

'THE SAGE'--JUNE 2008

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

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NOTE: If you of 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.

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!

JUNE STORE HOURS:

Early June:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-8:00

Saturday: 8:00-6:00

Sunday: 9:00-5:00

After Father's Day, June 15:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Open Friday, July 4: 10:00-4:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Throughout June, visit Klein's and check out our specials on annuals, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets and containers. Specials and selection change weekly so give us a call for the most up-to-date information at (608) 244-5661 or toll free at 888-244-5661. We pride ourselves in having the best cared for plants in even the hottest weather and throughout the month we'll continue to offer a full selection of annuals and perennials.

June 14--Flag Day

June 15--Father's Day

June 18--Full Moon

June 20--First Day of Summer

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

June is wedding month at Klein's. As one of Madison's oldest and most reputable florists, Klein's has been making Madison area weddings extra special for generations. We sometimes schedule as many as three weddings per weekend during this time of year. As the weekends approach, our designers are busy in the design shop putting together stunning hand bouquets, church arrangements, table centerpieces, hair adornments, corsages, boutonnieres and cake decorations--everything to make your special day perfect. Whether traditional or contemporary, Klein's offers first rate service and complete satisfaction and we'll deliver throughout all of Madison

and much of Dane County. Click on "**Weddings**" on the left side of our home page for ideas and a brief insight into what Klein's has to offer.

It's never too early to begin planning for your 2009 event. Call our design manager, Kathy Lehman at (608) 244-5661 or toll free at 888-244-5661 so set up a time for a free consultation.

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . .that Klein's supplies the colorful annuals and perennials to many of the most visible plantings around Madison. Property managers, landscapers, business owners and organizations from all over the city and Dane County know exactly where to find the widest selection of healthy and vigorous plants at very reasonable prices. Many of our corporate customers have been with us for generations. Many more have shopped around for better prices, but have returned to Klein's for selection and quality. While driving around town, some of Klein's most visible customers include the Cress Funeral Services (with locations on East Washington Ave., University Ave., Speedway Rd. and Sun Prairie), the Munz Corporation properties (Camelot Apts., Forest Run, Village Green, Morningside on the Green, Stonewood Village, et al), Bethel Lutheran Church, Maple Bluff Country Club, Imperial Gardens on University Ave. and Madison's own and nationally honored Olbrich Botanical Gardens for whom Klein's supplies many of the lovely and unique annuals in the hundreds of containers located throughout the gardens.

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

The season has finally arrived for outdoor entertainment and dining and the grill should not be reserved for cooking just meats. Vegetables cooked on the grill take on a wonderful, slightly smoky flavor. Recipes can be used with either gas or charcoal with minor adjustments and experimentation. During the upcoming months we'll explore grilling fresh garden vegetables in greater depth, but until then, here are a few basic recipes for beginners.

BAKED POTATOES--A simple and no-fail way to make potatoes on the grill.

Basic version: Poke desired number of medium to large baking potatoes with a fork a few times to release steam while cooking. Wrap individually in foil. Bake in a covered grill, indirectly over hot charcoal or on the upper level of a medium hot gas grill for 50 minutes to 1.25 hours depending on the size of the potatoes, flipping and rearranging once during cooking time.

Alternative version: Slice a wedge lengthwise into each potato. Spread a tablespoon or two of butter into the wedge and season as desired. Favorite seasonings include one or a few of the following: Chopped onion, chopped garlic, dill weed, herb pepper, garlic powder, fresh rosemary. Use whatever sounds good to you. Wrap each potato individually in foil. Bake in a covered grill, CUT SIDE UP, indirectly over hot charcoal or on the upper level of a medium hot gas grill for 45 minutes to 1 hour or until tender, rotating (keeping the cut side up) once during cooking.

CORN ON THE COB--This is the easiest corn on the cob recipe around!! Keeping the husks on, imparts a delightful smoky flavor and prevents wasting foil. When dining outside, simply keep a pail or waste can handy for the husks and toss them into the compost heap.

Basic version: Snip the silks from the desired number of cobs with a pair of scissors. Break off any really long stems from the base if desired. Keeping the husk on the cobs, soak the ears in a large bowl, pail or in the kitchen sink for at least 30 minutes. This soaking slows the husks from scorching too quickly once placed on the grill. The added moisture also adds in steaming the corn for even cooking. Some people add either salt or sugar to the water for added flavor. Bake the soaked cobs, covered, indirectly over hot charcoal or on the upper level of a medium hot gas grill for 25-30 minutes, rotating and flipping twice during cooking for even browning. The husks should become quite scorched. Times may vary based on your grill so experiment.

