

## **'THE SAGE'--DECEMBER 2008**

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

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### **THE 2009 BUCKY BOOK**

Klein's is again showing our proud support of community UW athletics and academics with advertising and coupons in the 2009 edition of the Bucky Book. Visit [www.buckybook.com](http://www.buckybook.com) for more information and to order your copy.

### **DANE BUY LOCAL GIFT CARDS**

Klein's is proud to continue in our support Dane Buy Local. We've joined hundreds of other area businesses and civic leaders who are encouraging you to buy local.

#### **The Top 5 Reasons for Buying Local:**

1. Keep Madison original. We ensure that unique, one-of-a-kind businesses survive.
2. Enrich the community economy. Each time money is spent at a locally-owned business, the tax stays in Dane County to support local resources such as schools, parks, police and fire...and much more.
3. Provide more jobs. All together, locally owned independent businesses are our largest employer.
4. Ensure a solid foundation for local nonprofit organizations who serve us. Locally owned businesses give more.
5. Create good places to work: We want work life to reflect home town friendliness and familiarity. Treating our employees well is part of our community commitment.

(from the Dane Buy Local web site at [www.danebuylocal.com](http://www.danebuylocal.com))

#### **Buy Local Gift Cards Are Now Available.**

- These gift cards can make great holiday gifts.
- Can be purchased for any denomination from \$25.00- \$250.00.
- Cards are available at any of the 5 branches of Home Savings Bank.
- Any merchant who accepts VISA can accept gift cards.

Please contact Home Savings Bank at 282-6000 with questions or for a location near you. There's one just next door to Klein's at 3762 E. Washington Ave.

Visit the Dane Buy Local web site for a complete list with links to all participating businesses and organizations. **And Please Buy Local!**

### **COMING IN JANUARY: The Mad Gardener**

**"Mad Town's Firsthand Source for Expert Gardening Advice"**

Beginning in early January, you can ask us your gardening questions by e-mailing us at [madgardener@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:madgardener@kleinsfloral.com). Our in-store experts will then e-mail you with an answer as promptly as we can. We'll be posting a link to this e-mail address on our home page and also in all subsequent newsletters. Your question may appear in the **"You Asked"** feature of our monthly newsletter.

(Sorry, we can only answer those questions regarding gardening in Southern Wisconsin and we reserve the right to leave correspondence unanswered at our discretion. We are unable to answer any questions posted before January 1, 2009)

### **DECEMBER STORE HOURS:**

#### **Holiday Hours**

Monday thru Friday

8:00-7:00

Saturday:

8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

**Holiday hours run through Tuesday, December 23**

**Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24--Open 8:00-4:00**

#### **Starting December 26:**

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday:

8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

**\*Please note that we will be closed Sundays during January. Our first Sunday open will be February 8, 2009\***

**New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31--Open 8:00-4:00**

**Closed Christmas Day & New Year's Day, January 1, 2009**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**December 5 thru December 7--Klein's Holiday Open House.** Join us for one time savings on our famous homegrown poinsettias--for carry out or delivery anytime during the holiday season. Also save on Wisconsin grown pine boughs, evergreen roping and wreaths. Enter a winter wonderland filled with holiday plants and gift ideas. Let us inspire you with our extensive collection of ornaments for all your decorating needs. Free refreshments on hand.

And check out our famous painted poinsettias. Poinsettia Painting is THE hottest trend in holiday decorating. The past few Christmases we couldn't keep our eye-popping creations on the shelves. Ever wanted a blue poinsettia? Tie-dyed? Or how about something elegant, sprinkled in glitter? The possibilities are endless. Have one of our greenhouse associates design and paint a unique creation for your own home decor or to suit any taste. For a peek, click on "Seasonal" on the left side of our home page. Here we've posted photographs of some of our creative designs and newest colors.

**Early December**--Order your beautiful poinsettias, blooming plants, designer gift baskets or custom-made centerpieces now for holiday gift-giving and guaranteed delivery. Early ordering ensures you top quality product for your home decorating and holiday party needs.

**December 8**--Eid-al-Adha

**December 12**--Full Moon

**December 21**--Winter Solstice

**December 22**--Hanukkah Begins

**December 20 thru December 24**--Stop in and check-out our in-store specials for any last minute gift-giving ideas. We still have a fantastic selection of homegrown poinsettias, blooming plants, houseplants, decorations and more. Shop early for the best selection and we'll deliver anywhere in Madison or the surrounding communities thru noon on Dec. 24.

