

'THE SAGE'--SEPTEMBER 2008

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

This Month's Highlights: **HUGE SHIPMENT OF HOUSEPLANTS JUST ARRIVED!**

The Etiquette of Sending Flowers

Orb Weaver Spiders are Truly Special

Notes from My Garden Journal-- from August '08

Favorite Eggplant Recipes

Blooming Annuals All Winter Indoors. . . Here's How

Prepping Your Houseplants for the Move Indoors

Plant of the Month: Asters

September in the Garden

Gardening Events Around Town

Related Resources and Websites

Our 2008 semi-load of gorgeous houseplants has arrived! Quality and selection are now at their peak. Some of our more interesting items include a selection of carnivorous plants, air plants and unique succulents, in addition to indoor tropicals in all shapes and sizes.

During September, get **25% OFF** all in-store houseplant purchases. Sale does not apply to items being delivered or in conjunction with other discounts or promotions. The sale applies only to green plants and not blooming plants or outdoor material.

SEPTEMBER STORE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 9:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Open Labor Day, Monday, September 1: 10:00-4:00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Throughout September watch for great season's end savings on all remaining perennials. Check out our selection of spring bulbs. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, alliums and much more, have arrived for fall planting.

September 1--Labor Day. Special Store Hours: 10:00-4:00.

September 1--First Day of Ramadan

September 6--UW football at Camp Randall against Marshall. Game time is 11:00.

September 7--Grandparent's Day

September 13--UW football at Fresno State. Game time is 9:30 p.m.

September 15--Full Moon

September 22--Fall Begins

September 27--UW football at Michigan. Game time to be announced.

September 30--Rosh Hashanah

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':

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

Americans Weigh In on Saying "I'm Sorry" and "Thank You"

For most Americans, it is harder to say, "Thank you" than "I'm sorry." According to a February 2006 poll by International Communications Research, nearly two-thirds of respondents (65%) believe that saying "I'm sorry" is easy, while about the same number (67%) of Americans can remember a time when they were not properly thanked for a favor or act of kindness.

With the word "etiquette" defined as socially accepted behavior, Rebecca Cole, co-host of Discovery Channel's *Surprise by Design* and author of *Flower Power*, believes that expressing all kinds of emotions should be easy, especially for those who can't find the words.

"In the 21st century, with so many different ways to communicate without even using words – e-mail, voicemail, text messaging – it's amazing that people don't routinely acknowledge the kindness of others in one way or another," said Cole. "A simple 'thank you' or 'I'm sorry' can go a long way. Better yet, sending flowers helps you convey any message with added sincerity."

Deciphering the Etiquette Dilemma

According to the Society of American Florists, the national trade association for the floral industry, five of the most common reasons people send flowers are to say *thank you*, *I'm sorry*, *congratulations*, *get well* and *express sympathy*. Cole shares her secrets for sending these sentiments.

•Thank You

According to Cole, ask your florist for an arrangement conveying a casual, hand-picked feeling, to say thank you with a very personal touch. In addition to a beautiful statement of thanks, the accompanying note card can say everything that is too hard to say in person.

•I'm Sorry

Flowers are the traditional gift to get out of the doghouse because they easily make the statement, "I was wrong." To apologize with sincerity, ask your florist for a nostalgic arrangement, using a blend of delicate warm and cool lavenders and pinks. Having opened the door to forgiveness, follow the delivery up with a phone call.

•Congratulations

A bouquet of bold, contrasting colors is a fun-loving, playful way to say "Congratulations," "Welcome home," or "Great job." You can even get creative with the container. For example, if a friend just got a new job, ask your florist to put the bouquet in a fun pencil holder or something that represents the occasion.

•Sympathy

It's never easy comforting someone who has lost a loved one, but flowers can say what is often difficult to express in words. Flowers are usually sent to the funeral home to provide warmth and beauty to the service. If a service is not planned, grief experts recommend sending condolences to the bereaved person's home.

