

June 2015

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

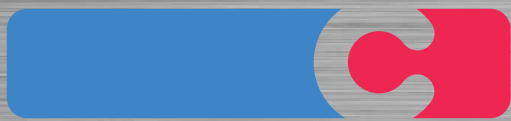
Knock Out Roses When Things Go "Bloom"

PHOTO CREDIT: STAR ROSES AND PLANTS

The Sunny Knock Out Rose

Hike the Columbia Gorge
Raised-Bed Pallet Planters

Margie's Farm & Gardens'
Margie Barnett



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June Bug

June, the beginning of summer... and bug season! June bugs are beetles that start to swarm in the month of June and they are an apt representative of the coming onslaught of flying, creeping and crawling pests of the summer season. Actually, sometimes this swarm of different bugs is a good thing. A lot of these critters are pollinators, beneficial insects and predators. These are the good bugs of the garden. It pays to know the difference between the good and bad bugs. I have found that even mosquitos are a good sign... it means our bats have returned as well. Even this early in the season I have seen 2-3 bats in the early evening hours flying overhead. They are having a feast right now getting rid of all those mosquitos that are going after me in the garden.

June bugs are also known for attacking bright lights in the early evening. In fact, anyone who is mindlessly repetitive can be considered a 'June bug'. That seems to be me in the garden sometimes. I hate plants that are not performing, but year after year I go back to pruning them back and hoping for better blooms or more fruit. This repetitive nonsense is ending for one cherry tree and a Clerodendron. One doesn't produce fruit and has a ton of diseases, and the other is suckering all over the garden and is starting to fall down. Next year you won't be calling me a 'June Bug'.

Finally, for some people, a June bug is someone who is cute. Kind of like 'as cute as a bug'. Right now most people have June bug gardens. I would say that most gardens are looking pretty cute right now. I really love walking through the garden and looking at all the color. This transition between spring and summer is fantastic for getting out and entertaining with friends, or just sitting and reading a book!

This month we have some 'June bug' cute types of stories. Our first one is a story by Judy on the wildflower hikes you can take in the Columbia River Gorge. Walking these meadows is like traveling to another country. Judy found 2 of the easiest hikes in the gorge at Shepperd's Dell and Latourell Falls so you can enjoy the walk and not get too tired! This month we also feature a story on 'Knock Out Roses'. These 'easy to maintain' roses are the most widely sold rose in the United States. Developed by a rose lover here in the states, this rose is hardy to -20, blooms all summer long, and is disease resistant. It's a great rose for our area or for a person who is just beginning to garden. Speaking of roses, Sarah looks at rose petals and how you can use them in cooking and decorating. Most people don't know that certain varieties of roses can be served at the dinner table and can add a unique flavor to your entrees and desserts. Finally, William shows us how to use pallets to build raised beds for our garden. This is a cool idea that William has used in the past to make gardening easier for his parents. Getting a garden up and off the ground can make all the difference for those older gardeners.

I would also like to bring everyone up to date on Garden Time tours. As many of you know, we are now doing occasional tours. We have taken viewers on trips to Victoria BC and Costa Rica. Now we are offering a couple more tours you might be interested in. The first tour is this summer. On July 17th we will be leading a bus tour around the northern Willamette Valley. We will be making stops at Heirloom Roses, French Prairie Gardens, Garden Gallery Iron Works and Sebright Gardens among others. We end with a fantastic Farm to Table dinner!

The other trip is set for summer of 2016 and will take us to Ireland. We'll tour gardens, visit historic sites and dive into the Irish culture. If you have ever wanted to travel to Ireland AND see great gardens then this is the trip for you! Costs are being finalized for both tours but you can get your name on the list for either of these great trips. Just click on the Garden Time Tours link on our website, <http://www.gardentime.tv/tours/index.htm>.

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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WHEN THINGS GO "BLOOM"

There are many reasons they call this rose a "Knock Out."

by Judy Alleruzzo

Knock Out Rose at Will Radler's House

PHOTO CREDIT: BJ HARARINGTON

The story behind Knock Out Roses goes back many years to a little boy's love of roses.

Will Radler has loved roses his whole life. He bought his first rose when he was about nine yrs old. It is legend that the first rose he bought cost him 49 cents. His parents told him it may not survive the extreme Wisconsin winters but Radler persevered and the rose grew and thrived!

As a teenager, Radler joined the Rose Society in his town to learn from the veteran rose hobbyists.

His love of roses grew from there and he delved into judging flowers at the local rose shows.

In the mid 1970's, Will Radler began to breed roses. His interest in roses pushed him to try

to create a hardy, easy to grow rose plant for gardeners across the country.

He wanted to "breed the maintenance out of roses" so everyone would grow them in their gardens.

By 1989, Will Radler eventually crossed enough roses to get the first Knock Out Rose. After being trialed at Star Roses and Plants for several years, the variety was submitted to the ultimate rose contest, All American Rose Selection (AARS). In 2000, the first Knock Out Rose was named the prestigious All American Rose Selection.

Star Roses and Plants, owned by Conard-Pyle Co "is proud to have introduced all seven members of The Knock Out family of roses". According to the Star Roses web-

site, the original Knock Out Rose "is the most widely sold rose in North America".

Roses are known for the beauty of their flowers but for the Knock Out series, the beauty is both in the flowers and also their ease of care!

Roses usually have 3 bloom cycles lasting 4-5 weeks for each cycle.

Knock Out Roses have 4 or more bloom cycles. That's almost 20 weeks of blooming roses.

The positive attributes of Knock Out Roses makes a long list --

- Long Bloom Time
- Grows well across North America



**The Blushing
Knock Out Rose**

- Self Cleaning Plant (The old roses fall off with new foliage and blooms are right behind)
- Black Spot Resistant
- Drought tolerant after planted 1 year
- Grows well in Full Sun
- Hardy to -20°F , USDA Zone 5

Knock Out Roses are beautiful roses and workhorses in the garden.

