

'THE SAGE'--APRIL 2008

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

This Month's Highlights: [2008 Spring Plant List Coming Soon](#)

[Favorite Swiss Chard Recipes](#)

[Natural Fertilizers for Home & Garden](#)

[Administrative Professionals Week Starts April 20](#)

[Learn About Klein's Perennial Department](#)

[The Arrival of Spring Magic®](#)

[Plant of the Month: Pansies & Violas](#)

[What? Just Three Native North American Fruits?](#)

[April in the Garden](#)

[Review: The AHS A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants](#)

[Gardening Events Around Town](#)

[Related Resources and Websites](#)

Our 2008 Spring Plant List can be viewed on-line beginning about April 15 by clicking on **SPRING PLANTS** on the left side of our home page. This comprehensive listing contains every plant that Klein's will be offering for the 2008 season and is extremely helpful for both the home gardener and landscaper alike. The list contains fun facts, cultural information and pot or pack size for each item and comes in very handy in planning your garden this spring.

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!

APRIL STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday:

9:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Extended Spring Hours Begin Saturday, April 26

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-8:00

Saturday: 8:00-6:00

Sunday: 9:00-5:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

April 20--Full Moon

April 20--First Day of Passover

April 20--Beginning of **Administrative Professionals Week**. In appreciation to those people who make your life so much easier, have one of Klein's talented designers create for you that perfect 'Thank You.' Nothing displays your appreciation better than a lovely bouquet of spring flowers or a cheerful blooming plant. Order early. This is one of Klein's busiest delivery weeks.

April 22--Earth Day

April 23--Professional Secretaries Day

April 27--Arbor Day

April 26--First Day of Klein's Extended Spring Hours. The days are longer and there's lots to do in the garden. We make shopping easier to fit into your hectic schedule by offering extended retail hours from late April through much of June. Evenings are a great time to shop at Klein's. The greenhouses are cooler and the lines are short. It makes for a more relaxed shopping experience and our staff is more available to answer all your gardening questions. Look under [April Store Hours](#) above for more details.

May 2 thru May 4--**Klein's Spring Open House**. Join us in celebrating the beauty of spring with fun family activities, free popcorn and tons of in-store specials. Look for details in the May newsletter around May 1.

May 10--This is Madison's average last frost date, but keep your eye on the weather before planting. Madison has a notorious reputation for late May frosts. Many local old-time gardeners refuse to plant, especially their tomatoes, peppers, morning glories, etc. until Memorial Day weekend when the soil has warmed properly. Novice gardeners especially have a tendency to plant too early!

May 11--Mother's Day. Order early and shop early!!! Mother's Day is second only to Valentine's Day for deliveries and the Saturday before Mother's Day is traditionally our busiest day of the entire year. Extra drivers will be on the road Saturday, May 10 for prompt and efficient service. See 'Delivery Info' in our Permanent Features section below for more detailed delivery information. We will not be delivering on Mother's Day, Sunday May 11.

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

The following excerpt is from the Society of American Florists website at aboutflowers.com

Administrative Professionals Week, also known as Professional Secretaries Week, is a time to recognize support staff for their accomplishments and contributions to corporate success. Research from Texas A&M University reveals one gift of appreciation in particular that will naturally lift an employee's mood, create a lasting memory and boost productivity.

The research demonstrates that flowers and plants enhance people's ability to generate ideas and solve problems.

"Our study shows that adding flowers and plants to a work environment can be very meaningful to businesses in the modern economy," said Roger Ulrich, Ph.D., lead Texas A&M researcher. "People's productivity, innovation and creative problem solving, improved – which in certain circumstances could mean the difference between mild and great business success."

Rebecca Cole, author of *Flower Power* and host of Discovery Channel's *Surprise by Design* offers an additional perspective. "Giving flowers is a loud, proud, sophisticated way of saying 'I appreciate all you do.' They're a great way to build a strong, lasting professional relationship," said Cole.

Tips for Busy Bosses

A simple "Thank You" can go a long way to motivate employees and build loyalty. Administrative Professionals WeekSM (APW) offers an ideal opportunity to show appreciation - and formally reinforce the value of an employee's contributions. The Society of American Florists offers this simple guide to help smart managers put the benefits of proper office etiquette to work during APW and year-round.

