

'THE SAGE'--MARCH 2008

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

This Month's Highlights: 50% Off Spring Houseplant Sale

Springtime Salad Recipes

Seed Starting at Home Made Easy

What Makes Klein's Greener Than Our Competition?

A List of Local Garden Clubs and Societies

Plant of the Month: The Easter Lily

March in the Garden

Review: The AHS A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants

Gardening Events Around Town

Related Resources and Websites

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!

MARCH STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday:

8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

We will be open Easter Sunday, March 23, 10:00-2:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 9--Daylight-Saving Time Begins.

March 16--Palm Sunday

March 17--St. Patrick's Day. From shamrocks to green carnations--we have it!

March 20--First Day of Spring!!!! It's still too early to plant, but you'll notice spring bulbs peeking through the cold soil, trees buds bulging and maybe even that first robin. Keep in mind that Madison's average last frost date is May 10 so there's usually still lots of cold and snow to come.

March 21--Full Moon, Good Friday

March 23--Easter Sunday (the earliest Easter can possibly be)

Throughout March--Ever thought about working at a greenhouse? Now is the time to stop in and ask if we'll be hiring for spring and pick up an application. We always need temporary, part-time counter help in the spring and greenhouse production is now in full swing. 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.

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

March is usually a quiet time for the flower shop . . . a time to reflect back on the success and craziness of Valentine's Day and look forward to a new season with Easter, Secretaries Week and Mother's Day. It's also a time of transition at Klein's as we move into "Spring Mode". We're busy unpacking boxes of supplies, stocking shelves, cleaning, remodeling and, of course, planting the many thousands of plants you'll be purchasing at Klein's in the coming months.

And because we're currently busy planting up those thousands of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs and shrubs . . .

we need more room in our greenhouses!

From now until supplies last, Klein's is conducting a green plant blow out--

50% OFF HOUSEPLANTS 6" AND LARGER.

Sale excludes some "high demand" green plants, blooming plants and cannot be used with other discounts. Please call Klein's at 608/244-5661 for details.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . .that there are a ton of garden clubs and plant societies in the Madison area in addition to our many public gardens? Many of these gardening clubs are specific to certain surrounding communities and neighborhoods. Many sponsor public garden tours during the summer months and are a great opportunity to explore many of our area's private gardens. Others conduct plant sales or are simply social clubs. The following is an incomplete list of some of the garden clubs and societies in our immediate vicinity.

Arbor Hills Garden Club

David Benjamin
3301 Derby Down
Madison, WI 53713
(608) 278-0474

Badger Bonsai Society

Bob Eskeitz
126 S. Marquette Street
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 249-5227
www.badgerbonsai.org/

Badger State Dahlia Society

Charles Craig
5335 Whalen Rd.
Oregon, WI 53575
(608) 277-7584

Crosstown African Violet Club

Alice Peterson
3611 Mathis Way
Verona, WI 53593
(608) 833-5552

Cultivating Friends

Rosemary Douma
13651 State Hwy 59
Evansville, WI 53536-9340
(608) 882-5771

Fitchburg Gardeners

Nadie Costello
5198 Widheather Dr.
Fitchburg, WI 53711
(608) 835-8346

Growing Power, Inc.

Hope Finkelstein
229 Merry St.
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 242-7196

Heritage Garden Club

Joan Alley
President 713 Hamilton
Stoughton, WI 53589

(608) 873-5678

Ikebana

Pat Nisbet
4340 Hillcrest Cr.
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 233-9407

Indian Hills

Ann Sowaske
2 Wood Circle
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 238-7903

Lodi Annual Plant Sale

Sue Pfeil
622 Madison Avenue
Lodi, WI 53555-1117
(608) 592-5823

Madison Area Iris Society

John Baker
4601 County Hwy TT
Sun Prairie WI 53590

Madison Area Pond Society (MAPS)

