

December 2019

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Tour-rific!
Spectacular Plants Seen
on Garden Time Tours

High Humidity-Low Light Plants

Currants

The Armstrong Family
OF RITA LEES NURSERY

A very old variety of
Myrtillocactus geometizans



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Changes

I've written about changes many times for the December editorial. Most of the time it is about changes to our schedule and the fact that the show is about to go into its winter hiatus. This month however, I have to address a big change for us here at Garden Time. After 14 seasons William McClenathan, our co-host of the show has decided to leave and pursue other opportunities. It is sad for us to lose him, but we also understand that life sometimes pulls us in a different direction. We wish him well and hope nothing but the best for him as he opens another chapter in his life.

Change also means that we have to find someone to step into the co-host position. I am pleased to announce we have hired Ryan Seely to fill that role. Ryan is well known to long time viewers of the show. He has been involved in the retail side of gardening when he was part of Larsen Farm Nursery. Now, most people know him from the 'growers' side of the business at Little Prince of Oregon where he is the Sales Manager. He is a sixth generation Oregonian and an Oregon State University grad, with a beautiful family and a deep commitment to volunteering with the Boy Scouts as an Assistant Scoutmaster, and with the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. You've all had a chance to meet him in our last show of the season and we will be taping even more stories over the winter months to share with you.

As for this month's issue, we have a bunch of great stories to kick off your winter reading. Therese has a great story on currants. We ran into these juicy berries while in Europe on our last Garden Time tour. They are very popular over there and for good reason, they have a great kick of flavor! Judy also fills us in on some great volunteer opportunities with some of the various public gardens around our area. They need lots of help to make sure they look their best when the public comes to visit and it's fun to hang out with other garden and plant lovers! Before William goes off to new adventures he contributed a couple of stories for this issue as well. The first story is about those plants that LOVE high humidity and low light. These plants are great for a bathroom or other areas in your home over the winter. His other story deals with some of the cool and unusual plants that we have encountered on our Garden Time tour this past summer.

Speaking of tours, we are gearing up for our next trip to Portugal and Spain in early October of 2020. This trip has barely been announced and we have a list of over 20 travelers ready to go. These tours fill up quickly and have become very popular, with long waiting lists after they fill up. Don't miss the boat, or the plane, on this one. Go to the Garden Time Tour page on our website for more information.

Happy Gardening (and Happy Holidays)!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

Hoping you might be able to help here - we planted a small fat Alberta spruce several months ago, and despite watering it regularly and it getting plenty of sun, it appears to be browning from the inside out.

Is it dying? Is it suffering from some kind of transplant shock? Too much/too little sun/water? Any help you could provide would be appreciated.

Thanks very much,
Corey

Dear Corey,

Every fall, spruce go thru a needle drop. This is the tree dropping needles that are no longer necessary for growth or don't provide nutrition to the tree anymore. Our friend Rick Naylor from French Prairie Perennials, said that if this is the normal condition like other conifers, that would be best case scenario, his hunch is that it's Rhizosphaera, a fungus common to blue spruce, where the needles brown from the inside out and can kill the tree over time if you



Spruce needles turning brown

Mortimer answers selected questions and comments every month in Garden Time Magazine. To send him your question, email AskMortimer@GardenTime.tv

don't treat it. Bonide makes a product called 'Infuse' which will treat needle cast. This fungus also thrives in wet conditions, which if the tree is over watered, will exacerbate the situation. Most people overwater conifers as they are usually somewhat expensive, and then baby them because they don't want to lose them. Almost all conifers are drought tolerant and really like to dry out between deep waterings. This stimulates root growth. So it could be normal needle drop, or a fungus, or overwatering, it's really hard to tell from the photos, but slowing way down on water and treating it with the Bonide product is about all you can do.

Hope this helps and good luck!

Your friend,
Mortimer



Christmas cactus in bloom

Dear Mortimer,

I've heard that you can get your Christmas cactus or your poinsettia to bloom more or have them bloom earlier if you change the light when they are growing. True?

Your friend,
S. Claus

Dear Claus,

Christmas Cactus are one of the easiest succulents to grow. If they are not left in standing water and have moderate light, they can survive and thrive. They really like strong, indirect sunlight through most of the year, and moderate watering. You can get them to bloom by adjusting the watering and exposure to light. Here is what we do. In the spring, past the threat of frost, we move our cactus outside during the summer. Morning sun and afternoon shade are the best for it to thrive. Rotate your plant so all sides grow evenly. If branches break off, just stick them in the soil to fill in bare spots. They will root out and make new plants. This is how you get a lot of flowers! The more branches

you have, the more flowers you will get in the fall and winter, since they bloom at the end of the branches. Leave your plants out to experience the cooler evening temps, but don't let them freeze! Move them into a cooler area of your garage and bring them inside about 4-6 weeks before you want them to bloom and reduce your watering. The warmer temperatures from your home will force the cactus to bloom.

Even though poinsettias are very sensitive to cool temperatures you can keep them as an indoor plant through most of the year. We have kept ours over a few years and here is what we were able to do to try and get more blooms. In the spring we moved our plant outside once it got warm and overnight temps were in the upper 40s. The key here, like the cactus, is that the more branches you have the more blooms you will get. Pinch the branches off at leaf junctions to create more branches. Bring your poinsettia inside around the middle of September, or if temps drop below 50 degrees (this may vary if you live at the North Pole), and get it adjusted to the warmer conditions inside. Poinsettias change color due to the adjusting of light. You will need to control the light to get the 'bracts' to change color. Starting in late September or the first week of October, place your poinsettia in a dark room or a large box with a lid. Keep your poinsettia in the dark for about 14-15 hours a day and normal light about 8-9 hours. You will have to do this until the bracts start changing color. Not keeping to this lighting schedule will mean that your plant won't change color. Make sure your plant has moist soil, and let it get a little dry every few days. Overwatering can create mildew problems. After about 8-10 weeks you should see the bracts changing colors. Bring your plant out and keep it in a warm place, avoiding drafts, and water and fertilize at normal intervals. Once the holidays are over, keep your plant warm and repeat the sequence for the next year.

This should help keep your holidays warm and bright!

Mortimer



Poinsettia bract changing color

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS YOUNG VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Tour-rific!

One of the best parts of our Garden Time Tours is spotting interesting plants and varieties.
Here are some of my favorites
by William McClenathan

Myrtillocactus geometrizans variety

So this article will be one of many words and many pictures. And to those who know me and to those who have travelled with me, it is clear that I am a radical, passionate, plant...*nerd*. My adoration and value for nature and plants has, for most of my life, been a motivating force for me.

I took hundreds of pictures and their botanical names when available. Of course, most were never posted on social media. We thought it may interest our readers to get to see some of them which are my personal favorites.

I attempted to share the ones where the names are known in our region because some members of

those plant families are actually sold here. Some I knew were hardy, and some I suspected were not. Some are also sold in the Pacific Northwest as tropic-als and houseplants or annuals. Some you can't find at all to purchase, even online.

But, they have all inspired me to gather even more information and plants and push my own limits on growing my gardens...both outdoors and indoors. I hope they inspire you as well.

Here is a list of and some comments and information on the plants I have chosen to share with you. All of these pictures were taken by me.



Myrtillocactus geometrizans

Myrtillocactus Geometrizans

This family of cactus was amazing to me. I had heard of the Name Myrtillocactus, but never heard the entire botanical name of Myrtillocactus geometrizans. I do have a memory of selling this cactus while being the Store Director at Portland Nursery in the Cactus House, which sadly they have since removed.

But I was still not confident of the specific correct name. So, as I often do, I went to my Library of actual books to do some research because the internet research was simply confusing me.

First, I found the name Myrtillocactus geometrizans on pages 251, 253 and 254 of my highly valued copy of Tropica, by Dr. A. B. Graf, 4th editions, published in January 1992. But, something still felt off to me. There was no mention of just a specific botanical genus name, so I suspected the name I found on tags was a species of the genus Myrtillocactus. Nor were there pictures of the freakishly beautiful forms of this cactus I was seeing from two of the gardens we visited where I saw them; Villa Carlotta (there was only one there) and Jardin Exotique (where the large collection of them was found).

Ok...I then went to the large dual tome, Flora, whose Chief Consultant is my friend Sean Hogan. The copy I have was published in 2003 by Timber Press.

And I found it on page 909 in the second volume, L-Z. It tells us there are four species in this genus Myrtillocactus which is of the family Cactaceae. And thankfully, two of the four known species were mentioned,

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Local Events December 2019

Christmas in the Garden

November 29, 2019-January 5, 2020

The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

Stroll through the forest and our one million lights, while sipping a warm, spicy gluhwein. Feast on a variety of international dining options from pizza to fondue.

• www.oregongarden.org

ZooLights

November 29, 2019-January 5, 2020

The Oregon Zoo

As you walk around the zoo, you'll see a dazzling display of more than 1.5 million lights, and experience the zoo in a whole new way. Pricing varies depending on the date.

• www.oregonzoo.org

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• www.garlandnursery.com





Myrtillocastrum geometrizans variety



Myrtillocastrum geometrizans varieties

and one of them was *Myrtillocastrum geometrizans*. So thank you Sean. But sadly, no varietal names were mentioned and still no pictures of the visually mesmerizing forms and blue colors of this collection in the Monaco Botanical Gardens 'Exotica'. I was surprised the species are native to Mexico, but somehow, made it all the way across the pond and is still not easily available to American gardeners in these varieties. If you ever see one, buy it. The forms be-

come mesmerizing and breathtaking.