They can be used as landscape shrubs in mass plantings of color, as a single blooming focal point and even as a flowering hedge. Most Knock Outs can grow to 6ft tall by 6ft wide but can easily be pruned to 3ft tall by 3ft wide. Start a bit of pruning in spring to push a more branching, dense



The Knock Out Rose



The Pink Double Knock Out Rose

habit.

In spring and throughout the blooming season feed the plants with a rose fertilizer.

So that's all the care needed for each of the 7 roses in the Knock Out family.

Will Radler and the others that have bred them have made these roses so beautiful and easy for us all to have in our gardens. If you think you don't have time to take care of roses this summer, I dare you to try a Knock Out. You'll be very happy you planted one!



The Pink Knock Out Rose

Star Roses and Plants

<http://www.starrosesand-plants.com/plants/series/knock-out-family-roses>



The Rainbow Knock Out Rose

ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE, CREDIT: STAR ROSES AND PLANTS

Knock Out Roses 101

- Knock Out Rose® First Knock Out Rose. Rich Cherry Red flowers, bred by Will Radler
- Double Knock Out Rose® Fully double flower of Rich Cherry Red, bred by Will Radler
- Blushing Knock Out® Rose Light Pink flowers fade to a lighter Pink, found by Yoder Brothers
- Pink Double Knock Out ®Rose Double Petals of Bubble Gum Pink, bred by Will Radler
- Pink Knock Out ®Rose Medium Pink Flowers, found by Star Roses and Plants
- Sunny Knock Out Rose® Fragrant Lemon Yellow buds open to Creamy Yellow blooms. Yellow color stays longer in cool temperatures. A bit more upright, compact plant than other Knock Outs. Hardy to -30°F, USDA Zone 4
- Rainbow Knock Out Rose® Flowers are Coral Pink with Yellow centers, new foliage is dark burgundy to green. The variety is more compact than other Knock Out Roses.



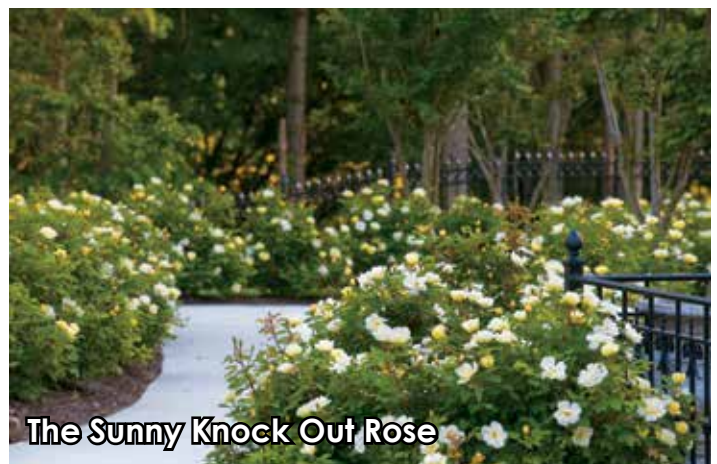
The Blushing Knock Out Rose



The Double Knock Out Rose



The Pink Knock Out Rose



The Sunny Knock Out Rose

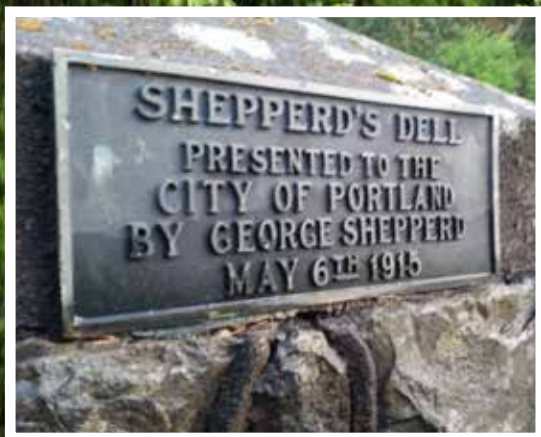


The Pink Double Knock Out Rose

Ready, Set, Hike!

Some of the best hiking in the country
can be found in your own backyard.

by Judy Alleruzzo



The Falls at Shepperd's Dell

Summer is here and it's the time to be in our gardens and to be out in nature.

The Pacific Northwest is filled with the wonders of the natural world and it's right outside our front door. We are all usually busy gardening in those first dry and warm days of spring. But when June comes around, there is time to explore the wild nature a little further afield than our vegetable patch or flowers beds.

June is an awesome time to be in the Columbia Gorge to take a walk and enjoy the natural world. There are many easy or difficult trails to select to view native plants and wildflowers. A good resource to check out for Columbia Gorge hikes is the Friends of the Gorge website.

Click on "Hike The Gorge" and drill down to "Plan Your Hike" and you can complete the check list to fine tune your walk in the woods.

There is a website for wildflower sightings as well at www.wildflowersearch.com.

Steven K. Sullivan is the person behind this clearing house of wildflower locations and photos of the plants. The site shows many areas of Oregon and Washington but also highlights wildflowers in



Multnomah Falls

**Friends of the
Columbia Gorge**

www.gorgefriends.org

**"Hiking Waterfalls
in Oregon"**

Author Adam Sawyer

**Wildflower ID
and Sightings**

wildflowersearch.com

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False Lily of the Valley



Oxalis and Fringe Flower

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When planning my walk, I called my friend Paula Schreiner Wolf who is an avid hiker in and around Oregon. I'm not in as good a shape as she is so I had a few requests for the hiking trail. I asked for a hike with not too much rise in elevation, waterfalls and a trail with lots of native plants and wildflowers. Paula and I looked at the 2 websites above plus we poured over a few Oregon hiking books. We settled on Shepperd's Dell and Latourell Falls on the Old Columbia Gorge Highway.

Shepperd's Dell is about a 2/10th of a mile walk with an easy grade. It is kind of hidden from the roadway and doesn't have a big parking area. Get there early to get a spot.

Walk down the few stone steps and you seem to be

transported deep into the wilderness of the Gorge. Yes, you do hear road noise but you are almost totally surrounded by a world in shades of green. As you keep walking down the pathway, the road noise is drowned out by a waterfall. The drier days of late spring has lessened the water falls' volume but the falls are still beautiful. I made a note to return in winter.