Bob or Sue Rieser
598 Linden St.
Verona, WI 53593
(608) 845-5144

Madison Herb Society

Pat Greathead
P.O. Box 8733
Madison, WI 53708
(608) 834-9494

Madison Rose Society

Cindy Schally
53 Merlham Dr.
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 238-1109

Maple Bluff Garden Club

S. Hiles, President
4613 Fox Bluff Lane
Middleton, WI 53562-2329
(608) 241-9646

McFarland Garden Club

Raylene Sherman
3415 Stony Crest
McFarland, WI 53558
(608) 838-6751

Mendota Gardeners

Mary Evert
810 Woodward Dr.
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 249-3600

Middleton Garden Club

Darlene Zevnick
421 South Segoe Road
Madison, WI 53711
(608) 233-7727

Mound Vue Garden Club

Jeanne Eloranta, president
2520 Lunde Lane
Mount Horeb, WI 53572-2440
email: info@moundvue.org
www.moundvue.org

North American Water Garden Society - Madison Chapter

Bob Wambach, Chapter Coordinator
850 E. Broadway
Monona, WI 53716
608-244-3664

Olbrich Garden Club

Della Balousek
210 West Lawn Avenue
Verona, WI 53593-1139
(608) 845-7936

Orchid Growers' Guild

Doug Dowling, president
Orchid Growers' Guild, Inc.
PO Box 5432
Madison WI 53705
www.orchidguild.org

Pardeeville Garden Club

Deb Gorsuch
W5856 Lintner Rd.
Pardeeville, WI 53954
(608) 429-3234

Parkwood Hills

Beati Harris
338 N. Yellowstone Dr.
Madison, WI 53717
(608) 829-1417

Poynette Area Gardening Association

Sue Jones, President
PO Box 202
Poynette WI 53955
(608) 635-4490

Red Bud Garden Club

Cindy Schultz
1304 Western Ave.
Columbus, WI 53925-9248
(920) 623-5083

Rock Garden Society

Ed Glover
503 Johns Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
(608) 263-2455 or (608) 437-4578

Shorewood Hills Garden Club

Ann Rahn
2916 Columbia Rd.
Madison, WI 53505
(608) 238-0510

Sugar River Gardeners

Karen Lee-Wahl
901 Maple Rd
Verona, WI 53593-1641
(608) 845-3548

Sun Prairie Garden Club

Linda McCafferty
443 Woodview Dr.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-2343
(608) 837-2675

Sunset Garden Club

Cynthia Hoffland
2838 Regent St.
Madison, WI 53711
(608) 233-8083

Uplands Garden Club

Joy Liebman
4777 Cty. Rd. K
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
(608) 924-1153

Waunona Garden Club

Winifred Burkhalter
3010 Waunona Way
Madison, WI 53713
(608) 224-1332

Westside Garden Club

Ellie Beck
1102 Lincoln St.
Madison, WI 53711
(608) 256-6676

Wild Ones - Madison Chapter

Diane Powelka
5361 Betlach Road
Sun Prairie, WI 53790
(608) 837-6308

Wisconsin Daylily Society

Hiram Percy
407 Lincoln St.
Verona, WI 53593-1529
(608) 845-9249

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation-Madison District

Diane Powelka
5361 Betlach Road
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
(608) 837-6308

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society

Terri Maliszewski-Kane
N1867 Trokstad Road

Edgerton, WI 53534
(608) 884-3170; (608) 513-4189

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

In just a few short weeks the first of the locally grown greens will begin showing up in stores or even in your garden if you have a cold frame. These early spring gems include spinach, lettuce, endive, arugula, mesclun, cress and many others. Other early season vegetables include: radishes, fingerling potatoes and asparagus.

A few of our favorite **Springtime Salad** recipes include:

GREEN SALAD WITH MINT AND PEAS--This very simple and refreshing salad appeared in Martha Stewart's *Everyday Food* in May of 2007.