•Get Well

Choose a serene color scheme of light shades of green, misty blues and other cool hues to provide a moment of calm and let someone who is ill know you're thinking of them. When sending flowers to a hospital, it's helpful to have the name of the hospital, the patient's name and room number ready for your florist. It's also good to know the hospital's flower policy. Your florist will know about the hospitals in your area.

More Floral Savvy

Studies show the power of flowers on our happiness and well-being and that people who give flowers are considered to be thoughtful and sophisticated. Here are quick tips from Rebecca Cole on showing your sophisticated side:

- Send flowers to a hostess before you arrive for a party or event, and choose a color palette that will mix with her décor.

- Do your best to tailor a gift to the recipient, whether it's her favorite flower, color or even matches her eyes.

- "Just because" is the best reason to send flowers! Try sending flowers in the middle of an ordinary week for the ultimate impact.

- Get to know your florist. Having someone who knows you and your tastes will make expressing any emotion much easier.

"My tips are for people who want to let their friends and family know how much they appreciate them being part of their lives," said Cole, "and for those who just want to be looked upon as thoughtful and sophisticated."

DID YOU KNOW. . .

. . .that September is the perfect time to make cuttings from some of your favorite annuals for blooms during the dead of winter? Given bright light near a south or west window, many of our garden plants will bloom for the entire

winter. Easy to propagate favorites include: geraniums, impatiens, browallia, abutilon (flowering maple), fuchsia and begonias, just to name a few of the more common ones. The best way to guarantee success is to take multiple cuttings of the same variety. We suggest using larger-celled cell packs available year round at garden centers. Place a sheet of cell packs into its matching tray. When shopping, ask for a 10 x 20" tray with holes. If reusing old trays or pots, be sure to sterilize with a 1:16 water and bleach solution and allow to soak for 10 minutes, thereby eliminating any diseases or fungi the trays might be harboring. Simply fill the cells with a bagged soilless mix and moisten thoroughly. Do not use garden soil, cheap heavy potting soil or soil with fertilizer already added. It's now time to harvest your cuttings.

To do so, always use a sharp knife or scissors. Look for healthy and actively growing tips. For the plants mentioned above, 3" cuttings are adequate. We recommend cutting about 1/2" below the spot where a leaf joins the stem. Remove and leaves that will be below the soil line and snip off any flowers. Using a pointed tool (the knife or scissors tip works well), poke a hole into your moistened soil. Stick your cutting into the hole 3/4-1" and firm it in with your finger tips so it remains upright. Use a rooting hormone, if you like, for increased success. Once all the holes are filled, mist the flat lightly with water and cover your flat with a humidity dome (also available at most garden centers). If sticking your cuttings directly into pots, a large zip lock bag works well for this. Place your cuttings in a bright spot away from direct sunlight and in just a few short weeks you should have rooted cuttings ready to pot up into whatever container you like. You'll notice that most cuttings will wilt for a few days after they are "stuck". No need to worry. They'll start to perk up as they begin drawing water and start to root out. Mist your plants every few days and watch that the soil never dries out during this critical period.

Because our days are so short and the sunlight so weak during the winter, most annuals can be placed in direct sunlight, once rooted and potted, without fear of scorching. Fertilize throughout the winter with a very dilute solution every few waterings. Watch for any pests brought along indoors--especially aphids and whiteflies. Treat appropriately with a mild insecticide safe for indoor use. Deadhead and prune your bloomers as needed. If they survive the entire winter, you'll have annuals with a huge head start ready for your garden next spring. If you want even more plants, you can even take cuttings from your cuttings once the plants are large enough or if you need to manage their size.

And if you have the room and the proper light during winter, September is also the time to make cuttings from many other garden annuals that don't bloom or won't bloom during the winter. Excellent candidates include coleus (which can be treated as a houseplant), most salvias, hibiscus, lantana and many, many others. Doing so will save you money and eliminates the risk that a favorite variety might become unavailable at retail outlets and lost forever.