- Use APW to find out what motivates your staff.** Conduct a formal or informal survey asking support staffers what kinds of incentives they value most. This will show your commitment and give you hints on what forms of appreciation they would enjoy during APW.

- Be open and direct.** If you're not sure whether the members of your support staff want to be recognized during APW, just ask them.

- Include everyone on your team.** Make APW a time to thank all of your support staff - from secretaries to assistants to junior managers - for their contributions.

- Make "thank yous" personal.** Whether you're buying a gift or making lunch reservations, think about the individual. For example, if you're ordering flowers, ask your florist to create an arrangement that fits the recipient's personality. Is that person traditional? Outdoorsy? Dramatic?

- Be specific.** Tell the members of your support staff exactly what they did that you appreciate.

- Treat APW like a New Year's resolution.** Resolve to practice better office etiquette year-round to build your team's confidence and cohesion. Whether it's celebrated with a gift, flowers, or a group luncheon, APW is an opportunity to formally acknowledge the members of your support staff for their contributions throughout the year and wipe the slate clean of any forgotten thank yous.

APW History

Formerly called Professional Secretaries Week, Administrative Professionals Week (April 23-29, 2006) is a tradition of honoring administrative professionals during the last full week of April.

Professional Secretaries Week was started in an effort to recognize secretaries for their contributions to the workplace, and to attract young people to secretarial careers. The idea began with Mary Barrett, president of the then National Secretaries Association (now International Association of Administrative Professionals), along with public relations consultant Harry Klemfuss, and Dictaphone Corporation president C. King Woodbridge. Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer proclaimed the first National Secretaries Week June 1 through June 7, 1952, with Wednesday, June 4, as Secretaries Day. The date was changed in 1955 to the last full week in April.

Over the years, Administrative Professionals WeekSM has become one of the largest workplace observances. The event is celebrated worldwide, bringing together millions of people for observances ranging from community luncheons and educational seminars, to individual bosses recognizing their support staff with gifts of appreciation.

DID YOU KNOW. . . .

. . .that Klein's not only carries the Madison area's most extensive selection of garden annuals and vegetables, but we also carry an impressive and ever-growing assortment of perennials and flowering shrubs. Our goal is twofold:

1. . . to offer you a comprehensive selection of fully hardy and healthy perennials that will fit into any Dane County landscape. We may not have the largest selection in the area (check out **The Flower Factory** for that distinction @ theflowerfactorynursery.com!), but we've certainly chosen an assortment of dependable and easy-to-grow garden stalwarts, including many perennials native to the Madison area. Our choice perennials are guaranteed to enhance your landscape for years, if not generations, to come.

2. . .to offer you this comprehensive selection at reasonable prices. Because we grow much of our selection on site, we've opted to plant a large percentage of our perennial plugs into 3 1/2", rather than the standard 4 1/2" pot. The smaller pot size means savings for our customers on our most popular perennials. In addition to the 3 1/2 and 4 1/2" sizes, we offer a nice selection of larger 6" and 2 gallon size perennials for instant color in the landscape. Klein's selection of flowering shrubs consists of those we feel fit seamlessly into the perennial border or wildflower garden; a few of these include: lilacs, hydrangeas, mock orange, viburnum, elder, azaleas and weigela.

Perennials grown from plugs or bare root are grown in our own soil blend using our famous homemade compost. Plants are then grown as cool as possible for easy acclimation into your home garden.

Click on **Spring Plants** on the left side of our home page to see our complete 2007 perennial selection. The 2008 list will be posted around April 15. Most perennials become available for sale sometime in late April with shipments arriving throughout the month of May. Special orders are available for perennials we don't carry or for larger quantities than we have on hand. There is no added cost on special orders, but we require at least a one week lead time. Please see our perennial manager, Craig Johnson, for details.