Yucca

I added *Yucca* because we have several varieties which are very hardy in our area. But the size of the ones in the gardens we visited were massive trees, comparatively.



Very old Myrtillocastrum geometrizans variety



Yucca thompsoniana



Cordyline australis Purpurea

Cordyline australis

This is another plant we sell, and can actually survive over time in our gardens. Yet again, look at its height. This one was at least 12-15 foot tall. Delightful!

Arbutus

Arbutus is another species we can grow here. But *A. canariensis* was a new one to me. However, I fell in love with it the same way I have with *A. unedo*.

Acanthus



Arbutus canariensis



Acanthus arboreus

Ok. This plant...blew my mind. When you see a woody stemmed 15 foot tall Acanthus (Bears Breech) it freaked me out. Upon arriving home, I could find no accurate web info on this botanical name. I did find one website with a picture of an acanthus asking the question, "Is this plant acanthus arboreus?" Nor could I find it in any of my books. I do have the picture of the name from the garden we were at. So, if any of you find more info, please let me know.

Banksia

Banksia was a real delight for me. This family of plants is not really hardy in our climate. I am delight-



Banksia integrifolia



Banksia integrifolia seedpod

ed to see Xera Plants www.xeraplants.com is selling one of this family of plants as a new introduction in 2019 and yes...they are saying it is a cold hardy variety. So they must have had some success with it living through our winters. Exciting!

The Banksia integrifolia seed pod (above) reminds me of endless smiles.

Acacia

Acacia is another family of plants where many of them actually do live here. So whenever I see one in full size I have never seen before...that makes me very happy. It also gives me hope that perhaps someday I too can grow this one in my gardens.



Acacia floribunda



Russellia equisetiformis

Russellia

Russellia is a plant I was first introduced to by my dear friend Burl, of Rare Plant Research. www.rare-plantresearch.com I have killed mine more times than given it life. But I will never stop trying especially after seeing this one. Glorious plant.

Lonicera

I had to add this picture because many Lonicera are hardy here already and I love the family. But I also wanted to include it because I loved the foliage. This one was not currently blooming. All you need do is Google it to see the delightful blooms. I think you will want it to also someday be hardy and available for us to grow.



Lonicera hildebrandiana



Ichroma warszewiczii

Ichroma

There are some species of this family of plants which even in my gardens of Viscaya were reliably hardy for many years. Is this variety? I don't think so. But... what dreams may come...in the future?

Dracena

This is from the very common houseplant family. I know you have either seen, or more likely had, a Corn Plant houseplant, Dracaena. However when I first saw it, I thought... 'palm tree of some sort'. Boy howdy was I wrong! This is indeed a massively tall tree of the family Dracaena. When I lived in Fort Lauderdale, FL, I had two of the green leaf, houseplant Dracaena fragrans on either side of my front entrance. One morning, a sweet powerful smell wafted through my home. On researching where the fragrance was coming from, I discovered why its botanical name



Macfadyena unguis-cati

was *D. fragrans*! So the next time a customer wants to know what to do with their Dracaena because the stems are hitting their ceiling, politely tell them to give or throw it out and by a new short one...because they are TREES! And not many trees take a cut and regrow easily from that cut. But by all means, give it a try! I am even now more amazed by this family of plants.

Macfadyena

This is not a hardy vine. It thrives in zones 10 and higher. Again, just Google the name to see the rich, brilliant, large yellow color of the flowers. I though, had never seen the long bean pods! So...super cool!

Pittosporum

P. undulatum & *P. tobira* are a plant family in which many varieties are hardy for us already. I had never



Dracena draco



Pittosporum undulatum



Pittosporum tobira

seen the *P. undulatum*, now that I have, even if I must push the hardy envelope...I want to try.

Eucalyptus

I added this because so many of us have grown them easily in our region. But it was the blooms on this one which delighted me.

Araucaria

The *Araucaria* family has several very hardy plants in our gardens. Just think Monkey Puzzle tree, (*A. araucana*). Yep, that is an *Araucaria*. Some well over



Araucaria cunninghamii

50 years old here. And yes I had the picture of this tree at Viscaya and it was well over 15 foot tall. Very hardy indeed. I had bought mine at the wonderful garden center in the charming city of Woodland, Washington, Tsugawa Nursery. Thanks to my good friend Brian Tsugawa and his amazing staff for having such cool plants. www.tsugawanursery.com

Cupressus

I can not lie. I killed mine. I can also own that it was the fault of me, not the plant. Seeing the size of this one makes me desire to try again. Such a name too... *C. cashmeriana*. Who doesn't love cashmere?



Eucalyptus suderoxylon blooms



Cupressus cashmeriana



Echium fastuosum

Echium

Many of us know the name Echium and we have also grown them. But this species was much smaller in height and if found to be hardy in our area would be much better for smaller gardens. Google the name to see the blooms are still beautiful, but not 10 feet tall.

Jasminum

Most of us love the smell of Jasmine. This species fragrance was somewhat different than the one we grow here. I have not taken the time to see if it is even available or hardy in our area yet, but I am going to, because I really want this plant.



Jasminum azoricum



Buddleia madagascariensis

Buddleia

Of course almost all of us gardeners know this plant's name, but this species was new to me, yet still beautiful. And clearly can get very large, like the B. davidii can.

Clerodendrum

I love this beauty. I first became aware of it in the nursery I worked at in Texas. It was not hardy in Dallas, TX either. But it blooms so quickly that even as a tropical annual plant, it is worth buying. Maybe as a beautiful container plant! We sold them way back in the mid-'90s at Portland Nursery with the Tropicals. Give them a call if you are interested and see if they still carry it every year. www.portlandnursery.com



Clerodendrum ugandense



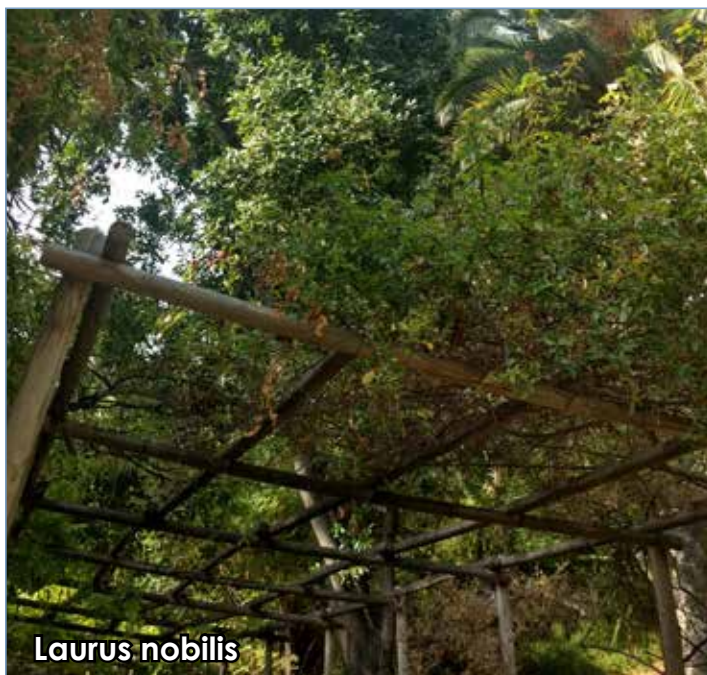
Pelargonium tomentosum menthole

Pelargonium

Honestly, I am not a huge fan of fragrant Geraniums. However, seldom a year goes by that I don't include this one in my garden. I have never seen the actual true botanical name until this Garden Time tour. Now we all know!

Laurus

Of the few pictures I selected for this article, THIS was the one which blew my mind the most. I was



Laurus nobilis

sitting in a rather hidden, bench having a smoke and some water while waiting for people to gather as we prepared to leave the garden, when I smelled the very delicious and specific smell of this plant. But there wasn't anything but massive trees around me, I mean massive...over 70 foot high with huge trunks! I was impressed at my 15 to 20 foot tall one in the Herb gardens of Viscaya! But, eventually, I searched and found the botanical name at the base and...it was indeed Prunus laurus nobilis. Whaaaatt? And...boom went my mind.

I hope you have enjoyed this tour of a few of the gardens we visited. Of course we do many things on these tours which are informative, beautiful, great architecture, amazing history, delicious food, and always so much fun. But I will always, mostly, be that plant-nerd-gardener-guy.

I already hear the next tour will be just as wonderful as all of the last ones have! For more information on that, just go to www.gardentime.tv/tours

I have also added the websites, if available, of where these pictures were taken.

Four of these gardens do have websites.

They are listed here:

- Jardin Exotique de Monaco
www.jardin-exotique.mc

- Hanbury Botanical Gardens
- Hanbury Botanischer Garten
www.giardinihanbury.com
- Villa & Jardins Ephrussi de Rothschild
www.villa-ephrussi.com
- Villa Carlotta
www.villacarlotta.it

Two gardens have no websites that I could find, but you can gather much information by just Googling their names.

Which are listed here:

- Serre de la Madrone, in Menton
- Val Rahmeh, in Menton

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Highlights of Low Lights

In the high humidity areas of our homes -- like bathrooms -- it can be difficult to find plants that thrive.

by William McClenathan



Giant leaf Poths

PHOTO CREDIT: ETSY.COM

I keep seeing how houseplants are having a huge resurgence of popularity. Much of that increase is coming from the millennial's generation. I like that because our horticulture industry has always discussed how to get younger people to shop at our locations.