As we walked toward the falls, I noticed Fringe Flowers, Native Oxalis, 5 fingered Maidenhair Ferns and Scouler's Corydalis. I knew the Corydalis by the flower but didn't know this exact species which is about 3ft tall! I looked it up when I returned home.

These native plant names came easy to my old brain from Girl Scout camp so many years ago and researching NW Natives when moving here almost 20 years ago. That old game of "Name That Plant" is still fun.



Corydalis Scouleri



Cow Parsnip



Delphinium Patch

We lingered a bit at the falls, feeling the spray on our faces and watching the water mist in the dappled sunlight. As we stood looking at the waterfall, we commented on the time it took for the falls to erode the rock and make such a beautiful scene.

Next stop was Latourell Falls a few miles east on the Old Gorge Highway.

It is a longer loop walk of 2.4 miles with a moderate grade of 520 ft in elevation gain. Doesn't sound too bad but I did huff and puff a bit, gotta get to the gym more often.

Along this walk we saw the last blooms of the native Delphiniums, Trillium and native Bleeding Hearts' foliage. We were several weeks late to see these blooms in their full beauty. The falls make an impressive 249-foot drop into a large pool of water. The rock face is mottled with chartreuse colored lichen that looks iridescent in the sunlight.

The rock formation is impressive too.

This trail was a bit more crowded with smiling faced fellow hikers. I know there is talk that young people and children in general, don't venture outdoors. That was not the case this day. We were



Latourell Falls

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Hiking Team
Judy and Paula

Tips

Paula and I arrived at the Gorge before 9:00am so we were almost the only hikers.

It's a good feeling to experience the trails without jostling for trail space with the other revelers.

Check out the trail route from the web or bring a trail map (There is usually a map at the trail head)

Stay on the trail

Bring your own water as sometimes there is not a potable water source

Bring a snack or lunch

Of course comfortable shoes and a camera/smart phone

Wildflowers and native plants to see late spring and early summer

You may not see a flower but the foliage of many of these will be visible until frost, sometimes all winter long.

5 Fingered Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum pedatum*

Broadleaf Sedum *Sedum spathulifolium*

False Lily of the Valley *Maianthemum dilatatum*

False Solomon's Seal *Maianthemum racemosum*

Inside Out Flower *Vancouveria hexandra*

Redwood Sorrel *Oxalis oreganum*

Scouler's Corydalis *Corydalis scouleri*

Fringe Flower *Tellima grandiflora*

Sword Fern *Polystichum munitum*

Trillium *Trillium ovatum*

Western Bleeding Hearts *Dicentra formosa*

Western Starflower *Trientalis latifolia*

in good company with young and old taking in the sights on this beautiful day.

As a side note, I hiked to the top of Multnomah Falls a few weeks later with my niece, Mary, from Chicago. Now that was a busy trail as we did not get there until 3 p.m.

I think this area is the most visited by tourists and Oregonians! Whatever the amount of traffic, this hike is worth the trip. The falls are dramatic and a must see in any season of the year. I did see Poison Oak Toxicodendron diversilobum, growing with Starflower on the trail so remember to be careful of "leaves of 3, beware of thee". On a woodland hike, don't touch any plant you aren't able to identify.

Another word of warning is the plant, Cow Parsnip Heracleum lantanum. This plant can give you a terrible rash.

I had wonderful days hiking with Paula and Mary.

I'm glad I made the time to get out to The Columbia Gorge. It's a good, close by adventure for all to experience. In my nostalgia of remembering plant names, I remembered a Girl Scout rule of good outdoor stewardship "Take only photos and leave only footsteps" when you walk in the woods. I hope to be outdoors as much as possible this summer and fall. I hope you take the time to enjoy these hikes too.



Dicentra Fomosa

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- www.thesquarepdx.org

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Cleansing the Pallet

How you can create, recycle and save in one easy step.

by William McClenathan

For many gardeners recycling has become a concept we use every day. We work hard to use only what we really need, and create things from what others see as useless.

We also have discovered that raised beds work great for edible plants, affording many of the root vegetables the soil they need to produce the best crops possible while making the work of gardening easier on our physical bodies.

What if we could accomplish both of these concepts and save a lot of money too?

You can, by using pallets to create easy and inexpensive raised beds, making them from the old pallets which industries of every kind use to ship products. And often, you can get those pallets for free.

In one of the garden centers I have owned, I had to create

raised beds in my edible area. Not only for a place to grow amazing root vegetables and other edibles, but also because my parents lived with me and I wanted them to be able to enjoy working in the garden as well as facilitate their ability to harvest the produce easier.

I have seen a trend becoming popular on reusing pallets for all kinds of things. Pathways, storage and furniture of every kind.

And, because quite often pallets are made from strong woods, they can last for many, many years before time and the elements force them to begin to decompose. This makes them perfect for long term outdoor use.

As I had several pallets at the nursery, the idea came to me to create raised beds out of them.

Like all good people, I went online to get some ideas. I did not find much back then, so I forged

ahead on my own.

I wanted these raised beds to be tall enough so mom and dad could be standing as they worked. A pallet is generally about 3'-4' in height and width, making the need to cut them irrelevant.

All that was required was a way to connect them so they would be strong enough to hold the pressure of approximately 64 square foot of soil.

I came up with the idea of using 3" screws. But I still had concerns, so I added the metal strapping tape which is used to hang pipes from ceilings or make water heaters stable during an earthquake.

This worked splendidly.

The raised beds were both stable and easy to work in. Even mom could stand and support herself and feel safe while doing so.

I also realized that some people



were wheelchair bound. So I took 8 pallets, cut them in half and made raised beds which were accessible to those people bound by wheelchairs.

I lined the interior with black plastic from Home Depot (which you can buy in bulk rolls) just by stapling them on with a staple gun.