**December 25**--Christmas Day (Closed)

**December 26--Kwanzaa Begins**

**December 26--**The After Christmas 75% Off Sale begins at 8:00! Everything 'holiday' must go! This is a great time to plan for this week's New Years Eve party or to pick up some excellent bargains for next year's decorating. Poinsettias are perfect for adding instant color to your late season holiday party and are gorgeous in fresh arrangements.

**December 26 thru December 31--**Order your New Years Eve centerpieces and custom designed arrangements early!

**January 1, 2009--**New Year's Day (Closed)

### **'THE FLOWER SHOPPE':**

**Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, in addition to Christmas, are just around the corner!** Following are a bit of history and a few decorating and entertaining ideas from the Society of American Florists' website at [www.aboutflowers.com](http://www.aboutflowers.com).

**Chanukah (Hanukkah), the Festival of Lights**, celebrates the victory of the Jews over Greek persecution. When the Maccabees, the leaders of the war against the Syrians, reclaimed the Temple, they only had one flask of oil to light the Menorah. Miraculously the Menorah stayed lit for eight days - thus the eight days of Chanukah, which begin on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev.

#### **Chanukah Decorating and Entertaining Ideas**

- Ask your florist to design a festive arrangement featuring flowers in the traditional Chanukah blue and white - perfect for a centerpiece or to greet guests on a table in the foyer.
- Use fresh evergreens to decorate around the menorah. Place colorful dreidels and chocolate coins around the table for kids to enjoy.
- For an elegant celebration take advantage of all places where candles could be displayed.
- Line a walkway with votive candles in luminaries leading up to a door.
- Place garland on the mantle with fresh flowers and candles to beautifully grace your room and make the most of light by enhancing the fire.
- Float candles and flowers in treasured crystal or silver bowls to create a fabulous effect.
- Place scented candles with fresh blossoms in each powder room.
- If an open house is on the agenda and many persons will be in a room, it is important to give special attention to the larger display areas such as the front door, foyer, mantle, buffet or serving areas, powder rooms, windows and staircase. This will help you get maximum impact because with many people in a room smaller arrangements placed around will not be seen at all times. Additionally, by focusing on a few focal areas in each room, more space is made for glasses, cups and food plates and there is less chance of an accident.
- As guests leave, have a vase of loose flowers by the door and invite them to take one home as a gift.

**Kwanzaa**, celebrated from December 26 - January 1, was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. The cultural (not religious) holiday is an African American celebration of the values of family, community responsibility, commerce and self-improvement. As Dr. Karenga says, "Kwanzaa is celebrated through rituals, dialogue, narratives, poetry, dancing, singing, drumming and other music, and feasting."

Kwanzaa is based on Nguzo Saba, seven social principles:

- Umoja (Unity)
- Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)
- Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility)
- Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)
- Nia (Purpose)
- Kuumba (Creativity)
- Imani (Faith)

Each of these seven principles is represented by a candle in the Kinara (candleholder). A black candle should be placed in the center of the Kinara, with three green candles on the left and three red candles on the right. Each day a candle in the Kinara is lit to celebrate one of the seven principles, beginning with the black candle in the center and lighting the rest of the candles from left to right.

#### **Kwanzaa Decorating and Entertaining Ideas**

- Ask your florist to create an arrangement of flowers in the traditional Kwanzaa colors, with fruits and vegetables to surround the Kinara.
- Position red flowers and greens throughout the room to accent the Kinara.
- For an elegant celebration take advantage of all places where candles could be displayed:
- Line a walkway with votive candles in luminaries leading up to a door.
- Place garland on the mantle with fresh flowers and candles to beautifully grace your room and make the most of light by enhancing the fire.
- Float candles and flowers in treasured crystal or silver bowls to create a fabulous effect.
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- If an open house is on the agenda and many persons will be in a room, it is important to give special attention to the larger display areas such as the front door, foyer, mantle, buffet or serving areas, powder rooms, windows and staircase. This will help you get maximum impact because with many people in a room smaller arrangements placed around will not be seen at all times. Additionally, by focusing on a few focal areas in each room, more space is made for glasses, cups and food plates... and there is less chance of an accident.
- As guests leave, have a vase of loose flowers by the door and invite them to take one home as a gift.