Well, as that generation has aged into their 30s, clearly they are indeed buying plants. I did consistently say that this would occur. And now it has.

So we thought more info on houseplants is important. This article is very specific to one kind of houseplant, the kind which thrive in high humidity areas in our homes, like bathrooms.

Now I could give a long list of plants which could work. Instead I am going to talk about just a few varieties, those which I have had great success with myself in these often difficult places for houseplants to thrive in our homes.

By far the easiest one has been the Pothos family of plants. The botanical name has changed and currently it is Epipremnum. However, there are so many varieties which look very different in colors and form, that getting the true botanical name is super difficult because so many of those names online are...inaccurate...or just plain wrong. I seldom just Google plant botanical names, but instead rely on websites I trust like the Royal Horticulture Society. www.rhs.org.uk

But the name alone does not matter as much as the ease of growing this family of plants.

I have had the 'Big Leaf' variety for seven years, and every fall when I bring my houseplants back inside for the winter, I hang it in the shower. I seldom water it because it is in such a moist place. I actually do water it every four to six weeks. The shower in this bathroom has a very small window which provides more light than is even required. It really continues to be one of my favorite plants and I feel like I am showering in the tropics!



Aspidistra



Aspidistra elitor okome



Spider Plant

I can also tell you that I bought mine seven years ago at Cornell Farm. www.cornellfarms.com

The next plant is a member of the Tradescantia family commonly called 'wandering jew' houseplants. I love these because with a little bit of attention, they will thrive in most indoor environments.

In my past (I am thinking about the '80s!) I had a large four foot long green one hanging in the shower in our bathroom. The worst thing to happen to it was when I would be washing my hair and catch it on my hand while rinsing, and rip a chunk off of the plant! Thankfully, it was always forgiving and would grow back quickly. I also seldom watered it, generally every month or two. And this bathroom did have one decent sized window as well. But it was north facing, so not a lot of light in the winter.

The last one I have had great success with is another very popular and common houseplant, the spider plant (botanical name; Chlorophytum) in my showers at home. Mine have consistently done well in bathrooms and anywhere I place them indoors. Sadly, I have no pictures currently from back then or currently of this plant in a shower. Only my memories. But boy are those memories beautiful.

In a shower, they tend to thrive, sending out their countless, long stemmed pups. In the spring, when I take mine outdoors I can cut off and add those pups to many outdoor containers to thrive there as beautiful filler plants. In the past I had it in a bathroom with one small window and watered it every month to six weeks. Whether you choose a solid green or the more colorful ones which are white and green, they seem to love the humid environment.

Not everyone has a shower which is big enough for hanging baskets of plants. But you may want to still have a plant in your bathroom. The best plant for that, to me, has been any of the Aspidistra family. Common-



Spider Plant

ly called 'Cast Iron' plant for a reason, they can handle moisture, or are just as happy with little water at all. But they are NOT xeriscape plants...meaning, they do want some water consistently. They also can tolerate some sun, but will thrive in complete shade outdoors, which tells us they can handle dark spaces indoors too. This makes them great for places indoors, as they are ok with almost no light at all. And because they are also very hardy in our area, they will thrive when outside in your garden in the spring again...even if you decide to plant it there.

A few of things...

- Most of us gardeners, indoors and out tend to overwater plants. Don't do that. It is the fastest way to weaken and kill plants. Always water cautiously.
- I never leave houseplants indoors year-round. I take them out after danger of frost is past in the spring and bring them in before the first threatened frost in the fall.
- Botanical names are difficult. More so recently, as DNA has forced the science end of Horticulture to have to change the names of many plants we in the industry have become accustomed to. So even if you can't find a local garden center which has a specific plant you want, but find it online...take that info with you, and ask that someone at that garden center can verify the name IS that plant. You do not want to get something in the mail which is NOT the plant you expected it to be. Like me, most passionate plant people in sales ultimately want YOU to get what you want, not only what they have in stock. And the possibility is good they might even have the plant you want WITH the accurate botanical name as well.



Wandering Jew

PHOTO CREDIT: IETSYSTATIC.COM



Tradescantia Zebrina growing in a tree



Aspidistra elatior



Giant leaf pothos in tree

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The International Rose Test Garden in Portland

Opportunity Rocks!

We all have strengths that can help others and the gift of volunteering may satisfy that inner need.

by Judy Alleruzzo

The month of December is a busy one for us all. There are gifts to buy, trees to decorate and parties with family and friends. But, sometimes we feeling we need a gift for ourselves, something that feeds our heart and soul. We all have strengths that can help others and

the gift of volunteering may satisfy that inner need. Think about the possibility of volunteering in the next year. These three gardens are just a few volunteer ideas in the Portland area. A little Internet surfing may connect you to just the right volunteer activity tailor made for you.

The International Rose Test Garden

The International Rose Test Garden at Washington Park in Portland is a world renowned garden as it says in its name! The garden is under the management of Portland Parks and Recreation. Rachel Burlington is the Curator of the garden and works with the many volunteers that arrive to help with the health and beauty of this amazing rose garden. Volunteer tasks include rose planting, pruning, deadheading, sign painting and various garden projects. If your personal strengths include more indoor projects, there are opportunities to help with strategic planning, inventory record keeping, fundraising, updating educational materials and organizing volunteer activities. You can even be a Volunteer Tour Guide of the Rose Garden. Many people have volunteered at the garden for years. On the days they work, they arrive with a friend or two or even a spouse. They love roses and helping in the garden.

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/finder/index.cfm?action=ViewPark&PropertyID=1113>

Contact the Rose Garden, 503-823-3636 or Volunteer Services, 503-823-5121.



Volunteer with Visitors at The International Rose Test Garden



Volunteer at the International Rose Test Garden

The Oregon Garden

The Oregon Garden in Silverton Oregon, is an 80 acre showplace with 20 specialty gardens. The garden also includes a restaurant, lounge and hotel at The Oregon Garden Resort. The Oregon Garden has a crew of dedicated volunteers that worked over 12,000 hours each year to help take care of visitors and the plants themselves. These departments at the garden would love to acquire your volunteer time; Horticulture, Visitor Services, Education, Special Events and Administration. Opportunities are open for you to volunteer yourself or with a group of friends or colleagues from work. The garden will also round out your group volunteer day with lunch, a garden tour or a Geocache activity!

Sounds like a day of work and fun!

<https://www.oregongarden.org/volunteer>

For more information, volunteer@oregongarden.org





Volunteer at Leach Botanical Garden

Leach Botanical Garden

Leach Botanical Garden was the site of the home of John and Lilla Leach and willed to the city of Portland after they both passed away in the 1980's. The 16 acre wonderland of trees and pathways in southeast Portland is a beautiful place to escape the sights and sounds of a bustling city.

The next few years will be an exciting time at Leach Botanical Garden as there

is a buzz of projects happening right now. The list of projects include

constructing an Aerial Treewalk in the tree canopy of the Garden, installing new

pathways and developing a Pollinator and Habitat Garden. The Garden has

always been a beautiful place to wander and enjoy and now will be enticing new

visitors with the new improvements to the Garden.

The Garden welcomes volunteers to support staff members in these areas:

- Welcoming Visitors
- Gift Shop Clerk
- Tour Guide
- Education Volunteer
- Garden Volunteers
- Garden Rangers
- Special Events

For more information on Volunteer activities, check out their informative website, <https://www.leachgarden.org> and click on the Support tab. On that page you will find an outline of each of the volunteer opportunities.

Contact: Annie Winn, Volunteer Coordinator at (503)-760-0705, or via e-mail at awinn@leachgarden.org



Leach Botanical Garden Manor House

Currant Affairs

Popular in England and Europe, these tasty berries deserve a little love from America.

by Therese Gustin

Red Currants

Currants are one of the less popular berries found on our tables here in America but they are very popular in England and other European countries...and for good reason, they are quite tasty! On our recent Garden Time tour to Lake Como, Italy and the French Riviera I saw red currants sold in a village market. Either black (*Ribes nigrum*), red (*Ribes rubrum*) or white (cultivar of *Ribes rubrum*), fresh currants have a tart, spicy sweet berry flavor. Currants make great pies, jellies and jams and fresh currants taste delicious as an ice cream topping! Black currants are used to make a delicious rich liquor called cassis.

One of the reasons this fruit is underused in the US is because currants are one of

the host plants for white pine blister rust. This disease can devastate pine forests used for lumber production and in those areas of the country where pine forests are grown, currants are banned. In addition, currants are susceptible to other diseases like powdery mildew and insects like scale or aphids.

Black currants are berries derived from the gooseberry and are native to South America, England and other European countries. It's presumed that currants were harvested and eaten as early as 1600 in the Netherlands and Denmark. These tiny berries pack a punch of nutrition! They are very high in Vitamin C and are a good source of calcium, vitamin K, phosphorus and iron; a great reason to grow these nutri-

tious berries.

Our weather west of the Cascades is ideal for growing currants and this time of year is perfect for preparing a site to grow your currant shrubs. Adding organic matter to the site in late fall will help currants thrive once planted in a well drained area in the spring. Most cultivars grow about 3 to 5 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet wide. The fruit is produced on one or two year old wood so to improve yield it is recommended to remove four year old and older wood. Bushes can be pruned in the winter by removing old or dead wood and thinning out the new growth. Currants will produce fruit in partial shade but prefer a sunny location and most varieties don't require a second variety to produce fruit. Harvest

currants in July. The fruit can be used fresh, frozen or dried. Be sure to choose varieties that are resistant to white pine blister rust like Viking red currant and Consort black currant. Rust resistant varieties were actually tested in Oregon at the U.S. Department of Agriculture facilities in Corvallis. One Green World (www.onegreenworld.com) has an extensive catalog of red, white and black currant varieties or check with your favorite independent garden center to purchase a plant that will thrive in your garden. Be sure to choose varieties that are also resistant to powdery mildew.