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

Swiss chard (*Beta vulgaris cicla*) is a very close relative to the beet, but is known for it's edible foliage and stalks rather than the root (though beet greens are equally tasty). Some varieties like 'Bright Lights' and 'Rainbow' are lovely in the flower garden or in mixed containers. Seeds should be planted early in the season in cool and rich soil. Keep the roots cool with mulch during the heat of summer. Harvest can occur at any time. Young leaves are especially tasty in mixed green salads. Harvest the more mature outer leaves first, leaving the inner leaves for continued growth. A more drastic cutting back of the entire plant during summer will ensure a fall harvest from the same plants. The chopped stalks are usually cooked a few minutes longer, with the delicate leaves being added near the end of most recipes. Chard can replace spinach in many recipes.

A few of our favorite **Swiss Chard** recipes include:

SWISS CHARD WITH TOASTED CRUMBS--This very simple recipe appeared in Martha Stewart's Everyday Food in September 2004.

1/2 TBS. butter

1/2 cup fresh bread crumbs

coarse salt

pepper

2 lbs. chard, leaves trimmed from stems. Stems should be sliced in 3/4" lengths

2 TBS. butter
salt, pepper and a bit of sugar

In a 5 qt. saucepan, melt the 1/2 TBS. butter on medium heat. Add the crumbs and a pinch of coarse salt and pepper. Cook, tossing, till golden, 2-3 minutes. Set aside and wipe the pan clean. Melt the 2 TBS. butter on medium-high. Add the stems and cook till tender, 4-6 minutes. Add the greens, cover and cook on medium-low until wilted, about 5 minutes. Uncover and continue cooking on medium-high heat until the pan becomes dry, 6-8 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper and add a pinch of sugar. Toss, cover with the browned crumbs and serve. Serves 4-6.

FRUITY SWISS CHARD--This recipe appeared in the Capital Times in July 2000. The recipe stated that the "flavor pairings are complex and intriguing."

1/4 cup pine nuts
1-1 1/2 lbs. Swiss chard
2 TBS. olive oil
4 cloves pressed garlic
1 medium onion, chopped
1/2 lb. sliced mushrooms
1/2 cup white wine
1/4 cup dried apricots
1/4 cup raisins
1 tsp. minced summer savory
1 1/2 tsp. pepper
a generous dash of cinnamon
1/2 cup parmesan

Spread the pine nuts onto a baking sheet and toast at 350° until golden, about 8 minutes. Set aside to cool. Blanch the chard 3 minutes in boiling, salted water. Remove from the water and drain. In a large shallow pan, heat the oil. Add the garlic and sauté till golden. Add the onion and sauté until tender. Add the mushrooms and sauté 2 minutes more. Chop the chard. Add the chard, wine and dried apricots and raisins to the garlic/onion mix. Cook the mixture on medium heat until the wine is reduced to 1-2 TBS. Mix in the spices and simmer for 3-4 minutes. Just before serving, whisk in the parmesan and pine nuts. Serve as a pasta sauce, a dip or a spread and either warm or cold.

SWISS CHARD SALAD WITH PINE NUTS AND RAISINS--a simple and unique use of fresh tossed chard from a Cooking Light magazine from sometime in 2004.

1-1 1/4 lbs. Swiss chard
2 TBS. fresh lemon juice
1 1/2 tsp. extra virgin olive oil
1/2 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
1/2 cup golden raisins
2 TBS. pine nuts

Slice the chard crossways into strips and place in a large bowl. Combine the juice, oil, salt and pepper with a whisk. Drizzle over the chard and toss to coat. Add the raisins and the pine nuts. Toss and let sit for at least 15 minutes before serving. Serves 4.

SAUTÉED SWISS CHARD WITH RAISINS AND PINE NUTS--Raisins, pine nuts and chard must be a match made in heaven...three of the four recipes this month contain those three ingredients, yet all are very different from each other.

2 bunches (1 1/2 lbs. chard), stems in 1" pcs. and leaves in 2" pcs.
2 TBS. pine nuts
2 TBS. olive oil
1/3 cup golden raisins
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 TBS. balsamic vinegar
coarse salt and pepper to taste

Wash the leaves, but leave the water clinging to the leaves, rather than drying or spinning. Set aside. In a large saucepan with a lid, toast the pine nuts on medium-high, browning evenly for 2-4 minutes. Set aside. In the same pan, heat the oil on medium-high. Sauté the stalks until they start to soften, about 4 minutes. Add the leaves, raisins

and garlic. Cover, reduce to medium-low and cook until tender, 6-10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour off the accumulated water. Stir in the vinegar and pine nuts and season to taste. Serves 4.