Plan on making your cuttings about September 20. You want to do it late enough to keep your parent plants growing strong outdoors. Later cuttings also mean less time indoors for your new plants and oftentimes more manageable growth. On the other hand, it's important to make your cuttings early enough. If some cuttings don't root, there's still time to make more. It also reduces the risk of being caught off guard by an early frost. Madison's average first frost date is about October 6, but frost has occurred as early as September 12 (1955)!!!

NOTES FROM MY GARDEN JOURNAL--Tips and Observations from My Own Garden by Rick Halbach.

ENTRY: AUGUST 11, 2008

One of my favorite beds in the garden is my cut flower bed along the south wall of the garage. By having a cut flower bed separate from my other beds, I can get in there and feel free to cut at will without impacting the appearance or design of my perennial beds and mixed borders. Vases in my kitchen and TV room are continuously filled with my favorite cut flowers. Zinnias, rudbeckia, cosmos, gladiolas, vervain, larkspur and pincushion flower, among others, are never in short supply. The blooms in my other beds are left untouched (except for the peonies in the springtime). I plant the flowers densely and in rows; almost like a vegetable bed. Harvest and weeding is made easy by planting in rows. And because I live on a corner, my cut flower bed fills the hidden side yard between the garage and the side street for all of my neighbors to enjoy. In fact, I've encouraged them and friends to cut a few stems for themselves. The extra cutting encourages more branching and, therefore, more blooms down the road.

ENTRY: AUGUST 24, 2008

After all the flooding that occurred in the area during June and early July, it's amazing how little rain we've had since then. My watering regimen has kicked into full gear. Lawns, vegetable gardens and flower beds require 1" of water per week in order to thrive. A light daily watering actually does more harm than good. Regular thorough waterings are required to reach the plant's roots. Because the surface of the soil might appear moist, one has a tendency to water less thoroughly if watering lightly on a daily basis. The easiest way to water thoroughly is to set a sprinkler and allow it to run for a few hours on a weekly basis during dry spells. By placing a rain gauge in the yard or bed, it's

quite easy to measure the 1" required. Additional daily waterings are, of course, required as needed, especially during hot and windy weather. In addition, certain plants and beds near mature trees will require extra watering. Pines and maple trees are notorious for sucking huge amounts of water from the soil around them. In addition, it's best not to water during the middle of the day, when the most evaporation occurs. I also take care not to water the street, driveway or sidewalks.

ENTRY: AUGUST 30, 2008

With the cooler weather we've been experiencing, the fall blooming annuals have really started to kick in! Many annuals prefer the cooler fall weather and are actually at their peak during September and early October. Some annuals such as African daisies (osteospermum), diascia, nemesia, lobelia, dianthus and many, many others simply stop blooming entirely during the peak of summer heat only to kick into high gear once the weather begins to cool again in the fall. Other favorites from my garden that are at their absolute best in the fall include: all geraniums, most salvias and sages, lavender, cape primrose (streptocarpus), passion vine, gerber daisies and even heat lovers like impatiens and lantana. Still others have never stopped blooming and will continue until a very hard frost--petunias, marigolds, fuchsia, browallia, annual milkweed, cuphea, verbena and calibrachoa, among others.

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

Just the other day, one of our employees was at a family get together when the subject of eggplant came up. One of the people there said she had no idea what to do with eggplant and certainly had no recipes. The following are a few of our favorites.

EASY RATATOUILLE--This is an easy adaptation of the classic Louisiana stew from the original Moosewood Cookbook by Mollie Katzen. Delicious served in bowls over a bed of white rice and sprinkled with shredded cheese, black olives and a dash of Tobasco. Leftovers freeze well, so easy to double for a quick meal.