Grow one of the many varieties of currants in your backyard and you may soon be able to harvest enough berries to make a lovely jam to accompany roast duck, lamb or even spread on your morning toast!



White Currants

PHOTO CREDIT: KAHVIKISU VIA FLICKR.COM



Red Currant Plant



Red Currants in a French market

Black Currant Jam



PHOTO CREDIT: KAREN JACKSON VIA FLICKR.COM

Ingredients

6 cups black currants,
stripped off the stalks

2 cups granulated sugar

Juice of ½ a lemon

Sterilize 3 jam jars in boiling water. Add about 3 fluid ounces of water and 6 cups of black currants to a saucepan. Bring to the boil and simmer for 5 mins until the fruit has broken down to a chunky pulp. Cool slightly.

For a smooth jelly-style jam, squash the fruit through a sieve into a bowl. If you prefer your jam chunky and seeded, leave the pulp as it is. Whether it's strained or unstrained, measure the

fruit pulp and then add 2 cups of sugar to every 2.5 cups of pulp, then put back in the saucepan.

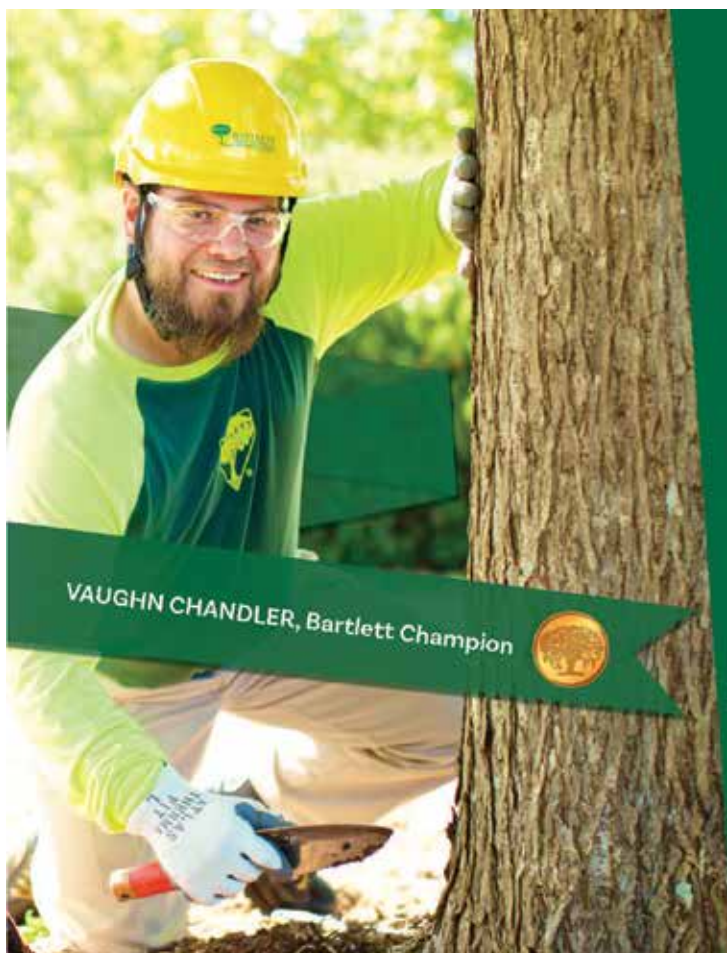
Pour in the lemon juice then heat gently, stirring, to dissolve the sugar. Turn up the heat, then boil hard for about 10 mins or until it reaches 221°F (setting point) on a cooking thermometer. Take off the heat and skim off any froth with a slotted spoon. Cool for 10-15 minutes. Stir gently to distribute the fruit, then ladle into sterilized jars. You can store the in the refrigerator for up to three weeks, or freeze it with no further processing for up to six months.

Makes about 3 cups

Adapted from BBC goodfood recipe



Market in Lorgue, France



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When Preoccupation Becomes Occupation

Mix one tight-knit family with a leisure-time activity and you have the story of Rita Lees Nursery.

by Judy Alleruzzo



Rita and Stan Armstrong and Heather Armstrong Ponce

This is a story of how a hobby turned into a thriving plant business for our December "Horties of the Month". The Oxford Dictionary definition of Hobby is "an activity done regularly in one's leisure time for pleasure." That is so true, but what happens if that

hobby starts to spill out of the greenhouse containing it?

This was the situation facing Stan and Rita Armstrong and family in 2009. Their love of cacti and succulents had exploded and they needed to begin selling them. It was

Stan's original hobby as he was a farmer with dairy cows and fields of soybeans, grass seed and wheat. As he loves growing different plants and crops, his daughter Michele brought him Saguaro cactus seeds to try his hand in propagating them. The year was 2007 and he was hooked! Knowing Stan as I have over the past several years, I saw him building that first greenhouse as a fun new project! He loves to be busy, but he didn't realize how busy he was to become in just a few years. The steps were kind of incremental. He built that first 1250-square-foot greenhouse and filled it, built the second one and filled that one too and then needed to sell to retail garden centers. His hobby greenhouses were overflowing! Rita was right by Stan's side, just as mesmerized by the unique plant seeds that Stan kept germinating. She drives a school bus for many months of the year, so taking on one more job was a big step, but she loves the peaceful, relaxing tone of the greenhouse. Their daughters Michele Armstrong



Stan, Heather and Rita and *Euphorbia platyclada* (Deadwood).

and Heather Armstrong Ponce stepped in about 2009 to help get the plants ready for the retail world, and Rita Lees Nursery business was born!

Over the next years they added three more greenhouses for a total of five houses with over 7000 sq ft. That may not sound like a lot of covered space but most of the cacti and succulents are in 2 inch and 4 inch pots. The tables are chock full of these small specimens.

They also grow many plants in 6 inch and specimen size plants.

Each family member has a specific job but they also each join in where they are needed in the greenhouses or at garden fairs. Stan works at whatever project is at hand. He is also the delivery and set up guy for all the garden fairs that Rita and Heather book. His favorite plant in the greenhouses is the *Epiphyllum* species of Orchid Cactus. I remember seeing these

amazing long leafed plants in bloom at Al's Garden & Home in Sherwood. Stan had to deliver them in a horse trailer with wire strung across the inside so he would not damage the long leaves during transport. Each of the plant's leaves were about 3 feet long. If you've never seen this plant, the blooms are about 5-6 inches across in bright colors of orange, white, red and many shades of pink. The plants were stunning in size and bloom. In refining the growing and delivery



Euphorbia burpleurifolia x suzannae

process, the Armstrongs now grow the Epiphyllums in six inch pots with one foot leaves. They still bloom on shorter foliage and are much easier to deliver and for their customers to display.

Rita is the patient person that uses a paint brush to hand pollinate the blooming plants, then to gather the seed from the ripened seed pods. The seed is then brought over to the Propagation House for planting. They have found that hand pollinating and gathering their own fresh seed gives them a much better germination rate than seed bought from outside sources. For plants they do not already grow, they do buy in seed from sources across the U.S. and overseas. They also propagate from plant offsets and division which is a procedure requiring good gloves! Yes, cacti have their needles and irritating fuzz but that is beside the point, sorry for the pun, as they love and are still totally fascinated by their plants! Heather told me she has to smile when plant sale customers ask if the large Barrel Cactus is pokey and she says yes. "They touch it

anyway and yell Ouch!" I think it's just human nature to be curious.

Stan likes the Orchid Cactus and "all plants that are in flower. I love flowers, I'm a flower person." Rita's favorite plant depends on the time of year, but if she had to pick one, she said it would be the Jade Family and Rita Lees Nursery grows tables full of them. Heather just couldn't name one favorite as she loves them all. A common comment from many growers! She works with the plants and is the social media manager. She sends out availabilities and posts to FaceBook. A new website is coming up in the next year too.

Heather's two kids, Owen age 9 and Hannah 7, have been around the greenhouses and farm since they could walk. Since they are getting older, they help as they can in their free time after school.

Heather's husband, Andy Ponce, handcrafts specialty arrows using different species of hardwoods. The business name is Addictive Archery and he sells these arrows at Archery shows around the

Northwest. Heather and the kids go along to the shows too. She noticed many families at these events and she decided to bring cacti and succulents to sell and educate a group of people that may not know about them. This group of shows has given Rita Lees Nursery another venue to showcase their very cool plants! One of the cacti they bring to these shows is Thimble Cactus (*Mammillaria gracilis fragilis*), as they are "Kid Friendly Cactus". The spines are soft and not pokey for the curious little ones.

Michele Armstrong is no stranger to the agricultural world as her main job is at Wilbur-Ellis that supplies farmers with seed, pest control and agribusiness services. She is not at the greenhouses as often as she was in the early days of the business, but now is the consultant for fertilizer and pest control.

The first years of Rita Lees Nursery were the very beginning of the current indoor plant craze. There were not many, if any, local specialty growers with such a broad selection of cacti and



succulents. Each year, the Armstrongs sold to another retail garden center or plant shop and also booked a booth at plant sales like GardenPalooza, Clackamas County Master Gardener's Spring Garden Fair and Hortlandia. (Check out the list of retail stores to find their plants at the end of this article).

