swiss chard and radishes.

Plant most of the perennial varieties of veggies now like asparagus crowns, artichokes horseradish and rhubarb. Plant carrot seeds at the end of the month.

- Plant Walla Walla onion set starts and the dry white, yellow or red onion sets.

- Pick up your seed potatoes this month as soon as they are available, since they should be chitted first before planting. (It's not a mistake, we do mean chit!) 'Chitting' potatoes is a term that means pre-sprouting seed potatoes. Place the seed spuds in a single layer, eyes facing up, in a cool frost free (no lower than 50F) but well-lit space. Good strong



light, even sun, is best for creating the plump, strong stubby sprouts, not any long weak sprouts you see from stored potatoes. When the sprouts are about 3/4"-1" long the tubers can be planted out in the garden. Chitting first helps with an earlier and larger harvest.



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Amazing Evergreens: Conifers

Saturday March 2, 2013 • 10:00am-2:00pm

Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, OR

Join us for this 2nd annual event and see some amazing conifers! Conifers are beautiful, easy-care plants that add year-round interest and color to any yard. Talk to local experts and hear how these evergreen plants can make your yard spectacular. Registration not required. Cost: No charge.

Spring Lawn Care

Saturday March 2, 2013 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

with Lyle Feilmeier of Collier Arbor Care

Looking for ways to maintain your lawn in a more sustainable way? Join Lyle Feilmeier, of Collier Arbor Care, and learn how to naturally keep a healthy and beautiful lawn. Lyle will go over the seasonal needs of your lawn, the best products to use, and give some great tips for achieving a more sustainable lawn! Lyle Feilmeier is an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist with Collier Arbor Care.

Intro to Urban Fruit Trees

Sunday March 3, 2013 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

with Monica Maggio of Core Home Fruit Services LLC

Thinking of growing fruit trees on your urban lot? Learn some great tips and techniques for successfully growing fruit trees with Monica Maggio, of Core Home Fruit Services LLC. Monica will discuss site requirements and preparation, pollination needs, maintenance requirements of different fruits, and how to select a good fruit tree. She will also talk about general care, maintenance, and common pests.

Only the Best Fruit Trees & Berries for the Pacific NW

Saturday March 9, 2013 • 11:00am

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

There are many varieties of fruit trees and berries that love to grow in our Pacific Northwest climate. Please join us as we dig deeper into this delicious and nutritious subject! We will cover pollination, fertilization, pruning, and care so you can go home and grow an abundance of these sweet treats in your landscape.

Seeds in the Garden

Saturday March 9, 2013 • 1:00pm

Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR

Bauman's Winter Mother Daughter Tea & Talk - Topic: "Seeds in the Garden," Join us as we help pass on the joy of gardening to the next generation by demonstrating how to plant some of our favorite seed annuals." (RSVP Required) \$25

Grow Your Own Mushrooms

Sunday March 10, 2013 • 1:00-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

with Tony Migas and Ed Foy of the Oregon Mycological Society. Learn how to grow your own mushrooms with members of the Oregon Mycological Society. Tony and Ed will share great tips and techniques for how to successfully grow many different types of mushrooms in the comfort of your own home and garden. The Society will have mushroom starter kits of Oyster, Shiitake, Stropharia, and Hericium mushrooms available for \$20.00 each, and plug spawn of Shiitake and Oyster mushrooms for growing on logs available for \$10.00/ bag of approximately 100 plugs. User-friendly instructions included. If properly cared for, these kits can provide years of fungal fun, potentially for a lifetime! Pre-order to make sure you get the ones you want by contacting Tony at thefungi@comcast.net or phone/fax at 360-576-8520.

Easy Spring Bonsai Care

Saturday March 16, 2013 • 11:00am

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Your Bonsai can thrive with the proper attention and March is a good time to do some upkeep. Greg will help you get your bonsai runway ready with this seminar on easy spring care. He'll teach you about proper fertilization for this time of year and assist with repotting. You'll also learn his surefire recipe for the perfect bonsai soil mix. Don't forget to bring your bonsai with you! There will be a fee for any potting materials used during class. Silent observers are welcome free of charge.