Dressing:

1 TBS. lemon juice
2 tsp. Dijon mustard
1 TBS. extra virgin olive oil coarse salt and pepper to taste

Salad:

Fresh greens of choice, washed, dried and torn
1 cup peas (either fresh or thawed frozen)
1/2 cup torn mint

Whisk together the dressing ingredients in a bowl. Toss together the greens, peas, mint and dressing in a large bowl. Makes enough dressing for four servings.

SPINACH STRAWBERRY SALAD--Talk about fresh spring flavors! This favorite of adults and kids alike is from *Asparagus to Zucchini: A Guide to Farm-Fresh Seasonal Produce*.

2 TBS. sesame seeds, toasted and set aside
4 TBS. sugar
4 TBS. red wine vinegar
Minced garlic to taste
1 tsp. dry mustard
coarse salt and pepper to taste
1/2 cup vegetable oil (not olive)
2 bags of spinach
2+ cups sliced strawberries
1 tsp. dried dill

Combine the sugar, vinegar, mustard, garlic, salt and pepper in a bowl. Whisk in the oil in a thin stream. Toss together with the spinach, berries, dill and sesame seeds. Serves 8.

SPINACH AND BEAN SALAD--a unique and flavorful salad from Better Homes and Garden Magazine, January 2001.

1 x 15 oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained
1/2 cup snipped dried apricots
1/2 cup chopped red or yellow bell pepper
1 sliced green onion
1 TBS. snipped cilantro
1 clove minced garlic
1/4 cup apricot nectar (available in the juice aisle)
2 TBS. salad oil
2 TBS. rice vinegar
1 tsp. soy sauce
1 tsp. grated fresh ginger
4 cups shredded fresh spinach

In a bowl, combine the beans, apricots, bell pepper, onion, cilantro and garlic. Shake or whisk together the nectar, oil, vinegar, soy sauce and ginger. Pour over the bean mixture and toss to coat. Cover and chill for 2-24 hours. To

serve, place spinach in individual salad bowls and top with desired amount of bean mixture. Season with salt. Makes 6-8 side servings.

SPRINGTIME POTATO SALAD--From a Wisconsin State Journal article dated June 22, 2001

Dressing:

3/4 cup vegetable oil
6 TBS. red wine vinegar
1 TBS. sugar
1/4 cup minced parsley
1 TBS. dried basil
2 cloves minced garlic
salt and pepper to taste
2 TBS. minced green onion

Salad:

1 1/2 lbs. small red potatoes, unpeeled
1 lb. asparagus
1 x 16 oz. can artichoke hearts, drained
12 cherry tomatoes for garnish

Combine the oil, vinegar, sugar, parsley, basil and garlic in a blender or food processor. Blend till smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste. Stir in the green onions and set aside.

Cook the potatoes till tender. Drain well and cut in half. Cook the asparagus 1-2 minutes in a small amount of boiling water until barely tender. Drain and rinse in cold water. Cut into 1" lengths. Slice the artichoke hearts. Place the potatoes, asparagus and artichokes in a large bowl and refrigerate. Just prior to serving, pour the dressing over the veggies and toss gently. Serve garnished with cherry tomato halves either chilled or at room temp. Serves 6.

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 Georgetown Home and Garden Collection of Sun Catchers, Garden Stakes, Wind Chimes and Metal Garden Art.

"Manufacturer of fine garden and home decor"

Entrepreneurs Angie Walls & Mike Pack created Georgetown from a love of nature, whimsy and manufacturing. Angie's 25 years in producing consumer products and Michael's 30 years as an arborist and naturalist make for a unique blend of expertise. The Georgetown team is devoted to providing high quality products.

Pieces are above all FUN (!), eye-catching, colorful and well made. The Georgetown sun catchers and wind chimes are particularly noted for their playful, brightly colored stained glass and twisted copper, reminiscent of antique jewelry. Any piece would be absolutely stunning in the Madison garden.

Visit the Georgetown Home and Garden website @ georgetownusa.com for more information and a sampling of the collection available at Klein's for the 2008 season.