For more entertaining and decorating ideas give Klein's a call at 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661 and ask for one of our talented designers--Kathy, Karel, Sue, Jennifer or Sally. Be sure to order early for prompt delivery and visit the "Permanent Features" section of our newsletter for delivery information.

### **DID YOU KNOW. . .**

. . . that Klein's grows its thousands of breathtaking poinsettias from tiny cuttings sent to us last July? After potting, the cuttings spend the first week or so under timed misters in our back greenhouses. The added humidity lessens the shock of transplanting and allows them to perk up faster during hot summer days. A few weeks later, the poinsettias are then "**pinched**", creating bushier plants. But many are left "**unpinched**". These are our famous "**uprights**". These plants are left to grow on their own and will be taller with fewer, but substantially larger blooms. In September we begin "tying up" the poinsettias with twine or a plastic support hoop. This process gives our plants their perfect shape. Also during this time we try to keep the plants from "stray light", i.e. streetlights and even headlights. Poinsettias bloom as the days shorten. Therefore, any unnecessary light during the nighttime hours can actually delay blooming. Slowly in late October the bracts begin to show their spectacular color. We at Klein's pride ourselves in offering you the newest varieties and color selections on the market--from the richest reds to the purest whites, from deep burgundy to hot orange, and the ever-popular "Winter Rose". Our poinsettias are known throughout the Madison and Dane county, brightening countless area churches, businesses and homes during the holiday season.

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

#### **ENTRY: NOVEMBER 4, 2008**

What a great day all around...not only Election Day, but we broke a record high temperature for the date as well. With temperatures like this, it's easy to forget that winter is close at hand. In fact, I saw probably the last of the monarchs in the garden searching for that last bit of nectar before her journey south. This was the perfect day to finish season end tasks in the garden--raking, a final mowing, planting spring bulbs and cleaning up the perennial beds. I always clean my perennial beds in the fall. There seems to be more time to garden in the fall than in the springtime. In addition, the spring garden is usually muddy and difficult to work in until the soil dries in late April or early May. I would have to be very careful that I don't step on the hundreds of emerging spring bulbs making their appearance throughout the perennial beds. Cutting back and removing the foliage from perennials in the fall also helps in controlling many plant diseases--especially fungal problems like mildews, rusts and leaf spots. After the foliage is cleared away, I then make another sweep through the beds in an attempt to rid my gardens of perennial weeds like grasses or creeping charlie and unwanted self-sown perennials or errant tree seedlings. Doing so now gives me a huge jump on their control for next season. The downside of clearing the beds in the fall is that I eliminate some winter interest and protection for the birds that visit my winter feeders.

#### **ENTRY: NOVEMBER 14, 2008**

While paging through my newest issue of Horticulture Magazine (one of my favorite gardening magazines), I came across a review of a new book that quickly peaked my interest. I'm seldom impulsive with purchases, but I immediately went to Amazon.com to order this one. It arrived just today and I'm certainly not disappointed. This newest addition to my collection of gardening books is **Bulbs in the Basement Geraniums on the Windowsill--How to Grow and Overwinter 165 Tender Plants** by Alice and Brian McGowan (2008, Storey Publishing). It is

concise, colorful, easy to read and understand and best of all, packed with practical information on how to overwinter what we call "annuals" here in the north. In it's first pages, one is reminded that annuals bloom, set seed and die in a single season. For the most part it's technically "tender perennials" that we try so hard to overwinter from year to year on our windowsills and in our basements. I thought I knew a lot about overwintering tender plants, but I've learned tons of new tips and best of all, I've discovered countless new tropicals that I'll have to try in my own garden now that I know how to overwinter them successfully. From the Horticulture Magazine review:

"The book is an excellent practical manual, with profiles of 165 different plants. The specific winter strategy appears in each profile, whether it's to stow them in the cellar, propagate fresh babies or tend them as houseplants. You'll find familiar plants you've likely overwintered before, as well as less common "keepers" that are generally treated as annuals but are truly tender perennials that needn't be bought new each year. This book helps you save your plants and a few bucks too!"

Read on. . .