In asking Rita, what she thinks about the increase in their greenhouses, business and the demand of plants, she told me "Little did we ever imagine or dream" the amount of plants we grow and sell. They now grow over 350 different genus of cacti and succulents, with 50-60 new varieties planned for the new year. She told me, I look forward to my

work time in the greenhouses, "It's relaxing to be in the greenhouses and not in the real world." Isn't that what we all feel in the garden? We work in our gardens and the real world slips away around us. Our focus is our plants and being among them for this time frame. The stress of the day is gone.

The Armstrong family is amazing as they have worked together for over ten years building this business and they are still smiling, still enjoying themselves and their plants. They grow quite a collection of cacti and succulents and I bet you can't wait to meet them all at GardenPalooza, April 4th 2020!





Thimble Cactus



Tall cacti coming soon
Lower Cacti Opuntia
'Angel Wing'



Rita, Hannah, Owen and Mater the Dog



Propagation Bench



Bench of Jade Plants

Rita Lees Nursery

<https://www.facebook.com/Rita-Lees-Nursery-218550908340755>

Sources for Rita Lees Nursery Cacti and Succulents

Al's Garden & Home
Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham &
Wilsonville, Oregon
• www.als-gardencenter.com

Birds and Bees
Portland, Oregon
• www.birdsandbeespx.com

Garland Nursery
Corvallis, Oregon
• www.garlandnursery.com

Green Space Design
• www.greenspacegroup.net

Paxton's Gate
Portland, Oregon
• www.paxtongate.com

Pets on Broadway
Portland, Oregon
• www.petsonbroadway.com

Somewhere That's Green Plant Shop
Bend, Oregon
• www.somewheregreen.com

Windowsill
Salem, Oregon
• www.windowsillsalem.com

Addictive Archery
• www.addictivearchery.com and on FaceBook



Pink Flower Orchid Cactus



White Orchid Cactus Bloom

Over Extended



A small sample of the plethora of extension cords available.

Just like everything else during the holiday season, our extension cords may be taking on a bit more than they can handle.

by Ron Dunevant

The Christmas season is upon us and for many of us that means trees and lights and decorations. And under those trees will be gifts: smart phones, electronics, TVs, computers, reciprocating saws, race cars, vacuum cleaners, alarm clocks...truly, something for everyone. The one thing all these items have in common is that they require some kind of power in order to function.

Electricity in U.S. homes has been a feature for over a century now, but it wasn't until 1925 that even half of the country's homes were wired. Since that time, American ingenuity and capital-

ism have made the most of this miracle of technology, and today we have more things than ever before that require electricity.

We all try to purchase safe lights, appliances, electronics and the like, but what about the connections we use to get the power to them? That link is just as important, and it's one that may become an afterthought amidst the joy and chaos of the holiday. So let's talk about the unsung hero of modern life, the extension cord.

Chances are, you have several, probably dozens. They come

in all shapes, sizes and colors. What you may not know is that each extension cord has a specific function, a certain niche that it fills. Electrical cords are designed to get the power from the outlet to the items it is powering, but what you plug in is your responsibility.

Most extension cords are suited to a specific purpose and there are three types: Light duty/occasional use, medium/frequent use and heavy duty. The difference between each type is in the thickness or "gauge" of the wire used. If you're at all familiar with your home's electrical system

then you know that the wiring for a large appliance (such as a stove or clothes dryer) is much thicker than the wiring that supplies a standard outlet used for a lamp or TV. The gauge is a number that represents the thickness of the wire. Some common numbers you may have seen are American Wire Gauge (AWG) 16, 14, 12, 10 and 8. The lower the number, the thicker the wire and the more electricity it can safely carry.

Extension cords are no different. Items that use more electricity need extension cords with thicker wire. If you've ever felt an electrical cord and it was warm or hot to the touch, then that is a case of the appliance requiring more electricity than the wires were meant to handle. This is how fires start. Using the right cord in the right place will keep you safe and protect your valuable electronics.

Light duty or occasional use extension cords are made of the thinnest gauge wire, usually AWG 16. They're meant for indoor applications such as lights, clocks, portable fans and desk lamps. Although today's flat-screen TVs are much more energy efficient (a 32-inch LED TV can use as little as

30 watts of electricity) you should skip the extension cord and move up to a surge protector. More on that later in this article.

Medium duty cords are designed for more frequent use and heavier applications. They employ a 14 gauge wire, and are designed for power drills, table saws, motorized appliances, and outdoor tools like leaf blowers or electric chain saws.

Heavy duty extension cords, those made of 10 gauge to 12 gauge wire, are for heavy and extra heavy duty applications, such as air compressors, shop vacs, table saws and space heaters. They are designed for continuous use in situations with high amp devices.

If you're unsure or if you have multiple appliances plugged into your extension cord, it's always better to err on the side of caution. Using a heavy duty cord for a light duty appliance won't cause a problem, but the reverse certainly could.

There are also extension cords designed for outdoor use. These cords have tough covers made



Some extension cords come with flat plugs for use behind furniture.

from plastic, vinyl or rubber and they're designed to take the punishment of being dragged over the concrete or through the gravel. They are also meant to handle some amount of moisture, like wet grass. (Never place your extension cord in standing water unless you are using a model designed for that purpose.)

You may also find, on the packaging, several letter designations which have been defined by Underwriters Laboratories, a global safety certification company (indicated by a "UL" in a circle, printed on electrical products that meet their standards.) Some of their codes, as listed on Wikipedia, are:

S = Severe Service Cord – 600 volts

SJ = Junior Severe Service – 300 volts

SVT = Vacuum cleaner cord, or light duty cord

H = Heat Resistant

HH = High Heat Resistant

V = Vacuum Cord – 300 volts (typically used with vacuum cleaners and other portable cleaning equipment)

W-A = Weather Resistant (UL approved for indoor and outdoor use)

W = Weather and Water Resistant (CSA approved for indoor and outdoor use)

Read the packaging. Most extension cords will indicate the recommended usage, whether light, medium or heavy duty and indoor or outdoor.

There are also some items for which you should never use an extension cord (or, if necessary, employ a heavy duty cord for safety.) Most of these appliances produce heat, which draws much



PHOTO CREDIT: AMAZON.COM

Extension cords designed for outdoor use feature tough covers made from plastic, vinyl or rubber.



PHOTO CREDIT: DANIEL ROSSI VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Even a heavy duty extension cord can become overloaded.

more power than non-heat appliances. These include coffee pots, toasters, hair dryers, irons and space heaters. A hair dryer, for example, often uses over 1,000 watts and 15 amps, and can quickly cause a light duty extension cord to overheat. If you find that you need to consistently use an extension cord for a heavy duty appliance, it is recommend that you hire an electrician to install an outlet in a more convenient location.

In addition to a regular extension cord, another type of cord is designed to provide additional outlets. These are especially useful where multiple appliances must be plugged into one outlet. The best example of this is your Flat Screen TV. Chances are, you will also have plugged into this same outlet, a cable box, a DVR, a DVD player, a stereo, and a sound system. That's a lot of electronics into one plug.

When purchasing a power strip (anything with multiple outlets), determine what type of appliances it will be servicing. Some of these devices are little more than extra outlets and will do nothing to protect sensitive electronics. For that, you should employ a surge protector.

Surge Protectors

Many of today's most popular appliances incorporate microprocessors and sensitive electronic parts that require extra protection. Power spikes and outages can ruin your electronics. We have all heard the stories of lightning hitting a power pole and the resulting surge destroys all the electronics down the line. But, more common are the everyday dips caused by high-power electrical devices. If you've ever seen the lights dim briefly when the refrigerator turns on, you understand. The power usage needed to get the motor and compressor started sucks enough electricity



Some extension cords will also provide USB outlets.

PHOTO CREDIT: RON DUNEVANT

Garden Time's Plant Picks are from Little Prince. Yours should be, too.



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www.LittlePrinceOfOregonNursery.com

to pull it away from everything else in the house. The lights are just the most obvious sign. Over time, these fluctuations can cause extra strain and wear down the components in your electronic devices.

The best way to insure their safety is with a surge protector. These are often found in the form of a power strip which functions to prevent these fluctuations from getting to your devices. Quite simply, a surge protector evens out the electrical current. If the voltage rises above an acceptable level, the surge protector diverts the extra electricity into the outlet's grounding wire. Surge protectors are also available as small plug-in units that mount directly on an outlet. They're perfect for traveling with your laptop. You should definitely use some kind of surge protector for your all of your flat screen TVs, desktop and laptop computers, and any other sensitive or expensive equipment.

You will often see three ratings on a surge protector:

Clamping Voltage determines what voltage will cause the surge protector to divert excess electricity to the ground line. A lower clamping voltage indicates better protection. A number above 400 V is considered too high.

Energy Absorption and Dissipation – This number, indicated in joules, tells you how much energy the surge protector can absorb before it fails. The higher the number, the better the protection. At a minimum, look for a rating of at least 200 to 400 joules. A rating of 600 joules or more will provide even better protection.

Response Time – There is always a slight delay (a fraction of a second) before a surge protector will respond to a power surge. The longer the response time, the longer your electronics



Some surge protectors mount directly on an outlet and are excellent for use while traveling.

PHOTO CREDIT: RON DUNEVANT



This set of surge protectors has a rating of 1200 joules, an superior amount of protection.

