

'THE SAGE'--FEBRUARY 2008

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

This Month's Highlights: [Having Flowers Around Relieves Stress](#)
[Easy Roasted Potato Recipes](#)
[Klein's Goes Green with Fiber Pots](#)
[February in the Garden](#)
[Review: HGTV's 'Gardening by the Yard'](#)
[Fun With Plant Families](#)
[Plant of the Month: English Primrose](#)
[Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo](#)
[Garden Events Around Town](#)
[Related Resources and Websites](#)

Please stop and visit with our own Rick Halbach at the Klein's booths during Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo, February 8-10 at the Alliant Energy Center.

"Container gardener/designer extraordinaire" is how television host Shelley Ryan described Rick on a recent episode of WPT's [Wisconsin Gardener](#). Rick's own garden has been featured in the Wisconsin State Journal and Rick is currently featured in the 2008 edition of the Wisconsin Garden Journal put out by the Madison Area Master Gardeners Association. Rick's very informative introductory article discusses container gardening and year round interest. Rick will be available to visit and answer gardening questions at the Klein's booths on Friday, Saturday & Sunday (Feb 8-10) during regular expo hours.

Klein's is also happy to announce that we are part of the Dane Buy Local initiative. We've joined hundreds of other area businesses and civic leaders who are encouraging you to buy local. Visit the Dane Buy Local website at www.danebuylocal.com for a complete directory of members with links to participating businesses and organizations and please buy local!

FEBRUARY STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday:

8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00 (starting Feb. 10)

We will be closed Sunday, February 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

February 2--Ground Hog Day

February 6--Ash Wednesday. Easter is March 23--the earliest date possible!

February 7--Chinese New Year

February 8-10--**Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo** at the Alliant Energy Center. The Klein's booths will entice all senses with fresh herbs, colorful windowsill bloomers and spring annuals. We'll also be giving out tons of coupons for free annuals and in-store savings. In addition, Klein's will be sponsoring two very informative presentations about container gardening using cutting edge annuals and spotlighting current trends in style. Please join us with 4 Star Greenhouse owner and Proven Winner™ supplier, Tom Smith, at both 12:00 and 3:00 on Saturday at the Demonstration Area stages. Tickets for Garden Expo are available at Klein's for a lesser price than at the door. More details available at wpt.org/garden. There you'll find a complete list of exhibitors and a calendar of scheduled events.

February 14--Valentine's Day. Order early for guaranteed delivery. We deliver throughout Madison and most of Dane County.

February 18--Presidents' Day

February 20--Full Moon

Throughout February--Ever thought about working at a greenhouse? Now is the time to stop in and ask for an application. We always need temporary, part-time counter help in the spring and greenhouse production swings into

gear by mid-February. If you're interested, ask for Jennifer for the retail area or Jamie for the greenhouses. Benefits include a generous discount on all those plants you buy at Klein's anyway. Join our team and experience how it's all done.

Throughout February--The summer bulbs continue to arrive for retail sale. Shop early for the best selection.

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

From the Society of American Florists Website at www.aboutflowers.com

Science and Nature Unearth New Insights into Emotional Health Rutgers Behavioral Study Links Flowers and Life Satisfaction

With today's high-tech and fast-paced lifestyle taking its daily toll on our lives, experts advise exercise and other personal lifestyle changes to relieve stress. According to recent behavioral research conducted at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, nature provides us with a simple way to improve emotional health - flowers. The presence of flowers triggers happy emotions, heightens feelings of life satisfaction and affects social behavior in a positive manner far beyond what is normally believed.

"What's most exciting about this study is that it challenges established scientific beliefs about how people can manage their day-to-day moods in a healthy and natural way," said Jeannette Haviland-Jones, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Rutgers and lead researcher on the study.

Research Findings

A team of researchers explored the link between flowers and life satisfaction in a 10-month study of participants' behavioral and emotional responses to receiving flowers. The results show that flowers are a natural and healthful moderator of moods.

1. Flowers have an immediate impact on happiness. All study participants expressed "true" or "excited" smiles upon receiving flowers, demonstrating extraordinary delight and gratitude. This reaction was universal, occurring in all age groups.

2. Flowers have a long-term positive effect on moods. Specifically, study participants reported feeling less depressed, anxious and agitated after receiving flowers, and demonstrated a higher sense of enjoyment and life satisfaction.

3. Flowers make intimate connections. The presence of flowers led to increased contact with family and friends.

"Common sense tells us that flowers make us happy," said Dr. Haviland-Jones. "Now, science shows that not only do flowers make us happier than we know, they have strong positive effects on our emotional well being."

Sending chocolates to your loved one this Valentine's Day?