Alternative version: After soaking the ears, pull back the husks, remove the silks entirely and slather with plain or herbed butter of choice. Pull the husks back over the ears, tying the end, if desired, with a removed husk leaf to seal the open end. Cook as above.

ROASTED VEGETABLES--Many people prepare a similar recipe in a foil packet. We've found that using an ovenproof Dutch oven or kettle with a cover allows for one dish cooking and serving in addition to better layering of the vegetables. This is a fantastic way to use up vegetables as needed when summer supplies can become overwhelming.

Cut vegetables of choice into rather large chunks. Favorites include: potatoes, onions, carrots, sweet peppers, broccoli, celery, green beans, garlic cloves...pretty much anything (though tomatoes get a little soggy). Layer the

vegetables in the pot or Dutch oven. Vegetables that require the longest cooking time (i.e. potatoes) should be at the bottom and those requiring the least (broccoli and onions) at the top. Pour 2/3-1 cup water over the vegetables. Place a few tablespoons of butter on top of the vegetable and sprinkle with a few herbs of choice, fresh or dried, if desired. Cover securely and place directly over medium hot charcoal or directly over a medium low flame on a gas grill. Cover the grill and allow to cook about 25 minutes or until tender. There's no need to peek. When tender, drain, season as desired and serve.

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:

Blooming Shrubs from Bailey Nurseries

Imagine your garden without your favorite blooming shrubs. We sometimes take them for granted, devoting so much of our attention to our annuals and vegetables. But what would your garden be like without its lilacs, azaleas, hydrangeas, potentillas, spireas, forsythias, dogwoods, mockoranges, hibiscus, weigelas, viburnums and roses? Like perennials, they are the work horses of the landscape, providing decades of beauty and joy. Unlike herbaceous perennials, they add year round height, texture and often times winter interest. At Klein's, we've chosen to enhance your garden by choosing a selection of blooming shrubs that will fit perfectly into any mixed landscape or perennial border. Our mix of shrubs includes some of the showiest selections available, including the now famous 'Endless Summer' hydrangea. In addition to Proven Winners, Monrovia and Jackson & Perkin's, we're happy to announce in 2008 the addition of Bailey's Nurseries as one of our suppliers of blooming shrubs. Their quality and selection is superb. And coming from Minnesota, their product is guaranteed hardy in our area. For a complete list of the Bailey's shrubs available at Klein's, click on "**Spring Plants**" on the left side of our home page and then click on the "**Shrubs**" link.

The following excerpt is from the Bailey Nurseries' website at www.baileynurseries.com.

"Bailey Nurseries is a fourth-generation family-owned nursery serving customers throughout the U.S. and Canada. We are widely recognized as one of the United States' largest wholesale nurseries, with products distributed by more than 4500 independent garden centers, landscapers, growers and re-wholesalers. Our main offices and growing fields are located in Newport, Minnesota, (just outside the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul) and we also operate nurseries in Yamhill and Sauvie Island, Oregon and Sunnyside, Washington.

The Bailey Difference

Throughout our long history, Bailey Nurseries has earned a reputation as a leader in the nursery industry with inventive techniques, high-quality plants and active involvement in industry organizations. Integrity, innovation and quality were the hallmarks of our company when it began - and they continue to this day."

Stop by Klein's and check out our selection of blooming shrubs while supplies last.

NATURAL NEWS--

Now that the gardening season is in full swing and summer draws near, your thirsty plants are in constant need of valuable water. As every gardener knows, plants do much better watered with rain water versus city water or even private well water. City water contains fluoride and chlorine and rural well water often contains harmful chemicals from farm fields and both waters contain salts, which can prohibit plants from taking in vital nutrients. Rain collection, on the other hand offers an easy and fun alternative. Rain water is nitrogen rich and naturally soft. Collecting rain water is as simple as placing any container under a down spout. An easier solution is to invest in one of the many rain barrel systems on the market. One can collect huge amounts of water with little energy. Barrels generally range from 40 to 75 gallons and this is a situation where bigger is definitely better if you have the room. Down spouts are usually reconfigured to fill the barrel directly from the top, but some systems can divert rainwater from the down spout to the barrel and then redivert it back to the down spout once the barrel is full. Barrels have overflows to direct water away from the house once the barrel is full. Safety can be a concern with small children, but all modern systems are designed with openings small enough that no child could fall in. All systems also contain screens over the top to prevent mosquitoes from laying their eggs in the water and to keep debris out. For watering easy, most barrels have a spigot at the base for filling watering cans. Some brands even have linking kits to connect more than one barrel

together if desired. Prices generally range from \$60.00 for small, simple barrels to up to \$250.00 for the more elaborate systems. Either way, the investment is worth the results.