PHOTO CREDIT: RON DUNEVANT

are exposed to potentially harmful power spikes. Look for one that can respond in less than one nanosecond.

Backup Power

A step above the surge protector is the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). This is a device that converts AC (alternating current) to DC (direct current), stores it on a battery, and converts it back to AC power for your electronics. If there is an interruption in your electricity, whether a momentary disruption or an outage, the UPS allows your computer to continue to run, using the stored battery power. This will give you a few minutes to save your work and shut down your computer. Some units will also interface with your computer via a USB connection, which will send a signal to the computer to shut itself down in the event this happens while you are away. These units can be expensive, with some costing over \$100, but if you depend on your computer or if you have expensive equipment, this extra layer of protection is worth the expense. It will also keep your computer from shutting down during a momentary power hit, an annoying situation where your computer shuts off and you lose all unsaved data.

Yes, there are an almost unlimited number of solutions for our electricity-based culture. The best time to employ these methods, however, is *before* a power surge destroys your valuable electronics. The proper use of extension cords, surge protectors and UPSs are an effective way to keep your appliances running and minimize risk. This year, when you're out shopping for gifts, buy one for yourself and replace those old, outdated cords with something new and appropriate for their intended use. Then you can enjoy the holidays knowing that your expensive electronics and your home are safe.

**AmazonBasics Standby UPS
400VA, 255W, 6 Outlets. At \$44,
it's one of the less expensive
backup power options.**

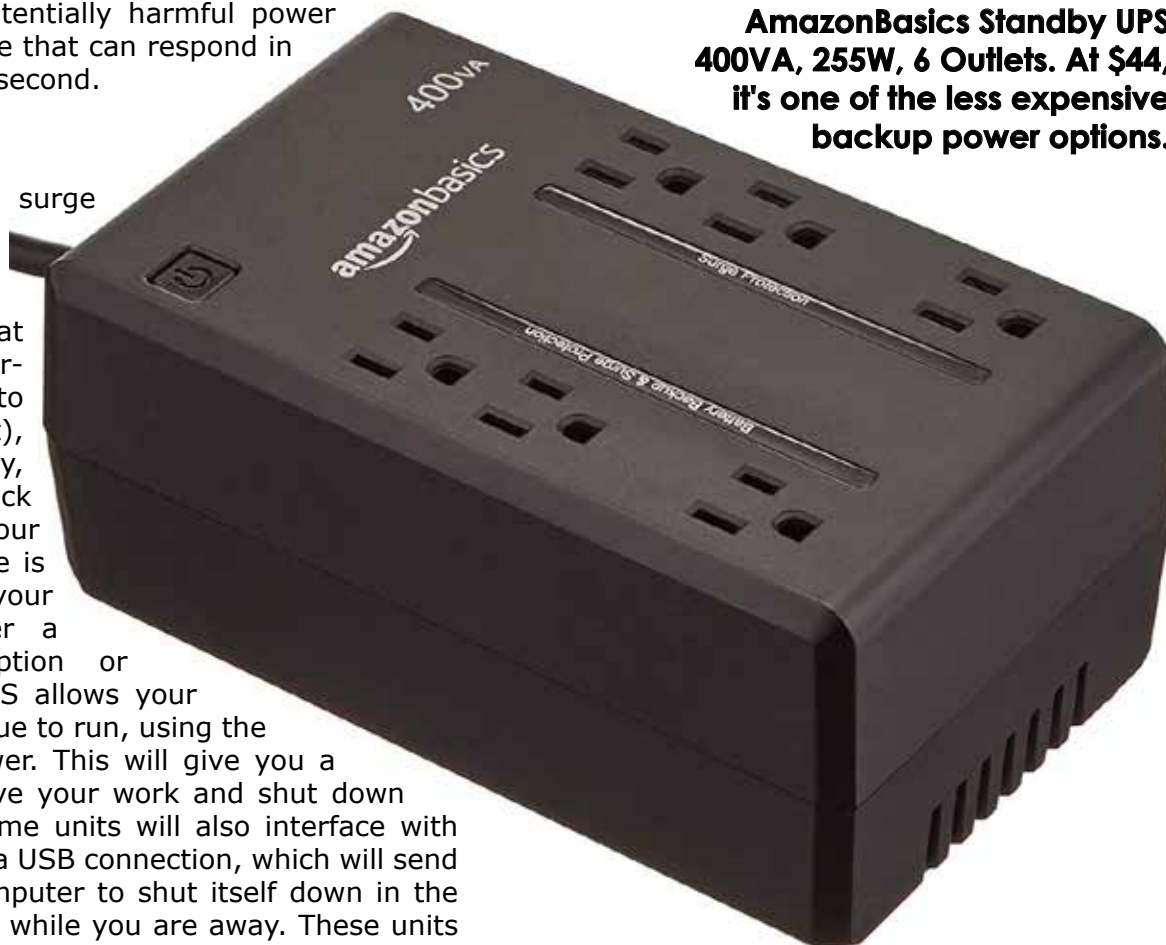


PHOTO CREDIT: AMAZON.COM

Available Now! **Garden Time Flowers**

In celebration of Garden Time, we are proud to tell you about three flowers that have been named in our honor. The *Garden Time Dahlia* comes from Swan Island Dahlias, the *Garden Time Rose* was introduced by Heirloom Roses and the *Garden Time Iris* is from Schreiner's Iris Gardens. Check them out and put a little *Garden Time* in your yard!



Garden Time Dahlia



Garden Time Rose



Garden Time Iris

ORDER TODAY!

More information at The Garden Time Store

www.gardentime.tv/store



Garden Time

WTDITG

Wow! Where did the time go? Another year over. The holiday season is always a busy time, and many of us find it hard to fit in a little work in the yard. But our plants need us, especially now. Carve out a few hours during December to make sure your plants are safe and warm for the winter. It will be the best present you can give them.

PLANNING

- Be ready for a cold snap. In case the temperature drops fast you'll want to be prepared to cover the plants. Using the Harvest Guard Protective Yard & Garden Cloth (AKA 'reemay') will protect the plants against severe cold temperatures. Cover only in



the cold spells, remove when temperatures rise again. Multiple layers will protect to lower temperatures.



- Plan a family trip to choose a live Christmas tree for this year's holiday. Live trees are just the best idea when thinking

green; a tree you can plant with the family after the holidays; a tradition that will grow with the family!

Some of you think it is better to use artificial trees as they are good for the environment. Nope! Artificial trees are generally made in China, pollute the atmosphere when being manufactured, fill up landfills and contain harmful chemicals. Instead of a fake tree this year, adopt a real one. Share the gift of life with the family with a live tree you can enjoy for decades.

- Organize your garden journal. Go over the notes from the year and set some goals and plans for next year.



PLANTING

- If you find your spring bulbs in a sack in the shed, get them planted! They are not going to sprout roots and grow in



the sack and yes it's late but there is still time to get them in the ground. If you don't plant them this month, it really will be too late.

- OK to plant trees and shrubs now. In our part of the world, if you can dig a hole in the soil,

you can still plant. Roots will still grow a little all winter long, so getting them in now will allow some root development during winter.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Time to clean out the Mason Bee condos and clean up the cocoons and get the condo system ready for the new season.

when you turn it over helps to break down the organic matter faster. Keep the pile from getting too waterlogged with a tarp or cover.

- Turn the compost pile. Adding oxygen to the pile

- Make sure that weeds are pulled away from the

What To Do In The Garden DECEMBER

base of trees and that bark or mulch is not too deep around trunks. Rodents like to chew on the bark and the hiding places the weeds or mulch provides should be eliminated.



- Make sure that any plant underneath big thirsty conifers or under the eave of the house is getting a good deep drink

of water once every 4-6 weeks. Plants can take more severe cold weather with hydrated cells than dehydrated cells.

- You can fertilize the lawn now if you haven't done so in the last two months. Lawns are still growing roots during the winter and you can improve the green color by applying a lawn food now. Using one with a moss killer will help kill off the moss over the winter. Apply a dose of dolomite lime to the lawn if none has been applied for a year. Don't use a weed-n-feed now, the weeds will just grow, not die. The chemicals in the weed killer need much warmer temperatures to work.

- Don't walk on frozen grass until it thaws. You will see your footprints on the turf in the spring otherwise.

- Watch for aphids on spruce trees. Often in the winter the spruces can get attacked by aphids. We don't usually notice until it's too late in the spring when all the old foliage falls off. Hose the trees off with a strong stream of water to knock any aphids from the needles. You can check and see if they are on the trees by holding white paper under a branch end and tap hard. Check for infestations by holding white paper under various branches and tapping. If they are present you'll see some on the paper.



- Dormant spray the fruit trees as needed for control of overwintering insects and diseases. However, no spray is needed

if no disease or insect problem was detected this past season. Dormant Spray Oil is used to smother the overwintering insects

and Copper Sprays are good for disease control. Spray according to directions on the label.



- Pruning: It is not time to prune but time to STUDY UP on the subject! Pruning fruit trees is discussed in great detail in many books

and articles. We highly recommend reading up on the subject before making cuts that you can't glue back on the tree. Read up and take good care of your trees. You'll get much more production from them if you do.

- Get after any weeds that are growing now before they go to seed. Covering the beds with thick mulch after the weed pulling can help deter them further.



VEGETABLE GARDEN



- Do a recap of the successes and the failures. Start to plan what you want to grow next year and begin the process of finding out what grows best together in regards to companion planting.

- Check on the veggies you are wintering over. Make sure the

compost mulch is nice and thick over the crops you are storing in the ground.