But your creativity is the limit. You could also use shade cloth material. I would think by trying to keep the color dark to black though, you enhance the effect of the sun in heating up the soil. Your warm weather vegetables will appreciate that.

The idea of raised beds has become a constant now. And Google now has entire websites devoted to building things from old pallets.

So if you want to create some raised beds, doing so with little cost, consider using pallets. An easier planting, maintenance and harvest will be your reward.

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Hanging In There

Margie Barnett found success by putting her dreams in one basket.

by Therese Gustin

Anyone who's been to Garden-Palooza and seen Margie's Farm and Garden's booth knows the beauty of her lovely annual containers. Knowing her family's roots, she couldn't help but follow in the footsteps of her family's farming history.

Margie Barnett is a native Oregonian and grew up in Aurora just down the road from where her nursery currently stands. She grew up on a vegetable and grass seed farm and worked on the farm every summer. She loved the time spent being outside and working with her parents and 6 sisters. Her summers were spent transplanting cauliflower and hoeing weeds out of the field. When most of us were worried about peer pressure, cliques and bullying in middle school, Margie was driving a tractor in the broccoli harvest and afterwards driving swathers and combines in the grass. After getting her driver's license, she started to drive a



Margie Barnett

truck so she could haul the crops to the cannery.

Margie and her sisters were also heavily involved in 4H. She especially liked the horticulture area of 4H. Her dad supported her passion for horticulture by building a small greenhouse (15 x 30) in their backyard where she grew 30 hanging baskets for her mom and other bedding plants for her yard and 4H projects. Margie remembers people stopping by wondering where they bought their beautiful baskets. She talked with her parents and

they thought it would be fun to build a bigger greenhouse and see if they could sell any alongside their road.

By now Margie started going to school at Oregon State in the Horticulture program. "My Junior year was the first year we started selling our products along the road with a folding table. My mom would take care of the flowers during the week and I would come home on the weekend to work." That same summer Margie married Thomas Barnett and they just kept expanding the

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hanging basket and bedding plant business from there. Every year for the next few years they built a new greenhouse. The demand for their plants continued to grow and they were able to buy a farm

and move their business just down the road from her parent's farm.

The expansion of her business took her to the Canby



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Betsy, Emily, James and Adam Barnett



Saturday market. Then she started selling at the Beaverton Saturday market and had a booth at the Canby Spring Garden Fair. About 7 years ago they added in another weekend show in Washington and of course for many years have participated in GardenPalooza. "We thought of these events as good advertising. It was getting too busy at the greenhouse and we had to give up Canby Saturday market a few years ago. This year we sadly decided not to go to the Beaverton Farmers market. We love going to these markets but it takes a lot of manpower to get product ready to go and work the event and clean up. "

In addition to all the colorful annuals and hanging baskets, Margie has expanded into growing herbs and vegetable starts, succulents and patio pots. They grow 95% of their plants. Her customers were demanding perennials which they really hadn't grown much of before so she asked her brother-in-law, who is in the nursery business, to custom grow for them.

Two years ago she partnered up with one of her brothers-in law and started selling Christmas trees. With his connections and her good location it was a great fit. They have expanded their Christmas tree business a lot with their \$10 and up trees of 3 different varieties and plan to sell wreathes, center pieces and more this year.

What started out as a way to provide fruit for jam for the family ended up as another part of the family business. Margie and her husband grow 5 acres of strawberries which supply their customers at the nursery, their family and a few other stores. Last year the Garden Time crew got to sample their delicious strawberries when Margie made us one of her fabulous strawberry pies. (www.youtube.com/embed/ogf4F_Ce3KU).

Just as Margie and her sisters grew up helping on the family farm, Margie and Thomas's four children are following in their

footsteps. Emily (9) can answer most any question a customer has and loves to help people pick out flowers. James (7) and Adam (5) pull carts around the nursery and help load up cars. Betsy is 2 but will soon be helping her parents and siblings too. All four kids have grown up in the greenhouse and love every minute of it. They all spent a lot of time in the backpack being carried around when they were babies. Margie's customers have loved watching her kids grow up through the years. Who knows, maybe someday we will be shopping for those amazing colorful hanging baskets at Margie's, Emily's, James', Adam's and Betsy's Farm and Garden!



The Barnett Family

Check out our website to see all of our upcoming gardening events. >>

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Candy AND Flowers

With rose petals, it
can be both.

by Sarah Gustin

The rose is a staple of the garden. It is well known around the world and a symbol of love, beauty, compassion, and friendship, the rose is by far the most recognizable flower. Especially appreciated in Portland, the rose city with its famous rose garden, the rose is a plant that can dazzle every sense. Roses will add a distinctive yet delicate flavor to any dish.

When using roses in cooking you must ensure that they are free of any pesticides. That pretty much rules out any commercial store-bought roses. As with any plant you consume it is always best fresh from your own garden! The rule of thumb when choosing roses to eat is: the more fra-

grant, the more flavorful. Make sure to harvest your rose petals while they are at their peak, right when the bud is about to open. Gently grasp the bud at the base and twist the petals free. Even though you are harvesting pesticide-free petals, you still need to gently rinse them to remove bugs, dust, and dirt. Pat your petals dry and they are ready to be used in any of these super simple recipes!

Rose infused honey

This super simple recipe would make an amazing gift or pantry staple. Simply fill a jar about halfway with clean, unblemished rose petals and top with

honey. Seal and let them steep for about a week, then strain the honey into a decorative sealable jar. Trick to straining honey is to first warm the jar in a bowl of hot water. Your infused honey should keep a year or longer in a cool dark place. Add a spoonful to your tea for a special treat.

Candied rose petals

I've always been in awe of pastries adorned with delicate candied flowers. To me it made a very expensive little treat worth every penny. I was just so pleased when I found out how easy they were to make with edible flowers from my own garden! Start with clean dry petals. Whisk an egg white with 1 teaspoon of water. Pour some superfine sugar in a bowl (note: "superfine sugar" is the same as "baker's sugar". You can make it by pulsing granulated sugar a few times in a food processor, or just use granulated sugar plain). Set up an assembly line: petals, egg wash, sugar, and wax paper. Use a paintbrush to gently paint one petal at a time with egg wash. Then, dust the petal with sugar and let sit on wax paper until it is dry (up to several hours). Voila! You have an elegant decoration for your cakes,



Cake with Candied Rose Petals

PHOTO CREDIT: GOOGLE IMAGES



Pick a rose at its peak.

PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL STIRLING



Ripe Rose Hips

cupcakes and pastries. Candied rose petals should be used immediately.

Rosewater

Rosewater can be very simple or very complex. If you want simple (like I do) steep your fresh petals in hot water and strain. If you want a more refined method of infusing rosewater, get a large pot and place a small heavy bowl upside down in the center. On top of that bowl, place another small bowl right side up. Fill your pot (around the bowls, not inside them) with rose petals. Cover your petals with water, and heat until they start to steam and wilt. Place the lid on your pot upside down. Put ice on top of the lid to aid the condensation that will be happening inside your pot, replacing the ice as it melts. The rose-infused steam will collect on your lid and drip down into your bowl. Continue the process until all of the water covering your petals has simmered away.

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Ripe Rose Hips

Rosewater can be added to any baking project you may have to create a richer layer of flavor. Traditionally it is added to flavor marzipan, and pairs well with almonds in general. Add a little to batters and frostings to elevate cookies and cupcakes to another level. Rosewater can be stored in a sealed jar for up to a year.

Rose hips

Rose hips are the often underappreciated fruit that all roses produce when their beautiful blooms have faded and gone. Often people prune back dying flowers to encourage more growth, but if left to its natural life cycle a rose will give you a fabulous treasure.



A whole candied rose.

Rose hips are some of the highest natural sources of vitamin C, and have been used in cooking for centuries. Once they are cleaned, rose hips can be dried or cooked down to make tea, jams, jellies, or sauces.

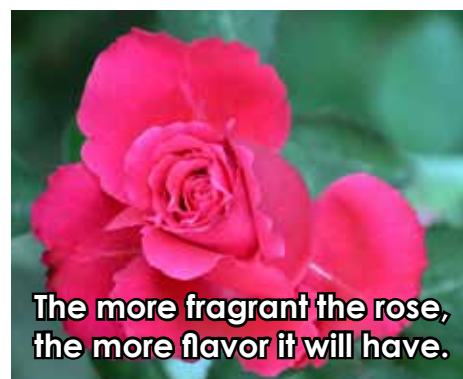
Cooking with roses is not nearly as intimidating as it sounds. Nothing beats the joy of having rose honey tea and staring out at the stunning rose bush it originated from. And with a little effort now, you can be enjoying your summer flowers all year long! And just imagine how impressed your friends will be when you present your "rose-infused" baked goods at your next summer bar-b-que.



Roses from your garden are best.



Pink Rose Petals



The more fragrant the rose, the more flavor it will have.



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www.MillersManorGardens.com

GTN Garden Thyme Nursery
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www.GardenThymeNursery.com

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www.SecretGardenGrowers.com

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Follow the Trail for a Plant Adventure!

OLD

CLEANED

STAINED

Wood You Like to Know?

With a little elbow grease, old wood can be made like new again.

by David Musial

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.CHARLOTTECOMMERCIALPAINTING.NET

They say that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and when it comes to caring for outdoor wood, this saying couldn't be truer. Mother Nature takes her toll through sun, wind and rain, but with regular care you can protect your investment and increase the life of outdoor wood products.

Most of us only think of decks and fences when we think of outdoor wood. However, the list also encompasses playsets, chairs and tables, arbors and even wood planters (we will collectively refer to all as outdoor wood products). All of these products are subject to the same harsh outdoor environment and require similar care. The other thing all these products have in common is that they are relatively expensive. Whether you have teak outdoor furniture or a cedar deck, you have made an investment

and like all investments, it needs to be protected.

Although the wood used for outdoor products is selected for its ability to weather the environment, all wood will deteriorate over time. As wood ages, small cracks appear allowing moisture to penetrate causing the wood to expand and as it dries, the wood contracts. This repeated expansion and contraction will ultimately cause the wood to develop large cracks and split. When wood holds moisture and does not dry out, it can develop algae which is unsightly and causes stains, and in the case of decks can be dangerous since they will become very slippery. Trust me on this one; I have landed on my backside due to a slippery deck! Additionally, moisture that doesn't dry can also cause rot in wood.

Protecting your outdoor wood

is as simple as one, two, three. One inspection, two cleaning and three finishing. Oh yeah, there is one other thing required and that's time. Yes, it takes time to care for your outdoor wood, but like my father said, "Pay now or pay later". I've taken the pay later route and it meant paying for a new deck!

Let's get started.

Inspection...

In most areas, late spring to early summer is a great time to get started on caring for your outdoor wood. The first step is to inspect and evaluate the condition. Start by looking for signs of rot. You can use a flat blade screwdriver and gently press into the wood. If it goes in more than a quarter of an inch, there is a good chance the wood has rotted and will need to be replaced.

Next, check all the structural components. For decks, this includes checking the framing under the actual deck. If your deck has a railing check to make sure posts are not loose or damaged. For fences, all posts and gates should be checked. Playsets can be dangerous if not structurally sound. Make sure all supporting components are sound.

Lastly, check that there are not any nails that have popped out or screws that have backed out. Hammer or screw back and replace if necessary if they don't hold.

Make all repairs necessary after inspection and before moving on to cleaning. Be sure to get professional help if the repair is not within your skill level.

Cleaning...

Now that our outdoor wood products and structures are safe, it's



Visual inspection of your outdoor woods structural integrity is the first step.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.STARTRIBUNE.COM



Cleaning a deck with a small brush works best for small surface areas.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.RESTOREDSTYLE.COM



Cleaning with a pressure washer makes fast work on a fence. Caution should be exercised to avoid pitting of the wood.

time to move on to cleaning. The type of cleaning necessary will be based on the overall condition of the wood.