We've heard that it's nearly impossible to buy a rain barrel at retail stores. Some great mail order sources include:

Gardener's Supply Co. @ 800-427-3363 (www.gardeners.com)

Charley's Greenhouse & Garden @ 800-322-4707 (www.charleysgreenhouse.com)

A.M. Leonard's Gardeners Edge @ 888-556-5676 (www.gardenersedge.com)

Also, check out www.rainbarrelguide.com. This is an amazing site with more information than you'd ever need to know about the why's and how's of rain collection.

A CORRECTION TO MAY'S NEWSLETTER:

Just after we announced in last month's newsletter that Madison is recycling your rinsed out used pots and trays, the city then announced that they are no longer recycling "dairy containers" in curbside pickup. From what we understand, this means that the soft white #5 plastic containers from Proven Winners and the logoeed pots sold at many garden centers are no longer recyclable in the city of Madison.

For more information, call the city of Madison at 267-2626 or ask at the garden center where you purchased the product. The city said there is no market for this type of plastic and should be disposed of with your regular trash.

JUNE'S PLANT OF THE MONTH: **THE SALVIAS**

One of our favorite families of plants here at Klein's is the salvia (Syn. sage). Until very recently, this large group of plants was one of the most overlooked by Madison gardeners. Just a few decades ago, the only salvias available at all garden centers were the familiar scarlet sages that were teamed with geraniums, dusty miller, petunias and marigolds in mass plantings. In addition to scarlet sage, many garden centers also offered the mealy sages ('Victoria' blue being the most common), perennial sages ('May Night', 'East Friesland', etc.) and, of course, garden sage in their herb areas.

But during the early 1990's the popularity of salvias/sages soared. Reasons for this are many. People wanted tough and easy-to-care for plants; container gardening boomed as people explored tropicals; and gardeners became intent on attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to their gardens. The salvias had it going for them on all counts. A huge leap in popularity came with the introduction of the AAS winning Texas sage 'Lady in Red' during the 1980's. Suddenly the gardener had something new in a red sage that lent itself perfectly to the wildflower look popular then. Lovely versions were also available in coral and white. Introductions have been fast and furious since that introduction and gardeners continue to discover the many stunning sages that are native to North and Central America.

Like many herbs, the sages/salvias are a member of the mint clan, evident by their square stems. And like most members of this group of plants, nearly all salvias have extremely fragrant foliage. The most exciting thing about the salvias is that there is a salvia for every niche in the garden. There are annuals, reliable and super hardy perennials and, of course, the herbs. There are salvias that grow a mere 6" and others that tower to 6'. Most salvias are exceptional in containers. Regardless of where you place them in the garden, nearly all are hummingbird magnets. And one of the greatest attributes of most salvias is their ability to thrive on neglect.

Seeing as Klein's probably has the largest selection of all types of salvia in the Madison area, we make the perfect stopping point for the leap into this fascinating family. Check out "**Spring Plants**" on our home page for a complete list of offerings. Some of our lesser known favorites include:

Pineapple Sage (*S. elegans*)--tall and elegant and, yes, the foliage smells like pineapple. Blooms very late in the season, but no plant in the garden will attract more hummingbirds--especially the late migrants and juveniles. Check out our newest addition, 'Golden Delicious'.

Autumn Sage (*S. greggii*)--Thrives in poor soil!

'Mystic Spires' Sage--Looks like 'Victoria' blue on steroids. Giant with nonstop blooms.

Brazilian Blue Sage--A big and bold sage of the most intense blue or purple. Foliage is especially fragrant.

'Hot Lips' Salvia--Big and sprawling with intense red and white, bicolor blooms.

Gentian Sage (S. patens)--The bluest of blue sages with unique tubular flowers.

Bog Sage (S. uliginosa)--What, a sage for the moist areas of the garden? Blooms are a gorgeous sky blue and appear nonstop.