February is the month of love and romance and no food brings romance to mind quicker than chocolate. Not only a treat, chocolate is actually very healthy for you, containing vital antioxidants--far more than either green tea or red wine. For more information on chocolate visit renowned chocolatiere Gail Ambrosius at her shop at 2086 Atwood Ave. or at www.gailambrosius.com. where you'll not only find tons of information on the health benefits of chocolate, but also see Gail's wide array of selections--many of which use common garden herbs and essences in their recipes.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . .that Klein's is the second oldest florist in the city of Madison? Things have changed quite a bit since Klein's was started in 1913. In the beginning, many of the flowers used in our floral arrangements were actually grown on site. Farm fields surrounded our East Washington Ave. (Sun Prairie Road) location where the Klein family grew not only produce, but also seasonal cut flowers like delphiniums, peonies and irises. In addition, carnations, snapdragons and sweet peas, among others, were planted directly into the soil in our back greenhouses and harvested and sold as needed. Nowadays, nearly all of our cut flowers are produced in South or Central America and shipped to us daily. To a lesser extent we receive product from the west coast and the Netherlands. To support local agriculture, we use locally grown cut flowers as much as we can during the summer months. Local farmers stop weekly so our designers can choose the freshest product. Because the local crop is seasonal, the selection can change a lot from week to week.

KLEIN'S RECIPES OF THE MONTH--These are a selection of relatively simple recipes chosen by our staff.

New recipes appear monthly. Enjoy!!

Just a few weeks ago many of the local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farms sent out their last shipments of vegetables from the 2007 gardening season. These storage share shipments most commonly include onions, carrots, beets, daikon radish, celeriac, leeks, rutabaga, cabbage, garlic and, of course, potatoes. Following are some of Klein's tried and true favorites that all potato lovers will enjoy--last month we spotlighted onions. Roasted potato recipes are always easy and are a great way to use up overstock quickly.

To peel or not to peel? That is the question! Leaving potatoes unpeeled in all recipes (including mashed potatoes) adds texture, color and retains nutrients that peeling eliminates.

ROASTED POTATOES POUAPON--This recipe comes from a Grey Poupon® Dijon mustard ad from the mid-1990's and remains a family favorite!

1/2 cup Dijon-style mustard
1/3 cup olive oil
3 lbs. red potatoes (either peeled or left unpeeled), cut into 1 1/2" pieces.
2 medium onions (1 1/2 cups), sliced

Preheat oven to 400°. In a bowl, whisk together the mustard and the oil. In a large bowl, combine potatoes, onions and the mustard mixture. Toss to coat well. Spread evenly onto a rimmed baking sheet. Bake for 45-50 minutes until the potatoes are tender and crispy. Serves 6.

HONEY MUSTARD ROASTED POTATOES--Similar in flavor to the above recipe but the honey adds a wonderful the sweetness the kids will enjoy. This recipe appeared in the Capital Times in 1997.

Cooking spray
4 large baking potatoes (2 lbs.), peeled or left unpeeled, cut into 6-8 chunks.
1/2 cup Dijon-style mustard
1/4 cup honey
1/2 tsp. dried thyme
salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 375°. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil and spray with cooking spray and set aside. Place the potatoes in a saucepan, cover with water (salt added) and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and cook over medium heat until just tender (12-15 minutes). Drain.

In a very large bowl, whisk together the mustard, honey and thyme. Add the potatoes and toss gently until evenly coated. Spread the potatoes evenly on the prepped sheet. Bake 20 minutes or until the potatoes begin to brown. Season with salt and pepper. Serves 4.

PARMESAN ROASTED POTATOES--Yet another roasted potato recipe we could not be without. This recipe appeared in The Isthmus in November of 2000.

8 large potatoes, sliced into wedges
1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 cup grated Parmesan
1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. pepper
1 TBS. paprika

Preheat oven to 375°. Line a very large, rimmed baking sheet with foil. Place potatoes in a very large bowl and toss with the oil, Parmesan, salt, pepper and paprika. Spread evenly onto the sheet and bake 1 hour--no need to rearrange during the cooking time. The potatoes will come out perfectly crisp and ever so flavorful!

MOLASSES TOSSED ROASTED POTATOES--Try this newer recipe for something easy and totally different!

2 1/2 lbs. small red potatoes or fingerlings, halved or cut into smallish pieces
2 TBS. cooking oil
2 TBS. molasses
2 TBS. balsamic vinegar
1 tsp. dried thyme, crushed
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat the oven to 450°. Prep a 9x13" baking dish with cooking spray. In a large bowl, whisk together the oil, molasses, vinegar, thyme and salt. Add the potatoes and toss to coat. Bake, uncovered, 20 minutes. Stir in the walnuts and bake 15-20 minutes until potatoes are tender, stirring once more. Serves 8.