#### **ENTRY: NOVEMBER 27, 2008**

The cuttings down in the basement are looking especially nice this year. In fact, many (especially the coleus) have already reached the lights above them. The geraniums, salvias and fuchsias are also growing like crazy. I've noticed though, that with the colder weather outside, the basement temperature has also started to come down. The plants' quick growth rate will slow drastically as the basement gets even cooler. By midwinter, temperatures in my grow room will be in the middle 50's. This temperature is ideal for holding plants through our long winter. I've already stopped fertilizing them entirely and I only water the cuttings when they're very dry. Keeping the plants too moist in these cool conditions would certainly cause many of them to rot. The 13 hours of light I give them (all done with timers) seems to be perfect. I'll allow the plants to grow at least one more month before I begin pinching them back. I try to pinch them as little as possible in this cool and artificial environment. The more healthy foliage the plants have throughout the winter, the better their chances of surviving until I can get them outside in the springtime.

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

With all of the entertaining this month, one can never have enough tried and true appetizer and dip recipes on hand. The following Klein's favorites use only fresh vegetables--a real treat during the dead of winter. Unlike generations past, nearly all vegetables are now available for year round enjoyment. **The Happiest of Holidays from Klein's to You and Your Family!**

**BUTTERNUT SQUASH DIP**--From Cooking Light Magazine, November 2004

1 x 2 lb. butternut squash  
1 small onion, quartered  
4 cloves unpeeled garlic  
1 1/2 tsp. olive oil  
2 TBS. sour cream or creme fraiche  
3/4 tsp. salt  
1/8 tsp. ground red pepper  
1/8 tsp. nutmeg  
1/8 tsp. pepper

Preheat oven to 350°. Cut the squash in half lengthwise and remove the seeds. Brush the cut sides of the squash with oil and place cut side down on a rimmed cookie sheet. Brush the onions and garlic with oil and place on the pan with the squash. Bake 45 minutes or until the squash is tender. Cool the squash slightly and peel. Squeeze the garlic cloves to extract the pulp. Place the squash, garlic and onion in a food processor and process until smooth. Add the sour cream and the rest of the ingredients and process until well blended. Serve warm with crackers or crunchy bread. Makes 4 cups.

**EGGPLANT CAVIAR**--Until not that many years ago quality eggplant became unavailable during the winter months. On a recent visit to the grocery store we found 3 varieties of eggplant and all looked beautiful. How times have changed. The following recipe is from the Vermont Valley CSA newsletter of November 2001

1 TBS. olive oil  
2-3 cloves pressed garlic  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
1 green pepper, finely chopped  
1 small eggplant, chopped (peeled if desired)

1/4 cup dry red wine  
1 x 6 oz. can tomato paste  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. dried oregano  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
2 TBS. wine vinegar  
1 TBS. honey or brown sugar

Heat the oil in a small saucepan over medium heat. Briefly sauté the onion and the garlic. Add the green pepper and the eggplant and sauté several more minutes. Add the wine and reduce the heat to medium low and simmer for 10 minutes. Add the tomato paste, salt, oregano, pepper, vinegar and honey. Cook 10-15 minutes over low heat. Chill well before serving. Serve with crackers or crispy bread. Serves 6-8.

**SPINACH PARMESAN DIP**--Another recipe from the November 2004 issue of Cooking Light Magazine

2 tsp. olive oil  
6 cloves garlic, chopped  
1/2 tsp. salt  
20 oz. fresh spinach  
1 cup basil leaves, loosely packed  
6 oz. cream cheese, softened  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
2/3 cup (6 oz.) plain yogurt  
1/2 cup grated parmesan

Heat the oil in a large deep skillet over medium high. Add the garlic and sauté 1 minute. Add the salt and the spinach and sauté 3 minutes or till the spinach wilts--adding in batches if necessary. Place the spinach mix in a colander and press until the mix is barely moist. Place the spinach, basil, cream cheese and pepper in a food processor and process until smooth. In a bowl, combine the spinach mixture, yogurt and parmesan. Chill well. Serve with crackers. Makes 4 cups.

**CHILLED "VEGGIE PIZZA"**--A family favorite we couldn't be without.

1 pkg. crescent roll dough  
8 oz. cream cheese, softened  
1/3 cup Miracle Whip  
1/2 tsp. dried dill  
1/2 tsp. dried onion  
Chopped veggies of choice. Favorites include: cucumber, radishes, green pepper, onions, olives, broccoli, mushrooms or shredded carrots.  
Chopped ham or fried bacon for the meat lovers

Spread the rolls on a round pizza pan and bake @ 400° for 10 minutes. Allow the crust to cool. Combine the cream cheese and the rest of the ingredients and spread on the cooled crust. Top with finely shredded cheese if desired.