1/4 cup olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
2 green peppers, cut in strips or chunks
2 smallish zucchinis, cubed
1 small to medium eggplant, cubed
4 cloves crushed garlic
2 tomatoes, cut in chunks
1 bay leaf
1 tsp. dried basil
1 tsp. dried marjoram
1/2 tsp. dried oregano
1/4 cup dry red wine
1/2 cup tomato juice
2 TBS. tomato paste
2 tsp. salt
pepper to taste
chopped fresh parsley (optional)

Heat the oil in a large heavy saucepan on medium heat. Crush the garlic into the oil. Add the bay leaf and the onion, salting lightly. Sauté over medium until the onions begin to turn transparent. Add the eggplant, wine, tomato juice and herbs (except parsley). Stir well, then cover, reduce heat to low and simmer 10-15 minutes. When the eggplant is tender, add the zucchini and green peppers. Stir well and cover and simmer 10 minutes. Add the salt, pepper, tomatoes and paste. Mix well, cover and continue to stew until all the veggies are tender (40 minutes-1 hour). "Tender" is what seems right to you. Stir in the parsley just before serving. Serves 4-6.

STIR-FRIED EGGPLANT WITH GARLIC BASIL SAUCE--This super-easy recipe is also served with cooked white rice and appeared in the June 2002 issue of Cook's Illustrated Magazine.

3 TBS. fish sauce
1 TBS. lime juice
1 tsp. lime zest
1 TBS. brown sugar
1/8 tsp. red pepper flakes
1 TBS. plus 1 tsp. peanut oil
1 large eggplant (1 lb.), cut into 3/4" cubes (6-7 cups)
6 cloves garlic, pressed

1 TBS. fresh minced ginger
2 green onions cut into thin slices
1/2 cup torn fresh basil leaves

Mix the fish sauce, lime juice, zest, sugar and pepper flakes until the sugar is dissolved. Set aside. Heat 1 TBS. oil in a large skillet or wok over high heat. Add the eggplant and cook, stirring often, until browned and tender (4-5 minutes). Push the eggplant to the sides of the pan, clearing the center, and add 1 tsp. oil, the garlic and the ginger. Mash together with the back of a spoon, cooking 30 seconds until fragrant. Stir into the eggplant. Add the reserved sauce and stir. Remove from the heat and stir in the onions and the basil. Serve immediately over cooked rice. Serves 6.

EGGPLANT AND WHITE BEAN SOUP--The reviews for this November 1999 Better Homes & Gardens recipe say "phenomenal and easy".

2 TBS. olive oil
4 cloves minced garlic
1 medium onion cut into thin wedges
2 lbs. eggplant, peeled and cut into 3/4" cubes (9-10 cups)
4 x 14.5 oz. cans vegetable or chicken broth
2 x 15 oz. cans navy or white kidney beans (cannellini), drained and rinsed.
1 x 6 oz. can tomato paste
1 tsp. dried marjoram, crushed
1/4 tsp. ground pepper
1/4 cup snipped parsley

Heat the oil over medium in a large pot. Add the garlic and sauté 1 minute. Add the onion and cook until almost tender. Add the eggplant and cook 8 minutes more. Stir in the broth, the beans, the tomato paste, marjoram and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer for 10 minutes, being careful not to overcook. Add the parsley just before serving. Serves 8.

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

GREEN PLANTS FROM SOUTHERN TROPICALS

You may already know that Klein's is your one-stop, full service florist for any occasion and serving most of Dane County. But being a greenhouse, we also offer an amazing year round selection of blooming plants and houseplants. Whether a housewarming gift, a "thank-you" blooming plant, a condolence peace lily or a potted plant for dorm, home or office, we can fill your needs.

Each August we receive a semi-load of plants in all shapes and sizes fresh from Florida growers. Selection ranges from the smallest plants for terrariums and dishgardens, to tropical trees, to succulents and cactus. Overnight, our greenhouses become a lush, tropical jungle. Our knowledgeable staff will help select the perfect plant for any location and occasion, offering care tips and sound advice. We also have an excellent selection of pottery and baskets to complement any decor.

Our 2008 shipment has arrived. Quality and selection are at their peak. Some of our more interesting items include a selection of carnivorous plants, air plants and unique succulents.

During September, get 25% off all in-store purchases. Sale does not apply to items being delivered or in conjunction with other discounts.