Silver Sage 'Hobbit's Foot' (S. argentea)--Known for its fuzzy, silver foliage rather than its blooms.

YOU ASKED. . .

I watered my petunia basket before I went to work this morning and it was wilted by the time I got home . Am I doing something wrong? Do I really need to water it twice a day?

In short, if the weather is warm and sunny, your basket is located in full sun (like it should be) and your plant is healthy and vigorous, you may need to water containers and hanging baskets twice a day. This is especially true if it is windy or if your container has been allowed to dry out so much that water is no longer penetrating the soil, but simply running through the pot. Watering is one of the joys and necessities of gardening. It's the time for you to take a moment and enjoy the sights and scents of gardening.

There are a few things you can do to make the task easier.

--Keep water close at hand. If it's impractical to keep a hose close by, keep a filled watering can near the plants that dry out fastest.

--Keep your plants accessible. If you have plants that dry out often, place them where they can be easily checked and watered, rather than out of reach.

--Use a saucer during the hottest of weather. As a rule of thumb, plants should not sit in a pool of water. The exception is during hot, windy weather when many plants are happy to have the extra water at hand. Make sure your hanging baskets have a large, built in reservoir. Moss baskets dry out exceptionally fast.

--Use the proper potting soil. Use a soil with an adequate amount of peat moss. Cheap potting soils often times turn to brick when allowed to dry out. Add water retentive granules if desired to your potting mixes.

--Use a drip system with a timer. This is usually overkill in Wisconsin with our frequent summer downpours. But during dry spells or while on vacation, they can be a godsend.

--Learn to enjoy this extra time with your plant!!

Keep in mind that you need to check that your plant is dry to the touch before watering too often. Many plants simply wilt on sunny afternoons whether they need to be watered or not. They will usually perk up once the sun lowers in the sky. Good Luck!

AROUND TOWN:

NOTE: If you or 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 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

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

2008 Summer Concert Series at Olbrich Gardens

Let the beauty of Olbrich Botanical Gardens set the perfect stage for a night of music. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, and spread out for a picnic surrounded by Olbrich's lush flowers. Or, purchase a brat or hot dog from the Madison East Kiwanis. Picnics are allowed in the Gardens for the Tuesday concerts only. In case of rain, concerts will be held indoors. A \$1 donation is suggested. Concerts are sponsored by the Olbrich Botanical Society.

Olbrich Concerts in the Gardens 2008 Schedule

All concerts are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

- June 3 Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra
Philharmonia Orchestra
- June 10 The Dang-Its
Five-Piece Honky-tonk
- June 17 Bobby & Raquel Aleman
World Beat Music: Reggae, Latin and R&B
- June 24 Capital City Band
Concert Band Favorites
- July 1 Madison Municipal Band
Marches & Patriotic Melodies

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

Roses and the Rest

Wednesday, June 4, 7:00 p.m.
Walks from the Visitor Center

This tour will look at the collection of Rugosa, "Canadian Explorer" and other hardy roses, and check other late-blooming plants of note.

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

Iris Show

Saturday, June 7, 12:00-3:00
Sponsored by the Madison Iris Society
For details call 608/825-7423

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

Madison Rose Society Educational Exhibit

Sunday, June 15, 10:00-3:30
Free Admission
Call 608/845-6063 for details

The Madison Rose Society hosts this indoor exhibit of cut roses and arrangements in all sizes and colors. Members of the Rose Society will be available to answer questions. Stroll through Olbrich's two acre Rose Garden.

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

Rhapsody in Bloom

Saturday, June 21, 5:00-10:00
One of Olbrich Gardens' biggest fundraisers
For reservations call 608/246-5616

In 2008, Rhapsody in Bloom will honor Olbrich's special connection with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the UW Alumni Association - Thai Chapter. UW Chancellor John Wiley and Georgia Wiley will be Honorary Co-Chairs, and authentic Thai entertainment and hors d' oeuvres will be featured in Olbrich's Thai Pavilion and Garden.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with hors d' oeuvres in the Sunken and Herb Gardens. At 6:30 p.m., guests can enjoy a Thai Seafood Hot Pot in the Thai Pavilion, while being entertained by Thai performers. Starting at 7 p.m., dinner will be served under tents on the Great Lawn, with dessert at 9 p.m. in the Rose Garden and on the Arlette Morse Terrace.