- Make out your wish list of things you'd like from Santa, like seed starting supplies, pruners, gardening tools and gloves.



Maybe some beautiful outdoor pottery to feature pretty flowers near the front entry for guests. Or a big fat gift certificate so you can come pick out what you want this next year!



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Christmas in the Garden, presented by Power Kia
November 29, 2019-January 5, 2020
The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

Enjoy an immersive holiday event based on a traditional European-style Christmas Market, where you can experience the sights, sounds and smells of the season. Stroll through the forest and our one million lights, while sipping a warm, spicy gluhwein. Feast on a variety of international dining options from pizza to fondue. Explore our Market vendors and find the perfect Christmas gift. Enjoy music from choirs and cozy up to a wood-burning fire pit. Those more adventurous will enjoy ice skating or snowless tubing, while the rest of the crew watches from the comfort of our fully-covered, heated tents. Our event is designed for friends and family to linger, enjoy time together and experience the traditions that make this time of year so special. www.oregongarden.org

ZooLights
November 29, 2019-January 5, 2020
The Oregon Zoo

As you walk around the zoo, you'll see a dazzling display of more than 1.5 million lights, and experience the zoo in a whole new way. In addition to visiting elephants, mountain goats and other wildlife, you can ride the popular lighted train and carousel, and enjoy hot drinks and local food carts. Photos with Santa will be available for the little ones every evening through Dec. 24. Pricing varies depending on the date. www.oregonzoo.org

Make My Own Wreath Out of Fresh Greens for the Holidays
Sunday, December 1, 2019 • 11:00am-12:30pm
Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Do you want to cross "Make My Own Wreath Out of Fresh Greens for the Holidays" off your bucket list? If you didn't before, you do now! Come let Garland's elves show you how to make a stunning wreath of your very own! Cost: \$35 Preregistration required. Call 541-753-6601 to reserve your spot! Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, OR. www.garlandnursery.com

continued next column

garlandnursery.com

Mini Succulent Wreath
Sunday, December 1, 2019 • 1:00pm-2:00pm
Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$35.00. Picture it: a cool, artsy twig wreath and then you put living succulents on it! This is beyond. You should probably make two so you don't have to make the gut-wrenching decision to give it as a gift or not. Warning: If you post your creation on the Instagrams you'll probably instantly become an Influencer (Does anyone really know what that means?) and then you'll be swimming in endorsements and will have to quit your job to become the Living.... Cost: \$35.00. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, OR. www.garlandnursery.com

Wreath Making Workshop
Sunday, December 1, 2019 • 3:00pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Portland Nursery Staff. Create your own fresh and beautiful wreath for the holidays! You will be guided through the process of making a wreath that is unique to you and guaranteed to bring holiday cheer into your home! Feel free to bring your own special decorative elements to add to your wreath. Extra special embellishments to personalize your wreath available to purchase additionally. Class limited to 12. \$35 fee (pay at register after class) covers materials for a mixed green wreath with pinecones and handmade bow. Please bring gloves and hand pruners.

Michael Allen Harrison Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 1, 2019

• 4:00pm-6:00pm (doors open at 3:00pm)
The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

In the Grand Hall located in the J. Frank Schmidt, Jr. Pavilion. Michael Allen Harrison brings his famous "Christmas at the Old Church" show to The Oregon Garden. His Christmas show is one of the most beloved traditions every holiday season. Michael's

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beautiful piano arrangements and the incredible vocals of Gospel, Blues & Jazz Singer Julianne Johnson will blow you away. You will also enjoy amazing young, local talent, as Michael loves to include talented children from the community wherever he goes.

Doors open at 3:00pm (along with a bar serving beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks) and the show starts at 4:00pm. After the show, enjoy the Christmas in the Garden – event tickets are included with concert admission (ice skating and snowless tubing are an additional charge). www.christmasinthegarden.com

Free Day Food Drive
Tuesday, December 3, 2019
Lan Su Garden, Portland, OR

In honor of #GivingTuesday and as a thank you to our supporters, admission to Lan Su Chinese Garden on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 is being waived with the donation of a nonperishable food item to support the Oregon Food Bank. www.lansugarden.org

Garden Book Bash
Tuesday, December 3, 2019 • 6:50 pm
Griffith Park Building, Beaverton, OR

Presenter: Tom Fischer, Senior Acquisitions Editor of Timber Press. Need gardening inspiration in the middle of winter? Get a head start on Spring as Tom Fischer of Timber Press gives us his take on recently published gardening books. He brings a selection of some of the best gardening books of the year to peruse and possibly purchase as gifts for yourself or for family and friends. Location: City of Beaverton, Griffith Park Building, Room 330.

Christmas Open House Weekend
Friday-Sunday, December 6-8, 2019
Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Join us for a three day event, celebrating this wondrous season. We'll have Christmas decorations and trees on display, cut and living Christmas trees, **continued next column**

tons of beautiful plants, and great gift ideas for everyone on your list. We'll also have seminars on Saturday (see below). Check our emails and Facebook for a special coupon good all weekend. We hope you will join us and help us celebrate! **SAVE THE DATE!!** www.tsugawanursery.com

Mason Bees Cocoon Cleaning
Saturday, December 7, 2019 • 10:00am-12:00pm
PCC Rock Creek, Portland, OR

Presenter: Ron Spendal, Master Gardener. The third of three presentations on mason bees. This is a hands-on workshop showing how to extract, clean, and store mason bees. LOCATION: WCMGA Education Garden at PCC Rock Creek. PCC Rock Creek Building 4 Workroom, 17705 NW Springville Rd. Portland, OR 97229.

Christmas Creations DIY
Saturday, December 7, 2019 • 10:00am
Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Join Dana and Karlene as they share their expertise on indoor and outdoor containers for the winter months. A variety of plants and fresh cut greens will be discussed and displayed. After class discussion we will assist you in making your own Christmas creation. This may be in the form of a centerpiece or a Christmas greens container. You may bring your own container or purchase one of ours. For attendees, we will be offering a 50% discount on all containers used for the class. Class fee: \$25.00 for a centerpiece ; \$35.00 for a container. www.tsugawanursery.com

Winter Faire
Saturday, December 7, 2019 • 10:00am-4:00pm
Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR

Enjoy a walk in the winter garden and then stop by the Manor House and Garden Gift Shop for festivities and sales! Storewide 20% off sale in the Garden Gift Shop. Local artisans, complimentary hot beverages, specialty wreaths, baked goods. Visit the winter garden, sip a hot beverage, support local **continued next page**



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

craftspeople, and get 20% off of everything in the shop! www.leachgarden.org

Christmas Wreath and Bow Making Class
Saturday, December 7, 2019 • 11:00am–12:30pm
Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Make your own gorgeous Holiday Wreath from Noble Fir, Pine, Incense Cedar, and other natural Pacific Northwest materials. Ron will demonstrate and give one-on-one help to ensure your wreath will be as beautiful as it is unique! All materials to make a full and festive wreath are included with the price of the class, but participants are encouraged to bring a special keepsake ornament to add to their wreath. Bring pruners and gloves if you have them. Participants must register before Wednesday, December 4th. Sorry, no refunds after December 4th. Cost: \$45/person. www.bloomingjunction.com

Wreath Making Class
Saturday, December 7, 2019
• 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Martha Stewart has nothing on you! This holiday season you made your very own wreath out of fresh greens! Bask in the glory of the tidal wave of compliments on your handmade creation. Our busy lil elves will instruct you on how to become the wreath craftsman of your dreams! Cost: \$35 Preregistration required. Call 541-753-6601 to reserve your spot! Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, OR. www.garlandnursery.com

Natural Ornaments
Saturday, December 7, 2019 • 11:00am(W)
Saturday, December 14, 2019 • 11:00am(S)
Saturday, December 21, 2019 • 11:00am (G, V)
Al's Garden & Home, Woodburn, Sherwood,
Gresham, Wilsonville(V), OR

Winter fun starts with this great holiday craft project. Create cute and silly natural ornaments for your tree out of tree cookies, paint pens, clothes pins, and of course glitter! Keep your ornament or give it as a

continued next column

holiday gift. www.als-gardencenterevents.com

Wreath Making Workshop
Saturday, December 7, 2019 • 12:30pm
Saturday, December 14, 2019 • 12:30pm
Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

With Portland Nursery Staff. Come create a beautiful wreath for your door this holiday season! Portland Nursery staff will supply the technical know-how, you bring your own special style, your gloves and pruners. We will make a 12" wreath with fresh greens and other decoration. We will provide pruners, but please bring a pair if you have some. Dress warmly! Class limit 10 people. \$35 materials fee. www.portlandnursery.com

Wreath Making Workshops
Saturday • December 7, 2019 • 12:30pm
Sunday • December 8, 2019 • 10:00am
Saturday • December 14, 2019 • 10:00am
Sunday • December 15, 2019 • 12:30pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Portland Nursery Staff. Create your own fresh and beautiful wreath for the holidays! You will be guided through the process of making a wreath that is unique to you and guaranteed to bring holiday cheer into your home! Feel free to bring your own special decorative elements to add to your wreath. Extra special embellishments to personalize your wreath available to purchase additionally. Class limited to 12. \$35 fee (pay at register after class) covers materials for a mixed green wreath with pinecones and handmade bow. Please bring gloves and hand pruners. www.portlandnursery.com

Holiday Gift Bonsai
Saturday, December 7, 2019 • 1:00pm
Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Join Fabio as he helps you prepare a bonsai for yourself or for your holiday gift giving. Basic bonsai care will be discussed and expert help will be provided to assist you as you prepare your bonsai.