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:

Spring Magic® Color Bowls and Mixed Containers from Proven Winners®

Spring is officially here and after one of the worst winters in local history, every Madison gardener is certainly ready for a bit of color to enhance their decks and patios. Therefore, Klein's is happy to announce the arrival of our new Spring Magic® collection of perennials and hardy annuals from our friends at Proven Winners®.

Spring Magic® is a collection of extremely cold tolerant garden plants that are put together in exciting and colorful combinations and available just when we miss our summer gardens most. Each container is designed to put on its maximum display during the time that pansies, dianthus and spring bulbs are at their peak in the garden and before the heat of summer kicks in. Though the plants are spring bloomers, these tough as nails perennials can then be planted into the landscape for years of added enjoyment. Each combination contains a unique ensemble of primrose, heuchera, tiarella, columbine, spurge, carytuft, English daisies, forget-me-nots, wallflower, veronica, violas, among others, along with colorful grasses and foliage plants for added height and interest.

These pre-made and custom designed containers will be available while supplies last beginning in early April and would make the perfect Secretaries' or Mother's Day gift. Or be the first in your neighborhood to show off a little Spring Magic® from Klein's.

For more information about the Spring Magic program, please visit provenwinners.com/whatsnew/spring_magic.cfm. There you'll see photographs of many of the plants used in our colorful combinations.

NATURAL NEWS--

With so many choices available, it can be difficult for the home gardener to choose the appropriate non-chemical fertilizer for any given application. Though results are usually a bit slower and oftentimes less dramatic than their chemical counterparts, there is great satisfaction in knowing one is doing his/her small part in protecting the environment. Listed below are a few of the more common and not-so-common natural fertilizers, their common usage and a bit about their effectiveness. In the nutrient ratios given, the first number refers to the amount of nitrogen, then phosphorus and finally, potassium. Simply stated, nitrogen promotes strong growth, phosphorus for better flowering and, therefore, better fruit production and potassium helps plants tolerate stress better.

Homemade Compost--A readily available soil additive that both loosens and enriches the soil. In simple terms, compost is decomposed plant material--the most accessible source being garden waste. Composting is an effective way to recycle nutrients and achieve sustainability within the garden. Compost also helps neutralize soil pH.

Blood Meal--A high nitrogen fertilizer made up literally of dried and powdered cattle blood. It is one of the highest, non-chemical sources for nitrogen, the element which stimulates healthy, green growth. Blood meal is generally dissolved in water and applied as a drench and is often times used as a rabbit deterrent. Contains 13% total nitrogen (13-0-0).

Bone Meal--A slow release fertilizer (1-13-0) consisting of crushed bone. Bone meal is used primarily as a source for phosphorous, the element that stimulates flower development. Bone meal is used primarily when planting bulbs.

Feather Meal--A high-nitrogen (12-0-0) byproduct of the poultry industry where undecomposed feathers are steamed and powdered. A mild, slow release fertilizer excellent for leafy green vegetables. Feather meal is applied to the surface and watered in.

Cottonseed Meal--A low pH source for nitrogen (6-2-1). Good for acid-loving plants such as azaleas and blueberries, but can be used as an all-purpose fertilizer for vegetables, flowers and shrubs.

Earthworm Castings--Clean and odorless, worm castings are the excretions left behind from worms digesting their food of decomposing plant material. They are often considered "nature's ultimate compost." Castings are rich in nitrogen (1-0-0), but gentle on plants and are applied as a top dressing. They also contain over 60 micro nutrients and trace minerals.

Fish Emulsion--An all-purpose liquid fertilizer that is diluted in water before application. This is a high nitrogen fertilizer (4-1-1), suitable for all house and garden plants. Fish emulsion is the liquid that remains after fish have been cooked, pressed and the solids removed for fish and animal feed.

Kelp Meal--A soil additive derived from a type of seaweed that supplies over 70 minerals and nutrients. It is a safe, well-balanced fertilizer (1-.1-2) that can be applied directly to plantings.