NATURAL NEWS--

If you had the chance to visit with us at the Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo or happened to see our head horticulturist's recent spot on Channel (NBC) 15 then you are fully aware of Klein's commitment to sustainability and doing our part in creating a greener world. The following is an excerpt from a handout available at the garden show:

"Going Green", "Buy Local" and "Environmentally Friendly" are all buzz phrases of our time and **"sustainability"** is the umbrella under which all these terms have been made to fit. The word has many interpretations. True sustainability refers to the dimensions of both space and time; by keeping things local AND by realizing that all current actions will impact the future of our planet.

Up front, some of what we're doing at Klein's is obvious, including growing most of our plants in biodegradable pots made from recycled paper (visit our Newsletter Archive and click on the Feb. 08 Newsletter for more details). But there's a lot going on behind the scenes that you may not be aware of . . .

--that Klein's uses **homemade compost** in our soil recipes. Each fall the city of Madison drops off truckloads of leaves in order to create our own rich compost.

--that Klein's is switching from unsustainable and environmentally damaging peat based mixes to those made of **coir fiber**--a renewable byproduct of the coconut processing industry.

--that Klein's has begun using **biodegradable rice hulls** in our soil mixes instead of perlite. Perlite does not break down in either your garden or the landfill.

--that Klein's has joined the **Dane Buy Local** initiative. Dane Buy Local is a group of over 200 local businesses and organizations whose goal is to educate consumers on the importance of supporting local business and its impact on the community.

--that Klein's has reduced our reliance on environmentally unfriendly growth regulators on our plants in favor of **proper spacing, regular pinching and growing plants cool**.

--that Klein's is drastically reducing our dependency on conventional chemicals by leaning toward **biological fungicides and insecticides** and **organically based fertilizers**.

--that Klein's supports **Community Supported Agriculture** (CSA's) via this monthly newsletter and by purchasing many of our seasonal cut flowers from a local farmer.

--that Klein's has replaced nearly all of our greenhouse roofs with more energy efficient materials; allowing for greater heat retention during the day and less heat loss at night.

--that Klein's employs a stable and diverse work force who themselves pump dollars into the local economy.

--and that Klein's continues to grow most of our plant product on site--much of it from seed (including one of the largest selections of **heirloom tomatoes** in the area), thereby reducing packing material and fuel needed to ship finished product.

Visit Klein's this spring and see the difference!

MARCH'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Easter Lily

Either you love them or you hate them! For some, Easter lilies evoke emotions of renewal and springtime. For others, the intense fragrance is far too strong, the bright yellow, stain inducing pollen annoying and the pure white flowers symbolize death. Regardless of your own personal take on the Easter lily, this age old indoor bloomer is both easy to care for and lovely in the garden for years to come.

Lilium longiflorum (Easter lilies) are native to southern Japan and Taiwan, but have a long association with the Easter season. The pure white blossoms have come to symbolize purity, innocence, life and hope. The plant itself seems to appear from nowhere, starting out as a dormant bulb in the sterile earth--in time growing into a stately and majestic plant, this whole cycle symbolizing the resurrection of Christ. Lilies appear frequently in both Bible passages and in medieval religious art.

In choosing the perfect plant from Klein's, look for one with just one or two open buds and more flower buds forming at the top of the stem. The best plants usually average between 8 and 14 buds. The retail price is usually based on the number of stems per pot and the number of flower buds on each stem. Look for plants that are sturdy, deep green in color, glossy and with leaves nearly all the way down the stem to the soil. You'll notice that we try to remove the yellow anthers from the open blossoms where the infamous pollen forms. This not only keeps the petals a pure white, but also lengthens the life of the plant.