For an idea of some of the plants we're carrying, visit the Southern Tropicals website @ www.southerntropicals.com

NATURAL NEWS--

There's no easier or better way to control garden insect pests than to let nature do the job for us. It's during the months of August and September that the familiar orb weaver spiders are at their peak in Madison area gardens.

Many of us were introduced to orb weaver spiders as children in the classic story Charlotte's Web by E. B. White. Though scary looking to some, it was through Charlotte that many of us learned to appreciate a spider's beauty and understand their place in our surroundings.

It's the orb weaver spiders that build the stereotypical spiral webs in gardens and around structures. Orb weavers typically have a large bulbous abdomen and the spider can become relatively large by late summer. Orb weavers are often times rather hairy, though the hairless black and yellow common garden spider also belongs in this large family of spiders. The spider's intricate webs are made of a strong and sticky silk that entraps unsuspecting prey. The future meal is rendered helpless with a quick and venomous bite and then wrapped into a silken package for consumption. Damaged or torn webs are repaired to perfection on a daily basis. Any gardener who has unknowingly walked into one of their webs can attest to the strength of the orb weaver's masterpiece. Orb weavers are generally harmless to humans.

Orb weavers are not selective about their prey and will consume nearly all kinds of insects, including butterflies and even other spiders. The spiders generally build their webs where there is an abundance of insect prey and placed to maximize the chances of entrapment. They are able to feast on dozens of bugs in a single day.

Websites to check out include: www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/housingandclothing/DK1033.html and bugguide.net/node/view/1972/bgpape ..

To help ease any child's apprehension of spiders, check out either of the classic movie versions of Charlotte's Web: The 1973 animated version with Debbie Reynolds and Paul Lynde doing the voices or the wonderful 2006 live-action adaptation with Julia Roberts as Charlotte and Dakota Fanning, Oprah Winfrey, Robert Redford and Kathy Bates, among others.

SEPTEMBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

ASTERS

Along with mums, solidago, the flowering kales, asters are amongst the standouts of the late summer and early fall garden. These, for the most part, ultra-hardy American natives are a must for nearly every Madison area garden. Their attributes are many. Asters are not only hardy, but relatively trouble free. Asters fit perfectly into the wildflower border and are magnets for beneficial insects and pollinators. There are tall and short asters. Most asters enjoy a sunny location, but are fairly shade tolerant. There are asters for fairly dense shade and asters for moist locations. Colors generally range in the blues and purples, pinks and reds and white. Asters are a composite flower and are members of the largest family of garden plants whose members include: ageratum, yarrow, goldenrod, sunflowers, thistles, shasta daisies, gerbers, osteospermum, joe-pye weed, fleabane, gazanias, liatris, rudbeckia, zinnias, bidens, strawflowers, calendula, coreopsis, bachelor's buttons, marigolds, coneflowers, cosmos, dahlias, gaillardia, chicory, mums and many, many more.

Tall varieties should be cut back by 1/2 in late May or early June for shorter and better branched plants that won't topple under their own weight. They'll bloom a few weeks later, but the extra effort is worth the results. Most asters are vigorous self-sowers but the seedlings are fairly easy to pull and because they generally bloom late, there's little fear of them spreading rampantly--as long as they are removed before they flower and seed. In recent years, short varieties are sold alongside fall mums for container plantings. After they finish blooming, simply pop them into the garden for years of enjoyment.

Asters are available in our perennial section throughout the season. But because they bloom late, they tend to go unnoticed in favor of early blooming perennials. Asters are a must for those who want their gardens in continuous bloom until the hardest of frosts. Some of Klein's favorites include:

Alpine Asters (*Aster alpinus*)--Short, early bloomers in shades of blue, pink and white. They tend to be rather short-lived.

Wood Asters (*A. divaricatus*)--The white flowers of this native will brighten any semi-shady spot in the woodland garden. Grows to about 2 feet.

Smooth Aster (*A. laevis*)--A tall prairie plant in the palest of sky blues.