Manure (Cattle, Poultry, Pig, etc.)--Generally, manures need to be composted before they are added to the garden. Raw, they are considered "hot" and can actually burn plants if added directly to the soil. That said, manures are an excellent source of nutrients once composted. Manure that has not been composted, can be added to the garden in the fall and tilled in the following spring, eliminating the ammonia and, therefore, the burning. Manures are very high in nitrogen and phosphorous.

Bat Guano--There are both high nitrogen (10-3-1) and high phosphorus (3-10-1) guanos (poops) available, the difference being those bats that eat fruit versus those that eat insects. Guano is generally applied as a top dressing and tilled in, though high nitrogen types can also be applied as a drench.

Seabird Guano--A great source for both nitrogen and phosphorous with usually about a 10-10-2 ratio. Can usually be applied directly and tilled in or dissolved in water.

Mycorrhizal Fungi--These are living fungi that work in a symbiotic relationship with plant roots to make nutrients more readily available to the plants and are especially helpful with the intake of phosphorous from the soil. Mycorrhizae are especially useful to plants in very infertile soils. They not only affect the absorption of minerals, but also help with a plant's water intake. Mycorrhizal spores can be applied directly to the soil or mixed up in a solution per product instructions.

APRIL'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Pansies and Violas

One of the very first plants to appear at the garden center each spring, along with dianthus and calendula, is also one of our most popular year round bedding plants. Pansies and violas are harbingers of spring with their bright colors, light fragrance and happy faces. But in recent years, pansies and violas have also made an autumn appearance with the arrival of the newer winter hardy varieties. These pansies and violas are guaranteed to make it through their first winter. Throughout the winter Klein's now sells potted violas for the cool windowsill as we ready them for sale at the Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center each February.

Essentially, pansies and violas are one in the same (except for bloom size) and require the same growing conditions--cool temperatures in a bright location. Hot conditions will trigger a sudden demise. Here in Wisconsin, pansies and violas seldom look good past mid-June when temperatures soar into the 80's. During some cool summers, pansies and violas have been known to survive through the summer with another flush of bloom in the fall, but this is far and away the exception, rather than the rule. It's best to use pansies and violas for that first burst of color in the spring and replace them with impatiens, petunias and other bedding plants later on. Mixed pansy bowls are one of Klein's hottest sellers in early spring.

Violas, more than pansies, are known to return from year to year if given the right conditions. The original plants usually die away, but are replaced by seedlings from the parent plants. Because they self-sow, people often mistake them for perennials. Both pansy and viola blossoms are edible and make a delightful and colorful addition to early spring salads. Blossoms range from pure in color, to multicolored to those with dark blotches or whiskers. The color choice is one of the broadest of any bedding plant. Regular deadheading is essential to maintain the appearance and shape of the plant and to lengthen the bloom time. Cutting back straggly plants oftentimes promotes new and bushy growth.

YOU ASKED. . .

I recently heard that there are only three fruits native to North America. Can this possibly be true?

This statement has certainly made the rounds lately. In fact, if you do a search, there are entire websites devoted to this discussion. The statement is true in the very loosest sense in that there are just three “culinary” fruits that are native to North America, these being the blueberry, the cranberry and the concord grape. These three natives are in production on such a scale that they have had significant impact on the food industry in the United States.

Given that there are so many different fruits, and that North America is so large, the statement certainly seems almost unbelievable. The reality is, however, that most of our supermarket fruits came to North America with the Europeans and ultimately had their roots in the Middle East and Asia before that. In fact, nearly all of the fruits from the Rose group of plants (apples, cherries, plums, peaches and the bramble berries) come from the regions in and around China and were spread to other parts of the world through exploration, war and trade. The citrus fruits also stem from Southeast Asia and the Pacific, as do most of our favorite tropical fruits.