Upon taking your lily home, place it in a bright location, but out of direct sun and as with all forced bulbs, the cooler the better. Once in a warm home, you'll notice that the flower buds will open quite quickly. The cooler the temperatures, the longer the plants will bloom. Keep the soil moist, but never soggy. Fertilizing is not necessary. Keep removing the yellow anthers as the blossoms open, but before the pollen sheds. Lily pollen is notorious for

leaving stains on fabrics. Though easy to wash out, the pollen does not brush off fabrics without leaving a stubborn yellow smudge.

As the blossoms wilt and fade, simply cut them from the plant with a scissors. From now until late spring, simply treat your flowerless lily as an indoor house plant, watering thoroughly when dry to the touch. If you have a sunny garden spot with rich, well-drained soil, you can plant your lily outdoors at the same depth, once the soil has warmed. Under normal circumstances your lily will not bloom again this season, having used up most of its energy at Easter time. The foliage will usually die back to the ground at this point, reemerging later in summer in order to reenergize the bulb for next year. Because Wisconsin is borderline hardy for Easter lilies, it's best to top with a mulch for winter, though we've had great success in unmulched Madison Zone 5 gardens. New growth will appear in late spring the following year so it's best to mark the spot so you don't accidentally break off the crisp and tender shoots.

Easter lilies will bloom naturally during July in Wisconsin. The original plant you purchased at the greenhouse was artificially forced to bloom during the Easter season by us prechilling the bulbs. Though not incredibly long-lived, you will get many seasons from your Easter lily purchase once placed in the garden. By planting each year's Easter lily into your garden beds, you can over time create a truly awesome and super-fragrant display.

For more information visit plantanswers.com

YOU ASKED. . .

Now that I've purchased my seeds, where do I start? How do I start seeds now indoors for spring planting?

Starting your own plants from seed can be both rewarding and frustrating for the beginning gardener. From experience, it's best to start out slow. This eliminates some of the frustration. Experience will gain you knowledge and confidence. Before starting your seeds, read the packet and get a little basic information. Some seeds are best sown directly in the garden come spring and not started indoors. It's best to do a little research by going on-line or purchasing a good gardening book. The packets themselves will usually tell you whether to direct sow in the garden or how many weeks before our last frost date to sow indoors. Our last frost date is about May 10. Using a calendar, count back from May 10 and this will be your sow date.

One can start seeds on any sunny windowsill and in almost any container. Warmth and moisture are critical in getting most seeds to germinate. But a few pieces of basic and inexpensive equipment purchased at your garden center and/or hardware store will help you get started and make your seed starting experience a great success. Here is a shopping list:

- *A heating mat--makes seeds germinate quickly and uniformly
- *A few 10x20" trays without holes
- *A few clear humidity domes
- *A sterile seed starting mix
- *A 4' shop lamp w/ 2 fluorescent bulbs (you don't need "gro-lights")
or a seed growing rack if you'd like to make an investment
- *A few 10x20" trays with holes
- *A few sheets of empty cell packs, e.g. 4-packs or 6-packs
- *A water mister
- *A timer
- *A soilless potting mix

Again, following package instructions, sow the seeds, as many as you want, in a very shallow, open container, filled with moistened seed starting mix. This container can be anything from very low or cut off dairy containers to disposable food storage containers. Per package instructions, cover or don't cover the seed. Some seeds require light for germination. Next place your seeded containers in a tray without holes, mist them till well watered and cover with a humidity dome. Place your covered tray on the plugged in heating mat under the shop light. Set your timer so the shop light is on for 13 hours (off for 11 hours).

In a few days, as your seeds begin to sprout, remove them from under the humidity dome and place in a well-lit, warm location. Keep your seeds and seedlings moist. Different seeds sprout at different rates so this can take up to a week or more. Once all your seeds have germinated, unplug your heating mat. You can now move all of your seedlings to under the shop light still set at 13 hours.