To double, simply use a rimmed cookie sheet instead of the pizza pan.

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

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

**This month's new product is:**

**The 2009 Wisconsin Garden Journal**  
**'Gardening for the Senses'**

The following excerpts are from the Madison Area Master Gardeners' website at [www.madison.com/communities/mamga/](http://www.madison.com/communities/mamga/)

"Inside the **2009 Wisconsin Garden Journal**, you will find original articles, weekly tips, and references that explore the many elements that can help you create your own sensory garden.

Proceeds are used to fund community and school grants in

Dane County, Wisconsin.”

“The 190-page **2009 Wisconsin Garden Journal** is not only a weekly engagement calendar, but also a valuable tool to help Midwest gardeners in Zones 3-5 plan, organize, and maintain their gardens. Featuring color photography and original artwork, this unique publication includes articles, monthly task lists of garden chores, weekly tips, a planting guide, and extensive references. The theme of the fourteenth edition of the Garden Journal is ‘Gardening for the Senses’.”

Journals are available at Klein’s while supplies last.

## **NATURAL NEWS--**

### **10 Great Gift Ideas from Klein’s to You this Holiday Season**

1. One of our many windowsill herbs planted into one of our lovely and earthfriendly greenPots™ from ecosource. Choose from lavender, rosemary, mint, thyme, sage and many, many more. Click on “**Merchandise**” on the left side of our home page for more info about our greenPots™.
2. A naturally air purifying houseplant. Choose from our large selection of houseplants in all sizes and for any decor. Click on “**Houseplants**” on the left side of our home page for more info.
3. A Dane Buy Local Gift Card available at the Home Savings next to Klein’s at 3762 E. Washington Ave. For more details, check out [www.danebuylocal.com](http://www.danebuylocal.com).
4. A gift subscription to one of the many great green gardening magazines on the market today including **Organic Gardening Magazine** ([www.organicgardening.com](http://www.organicgardening.com)) or **Mother Earth News** ([www.motherearthnews.com](http://www.motherearthnews.com)) or perhaps a book about growing things naturally.
5. One of our gorgeous gazing balls. Choose from ones made of 100% recycled glass or others lit by LED lights for a dazzling night display.
6. A decorative ceramic birdfeeder or a lovely birdhouse to attract wildlife to the yard. Birds are nature’s best means of pest control and wildlife in the garden is always enjoyable and fascinating for young and old alike.
7. The 2009 edition of the **Wisconsin Garden Journal** put out by the Madison Area Master Gardener’s Association. This ‘must have’ for all passionate gardeners is available for \$13.50 at Klein’s while supplies last. See the “**New Product Spotlight**” of our newsletter for more information or visit the Master Gardeners’ website at [www.madison.com/communities/mamga/](http://www.madison.com/communities/mamga/)
8. A yearly admission sticker to the Wisconsin’s state parks. Share the beauty of our great state with family and friends. “The Wisconsin State Park System provides places for outdoor recreation and for learning about nature and conservation. The 99 state parks, forests, trails, and recreation areas report about 14 million visits a year. Come and join the fun!”

For more information on how to purchase a 2009 state park admission sticker, visit [www.dnr.state.wi.us/Org/land/parks/fees/#stickers](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/Org/land/parks/fees/#stickers).

9. Seed starting supplies such as seeds, grow lights, seed starting mixes, cell packs and trays, peat or coir pots, plant tags and markers or a self-contained a growing kit. Seeds for spring aren’t quite available at Klein’s but are available through many mail order sources. Check out the following: **Cyndi’s Catalog of Garden Catalogs** at [www.gardenlist.com](http://www.gardenlist.com).

10. Or, of course, a Klein’s gift certificate. Order one from the comfort of your home or office by clicking on “**Gift Certificate**” on the left side of our home page.

## **DECEMBER’S PLANT OF THE MONTH:** **POINSETTIA**

Nowhere in Madison will you find a larger selection of healthy homegrown poinsettias, inspected daily for your satisfaction. Here are a few tips to keep your plant happy, not only thru the holiday season, but for months or years to come.