Guests will enjoy a variety of musical entertainment around the Gardens throughout the evening, as well as a plant silent auction. Lovely plants nurtured at Olbrich, and unique container designed by Olbrich's horticulturists, will go to the highest bidders!

Tickets are \$110 per person. Better yet, buy a table of eight for \$880. Make your reservations early; tickets are limited! Call 608-246-5616 for reservations. Reservation deadline is June 13. All proceeds from this major fundraiser

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

Carpenter-Ridgeway 2008 Garden Tour

Saturday, June 28, 9:00-3:00, Rain or Shine

Stroll through eight private home gardens and 2 public spaces in the Carpenter-Ridgeway neighborhood during the Carpenter-Ridgeway Neighborhood Garden Tour. Enjoy this hidden treasure of a neighborhood often referred to as "City Living With a Country Feel", and enjoy the beauty of these wonderful private gardens and public spaces. Get creative ideas for your own home garden and neighborhood. Cost of a ticket is \$5.00. Tickets will be available at Klein's Floral, Johannsen's Greenhouses, Willy Street Co-op, and Associated Bank on E. Washington Ave. Tickets can also be purchased at each garden site on the day of the tour. Location: Between Aberg Ave. & Wright St., on Madison's Eastside.

For details go to www.madison.com/communities/crna

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

- By early June, finish planting all annuals and vegetables.
- By early June, move all houseplants out that spend the summer outdoors.
- In early June give all beds a thorough weeding for easier follow-up.
- June is a great month to plant perennials, trees and shrubs.
- Prune evergreens.
- Prune hard any spring flowering shrubs like forsythia, quince, etc.
- Mulch beds to conserve moisture and keep down weeds.
- Begin deadheading spent blooms as needed.
- Remove yellowed foliage of spring tulips, daffodils, etc.
- Begin staking and supporting tall plants as needed.
- Begin your fertilizing regimen. Regular fertilizing makes for healthy plants.
- Order spring bulbs from catalogs while your memory is still fresh.

- ___ Keep an eye on the weather. Water as needed.
- ___ Watch for pests and control as needed or desired.
- ___ Begin seeding cole crops for fall harvest. Also sow pansies and wallflowers.
- ___ Pinch hardy mums until July 4 for bushier less floppy plants.
- ___ Visit Klein's---Watch for end of season savings on annuals and perennials.

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 JUNE:

- The back greenhouses are nearly empty of product. We've had another successful season. This is the time to plan for next spring--while our memories are still fresh: How can we improve in 2009? Which plants did we run out of too early? How was staffing?
- Watering is a nonstop endeavor. On hot, windy days, we no sooner finish the first round, when we have to start all over again. Some plants in our retail areas may need watering 3 or 4 times in a single day! You wouldn't do this at home, but customers don't like to see wilted plants. It's not harmful for us to let them wilt a bit, but it makes for bad presentation.
- We continue to plant some annuals, hanging baskets and containers for summer sales. Our summer "Jumbo Pack" program is under way.
- Fall mums and asters are stepped up into larger tubs and containers for fall sales.
- We begin prepping some of the back greenhouses for the arrival of poinsettia plugs in just a few weeks.
- Our employees breathe a sigh of relief and spend some much needed downtime with family and friends.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE--FRANK NACHTIGAL

Though Frank has been the Klein's maintenance person since 2000, the real reason Frank probably works at Klein's over anywhere else is his love of gardening and nature. Without prompting, Frank said that among his favorite things in life has been planting things and then the enjoyment of watching them grow. He said his love of nature is intimately tied to his own faith and spirituality.

Like many of us at Klein's, Frank is a country boy, growing up on a dairy farm in rural Richland county near Yuba. And like many of us, memories of the large family vegetable garden were an integral part of his childhood. He says his mother was the true gardener, though his father was involved to some degree with the tilling and the planting--although not always up to mom's specifications. Like many farmers, the fields were probably his version of gardening. Frank says his mother canned much of what they raised and his mother still lives on the homestead to this day.

After graduating from Richland Center High School, Frank was drafted into the military during the Cuban missile crisis in the early 60's. There he attended a nuclear weapons school and worked on nuclear warheads while stationed in New Mexico and then on the East Coast. It was while stationed there that he met his future wife, Marie. The move from urban Philadelphia to rural Wisconsin could not have been the easiest for Marie. Once home, Frank first worked for Dairyland Power & Light and then for Gisholt Manufacturing Co. here in Madison. After they closed in 1970, Frank began a career at Oscar Mayer, working there until he retired in 1999. At Oscar Mayer, Frank said he was essentially a jack-of-all-trades, but worked primarily in the plastics division.