Once your seedlings have 2 sets of "real" leaves it's time to "prick them out" or transplant them. Do this by placing a sheet of empty cell packs in a tray with holes. The holes now become necessary for proper drainage. Fill the cells

with soilless potting mix and moisten well with the mister. Using a pen or pencil “dibble” a hole into each of the cells. This is where you’ll now place your seedling. Remove the seed starting mix and seedlings as a clump from their starting containers. Gently break apart this root ball, separating your seedlings. The pen or pencil will come in handy as an added tool to help separate the seedlings. Carefully place one seedling in each of the holes you put in the prepped cells. Gently firm in with your finger tips. Mist well to water thoroughly and place in a warm, well lit area. Using your shop light again makes this easy. The seedlings may seem weak and somewhat abused, but they’re very resilient and will pop back quickly. When watering, fertilize your new plants with a very dilute solution, rather than at full rate. By May 10 your flowers and vegetables should be ready to put in your garden and you can say that you did it yourself--beginning to end.

Following is a list of reliable seed and plant sources. Catalogues are free and a lot of fun to page through. Klein’s currently carries Olds, Livingston and Northrup King seeds along with a complete selection of seed starting supplies.

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

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

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.

Olbrich Garden's Spring Show

Springtime Skyline: An Urban Oasis

March 8 thru March 23, 2008

Daily from 10:00-4:00

In the Olbrich Atrium

"Step into the Atrium at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and feel winter melt away as you meander through a fresh spring landscape featuring rooftop gardens. Olbrich's Spring Flower Show will be bursting with blooms. Enjoy the invigorating colors and scents of spring bulbs, trees, and shrubs along a burbling waterway. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, and forced branches of forsythia are just a few of the spring blooms you'll see and smell at Olbrich's Spring Flower Show. Animals such as turtles, fish, and birds, hand-crafted out of pounded tin, will adorn the springtime river landscape. Limestone bluffs, native Wisconsin trees, sandbars, and water features compliment the beautiful blooms.

A donation of \$2 is suggested. Selected flowers from the show will be for sale Tuesday, March 25, starting at 10 a.m., while supplies last.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

608/246-4550 or www.olbrich.org for details

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

Olbrich Garden's

Spring Pansy Sale

March 22, 2008

From 10:00-Supplies Last

Put a cheery pansy on your windowsill, dress up your holiday table, or bring a fabulous hostess gift beautifully displayed in a springtime container. These delightful pansies, violas, and panolas, grown in Olbrich's own greenhouses, are just \$6 each with three plants per pot. Colorful containers are extra. Proceeds benefit Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

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

Orchid Sale

March 22, 2008

From 10:00-2:00 or while supplies last

Celebrate spring with a blooming orchid plant. Sponsored by the Orchid Growers Guild. Orchid Growers Guild members will be available to answer questions. A portion of the proceeds benefits Olbrich Gardens. For information call 608-231-3163.

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

Woodland Wildflowers

Sunday, April 13 & April 27 • 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Walks from the Visitor Center

April 13: Spring ephemerals carpet the woodland floor. We may see bloodroot, toothwort, spring beauty and others along the trails in Gallistel Woods.

April 27: This can be a peak time for spring ephemerals such as trout lily and wood anemone. It is also time to look for returning migrant birds such as house wrens, brown thrashers and kingbirds.

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

How to Identify Spring Wildflowers

Saturday, April 26 • 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Uncover the secrets to wildflower identification through the understanding of plant patterns and plant terminology. Participants will gain valuable wildflower identification skills that can be applied in a multitude of contexts. Dress for the weather; the class will be held indoors and outdoors. Recommended reading: Spring Woodland Wildflowers of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum by Andrew Hipp. Registration required (\$12.00)