NEW PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT--Each month we will spotlight some new product

that we already carry or one that we've taken note of and plan to carry in the near future. Likewise, if you would like to see Klein's to carry a product that we don't currently, please let us know. Our goal is to be responsive to the marketplace and to our loyal clientele. If a product fits into our profile, we will make every effort to get it into our store. In addition, we may be able to special order an item for you, whether plant or hard good, given enough time. This month's new product is:

The Michael Gentilucci Collection from Designer Stone, Inc.

"Cast-stone Garden-Art, Handmade in the U.S.A."

From the Designer Stone website@ www.dsggardenshop.com

"It is Designer Stone's purpose to manufacture the highest quality cast-stone garden ornaments. By combining premium ingredients and unique coloration, We attain an old world traditional appeal that will endure for generations."

"Our product is constructed of the highest grade Portland cements, A specialized aggregate and a plethora of strengthening additives. Together, these materials allow the finished product to flourish in various weather climates, Ranging from freezing Colorado winters to arid Arizona summers."

"We design, manufacture & distribute our hand~made cast~stone Garden Art to select Garden Centers, Boutiques & Catalog Companies."

Klein's is happy to announce the addition of Designer Stone to our growing collection of unique and whimsical gift items and garden art. Our mix includes a menagerie of posed animals and peaceful Buddhas, all of which would fit perfectly into any Madison home or garden.

NATURAL NEWS--

As gardeners, we've all found ourselves with stacks of old, non-recyclable plastic pots and trays in our garages and basements. We try to reuse what we can, but ultimately much of it ends up in the trash and in our landfills. Klein's Greenhouse has always been proud of our efforts to recycle your used pots and trays. But, too often, they come from other retailers and we, too, are unable to reuse or recycle them.

The environmentally conscious consumer has a choice to make and we at Klein's have found a solution! Beginning in 2006, we began an earth friendly program of growing much of our product in reusable and biodegradable "fiber pots". Not only are these pots "naturally" attractive, but due to better aeration, plants actually develop healthier root systems. The results are undeniable! These are not soggy peat pots, but durable growing pots made from recycled paper products. Because they biodegrade rather slowly and plant roots do not easily penetrate the pot, Klein's recommends that these pots are not planted "pot & all". Simply plant your plants as always, then dispose of your pots in the trash or compost or reuse a season or two. Our customers rave about our product and are able to garden guilt-free.

In 2008, look for the continued expansion in our use of biodegradable pots! Currently all of our 4 1/2", 6", 8" and 10" are grown in these fiber pots, along with many of our 12" hanging baskets and most of our mixed containers. In the fall, all of our mums, pansy bowls and cool weather containers are also planted in these biodegradable pots. If you don't like the look, many customers simply set the fiber planting inside a more permanent decorative container. And new for 2008, we're currently looking into planting our poinsettia crop into rather attractive biodegradable pots made from rice hulls and bamboo. The possibilities are exciting.

The following is from our pot manufacturer's website at www.westernpulp.com

Western Molded Fiber Containers Are Made From Recycled Paper

Western uses 100% recycled paper. The basic raw material used in manufacturing Western molded fiber containers is recycled newspaper. Products are made from a special blend of newspaper and kraft paper trimmings. Western is creating a valuable, useful product out of waste paper materials that would otherwise be headed for a landfill or other disposal system.

The Reasons To Recycle Are Compelling

Waste paper comprises over 40% of the average landfill volume! As the amount of solid waste grows, the need to find alternatives to landfills becomes more critical. Economically and environmentally we can no longer continue to discard materials that can otherwise be recycled. Using recycled paper as a raw material also assures a steady supply of raw material. While recycling efforts have greatly increased in recent years, it is estimated that approximately 30% of paper and paperboard is currently recovered. Your recycled copy of the local newspaper allows Western to maintain an economical source of raw material and supply you with the quality and quantity of nursery containers needed.

The Recycling Emblem

Western is proud to be able to use the American Forest & Paper Association's Recycling Symbol on all our products. It is a positive statement recognized by consumers.

Western Supports Recycling

Western commends efforts of other companies and groups that support recycling. We take pride in being an industry leader in recycling and have done so for over 40 years. By using Western molded fiber containers you are not only buying a practical, economical product ... you are also making a positive statement for our environment.

Western Molded Fiber Containers Are Biodegradable In The Natural Environment

Biodegradable containers are broken down naturally by bacteria and other microorganisms in the soil.

This natural process allows decomposed Western containers to become harmless organic material in the soil. A material that biodegrades does not remain in a form that may cause problems for future generations. By using paper fibers as the source of raw material, Western containers are inherently biodegradable.

FEBRUARY'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

English Primrose

Few blooming plants bring spring to mind quicker than the English primrose. Fewer still are available in a broader range of color. Primrose are available in nearly every color of the rainbow except green. There are miniatures, others with frilly petals and foliage, and still others are bicolored. And some--especially the yellow ones--are super-fragrant, bringing the sweetness of freesia to mind.