It was less than a year after his retirement from Oscar's that Frank began working at Klein's as our maintenance person. He says he took the job to keep busy and he liked the combination of doing the handy work and working at a garden center. At Klein's, Frank does a bit of everything--a little carpentry, a little electrical, a little mechanical but a lot of plumbing!! He says his schedule at Klein's fits perfectly into his family life, gardening and hunting.

Frank and Marie currently live just east of Cottage Grove. Marie is retired from Kohl's Foods and currently works at the Prime Quarter Steakhouse just blocks from Klein's, where she does office work. They have five grown children and a few grandchildren. Frank says that his daughters are especially enthused about gardening and themselves are Klein's shoppers. Frank says he, like his mother, used to have a huge vegetable garden. But as time passed he became more interested in flowers--and especially interested in container gardening and tropicals. He says he currently has about 50 containers, many of which he brings indoors for the winter. And at Klein's, when he's not searching for needed tools that his coworkers leave lying around everywhere, Frank is often on the search for just one more hibiscus to add to his growing collection.

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

GARDENING MAGAZINES

Now that summer has nearly arrived and my garden is completely planted, it's time to sit back, relax and enjoy the fruits of my labor. One of my favorite summer activities is to hunker down in my screen house, cool drink in hand, and catch up on the stacks of magazines that have accumulated over the past few crazy months. The following article is a revisit from our February 2007 Newsletter where I discuss gardening magazines and spotlight a few of my favorites.

Because I'm both a gardener and a retailer, I get a ton of gardening magazines and related literature each month. The magazines are not only informative, but beautiful. I get some magazines that emphasize the how-tos of gardening, others that focus primarily on design and still others that tend to spotlight the product. Regardless of the content, the reasons for preferring one magazine over another are whether I can apply the magazine's information to my own garden and if I can use some of the information at my workplace. First and foremost a magazine must address gardening in the midwest. Many gardening magazines focus far too much on gardening on the coasts or in the south. When reading articles on design this may be well and good--reading about and seeing pictures of exotic gardens stimulates the imagination. Anyone anywhere can bring features of an Italian estate, an English country garden or a Japanese meditation garden to their own yards through layout, artwork, structures or furniture. But ultimately it's really the plants that make a garden truly successful. And we here in the midwest have the trials of extremely cold, brutal winters and then hot, humid summers. In short, I prefer gardening magazines that discuss plants I can actually use in my own garden. Gardening magazines give me insight into the newest trends, the best products and techniques and cutting edge plant material. It's important that the magazine be easy to read and uses clear and striking photographs. Lots of pictures are vital to any great gardening magazine.

Most gardening magazines seem to follow a simple format: commentary and feedback from the readers, a Q & A column, the body of the magazine, info on the featured plants and sources to find them, a listing of new and related books, and tons of advertising. I find that even the advertising is a valuable tool. Many of the advertisers offer free catalogues or have fascinating web sites in themselves that are worth exploring.

Recommended magazines include:

FINE GARDENING--Concise and easy to read. Jam-packed with practical information covering all topics. Probably my favorite. (www.finegardening.com)

HORTICULTURE--Spotlights the practical side of gardening and excellent at sharing info on new plant product. (www.hortmag.com)

THE AMERICAN GARDENER--Free with a \$35 membership in the American Horticultural Society. An excellent magazine worth the price of membership alone! (www.ahs.org)

GARDEN GATE--A good, basic magazine for the midwest gardener. Excellent for the beginner with lots of plant info, charts and diagrams. (www.GardenGateMagazine.com)

ORGANIC GARDENING--A wonderful magazine, but a little pricey. A great source of info for chemical-free gardening and cutting edge information. (www.OrganicGardening.com)

GARDEN DESIGN--Elegant and a little impractical, but beautiful to look at. Rather inexpensive. (www.gardendesign.com)

BETTER HOMES AND GARDEN--Actually contains very little gardening info (but has great recipes). All gardening info is very superficial and quite basic--you'd get more info reading TV Guide... but then they'd at least direct you to the gardening channels! (www.bhg.com/gardening/)

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

craig@kleinsfloral.com

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
also www.mailordergardening.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/