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

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

- Pinch back over wintered geraniums one last time. Root cuttings if needed.
- Check perennials for heaving during warm spells. Remulch as needed.
- Check for early spring bloomers like crocus, winter aconite & hellebores.
- Begin uncovering roses by month's end.
- 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.
- ___ Keep birdbaths full and clean for the return of the first robins & other arrivals.
- ___ Repair and clean out birdhouses. Early arrivals will be here soon!
- ___ Inventory last year's leftover seeds before ordering or buying new ones.
- ___ Seed starting is in full swing: petunias, tomatoes, peppers and cole crops.
- ___ Sterilize seed starting equipment and pots with a 1:16 bleach solution.
- ___ Shop for summer bulbs like gladiolas, lilies and dahlias.
- ___ Remove mulch & rodent protection (chicken wire) from tulip and crocus beds
- ___ Use the winter days to plan next summer's garden.
- ___ March is the month to prune most fruit trees and apply dormant oil.
- ___ Prune late summer and fall blooming shrubs.
- ___ Do not prune spring blooming shrubs like lilacs, forsythia or viburnum.
- ___ Begin bringing in branches for forcing: pussy willow, forsythia, quince, etc.
- ___ As the days lengthen and new growth occurs, increase fertilizing houseplants
- ___ Check your garden for any plant damage from weather or rodents.
- ___ Ready the lawn mower---just a few weeks to go.
- ___ Visit Klein's---the showrooms are filling up with spring annuals. Pansies, violas, calendula, cole crops & onion sets become available by month's end.

Some favorite seed and plant 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

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 MARCH:

---Transplanting is in full swing on the transplanting line in our back greenhouses. Employees work 8-10 hour shifts planting thousands of plugs and tiny seedlings into the cell packs you purchase in the spring. Once planted, the flats move by conveyor and then monorail into the various greenhouses, all kept at different temperatures depending on the plant.
 ---The greenhouses and showrooms are filling fast with thousands of hanging and potted plants. We're constantly moving product around, trying to make the best use of our limited space.
 ---By the end of the month we're moving product outside into cold frames and

hoop houses. We move product that is very cold tolerant, such as pansies, dianthus, dusty miller, alyssum and even petunias. The cold keeps them compact and pest free and hardens them off for the transition outside. We also need the room in our ever-filling greenhouses.

---Perennial plugs arrive and are stepped up into 3 1/2" and quart sizes. Our perennials are also grown quite cold so they invest their energy into rooting out, rather than growing. Plants remain compact. Any remaining perennials from last season are placed into cold frames.

---Geraniums are pinched and shaped for the last time by the first week of the month. Any later pinching will delay blooming too much for spring sales.

---Retail items are arriving nonstop for unpacking and pricing, everything from garden ornaments and pottery to pesticides and fertilizers.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE OF THE MONTH--RICK HALBACH

To say that a lot has changed in the nearly 20 years Rick has worked at Klein's is an understatement. Back then Klein's was known primarily for its famous geraniums (now geraniums account for just a small portion of our spring sales), the entire Klein's workforce, not counting family, numbered perhaps 10 (today we have about 30 full-time, part-time and seasonal employees) and Klein's was located between a hotel and an RV dealership (now Walgreen's and Home Savings Bank). Our entire perennial selection fit into a 20' x 20' square at the front entrance and our annuals selection consisted primarily of marigolds, petunias, dusty miller, alyssum, geraniums, geraniums and, yes, more geraniums. Klein's essentially shut down during the summer months after our big end-of-the-season sale. Now, summer remains one of our busiest times, continuing all the way into the first frosts. Yes, to say Klein's has change a lot in 20 years, is an understatement!

Rick joined the Klein's team in 1991 after earning a BS in Education from the University of Wisconsin and spending many years in retail management at the local Prange's department stores and at Discount Records on State Street. It's the combination of retail experience, his love of teaching and a passion for gardening that has made Klein's the shopping experience it is today. Rick started out in the greenhouses and delivering flowers, before moving into the retail manager position during the mid-1990's. As manager, Rick made many of the changes you now see at Klein's, but like many Klein's workers, his heart belonged to the greenhouse and working with the soil. He left the management position in early 2001. Today Rick serves as delivery supervisor, greenhouse worker, writer and as coordinator of the Klein's booths at WPT's Garden Expo each February. He's also known as Klein's "container designer extraordinaire."