English Primrose have been a late winter/early spring staple at Klein's for many years. They continue to be the most sought after plant at our booth at the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo held this month at the Alliant Energy Center. We work exceptionally hard to present our homegrown primrose in the perfect state of bloom, with just a few blooms open. Peek inside the center of each plant and you'll see a cluster of flower buds which open progressively for an exceptionally long bloom period. We receive our tiny primrose during October and grow them very cool, in the 40's, until ready for sale. We keep them at the perfect state of bloom by dropping the temperatures even further. The cool temperatures stimulate bloom, promote strong roots and sturdy foliage and hinder the appearance of pests--most notably aphids.

In your home, cooler temperatures also lengthens the bloom period. The optimal spot for English primrose in the home is a cool, bright windowsill. The cool temps off the glass replicate our greenhouse conditions as close as possible. A west or east window is best. Needless to say, few homes have these perfect conditions so we suggest a simple trick to keep your primrose happy and healthy until you can plant it in the garden come spring. When not at home and before going to bed at night, pop your primrose into the refrigerator. Doing so can lengthen the bloom time

by 8 weeks or more! All plants need light to survive, so place your primrose in its bright location when and where people can enjoy their cheery blooms.

English primrose are a Zone 5 perennial. Although they may be able to survive our winters, they tend to be fussy about placement in the garden. Ideally they prefer a protected location in dappled shade in rich and well-drained soil. In nature they grow in the understory of deciduous trees--we've heard they do very well under oak trees especially. Because they are borderline hardy in southern Wisconsin, they tend to die off during winters with little snow cover or frequent freeze and thaw cycles. On the other hand, we've also heard fantastic success stories from customers who purchase primrose from us year after year at Garden Expo--one from Chippewa Falls! But who cares any way? These harbingers of spring will bring joy each day for the rest of our frigid Wisconsin winter. Visit Klein's and give English primrose a try. Unless we sell out at Garden Expo, English primrose are generally available until mid-April.

YOU ASKED. . .

In December I bought a poinsettia at Klein's surrounded by a new plant called 'Diamond Frost'. I accidentally tipped over the pot and broke off a few stems of each and noticed a milky sap coming from both of them!! Are these plants somehow related to each other?

Anyone who enjoys gardening, taxonomy and, in addition, the study of language (etymology) enjoys answering a question like yours. Seeing how plants are related by common features, structure and name is fascinating to share with children and adults alike. This is one of the joys of working at a greenhouse. Examples are available at arm's length.

To answer your question. Yes, poinsettias and the popular new garden annual 'Diamond Frost' both belong to the Euphorbia Family (Euphorbiaceae) along with many other familiar plants, including spurges, crown-of-thorns and castor bean. The most recognizable feature they have in common is a sticky, white sap. Plants belonging to this family are also toxic to varying degrees. Other plants also contain a white, sticky sap. These include members of the milkweed family (Asclepiadaceae). Familiar members of that family include hoyas, stephanotis and, of course, the milkweeds from roadsides and gardens.

By definition, a Plant Family is a group of genera that share a set of underlying features (the sticky white sap, for example). Family names always end in -aceae and that's where language (the use of Latin) comes in play.

Some of the more recognizable plant families from our homes and gardens include (along with their distinguishing features and some common members):

Apocynaceae (The Dogbane Family), 5 petal lobes, paired leaves--

Vinca, amsonia, mandevilla, oleander, periwinkle

Asteraceae (The Daisy Family-Composites), blooms clusters of flowers--

The largest family of garden plants!! Ageratum, yarrow, goldenrod, sunflowers, thistles, shasta daisies, gerbers, osteospermum, joe-pye weed, gazanias, liatris, rudbeckia, zinnias, bidens, strawflowers, calendula, asters, coreopsis, bachelor's buttons, marigolds, coneflowers, cosmos, dahlias, gaillardia, chicory, mums and many, many more.

Boraginaceae (The Borage Family), hairy leaves, often blue flowers--

Forget-me-nots, brunnera, heliotrope, lungwort, comfrey, bugloss

Brassicaceae (The Mustard Family), 4 petals form a cross, cool temps

cabbage relatives, alyssum, dame's rocket, stock, arabis

Convolvulaceae (The Morning Glory Family), mostly vines, bell-shaped--

Morning glories, cardinal climber, evolvulus, sweet potatoes

Cucurbitaceae (The Melon Family), vines with tendrils--

Cucumbers, melons, squash

Fabaceae (The Legume Family), nitrogen fixers with compound leaves--

Many have pea-like seed pods. Peas, beans, sweet peas, lupines, lead plant, lotus, baptisia, wisteria, alfalfa

Lamiaceae (The Mint Family), square stems, foliage usually aromatic--

Most herbs (mint, rosemary, thyme, sage, oregano, savory, basil, lavender), in addition to: lamium, coleus, agastache, ajuga, nettles, salvia, bee balm, stachys, nepeta, plectranthus, creeping charlie