Regardless of the wood's condition, the first step is to remove loose debris with a broom or leaf blower. For outdoor furniture, a whisk broom works well for cleaning. On decks, a putty knife can be used to remove the pine needles or leaves stuck between the deck boards.

If the wood is not too weathered or stained, you can use a product such as TSP to scrub the surface. If the wood has stains and discoloration, you may need to use a stronger cleaner available from your local hardware store. After scrubbing, follow manufacturer directions for rinsing.

The big question in cleaning is whether or not to use a pressure washer. The jury is out and the call is yours. However, remember this, if you are not careful you can do more damage than good. It is easy to leave pits and or a spray pattern on your wood. Best to use low pressure and a wide fan spray head.

After cleaning, allow the wood to completely dry before moving on

to sealing and staining. This will probably take at least two days and is dependent on the weather and condition of the wood.

Another option after cleaning and drying is sanding the wood. This is probably only necessary on wood that is splintering and you have physical contact with, such as decks. There are pole sanders available so you can avoid getting on your hands and knees to sand.



This dual purpose brush can clean and rinse.

Finishing...

The final step in outdoor wood maintenance is applying a finish to seal out the elements. You can choose a sealer or stain and both should provide three functions: repel water, act as mildewcide and protect from UV rays.

The decision on which product to buy impacts the look of your wood and the frequency of reapplying.

Clear sealers allow the natural wood color to show through. Reapplication is typically every one to two years. Stains have a pigment added and can be semi-transparent to opaque. Opaque stains provide better protection and may only need to be reapplied every two three years.

Finishes are available in water or oil based. Oil based finishes penetrate into the wood further creating more protection but may not be appropriate for all wood products, such as wood furniture.

As always, when faced with so many choices, talk to hardware store professional to discuss your specific needs and situation.

Once a finishing product has been



Sanding is optional but a good choice for chairs with splintering surfaces.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.RONHAZELTON.COM

selected, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. Work in small areas and only start what you can finish to avoid uneven application.

A few additional tips that 'wood' be beneficial:

- Always use safety goggles and gloves when using chemicals.
- Protect your plants and walkways from damaging cleaners and finishes.
- Read the label before buying or using a product. Some products are designed for only certain types of wood.
- For best results when finishing, select a day that is overcast and dry.
- Two thin coats of finish are better than one thick one.
- When using cleaners or finishes, if your surface is vertical, work from the bottom up to avoid having the product drip and leave stains.

Now if we can only find a way to protect my skin from Mother Nature...oh yeah, that's the sunscreen I was supposed to use in my youth. Should have listened to my mom!



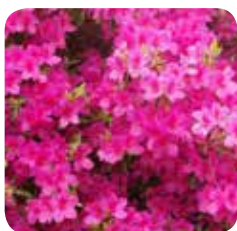
Everything you need to clean and finish a teak table, polyurethane finish optional.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.APARTMENTTHERAPY.COM

WTDITG

June is a great time to work on landscaping. The weather is drier and we start to spend more of our time outside. This year, get a head start on those summer parties and barbeques and get your landscaping done early. Then, you can spend the warm summer months enjoying the beauty of your own garden oasis.

PLANNING



- Look at the landscape to see where you can infuse some fresh color. Plan on where to plant some of the newer re-blooming lilacs or spring, summer and fall blooming ever-green azaleas.

• Get going with the garden supports needed for the tomatoes, pole beans,

cucumbers, squash and any climbing ornamentals. Use branches, fencing, a trellis, old ladders or anything that allows the plants support. Get creative!

- How is that garden journal coming along? Now is a perfect time to play catch up if you haven't been keeping up with the gardening notes.



PLANTING

• This is a good time to work on the landscape. The weather is usually a bit drier and it feels so good to be outside. Cut down on the lawn and make a bigger patio or vegetable garden. Create some raised beds to grow the crops in.



- Perennials do so well in our climate.

This is a good month to divide and plant the early spring flow-

ering perennials like aubrietia, arabis, primroses and bergenia. Planting new perennials now is perfect because there is so much more to choose from this time of year and they take off rather quickly in the warmer soil.

- Since the soil is finally drying out it's a good time to do the lawn aerating and de-thatching. Water will penetrate deeper allowing roots to grow deeper too. By de-thatching, you remove the thick mat of dead grass stems and other lawn crud. Your lawn will look a bit rough after this,

but with a good fertilizing, some garden lime and some deep watering, the lawn usually bounces back quickly.

- June is a good month to start a new lawn from seed or over seed an old tired lawn. If you are planning a de-thatching and aerating job, you probably should follow that with more seed. Great month to revive the lawn!



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Prune Rhododendrons and azaleas after they are done blooming. Prune lilacs this month.

- Water the lawn no more than once a week with 1" of water. For 1"- time how long it takes your sprinkler to fill an empty tuna can with one inch of water. Using automatic watering systems set for 5

minutes twice a day is a bad practice for lawn care. This causes shallow roots. Deep, less frequent watering promotes longer roots and healthy thick turf.

- Keep ripe strawberries picked. By keeping up with picking ripe berries, the ever bearing types of strawberries will produce over a longer time. Cover

What To Do In The Garden

JUNE

the berry patches with bird netting to stop those pesky hungry birds from robbing all your fruit!



- Mow the grass higher as weather warms. Grass roots will go deeper with taller grass blades and the taller grass

shades the soil against water lost through evaporation.

- If you maintain your lawn all summer get a good quality lawn

fertilizer applied this month. By using Dr. Earth brand lawn food you'll not only have greener grass, but the thatch is digested by the microbes introduced with the fertilizer. Roots grow deeper and thicker with applications of organic fertilizer.

- Thin fruit from fruit trees After the normal fruit drop on peaches, pears and apples, go back and thin more fruit from the trees. If you thin out the fruit, what is left will be bigger and better tasting. If you don't thin out the fruit often trees will get into a pattern of bearing only every other year.

- Keep up the slug patrol. New foliage is so tender and tasty to slugs.