Rick grew up in the small town of Johnsbury, WI, just east of Lake Winnebago. There he spent much of his growing up time on his grandparents' dairy farm helping in the fields by day and then side by side with his grandmother in her huge perennial gardens each evening. In fact, the family farm received a well-earned beautification award during the mid-70's, due primarily to the extensive and always perfect flower gardens. Throughout Rick's childhood, he always had his own vegetable garden, both at his parents' house and on the farm.

Today, Rick and his partner, Dave, own a lovely little cape cod on Madison's east side, just minutes from Klein's. Since buying their home in 1986, they have poured their hearts into their home and yard. In fact, their home was featured in a 2003 Wisconsin State Journal article. In addition, Rick has appeared on The Wisconsin Gardener with Shelley Ryan and his writing has turned up in the Wisconsin Garden Journal put out by the Madison Area Master Gardeners.

At work, Rick is known for his nonstop energy and enthusiasm, which some have said is both infectious and exhausting. If you're able to stop him, you'll find Rick during the upcoming spring season, working with customers in the retail area, watering and restocking. Test his mind with all your toughest gardening questions. Did we mention that Rick LOVES to talk? Must be the teacher/salesperson in him! After talking with him at Klein's, it'll be impossible to leave empty handed.

THE CRITIC'S CORNER by Rick Halbach--Recommended readings and other media for the garden novice or enthusiast.

The American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants
by H. Marc McCathey & Christopher Brickell and DK Publishing, Inc.

From the AHS website @ ahs.org/books/index.htm

"The most comprehensive, detailed, and lavishly illustrated guide to garden plants ever published, first published in 1997, has now been completely revised to include nearly 250 new plants and photos. The *AHS A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants* is an essential reference for all gardeners, from novices to experts".

And I couldn't agree more! This is far and away my most used garden book in my extensive collection and to list all the reasons would be exhausting and require far too much space. Reference books have always been my favorite "reading". Give me an old-fashioned set of encyclopedias (I currently own 2 sets) and a lazy Sunday afternoon and I'm good to go for hours. My mind goes from tangent to tangent and topic to topic. Anyone who enjoys surfing the internet can certainly relate. Because I'm also obsessed with gardening, the *A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants* is the best of both worlds. I refer to the book not only in researching and planning my home garden, I also use this huge book extensively at work in researching the plants Klein's does or might carry, answering customer questions and for writing this newsletter. The book offers me a concise guide in making sure the information I share is as accurate as possible--from Latin names and plant origins to specific cultivars and cultural information. The spine on my 1997 edition is pretty beat up so I'm ready to pick up the newest and more comprehensive edition in the near future.

The following is a complete description and editorial review from Amazon.com:

"Collecting contributions from 100 distinguished horticulturists, the handsome and lavishly illustrated *American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants* is a truly definitive gardening reference. With its 1,092 tiny-print pages, this may not be the book to tuck into your pocket as you weed and mulch, but what this encyclopedia lacks in portability, it certainly makes up for in scope. Hardy and tender plants, heirloom varieties and the latest hybrids--they're all accounted for here, with growing tips and background information about native habitats and ornamental features. You'll also find a fascinating section about botany, as well as information about basic gardening techniques such as mulching, staking, pruning, propagating, and protecting plants for winter. But the encyclopedia's main attraction is the individual plant entries--more than 15,000 of them, embellished with 6,000 full-color photographs and illustrations. From the visual glossary of leaves to the map of growing regions, *The American Horticultural Society A-Z of Garden Plants* provides an unsurpassed wealth of botanical information, making it the yardstick by which all other gardening references must be measured".

Though suggested retail is listed at \$80.00, the *Encyclopedia of Garden Plants* is available for far less as an American Horticultural Society Member (Membership \$35.00 & a free [American Gardener](#) subscription) or through some book clubs and on-line. Regardless of the price, this book is indispensable in any gardener's book collection and comes with highest recommendations.

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/