Liliaceae (The Lily Family), three petals & three sepals, grass-like leaves--

Lilies, many spring bulbs (tulips, hyacinth, squill, etc.), allium, alstroemeria, daylilies, hosta, agapanthus, liriopse, garlic

Malvaceae (The Mallow Family), 5 petals with central column of stamens--

Hibiscus, hollyhock, lavatera, abutilon, sidalcea, okra, velvet leaf (a common field weed)

Rosaceae (The Rose Family), five petals and five sepals--

Roses, many fruits (apples, crabapples, pears, plums, peaches, cherries, quince and even strawberries), potentilla, geum, queen-of-the-prairie, spirea, ladies' mantle
Solanaceae (The Nightshade Family), fruit is a pod, juglone sensitive--
Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, potatoes, tobacco, nicotiana, petunias, datura, brugmansia, browallia, Chinese lantern, painted tongue, nolana, nierembergia, nightshade
Verbenaceae (The Verbena Family), flowers in clusters, toothed leaves--
Verbena, lantana, caryopteris, vervain, duranta

AROUND TOWN:

NOTE: If you know of any community or neighborhood events or garden tours you would like posted on our web site in our monthly newsletters, please contact Rick at (608) 244-5661. Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Our readership is ever-growing so this is a great opportunity for free advertising. Events must be garden related and must take place in the immediate Madison vicinity.

Dane County Winter Farmer's Market

Saturdays, January 6 thru April 14, 8:00-noon
Madison Senior Center
330 W. Mifflin
For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

21st Annual Orchid Quest 2008

Saturday, February 2, 10:00-5:00
Sunday, February 3, 10:00-4:00

Vendors and education seminars from orchid experts have everything you need including literature, growing media, fertilizer and orchid pots. \$6 admission for one day and \$9 admission for two-days. Visit www.orchidquild.org for more information.

Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Madison, WI 53713
608/267-3976 or www.alliantenergycenter.com

15th Annual Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo

Friday, February 8, 4:00-9:00
Saturday, February 9, 8:00-6:00
Sunday, February 10, 10:00-4:00

Walk through the custom garden display, attend demonstrations and seminars, register for workshops and view over 400 different exhibitors. One and two day tickets are available at the door or in advance from Klein's. Visit www.wpt.org/gardenexpo for more information. Meet [Shelley Ryan](#), master gardener and producer/host of The Wisconsin Gardener series, UW-Extension experts, and Master Gardeners. All show proceeds, including admission fee, support Wisconsin Public Television programming. Garden Expo also meets WPT's educational and community outreach mission.

Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Madison, WI 53713
608/267-3976 or www.alliantenergycenter.com

Designing Native Gardens

Saturday, February 16 & February 23 • 12:30 pm – 4 pm

This 2-part series (Feb. 16 and Feb. 23) helps homeowners discover what native wildflowers might be used for gardens in their home landscape. The first session discusses how to analyze your property to determine an appropriate native landscape including design considerations. The second class focuses on site preparation, planting and maintenance along with a discussion of individual projects. Registration required. (\$40.00)

University of WI Arboretum
1207 Seminole Hwy.
Madison, WI 53711

608/263-7888 or uwarboretum.org/events

**Olbrich Garden's
Bolz Conservatory Exhibit-Safe and Sustainable Bug Control**

January 9 through March 23, 2008

Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00

In the Bolz Conservatory

Beneficial insects have been used in the Conservatory since it opened in 1991 to provide control of plant-damaging insects, which minimizes the need of more dangerous traditional insecticides. These controls, along with several others, are part of the Conservatory's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. Learn about Olbrich environmentally-friendly pest control methods and get ideas you can use to reduce or eliminate pesticide use at home. Admission is \$1 for the general public. Admission is always free for Olbrich Botanical Society members and children 5 and under, and is free for the public on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison
608/246-4550 or www.olbrich.org for details

The Wisconsin Gardener

"The Magic of Gardening"

Sunday, March 2, 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.

on Wisconsin Public Television

Check local listings for the station nearest you.

Details at wpt.org/garden/details

Discover "The Magic of Gardening" on the next edition of The Wisconsin Gardener when Producer and Host Shelley Ryan visits enchantingly fanciful gardens throughout the state. In Reedsburg, Chris Coutre of Coulee Country Landscape shows Ryan how a backyard pond can recapture the magic of childhood. These chemical-free water features provide a perfect habitat for water plants, fish and frogs but also make a great swimming hole for kids. Ryan learns about the delightful and versatile new trend of miniature gardening from Glenn Spevacek, a Green Industry marketing consultant, in Green Bay. Miniature gardening is as adaptable for large gardens as it is for smaller areas ?? patios, decks and even tabletops. Cheryl Keeffe, a Master Gardener in Onalaska, has combined her knowledge of gardening and doll making to appoint an extraordinarily imaginative garden complete with fairies and a headless queen. Jan Wos of Mayflower Greenhouse in Green Bay takes gardening to a new artistic level and shows viewers how to create their own living masterpiece.