New England Aster (*A. novae-angliae*)--Includes some of the tallest of the garden asters. Favorites include: Alma Potschke (hot pink), Harrington's Pink, September Ruby and Purple Dome, a unique dwarf variety.

New York Aster (*A. novi-belgii*)--A very popular type and includes those sold in the fall alongside the fall mums. Excellent in containers or in the border. Favorites include: Red Alert, Professor Kippenburg (blue), Royal Opal (lavender-blue), Winston Churchill (bright red) and the Wood's Series in blue, pink and purple.

In addition to the asters we carry, a great local source is The Flower Factory, 4062 Cty. Rd. A, between Stoughton and Oregon (608/873-8329) or @ www.theflowerfactorynursery.com

YOU ASKED. . .

I put many of my houseplants outdoors during the summer months. Should I do anything to them before I bring them indoors?

This is far and away one of our most frequently asked questions, but usually after it's already too late. The phone call for advice comes in March when one of our customers is faced with an aphid and whitefly infested, 10 foot ugly hibiscus that's now shedding all of its leaves. Yes, there are very simple things you can be doing now to avoid this situation come winter.

Our suggestions include:

1. Repot any plants that need it while they're still outside, the days are still long and the weather is still relatively pleasant. Repotting is less messy outdoors and many houseplants go through a small growth burst in the fall before they want to go somewhat dormant.

2. Prune your plants (if applicable) to a desirable shape and size for the same reasons. Because your plants have been outdoors loving the sun and rain, they've probably outgrown their indoor spot. In addition, they've probably got far more foliage than they need for the dark and short days of winter. This is one of the main reasons many plants drop foliage during the winter months (the other being the artificial heat and low humidity in our homes). The plant simply can't support all the greenery it put on during the summer months.

3. Cut back gradually on fertilizing. Because the days are shortening, your plants are wanting to go into a dormancy of sorts. Fertilizing in order to promote vigorous growth is counter to what the plant is wanting to do at this time of the year. In fact, from November until February, indoor plants in Wisconsin should not be fertilized at all, or with a very dilute solution (such as Miracle Gro drops).

4. Eliminate insect pests BEFORE you bring the pests into your home.

We recommend applying a systemic insecticide about 6 weeks before you plan on bringing plants indoors. A systemic is drawn up into the plant via the root system and makes the plant essentially undesirable to eat. By applying the systemic while the plant is still outdoors, you also eliminate the mess and the smell with that first application. It's very important to follow the manufacturer's instructions. The amount mixed into the soil is based on pot size rather than plant size. We recommend Labor Day weekend as the perfect time to apply your first round of systemic and then every 6 weeks throughout the winter. In doing so, your plants should remain insect free until they go outside again next spring. As with all pesticides, keep your treated plants away from children and pets.

AROUND TOWN:

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.

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's Garden's
Bolz Conservatory Exhibit-Yesterday's Plants, Today's Energy**

September 3 through March 22, 2009

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

In the Bolz Conservatory

Come learn about the prehistoric plants that formed the coal we use for today's energy. Coal-forming ferns and mosses have lived on Earth for the past 290 million years - since before the dinosaurs! Learn what it took to make these plants into coal, and discover why we need alternative energy sources since today's ferns and mosses won't provide coal energy for tomorrow. 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 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

3rd Annual Garden Festival

Sunday, September 6, 1:00 p.m.-5:00p.m.

Featuring

- Tomato Taste Testing** by the Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association
- Fried Green Tomatoes** by the Janesville Area Herb Society
- Fall plant sale** by Rotary Botanical Gardens
- Preservation and recipes** by Rock County Home and Community Educators
- Arborfest** by the Janesville Shade Tree Advisory Committee
- Taste of Rock County** featuring various area restaurants
- Activities for the kids** by Rock County 4-H
- Roy Diblik's Small Perennial Gardens: The Know Maintenance Approach* **Book signing** with horticulturist and author Roy Diblik and botanical illustrator Elizabeth Dunham.