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There will be a selection of materials provided for purchase to complete your project. Class Fee: Will range from \$40.00 to \$100.00 depending on what type of plant material you choose. www.tsugawannursery.com

Macramé Hanger

Saturday, December 7, 2019 • 1:00pm-2:00pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$25.00. It's retro, it's modern, it's back and all the cool kids are doing it. The elves of Garland will show you how to make your very own macramé hanger. Have your potted plants at home fight it out (Not to the death! Just a friendly competition.) over who gets the honor of being The Macramé Plant! Or perhaps you'd prefer to walk your brand new hand-crafted (By you no less!) hanger around the nursery to find the perfect potted plant.... Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, OR. www.garlandnursery.com

Wreath Making Class

Sunday, December 8, 2019 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$35.00. This class is for all you who made a wreath or wreaths in our previous wreath making classes and now have to make some for all your friends and family because they won't quit begging you for one of your stunning creations! First timers also welcome! Cost: \$35 Preregistration required. Call 541-753-6601 to reserve your spot! Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, OR 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

Make Your Own Kissing Ball

Sunday, December 8, 2019 • 2:00pm-3:00pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$25.00. Pucker up! It's time to get all the kisses. Or just that one special kiss you've been waiting for. It's up to you how you use the awesome power of the Kissing Ball! The elves of Garland will show you how to make a beautiful hanging kissing ball out of fresh greens and mistletoe. Use this power wisely.

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Great for holiday parties! Cost: \$25 Preregistration required. Call 541-753-6601 to reserve your spot!

Aaron Meyer Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8, 2019

• 4:00pm-6:00pm (doors open at 3:00pm)

The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

in the Grand Hall located in the J. Frank Schmidt, Jr. Pavilion. Aaron Meyer is considered Portland's best rock violinist. Audiences are truly mesmerized by Aaron's unique stage presence blended with awe-inspiring performances. He immediately engages his fans, displaying an affinity for the violin in a seemingly effortless mastery of the instrument. Aaron puts on an amazing holiday performance with a six-piece Rock Orchestra that will lift your holiday spirits with an upbeat twist on your favorite Christmas songs.

Doors open at 3pm (along with a bar serving beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks) and the show starts at 4pm. After the show, enjoy the Christmas in the Garden – event tickets are included with concert admission (ice skating and snowless tubing are an additional charge). Cost: \$35/Adults, \$25/Kids 10 & under. www.christmasinthegarden.org

Honeybee Hikes

Wednesdays through December 10, 2019

• 10:00am-11:00am

Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR

Your little honey bee will walk the trails - listening to the wind and the creek, touching soft leaves and looking for wildlife like bunnies, woodpeckers and deer. Our wonderful guides will then read a story and help the children craft something fun. Each week is different with seasonal themes. Ages: 2-5 years, accompanied by an adult. Meets at the Manor House. Dress for the weather! \$3.00 per child, non-walkers free.

Punch cards available in the Leach Garden Gift House—purchase 5 hikes and get the 6th one free.

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PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

Groups with 10+ children/adults must preregister by contacting the Education Coordinator, 503-823-1671. Please check our website for possible cancellations due to weather or the impacts of our upper garden construction project.

Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave., Portland, OR 97236, 503-823-1671. <https://www.leachgarden.org/>

Bonsai Introductory Class

Saturday, December 14, 2019 • 9:00am-11:00am

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Join us for a two hour introduction to bonsai class and learn the simple truth about growing ancient trees. Class fee: \$20.00. www.tsugawanursery.com

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 14, 2019

• Seatings at 10:00am, 11:00am or 12:00pm

French Prairie Gardens, St. Paul, OR

Enjoy Breakfast with Santa on December 14, 2019! Farmer Santa will be here to take photos with the whole family! Christmas craft stations will be available along with lots of Christmas Cheer!

Menu Features: Vegetarian & Sausage Quiches, French Toast Blueberry Casseroles, Egg Casseroles, Bakery Pastries (Donuts, Muffins, Scones), Oven Potatoes, Fruit Salad, Sausage and Ham. *Gluten-free options are available – however we are NOT a gluten-free facility and cook all items in the same kitchen. We try our hardest but cross-contamination is possible. Vegetarian options also available. Cost: \$14.99 – \$24.99. www.fpgardens.com

Bonsai Continuing Class

Saturday, December 14, 2019 • 11:00am-1:00pm

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Requires previous attendance in Introductory Class. Hands-on wiring class. Learn and practice the most important technique for the shaping of bonsai. Wire and plants will be provided for the training. They will also be available for purchase, if desired. Please bring two regular pliers. Class fee: \$30.00. www.tsugawanursery.com

tsugawanursery.com

Make a Terrarium Ornament!

December 15, 2019 • 1:00pm-2:00pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

It's like a mini world in a glass ornament! So whimsical and elegant the recipient of this gift will stare at it for hours on end. We recommend you call them occasionally to remind them to eat and sleep. Our happy little elves will walk you through planting up this mini terrarium in the glass ornament. It can hang on a Christmas tree but that's not all! It comes with a stand so you can enjoy it year-round. Cost: \$25.00. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, OR. www.garlandnursery.com

Landscape with Edible Plants Workshop

Sunday, December 15, 2019 • 1:00pm-3:30pm

Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR

Sponsored by East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District. This workshop will give you insight and tools for thoughtfully incorporating edible plants into your landscape – from annual veggies and herbs to perennial berries and fruit trees. We'll discuss design tips, ways to build fertile soil, and how to conserve water while producing a harvest. You will also learn about native plants that feature edible fruit and nuts, as well as how to invite beneficial insects to your garden. You'll walk away ready to assess your site and make a plan for a beautiful – and delicious – landscape!

Meets in the Manor House. Free. Registration in advance is required. www.emswcd.org/workshops. Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave., Portland, OR 97236, 503-823-1671. www.leachgarden.org

Please see below for event details regarding the Winter Faire hosted by Leach Botanical Gardens. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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Lisa Landucci Christmas Concert & "Home for the Holidays" Album Release!

Sunday, December 15, 2019

• 4:00-6:00pm, (doors open at 3pm)

The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

In the Grand Hall located in the J. Frank Schmidt, Jr. Pavilion. Oregon-based singer/songwriter/storyteller, Lisa Landucci, comes "Home for the Holidays" from her 2019 world tour. Accompanying Landucci are some of the NW's most magical musicians. She will share stories and songs from her summer tour in Italy and Scotland. Please join us for a festive evening!

Doors open at 3pm (along with a bar serving beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks) and the show starts at 4pm. After the show, enjoy the Christmas in the Garden – event tickets are included with concert admission (ice skating and snowless tubing are an additional charge). Cost: \$20/Adults; \$15/Kids 10 & under. www.christmasinthegarden.com

Holiday Craft Workshop for Kids

Saturday, December 21, 2019 • 10:00am-11:30am

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Portland Nursery Staff. Kick off winter break with a fun activity for the whole family! Get creative with fresh-cut greens, and smell the scents of the season. Our enthusiastic teachers will guide you through the process of making a small wreath, swag, or table arrangement that is unique to you, and guaranteed to bring holiday cheer into your home! Since we will be using handheld pruners we request kids 12 and under be accompanied by an adult. Class size will be limited so sign up soon! Make sure to register separately for each family member. \$15 materials fee. www.portlandnursery.com

Pressed Flower Necklace

Saturday, December 21, 2019 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

This ain't your grandma's pressed flower project! Unless your grandma is super modern, sleek and a trend-setter. Whoever gets this gift will be drown-

ing in compliments. Choose from three different-shaped glass "locket pendants" and from an assortment of dried flowers. Or bring your own dried flower or plant material to make it even more special. Elf Tasia will show you how to create the pendant and will have different chain options that can be cut to whatever length is perfect for your creation. She will also show you how the clasp is attached so you're not just getting to make the best gift ever, you're learning stuff! Pretty soon you'll have your own Etsy site and will have to hire a staff to keep up with orders. Cost: \$25.00. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, OR. www.garlandnursery.com

Rituals for Winter Solstice

Saturday, December 21, 2019 • 3:00pm-4:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Life-Cycle Celebrant Holly Pruett. Join Life-Cycle Celebrant Holly Pruett to explore the world of winter rituals. How can we honor the darker times, the fallow ground that carries the promise of spring? This creative ceremony-maker will help you imagine and carry out personal, family, and community rituals that transcend the commercial chaos of the holiday season. Portland Nursery landscape designer Terrie Burdette will guide the group through creating a personalized candle ring from collected greens & floral materials. A wonderful hands-on activity to embrace the season and take home a new ritual. Materials fee: \$12, pay at register day of class. Please bring gloves and hand pruners. www.portlandnursery.com

LOOKING FOR MORE?

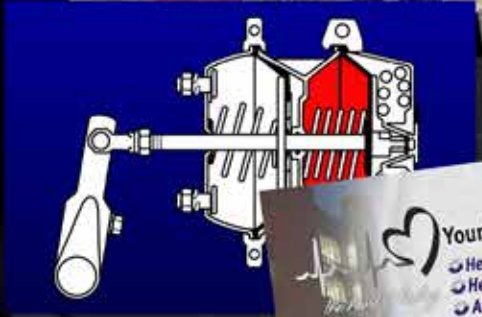
You will find more events and updated information on the Garden Time Events Calendar
www.gardentime.tv/events.htm

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