- Keep a sharp eye out for aphids and other insects attacking the garden and produce. Usually a sharp burst of water from the garden hose is enough, but occasionally stronger



methods are called for. Dr. Earth and Bonide have some dandy organic remedies against insects.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Plant succession crops of some of your favorite veggies like beans, beets, carrots, summer squash and slow bolt spinach to name just a few. This will extend your harvest of the finest food available, the produce grown in your own garden. Look on the back of the seed packets to see how many days it'll take to produce a crop. Usually with warmer soil the plants will germinate and grow more quickly.

- Interplant fast growers with slower growers. Planting radishes, arugula and spinach (fast growers) with the tomatoes, corn, beans or peppers is the best use of space. The fast growers will be harvested much sooner than the longer season needed by the other plants.



- The warm soil lovers can go out now for sure; tomatoes, melons, peppers, squash, corn and eggplants. Basil likes the warmer weather too.

- Fertilize the vegetable garden one month after plants emerge by side dressing with Dr. Earth's Vegetable Garden Fertilizer.

- Apply a mulch of organic compost. Make sure you have gotten mulch laid down on the soil to conserve

moisture and retard weed development. Do not use lawn clippings as a mulch on veggies (or ornamentals) if a weed killer was used on lawn.

- Grow some mint for Mohitos. Traditionally spearmint is used in making a mohito. Mint plants go crazy and can really take over a part of the garden. Grow a pot of spearmint on the patio or deck for fresh leaves to muddle when guests come over this summer!

- Thin out garden plantings of lettuce, chard, mustard leaves and onions. Eat the thinned out plants on a salad...tiny but yummy!

- Plant basil seed or transplants frequently to make sure you have a steady supply of this fantastic herb. Find a sunny warm spot for this tasty plant to grow. Being from Iran, India and tropical Asia, basil loves the warmth. We sell plant starts as well as seed. Try both and see what you have the best luck with.



- Watch for the potatoes to flower. That is the signal that it's OK to snitch some new potatoes from the hills. Yum!



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Portland 2015 Festival Of Flowers Through June 9, 2015

Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland, OR

Festival of Flowers at Pioneer Courthouse Square has always been one of Portland's most renowned festivals in the heart of downtown. Each year, the Square works with a local artist or design firm to create a masterpiece of vibrant color utilizing nearly 20,000 flowers and plant material. More info: www.thesquarepdx.org.

Pollinator Magnets

Saturday, June 6, 2015 • 10:00am(S,G); 1:00pm(W)
Al's Garden Center, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, OR

Join us for this complimentary class and learn about plants that will attract pollinators to your yard. Native bees & honey bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators all can be encouraged by certain blooms that are considered 'magnets' for pollinators. You can help support this important group of garden critters, while enjoying the beautiful blooms that they'll visit in your garden. Cost: Seminar is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Speaker: Al's Experts.

What to Do in the June Vegetable Garden

Saturday, June 6, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Your Backyard Farmer, Donna Smith & Robyn Streeter. Our beloved vegetable gardeners from Your Backyard Farmer, Donna Smith & Robyn Streeter will discuss summer vegetable garden tasks, including dealing with pesky bugs & diseases.

Growing Vegetables in Raised Garden Beds

Saturday, June 6, 2015 • 1:00pm
Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Ian Wilson of Portland Edible Gardens. Raised garden beds are a wonderful way to grow a ton of food in a small urban space. They can also have better drainage, fewer pests, and earlier harvests than traditional in-ground garden beds. And that's just the beginning! Come learn about the benefits and practices of growing veggies in raised garden beds!

continued next column

Make and Take Summer Interest Containers

Sunday, June 7, 2015 • 1:00pm-2:30pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Jolie Donohue. The Gardening Goddess, Jolie Donohue will be here to help you make your own gloriously showy summer container. Jolie will assist in proper selection of plants for great design in sun or shade – your choice. \$10 fee + plants you choose. Container and soil included. Please bring your own gloves and hand trowel.

Intro to Clematis

Sunday, June 7, 2015 • 1:00pm
Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Suzy Hancock of Portland Nursery. For years Suzy has had a passion for growing clematis, and how can you not? From subtle little bells to huge showy flowers, come learn about some good beginner varieties as well as the newest introductions available from our very own clematis buyer.

Berries, Brews, & BBQ's

Saturdays, June 13 & 20, 2015 • 9:00am-6:00pm
Sundays, June 14 & 21, 2015 • 10:00am-6:00pm
French Prairie Gardens, St. Paul, OR

New this year, a portion of our proceeds will benefit Em's Fight Foundation! Join us for our 5th Annual Berries, Brews, & BBQ's Festival for Oregon Craft Brews & Barbeque! Oregon Craft Brewers will showcase their best brews! And there will be lots of BBQ to choose from! Join us for our the two things that Dad loves, BBQ & Brew! Enjoy our Fun Family Friendly Festival! Free Admission & Free Parking! Activities Include: U-Pick Strawberries, Hayrides, Tube Slide, Animal Barns & Farm Animals, Pig Barrel Train Rides, Brew Tasting in our Covered Event Area. Some Ticketed Charges Apply for Activities. Exciting Entertainment. Free Admission and Free Parking!

Garden to Table: From Barbeque to Shortcakes

Saturday, June 13, 2015 • 10:30AM
Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR

Hosting a July 4th gathering. More info at www.farmingtongardens.com.

continued next page



Father's Day Weekend Events
Friday-Sunday, June 19-21, 2015
The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

Join us for the 11th annual event on Father's Day weekend, June 19-21, 2015. The festival is held indoors, but you can also explore the 80-acre botanical garden with your beer. At Brewfest, you'll enjoy: 68 breweries, pouring 136 beers, ciders and meads from throughout Oregon and across the country; 12 great regional bands on two stages; amazing food from local vendors; 80-acre botanical garden. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (#ogbf) for the latest updates. And make plans to attend the Brewer's Tasting Dinner on Brewfest-eve, June 18, 2015 at 7pm.