Education and Event Schedule

Growing and Harvesting Herbs, 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm, by the Janesville Area Herb Society

Cooking with Herbs, 1:15pm, 2:15pm, 3:15pm, by the Janesville Area Herb Society

Growing tomatoes, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm by the Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association

Poblano Pepper Roasting 1:00 to 4:00 with Dr. Jim Nienhuis, UW-Madison

Tree ID Hike, 1:30 and 3:00 by the Janesville Shade Tree Advisory Committee

Tree Climbing Demo, 2:30 by the Janesville Shade Tree Advisory Committee

Evaluating the Health of Your Trees, 3:00 by the Janesville Shade Tree Advisory Committee. *People with specific questions should bring photos and samples of leaves and twigs if possible.*

Judging for **Say Cheese for Trees** STRICTLY amateur photography contest will be held during the afternoon by local photography professionals. There will be cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and honorable mention in 3 categories - children, youth, adult.

Rotary Botanical Gardens

1455 Palmer Drive

Janesville, WI 53545

608/752-3885 or www.rotarygardens.org for details

Native by Design--A How-To Conference for Gardeners

Sunday, September 14, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Using the Arboretum's Wisconsin Native Plant Garden as an outdoor classroom, seminars are combined with expert advice and living examples to guide those wishing to become successful native gardeners. Fee: \$50 (\$43 for Friends of the Arboretum; \$25 for students). Registration required.

University of Wisconsin Arboretum
1207 Seminole Highway
Madison, WI 53711
608/263-7888 or www.uwarboretum.org for details

Cover Crops for the Home Garden

Tuesday, September 16 at 5:30 p.m.
West Madison Agricultural Research Station
8502 Mineral Point Road
Verona, WI 53593
608/262-2257

Join John Hendrickson, Center for Integrated Agriculture, at 5:30 p.m. to learn about buckwheat, clover, oats, peas and soybeans to grow as a cover crop to enhance your soil and prevent erosion. Free. For more information contact Asst. Superintendent Judy Reith-Rozelle, at (608) 262-2257 or fax (608) 829-3074

Visit their web site @ www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/ for details.

The Wisconsin Gardener

"Baileys Harbor"
Thursday, September 18, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 20, 10:30 a.m.
on Wisconsin Public Television
Check local listings for the station nearest you.

Host Shelley Ryan visits the Ridges Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor. This is a garden made by nature and one of Shelley's favorite places in Wisconsin. The show also focuses on preserving the harvest in an usual manner for adults only. Water is essential for life, but too much water is not a good thing. Plant pathologist Brian Hudelson shows what happens to plants when there is too much water. The program ends with a special visit to a wheelchair accessible garden that is functional, attractive and best of all affordable.

Visit their website a @ www.wpt.org/garden

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

**Although the average first frost date for Madison is about Oct. 6, killing frosts have occurred as early as September 12 (1955). Be aware of quick weather changes this time of year. Be prepared to cover tender plants at any time.

- Pick up a copy of the 2009 Wisconsin Garden Journal at bookstores & Klein's
- Continue sowing lettuce, endive, escarole and spinach.
- Plant garlic now! This is the best time in Wisconsin.
- Plant bearded iris and transplant peonies.
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash.
- Apply a systemic pesticide to plants to be wintered over indoors.
- Continue planting shrubs and trees.
- Plant grass seed. September is one of the best times as nights cool.
- Aerate your lawn.
- Divide and plant perennials as desired.
- Stop deadheading perennials for winter interest, i.e. sedums, grasses, etc.
- Dig tender bulbs as the foliage yellows.
- Give the garden at least 1" of moisture per week.
- Collect seeds for next year's garden.
- Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- Take pictures of your garden for record keeping.
- Keep an eye on the weather. Water as needed.
- Shop for spring bulbs, mums and winter hardy pansies.
- Bring dormant amaryllis bulb indoors for 3 mo. of rest.
- Begin checking out the garden centers for spring bulb selection.
- Take cuttings of geraniums, coleus and other plants to winter over.
- Late in the month, begin planting spring bulbs, but wait as long as possible.