Beginning Gardening

Saturday, March 16, 2013 • 1:00pm

Al's Garden Center, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, OR

We are all beginning gardeners at some point, but experienced gardeners like nothing better than sharing knowledge they have acquired over the years. Come listen to a roundtable of OSU Extension Master Gardeners as well as other regional experts as they share valuable information. This will be very interactive, so bring all of your gardening questions! Registration not required. Cost: No charge.

Speakers: OSU Extension Master Gardeners & other experts.

Small Gardening Seminar

Sunday March 17, 2013 • 1:00pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Even the smallest garden can be transformed into an earthly delight when you know how to make the most out of limited square footage. Balconies, rooftops, townhouse patios, and postage-stamp-size front yards alike can yield spectacular results with the right focal point, plants, and an expert trick or two. Whether you are living in a new suburb, an apart-

continued next column



ment or just leave the rest wild, this seminar offers inventive, attainable solutions, plus recommendations for plants and products that help maximize your space.

Ladies Night Out: "Spring Showcase"

Thursday, March 21, 2013 • 5:00pm-8:00pm

Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, OR

Al's is proud to host our first-ever Ladies Night Out: "Spring Showcase". Similar to our popular summer event, we invite you to indulge in an evening of fun, food, and friends! Mark your calendar, you deserve a night out! For more details go to als-gardencenter.com. Register at als-gardencenter.com, or call the Sherwood store at 503-726-1162. Cost: No charge.

Backyard Honey Bees 101

Saturday March 23, 2013 • 1:00-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

with Brian Lacy of livehoneybees.com

Honeybees can be a wonderful addition to a garden, increasing the productivity of your fruits and veggies, providing animation and music in your flower beds, and of course offering a bit of healthful sweetness to the tally of your garden's production. Learn to successfully give bees a home at your home. Brian Lacy of livehoneybees.com will cover siting, permitting, the four seasons of bees, as well as harvesting honey, wax, pollen and propolis.

Plant Up an Edible Easter Basket

Saturday March 23, 2013 • 1:00-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

with Maggie Stuckey, author of *The Bountiful Container*

Celebrate the coming of spring with a lovely container of edible plants and flowers! For those with limited space, for convenience and ease, or just for the beauty of it, putting edibles in containers is a great idea. Maggie is one of our favorite teachers. HANDS ON, \$30 materials fee

Member's Day Event

Saturday March 23, 2013

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Catch William and Judy at the Member's Day event. Check the website for more details. www.garlandnursery.com

Tried & True and Some New, Too!

Saturday March 23, 2013 • 11:00am

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Taking care of plants doesn't have to consume all of your time and energy; there are some varieties that require very little from their human caretakers. In this seminar Lisa will share with you some of her favorite easy-to-care-for varieties that

continued next column

have been tried-and-true as well as a few that you may not have heard of just yet because they're new for 2013.

Ladie's Night Out

Thursday March 28, 2013

French Prairie Gardens, St. Paul, OR

Catch William and Judy at FPG's "Ladie's Night Out". Check the website for more details. www.fpggardens.com

Special One Day Sale

March 30, 2013 • 10:00am-4:00pm

Hydrangeas Plus, Aurora OR

Come by and see us on location at Hydrangeas Plus Annual Spring Break Sale March 24th 10 am - 4pm. Our other plant fanatic friends Sebright Gardens, Dancing Oaks and Fry Road Nursery will be selling there as well. This is part of our cooperative efforts to showcase these keen growers in each of our four locations this season. So come on by for one stop shopping and see what plants will be new and exciting additions to your garden.

Gardens for Hummingbirds, Butterflies & Bees

Sunday March 31, 2013 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

with Jolie Grindstaff of Portland Nursery

Portland Nursery's Jolie Grindstaff shares her experience in attracting these beautiful and beneficial winged creatures to the garden and offers plant ideas and gardening techniques to help your garden buzz to life.

Bonsai Techniques: Forests

Sunday March 31, 2013 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

with George Bowman of Portland Nursery

Join bonsai expert George Bowman, Store Manager at Portland Nursery-Division, for the final bonsai class in the 4-part series. Through live demonstrations and "trees in training" displays, George will explore the miniature forest, grove, raft and landscape bonsai styles. He will also discuss proper tree selection, pruning, wiring and potting. Although this class is focused on outdoor bonsai, the styles apply to indoor bonsai as well.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

You will find more events and updated information on the Garden Time Events Calendar
www.gardentime.tv/events.htm

"Together, We Create the Message"

-Jeff Gustin, President

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