The Wisconsin Gardener

"Garden Design"

Sunday, March 2, 5:45 p.m.

on Wisconsin Public Television

Check local listings for the station nearest you.

Details at wpt.org/garden/details

Learn the fine art of garden design with host Shelley Ryan. In Lake Geneva a professional gardener shares tips for basic garden design and creating an anchor point. The rose garden at Olbrich Gardens in Madison is an excellent example of how to design a mixed border. All America Selection winners are plants that tested all over the country. Mark Dwyer of Rotary Gardens shares some of his favorites and Anne Walker.

FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN--A checklist of things to do this month.

___ Check perennials for heaving during warm spells. Remulch as needed.

___ Continue bringing out your cooled forced bulbs for indoor enjoyment.

___ Inspect stored summer bulbs like dahlias, cannas and glads for rotting.

___ Check for and treat for pests on plants brought in from the garden.

___ Keep birdfeeders full. Clean periodically with soap and water.

___ Repair and clean out birdhouses. Early arrivals will be here soon!

___ Inventory last year's leftover seeds before ordering or buying new ones.

___ Order seeds and plants. Favorite sources include:

For seeds:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds @ RareSeeds.com or 417/924-8887

Burpee @ burpee.com or 800/888-1447

Harris Seeds @ harrisseed.com or 800/514-4441
Johnny's Select Seeds @ johnnyseeds.com or 207/861-3901
Jung's Seeds @ jungseed.com or 800/247-5864
Park's Seeds @ parkseed.com or 800/845-3369
Seeds of Change @ seedsofchange.com or 888/762-7333
Select Seeds @ selectseeds.com or 800/684-0395
Territorial Seeds @ territorialseed.com or 888/657-3131
Thompson & Morgan @ thompson-morgan.com or 800/274-7333

For bulbs:

Colorblends @ colorblends.com or 888/847-8637
John Scheeper's @ johnscheepers.com or 860/567-0838
McClure & Zimmerman @ mzbulb.com or 800/883-6998

For plants:

Heronswood Nursery @ heronswood.com or 360/297-4172
High Country Gardens @ highcountrygardens.com or 800/925-9387
Logee's Greenhouses @ logees.com or 888/330-8038
Plant Delights Nursery @ plantdelights.com or 912/772-4794
Roots and Rhizomes @ rootsrhizomes.com or 800/374-5035
Wayside Gardens @ waysidegardens.com or 800/213-0379
White Flower Farm @ whiteflowerfarm.com or 800/503-9624

- ___ Sterilize seed starting equipment and pots with a 1:16 bleach solution.
- ___ Shop for summer bulbs like begonias, caladium, calla and elephant's ears.
- ___ Use the winter days to plan next summer's garden.
- ___ Trim trees. Begin pruning fruit trees at month's end.
- ___ Begin bringing in branches for forcing: pussy willow, forsythia, quince, etc.
- ___ As the days lengthen and new growth occurs, begin fertilizing houseplants.
- ___ Check your garden for any plant damage from weather or rodents.
- ___ Visit Klein's---it's green, it's warm, it's colorful---it's always spring.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT KLEIN'S--This is a sneak peek of what is going on each month behind the scenes in our greenhouses. Many people are unaware that our facility operates year round or that we have 10 more greenhouses on the property in addition to the 6 open for retail. At any given moment we already have a jump on the upcoming season--be it poinsettias in July, geraniums in December or fall mums in May.

IN FEBRUARY:

---We're readying ourselves for two of our year's biggest events--Garden Expo and Valentine's Day. For Garden Expo, we've readied our displays and the plants we're selling are bursting with color. For Valentine's Day, we're awaiting the onslaught by prepping the thousands of additional cut flowers, unpacking all the beautiful vases and containers, ordering hundreds of blooming plants and securing additional delivery vehicles and staff.

---Spring plants begin arriving en masse! After Valentine's Day the first spring bedding annuals arrive. Pansies, violas and dianthus plugs are popped into cell packs so they're ready for early April sales.

---We're planting up our thousands of mixed annuals hanging baskets. The geranium hanging baskets planted in January are filling out and almost ready for their first pinching and shaping.

---We reopen greenhouses in our back range as needed. They've been shut down to save on heat and eliminate pest problems.

---The deadline approaches for Easter orders. Dozens of area churches order lilies, tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, mums, hydrangeas and azaleas for Easter delivery.

---We take advantage of the warm and sunny rooms in our front range (the retail area) to do any touch up painting or construction to ready ourselves for the spring season.

---Spring product begins arriving for unpacking and pricing--the pots, the tools, the sundries. We need to have everything priced and ready to go by April 1.