___Begin moving houseplants back indoors.

___Visit Klein's---Great selection of mums, kales, cabbages, pansies & more!

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 SEPTEMBER:

---The poinsettias continue grow and thrive in our back greenhouses. They're almost ready to bring into our retail greenhouses before the weather gets too cold.

---Crops arrive for winter sales: cyclamen, azaleas.

---We begin weatherizing the greenhouses for winter.

---All remaining perennials are cut back, cleaned up and put into winter storage.

---We continue stocking fall mums as they go into bloom. We'll continue to have a good selection into November.

---Ordering plants for spring 2009 is going on fast and furious. Our growers order early to ensure best selection.

They pore over stacks of catalogs containing the newest plant material for 2009.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE--JENNIFER SIMON, aka "Greenhouse Jen"

It's rare as an employer that out of the blue the right person at the right time crosses our path and we know immediately that this is the one we've been looking for. The perspective employee standing in front of us has the right personality, the right amount of experience, the right schedule and, above all, the perfect attitude for the given job. This scene almost didn't happen when Jen Simon applied for a position at Klein's in late winter of 2008. Jen had applied for an open retail position unaware that we were also seeking greenhouse and sales floor help. Jen had made it clear she wasn't thrilled about the prospect of having to work at the registers. By chance, the retail manager mentioned to the greenhouse staff that a most delightful applicant had come in for an interview, but wasn't looking for retail work. And by chance, we had just decided that we needed some extra help in the greenhouse for transplanting and the upcoming spring season. The rest is history. Klein's hired Jen pretty much on the spot!

Jen's love of gardening began when she and her husband, Gary, owned a home with an existing garden in Colorado. She says she started purchasing gardening books to learn about her already established garden. She discovered that it's OK for a garden to change and evolve and for every failure in the garden, there are even more successes. She learned that gardening comes to her naturally. As time passed, Jen watched as her love of gardening slowly evolved into passion.

Until she was hired by Klein's, Jen had spent much of the past decade as a stay-at-home mom for her children, Olivia and Will. As the children got older she was hoping to combine her blooming passion with career, but where to begin? She says she felt like a "lost soul" while job hunting. The job opening at Klein's left her optimistic until she found out it was a retail position. She went home devastated until the greenhouse call came just a few days later.

Jen grew up working closely with the public. She grew up with her parents owning a bed and breakfast in Green Lake, Wisconsin, just a few hours north of Madison. Hospitality and customer satisfaction have always been an important part of Jen's being. In fact, after graduating from high school she attended UW-Stout where she majored in hotel and restaurant management. It was shortly after graduation in 1990 that she and Gary moved to Colorado where they spent 5 years. She says that it was there that she learned a lot about "xeriscaping", or gardening with drought tolerant plants that need little or no supplemental irrigation. After Colorado, the Simons spent a few years in Malaysia before purchasing their current home in DeForest. There, Jen's extensive gardens are a work in progress. She says though, that her flower beds are in dire need of work. She regrets that she didn't spend the time amending the soil in her beds before planting. On the other hand, Jen is in love with the many colorful containers that dress her deck. She enjoys viewing her artwork at arm's reach. In addition, to her own masterpieces, Jen plants and maintains one of the raised beds at the entrance to the City County Building downtown. Knowing Jen's personality and artistic ability, it's easy to pick her work from the crowd. Jen is also an accomplished Master Gardener.

Away from work, Jen says her other interests include reading, exercise, kayaking and "nature as a whole". She thrives on teaching children about nature and the outdoors. At Klein's Jen says she loves the fact that we're a small family owned business. She says she already feels like part of our family and loves the teamwork. She enjoys working on the sales floor with the customers and teaching them about her passion. Jen says she relishes talking with beginning gardeners and "brown thumbs". But most of all, Jen has learned that she loves conversing with and being around "gardening people". Jen is learning what we at Klein's already know--that "gardening people" are the coolest people around!

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/Index.html

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/