On the other hand, there are plenty of native fruits that have not become significant to the modern food industry, but were certainly important to the North American Indian. These include:

- American Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*; Berberidaceae)
- American persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*; Ebenaceae)
- Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argenta*; Elaeagnaceae), which grows wild in the prairies of Canada
- Cocoplum (*Chrysobalanus icaco*; Chrysobalanaceae)
- False-mastic (*Mastichodendron foetidissimum*; Sapotaceae)
- Ground Plum (*Astragalus caryocarpus*; Fabaceae), also called Ground-plum milk-vetch
- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*; Annonaceae, not to be confused with Papaya (*Carica papaya*; Caricaceae), which is called pawpaw in some English dialects)
- Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*); Ebenaceae), also called native persimmon, American persimmon, or common persimmon
- Pigeon plum (*Coccoloba diversifolia*; Polygonaceae)
- Salal berry (*Gaultheria shallon*; Ericaceae)
- Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*; Ericaceae)
- Texas persimmon (*Diospyros texana*; Ebenaceae)
- Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*; Rosaceae)

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

Dane County Farmer's Market

Saturdays, April 19 thru November 3, 6:00-2:00
On the Capitol Square

Wednesdays, April 23 thru November 5, 8:30-2:00
In the 200 block of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

Olbrich Garden's Leaf Mulch Sale

Thursday, April 17, 2:00-5:00 (Members Only)
Friday, April 18, 2:00-5:00
Saturday, April 19, 9:00-12:00
April 19-May 8, 9:00-4:00 (Load-Your-Own)
April 24, May 1 & May 8, 9:00-6:00 (Bulk Available)

Buy the same leaf mulch used in Olbrich's gardens for your home garden. Leaf mulch cuts down on watering and weeding, recycles local leaves, and is credited for Olbrich's healthy looking gardens. Bags are \$6 each and \$40 for a tractor scoop.

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

**Olbrich Garden's
Bolz Conservatory Exhibit-Light Gaps**

April 5 thru June 30, 2008
Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00
In the Bolz Conservatory

The trees are trimmed, the bushes pruned, and it's time to see the light in the forest. Learn about light and how plants develop and change in the forest as light fluctuates. Admission to the Conservatory is \$1. Admission is always free for Olbrich Botanical Society members and children 5 and under, and is free for the general 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

Woodland Wildflowers

Sunday, April 13, April 27 & May 4 • 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.

May 4:

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

Isthmus Green Day

Saturday, April 26. 9:00-6:00
At the Monona Terrace

Visit thedailypage.com for details

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

Going Green Wisconsin Expo

Friday, May 2, 2:00-7:00
Saturday, May 3, 10:00-5:00

Sunday, May 4, 12:00-5:00

Going Green Wisconsin EXPO is the premier green lifestyle show in the state. The event will showcase diverse local and national green businesses displaying and selling eco-friendly, fair trade and sustainable products. The EXPO includes more than 100 exhibitors, product sampling, instructional seminars and more. Special attractions include the Green Chataqua, a hybrid test course, the fresh market, a beer garden, a health and wellness pavilion, and a kids zone.

As an exciting gathering of people, products and resources, the EXPO is designed to enhance our daily living and to increase public awareness of all efforts to go green. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Please visit goinggreenwisconsin.com/expo for more details.

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

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

- ___ Continue bringing out your cooled forced bulbs for indoor enjoyment.
- ___ Early in the month, pot up cannas and dahlias for early growth.
- ___ Begin removing, cleaning and storing winter bird feeders.
- ___ Begin your summer bird feeding regimen.
- ___ Keep birdbaths full and clean.
- ___ Repair and put out birdhouses. Put out nesting material like pet hair & fibers.
- ___ Seed starting is in full swing and even winding down by the end of April.
- ___ Sterilize seed starting equipment and pots with a 1:16 bleach solution.
- ___ Shop for summer bulbs like gladiolas, lilies and dahlias.
- ___ Prune late summer and fall blooming shrubs.
- ___ Do not prune spring blooming shrubs like lilacs, forsythia or viburnum.
- ___ Continue bringing in branches for forcing: pussy willow, forsythia, quince, etc.
- ___ Increase fertilizer to full strength by month's end.
- ___ Ready the lawn mower if you haven't done so already.
- ___ Start weeding your beds. It's easier while weeds are small & the soil moist.
- ___ Remove all winter mulch from beds.
- ___ Remove the soil mound from around roses and mums.
- ___ Cut back all remaining perennials and ornamental grasses left from fall.
- ___ Begin sowing seeds of larkspur, poppies and hardy annuals in the garden.
- ___ Plant pansies, violas and calendula into the garden and containers.
- ___ Harden off your seedlings and wintered over potted geraniums.
- ___ Repair lawns by sowing grass seed. Rake the lawn.
- ___ Move cole crop transplants to the garden; broccoli, kohlrabi, cabbage, etc.
- ___ Plant onion sets and early spring crops like lettuce, spinach, carrots, beets
- ___ Begin planting perennials. Plant shrubs and trees.
- ___ Visit Klein's--the showrooms are filled with spring annuals.