---We continue to assess our needs for spring staffing and try to have the new people in place and trained by March 1. March and April are the busiest months behind the scenes in the greenhouse and we rely on a dedicated, hardworking team to have everything ready for the customer come May 1 and the spring onslaught.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE OF THE MONTH--SUE KLEIN JOHNSON

Because Klein's Floral & Greenhouse owner, Susan Klein Johnson, spends most of her work time behind the scenes, many a loyal Klein's customer has assumed over the years that we must be under new ownership. Keen observers are very aware of the many ongoing changes occurring at Klein's and the fact that Sue, until more recently, was seldom seen on the sales floor clearly lead to that logical assumption. Reality, however, is far from perception and,

as sole owner, Sue is fully involved in all aspects of the business. Klein's evolution into a well-respected and modern greenhouse facility is a direct result of Sue's insight and leadership.

Sue, quite literally, grew up in the greenhouse. She and her parents lived in the farmhouse attached to the greenhouses along East Washington Avenue until they moved into their new home just around the corner on Mendota St. Sue has very fond memories of growing up in her greenhouse setting. From a very early age she helped her mother in the flower shop with arrangements and corsages. During her free time, Sue says she enjoyed curling up with a book and the greenhouse cats atop the pile of marsh hay out back.

After graduating from Madison East High School in 1983, Sue attended the University of Wisconsin, receiving a B.S. in Floriculture in 1987. It was during her time at the university that Sue met Klein's current head grower, Jamie Vanden Wymelenberg. After graduation, Sue attended the American Floral Art School in downtown Chicago, where she received training at one of the world's leading institutes for floral design. Shortly thereafter, in 1990, ownership of Klein's Floral & Greenhouses was passed on to Sue from her parents and the changes at Klein's began. Currently, Sue's roles encompass all financial matters, marketing and advertising, payroll and long-term planning, along with some purchasing and human resources. But it's floral design and customer service that remain Sue's biggest passions.

Under Sue's guidance, Klein's is becoming increasingly visible in the Madison community through involvement and sponsorship. We continue to modernize the facility and offer the customer high quality and cutting edge product. But most importantly, Sue has invested in a top notch staff that is stable, knowledgeable and personable.

A certified Master Gardener, Sue says that in her own Waunakee garden, she especially enjoys container gardening and raising vegetables with her children.

Sue hopes that some day, one or more of her kids shows interest in taking over the family business. Passing on to them her own fond memories of growing up in the greenhouse makes that far more likely. Jimmy (the mechanic), Jonathan (the plantsman) and Michael (the salesman) already help out as much as possible between school and sports. And daughter, Megan (the artist), has already spent much of her young life running through the greenhouses or "helping out" in the flower shop--just like mom did. The next Klein generation is at the doorstep so stay tuned!

THE CRITIC'S CORNER BY RICK HALBACH--Recommended readings and other media for the garden novice or enthusiast.

Gardening by the Yard with Paul James on HGTV (The Home & Garden Network on cable or satellite). In Madison, Saturdays at 11:00 am and Sundays at 6:30 and 7:00 am (CST) or visit www.hgtv.com/hgtv/shows_gby/. Check listings for stations.

Anyone who knows me, knows that I'm a sucker for gardening shows. Once I tune in, it's nearly impossible to tear me from my couch (even on gorgeous spring days). Gardening by the Yard with Paul James on HGTV is my gardening show du jour. Even though I consider myself a fairly seasoned gardener, I find that there's ALWAYS something new to learn on every one of Paul's shows.

Until recently, I've never really considered myself a fan of HGTV. But while recuperating from a leg injury last fall and winter, I got to see my fair share of what television had to offer in the way of home gardening shows and, quite honestly, there isn't much. Gardening shows on local television are syndicated and hard to find, usually strapped to the 5:00 am time slot on Sunday mornings. And public television? Who can figure out their ever-changing schedule and lineup. As a person who lives life by rather rigid schedules, I gave up on public TV about a year ago (although Wisconsin Gardener continues to be one of my favorite shows).

HGTV on the other hand has a very dependable schedule, one that is very easy to find on their website. Though called the Home and Garden Network, I've traditionally found that HGTV fare leans heavily toward home improvement and major landscaping rather than the basics of gardening. Gardening by the Yard, on the other hand, returns us to those basics and how-tos. Though on the air since 1996, Gardening by the Yard is a recent discovery for me. Unlike many national gardening shows, which tend to focus on more temperate parts of the country, Gardening by the Yard deals with plants and subjects that can be used anywhere in the U.S., even in Zone 4 Wisconsin!