Rose City Garden Railway Society Summer Tour
Saturday, June 20, 2015 • 10:00am-5:00pm
Various Sites in the Portland, OR Area

The members of the Rose City Garden Railway Society are opening their garden railways to the public again this summer! 13 Garden Railways in the greater Portland area will be open from 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday, June 20 for visitation. Most of the garden railways have miniature plants, structures and people that populate the "G" scale railroad worlds they have created. Several yards feature streams and ponds with bridges and trestles over which the trains pull their passenger and freight cars. Admission of \$10.00 per family, all ages, purchases a self-guided tour booklet with photos, a description of each garden layout, handicap access information, maps to get there, and admission to all of the featured garden railways. The public is invited to as many garden railways as they wish, in any order, and spend as long as they like in each garden railway. Questions are always welcome. This is a great activity for the whole family at a very affordable price. Visit our web site at www.rcgrs.com or call 503-695-2550 for more information.

Bold Summer Containers
Saturday, June 20, 2015 • 10:00am(W,S); 1:00pm(G)
Al's Garden Center, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, OR

In this seminar learn about combining interesting

continued next column

foliage plants with colorful annuals for an eye-catching, tropical effect. We'll show plants with uniquely shaped or colored leaves that are stunning when planted together, and even better with a pop of color from annuals. Whether you use tropical or hardy plants, creating dramatic summer containers for your garden is simple with a little help from Al's Experts! Cost: Seminar is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Speaker: Al's Experts.

Bonsai Event
Saturday, June 20, 2015 • 10:00am-3:00pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Portland Nursery and the Bonsai Society of Portland (BSOP) want to Rock Your Bonsai with a showing of Your Best Bonsai! Any customer can exhibit! Just for entering, you'll receive a 10% off coupon (one per customer). All entries are judged by the public. Awards will be granted to 3 customer entries and 3 Bonsai Society Member entries. See the Bonsai Event Page for all event details and prizes. Deliver your tree to Portland Nursery at 9000 SE Division between 8:00-9:00am on the day of the show.

Summer/Fall Help for Pollinators
Saturday, June 20, 2015 • 1:00pm
Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Brian Lacy of LiveHoneybees.com & Pollinator Partnership. Celebrate National Pollinator Week! As the season peaks, pollinators have many flowers to choose from, what they may lack - and need like the pets we love, is water. Brian Lacy will share insights into the best tips for attracting pollinators to your watering system and preventing them from drowning in a kiddie pool or Jacuzzi! And as the summer flowers fade, how do we set the buffet? Between cover crops and second season veggies, there are many plants to offer pollinators to extend their season. Brian will give an overview and handouts of what will best "feed the bees".

Portland Iris Society Show
Sunday, June 21, 2015 • 10:00am-4:00pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

continued on page 35

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PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town, continued

Judging will be from 10:00am-Noon; public is invited to attend 10:00-4:00pm. For more information, contact Chad Harris, phone: 360-835-1016. Website: Greater Portland Iris Society.

Terrariums as Homes

Sunday, June 21, 2015 • 11:00am

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Sydney Bardole. When your terrarium is also living space for your pet, plant selection gets so much more important. What kind of terrarium is right for housing your gecko/ giant spider/ teensy tortoise/ exotic stick bug? How can you keep both plants and animals happy and in balance in your microecosystem? Sydney will talk about choosing plants, assembling, and caring for your terrarium.

Harvesting and Using Lavender

Sunday, June 21, 2015 • 1:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Billie Jo McGahey of Portland Nursery. Want to put the luscious fragrance of your lavender into use in your home? Learn about harvesting, preserving, and using these scented blooms. Billie Jo is an herbalist who specializes in aromatherapy and plant extractions; she'll discuss some of her favorite ways to use lavender.

Fragrant Plants

Saturday, June 27, 2015 • 10:00am

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

Plants with a pleasant fragrance are a favorite of gardeners and can invoke strong memories. Fragrant plants can be added to your garden with annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees and bulbs. Come to this complimentary class and learn about the wonderful scents to be found in the plant world, and how to use them in your garden. Cost: Seminar is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Speaker: Al's Experts

Summer Jams

Saturday, June 27, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Boondockers Farm. We will cook a berry jam focusing and on the characteristics of different berries and how these characteristics affect both

continued next column

the cooking process and the end result. We will examine key topics such as the role of sugar, the importance of lemon juice and how to add it, the stages of cooking, and how to test the jam accurately for firmness. At the end of class you will receive a jar of jam to take home!

Hardy Orchids for the Garden

Saturday, June 27, 2015 • 1:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Steven Meacham of the Oregon Orchid Society. Not all orchids are tropical! There are orchids that are hardy and even native in our area. There are several types that you can grow just like any other perennial in your garden. Come be introduced to hardy orchids. Steven Meacham, an expert on Cypripediums (slipper orchids) will present and give some basic growing information on several types of hardy orchids.

DIY Herbal Green Cleaning Products

Sunday, June 28, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Want to clean your home without harsh chemical products? Join in this fun hands-on class to learn to make your own green herbal cleaning products. Erin & Eloyce will share information about several common and easy to grow herbs that you can use to clean your home. Includes the opportunity to make and take two cleaning products. \$8 materials fee.

Top 5 Pests of the Summer Garden

Sunday, June 28, 2015 • 1:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Claudia Groth. Everything's going so well in the garden . until you start noticing the holes in the leaves, or the masses of aphids on the new growth, then you can't see anything else! Claudia will talk about some of the top offenders in the summer garden, and how best to deal with them.

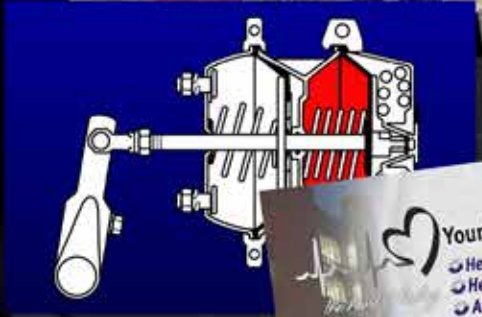
LOOKING FOR MORE?

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

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