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 APRIL:

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

---Employees are readying the thousands of lilies, hydrangeas, azaleas, mums and spring bulbs that we deliver to the many area churches each Easter. We look forward to this time when the greenhouses are emptied to make room for our bulging spring crop.

---Product is moved from the warmth of the greenhouses to the outdoors for the hardening off process. Plants are pinched back and moved outside so they can be acclimated for spring planting in your garden. Plants that have not been properly acclimated can find the transition to full sun and temperature extremes quite difficult. You've probably noticed that many garden centers do not harden off their plants properly. Symptoms include leaf burn and root rot.

---We're readying the showrooms for the spring onslaught. Tables become fully stocked. Spring info and price signs are put into place. The last week of April is an amazing time to visit Klein's. The showrooms are jam-packed, bursting with color, awaiting the spring rush which usually begins about May 1.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE OF THE MONTH--KAREL PETERSON

One common trait among the staff members at Klein's is our incredible versatility and our ability to fill in wherever and whenever needed. Karel's abilities and talents are a perfect example of this trait. Karel is not only one of Klein's most talented and creative floral designers, but she also works the retail area, transplants seedlings in the greenhouse and is able to answer nearly any gardening question that comes her way. Karel's long history in the garden center/flower shop industry has made Karel one of Klein's greatest assets.

Karel came to Klein's in 2000 after nearly 20 years of owning and operating Schultz's Floral and Greenhouses in nearby Columbus. Karel says her business was very similar to ours here at Klein's, therefore, making the transition for her very natural and easy. Schultz's, like us, grew garden plants for spring and summer sales, poinsettias for Christmas and had a floral department that operated year round. And like here, Karel did it all at Schultz's--design, greenhouse and retail. Karel says that after all these years she continues to love all facets of this business and can't imagine it not being a part of her life. Her real passion is floral design, but she also loves gardening of all kinds and especially container gardening. .essentially floral design for the deck and patio.

Karel traces her love for gardening to an idyllic childhood on a dairy farm in rural Portage where she and here four siblings helped, not only in the fields, but in their family's extensive flower and vegetable gardens. Karel says that in reality both of her parents were gardeners. For her father, it was the farm fields and the crops and for her mother, it was tending the flowers and vegetables. In fact, Karel's eighty-plus year old mother still maintains the family homestead and continues to garden and can vegetables to this day. Karel says that canning has always been an important part of her family experience. As a child she says they raised pickles for sale at the local cannery. The extra money was used to buy appliances and items for the home. As part of 4-H, the kids entered produce and canned goods at the county fair.

After graduating from Portage High School in 1973, Karel attended UW-Platteville with an interest in art, thereby explaining her love of color, form and design to this day. Today, Karel pursues her "art" not just at Klein's, but at her own Columbus home and garden where she loves to "junk garden". Karel's definition of junk gardening is to pull an unusual item (a trough, a chicken feeder, a watering can or a kitchen kettle) from it's normal context and put it into a garden setting. She enjoys transforming this "junk" into garden art via design and her knowledge of flowers and garden plants.

Karel's love for gardening and all things natural have been passed on to her daughter, Jessica, who also enjoys gardening, but especially loves working with animals. The newest love of Karel's life is also the newest member of her family

--her daughter, Ashley's, son Kady--the apple of grandma's eye. Karel beams with just the mention of Kady's name and doesn't hesitate talking about him.

Where will you be able to find Karel at Klein's this spring? Who knows? Could be in the design shop, at the register, on the sales floor talking with customers, in our potting shed creating fantastic mixed containers or just maybe in our back greenhouses scoping out plants for her own garden. Regardless, Karel's knowledge and passion will enhance your Klein's shopping experience.

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](https://www.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/