Host, Paul James, is down-to-earth, charming, amiable and not over-the-top goofy. He authentically makes working in the garden appear fun. I find him to be a truly engaging teacher and the beginning gardener will not be intimidated by Paul's show or approach. His choice of topics and style keep your attention throughout and presentation is easy to understand. He warmly welcomes the viewer into the gardening experience. What I appreciate most about Gardening by the Yard is the show's dedication to "all-natural" gardening and teaching the home gardener about

organics and sustainability. He approaches green products and techniques matter of factly, rather than as something foreign or unattainable. His genuine care for the earth resonates in nearly every show I've seen. Although the saying is trademarked, I give Gardening by the Yard "two enthusiastic thumbs up"!

PERMANENT FEATURES--

KLEIN'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Have our monthly newsletter e-mailed to you automatically by signing up on the right side of our home page. We'll offer monthly tips, greenhouse news and tidbits, specials and recipes. . .everything you need to know from your favorite Madison greenhouse. And tell your friends. It's easy to do.

SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

We offer a 10% Off Senior Citizen Discount every Tuesday to those 62 and above. This discount is not in addition to other discounts or sales. Please mention that you are a senior before we ring up your purchases. Does not apply to wire out orders or services, i.e. delivery, potting, etc.

BUCKY BOOK COUPON

Klein's is again showing our proud support of UW Athletics with advertising and coupons in the 2008 edition of the Bucky Book.

DELIVERY INFO

Klein's Floral and Greenhouses delivers daily, except Sundays, throughout all of Madison and much of Dane County including: Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Middleton, Monona, Oregon, Shorewood Hills, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee and Windsor. Current delivery rate on 1-4 items is \$6.95 for Madison, Maple Bluff, Monona and Shorewood Hills, slightly more to the surrounding communities and for more than 4 items. We not only deliver our fabulous fresh flowers, but also houseplants, bedding plants and sundries. We offer free delivery to all Madison hospitals and funeral homes.

Morning delivery is guaranteed to the following Madison zip codes, but only if requested: 53703, 53704, 53713, 53714, 53716, 53718 and Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Monona, Sun Prairie, Waunakee and Windsor. We begin our delivery day at 8:00 a.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. Except during holidays, the following west-side zip codes and communities can be delivered only during the afternoon: 53705, 53706, 53711, 53717, 53719, 53726, Middleton, Oregon, Shorewood Hills and Verona. During holidays (Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, etc.) we are able to make morning deliveries to all of the above areas. We are not able to take closely timed deliveries on any holiday due to the sheer volume of such requests. It's best to give us a range of time and we'll try our absolute hardest. Orders for same day delivery must be placed by 12:30 p.m. or by 2:30 p.m. for Madison zip codes 53704 and 53714.

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Please refer all questions, concerns or feedback in the following departments to their appropriate supervisor.

Phone: 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661

Floral Department Manager Kathy Lehman

kathy@kleinsfloral.com

Head Grower & Horticulturist Jamie VandenWymelenberg

jamie@kleinsfloral.com

Assistant Grower

Craig Johnson

Retail Manager

Jennifer Wadyka

jennifer@kleinsfloral.com

House Accounts & Billing Barbara Foulk

Delivery Supervisor

Rick Halbach

Owner Sue (Klein) Johnson

sue@kleinsfloral.com

RELATED RESOURCES AND WEB SITES

University of Wisconsin Extension

1 Fen Oak Ct. #138

Madison, WI 53718

608/224-3700

www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/

www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic
Dept. of Plant Pathology
1630 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
www.plantpath.wisc.edu/

Insect Diagnostic Lab
240 Russell Labs
1630 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
www.entomology.wisc.edu/

State Soil Testing Lab
5711 Mineral Point Rd.
Madison, WI 53705
608/262-4364
www.soils.wisc.edu

American Horticultural Society
www.ahs.org

Garden Catalogs (an extensive list with links)
www.gardenlist.com

Invasive Species
www.invasive.org

Friends of Troy Gardens
Rm. 171, Bldg. 14
3601 Memorial Dr.
Madison, WI 53704
608/240-0409
www.troygardens.org

Community Gardens Division (Madison area)
Community Action Coalition
1717 N. Stoughton Rd.
Madison, WI 53704
608/246-4730
www.cacscw.org/gardens/

Madison Area Master Gardeners (MAMGA)
www.madison.com/communities/mamga/

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Program
Department of Horticulture
1575 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Madison, WI 53706
608/265-4504
www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/

The Wisconsin Gardener
www.wpt.org/garden/
Has a list of garden clubs and societies

Allen Centennial Gardens
620 Babcock Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
608/262-8406

www.horticulture.wisc.edu/allencentennialgardens/

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
608/246-4550
www.olbrich.org

Rotary Gardens
1455 Palmer Dr.
Janesville, WI 53545
608/752-3885
www.rotarygardens.org

University of WI Arboretum
1207 Seminole Hwy.
Madison, WI 53711
608/263-7888
www.uwarboretum.org

University of Wisconsin-West Madison
Agricultural Research Center
8502 Mineral Point Rd.
Verona, WI 53593
608/262-2257
www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/