Upon your selection, we will carefully wrap your poinsettia for the trip home. Poinsettias are extremely cold sensitive and cannot tolerate temperatures below 50 degrees for very long. Once home, carefully unwrap your plant from the bottom up. This ensures that the delicate branches and blooms will not be damaged or broken. The biggest problems for poinsettias in most homes are: not enough light, drafts (both cold and warm) and either over or under watering. Poinsettias prefer indirect or diffuse sunlight at least 6 hours per day. Plants prefer to be constantly moist, but not soggy, and never let the plants stand in water. Therefore, make sure there is a hole in any decorative foil around the pot and set the pot in a plate or saucer to protect furnishings. There's no need to fertilize your poinsettia during the winter months. Drafts encourage leaf drop. This will usually not hurt the plant, but will make it rather unsightly.

Though poinsettias will not bloom in your garden during the summer, they make attractive additions to the patio or garden. Plants grow quickly during our hot, humid summers and the deep green, dense foliage makes an attractive shrub in the landscape or in a container. Getting your plant to rebloom next year is difficult and time consuming, requiring very specific lighting conditions. Doing so can be very rewarding, but we recommend disposing last year's plant in favor of a pest free specimen. Poinsettias that spend the summer outside are prone to whitefly and tend to become terribly misshapen with much smaller blooms.

A great web site for more information is [www.pauleckepoinsettias.com](http://www.pauleckepoinsettias.com)

### **YOU ASKED. . .**

**Lately I've noticed little black flies around the house, especially near my houseplants. My husband calls them fruit flies, but they look a little smaller to me. What are they and how do I get rid of them?**

The relatively harmless insects to which you're referring are unappealingly called 'fungus gnats' and are very common pests in the homes of nearly all plant lovers. They are brought indoors by plants that have spent the summer outdoors or brought home with newly acquired plants. Eggs and living larvae can also turn up in newly purchased bagged potting mixes, though this is less common. Though they can be annoying and are harmless, they often indicate more serious underlying problems, namely overwatering, poor drainage or bad potting soil. Fungus gnats are most prevalent around moist decomposing organic matter such as bark, leaves, peat moss, etc. The flies themselves are breeding adults or females searching for a place to lay her eggs. In homes, they most often lay their eggs in the potting soil of houseplants. After the eggs hatch, the small white larvae most often feed on the fungus in the decomposing matter in the potting soil (though they can do damage to the roots of young or unhealthy plants). Generally, they cause no harm to established and healthy plants. The adults have been known to spread certain plant diseases, but this should be of little concern to the average owner of houseplants.

If possible, the easiest and safest means of control is to allow the potting mix to get rather dry between waterings. Fungus gnats require moist conditions to thrive. Never allow your plants to sit in a water filled saucer.

Sticky cards, available at most garden centers, are another means to control the adult population. The cards are coated with a pheromone that lures the adults and a sticky coating from which the flies cannot escape. They are most effective when laid directly on the soil and are a bright yellow and not very attractive.

Pyrethrin sprays are also effective on the adults, therefore, control is very short term as eggs continue to hatch. Sprays that kill "flying insects" also work well but can be toxic indoors. A drench can also be made from pyrethrins. Though considered "natural" because made from chrysanthemums, pyrethrins are usually harsh and foul smelling.

A more natural means is to create a bacillus thuringiensis (BT) drench. Naturally occurring bacteria kill the larvae after they have been ingested.

Brands include: Thuricide, Dipel, among others

### **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, November 15 thru December 20, 7:30-noon  
Monona Terrace

Saturdays, January 3 thru April 11, 8:00-noon  
Madison Senior Center  
330 W. Mifflin

For details visit [www.madfarmmkt.org](http://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](http://www.olbrich.org) for details

**Olbrich Garden's Holiday Express:  
Flower & Model Train Show**

December 6 through December 31

Twinkling lights, festive poinsettias, tiny landscapes, and large-scale model trains: all aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express! Using large-scale model trains, Olbrich's horticulture staff will showcase miniature landscapes among hundreds of colorful poinsettias. During Olbrich's Holiday Express, members of the Wisconsin Garden Railway Society come from all over the state to show off their large-scale model trains. Relax with friends and family and enjoy tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies available for purchase in the lobby. Olbrich's photo depot also provides the perfect background for a holiday photo! Admission for Olbrich Botanical Society members is free. Admission to Olbrich's Holiday Express for the general public is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children ages 3 to 12. Children 2 and under are free. Admission to the tropical Bolz Conservatory is included.

Olbrich's Holiday Express is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Olbrich will close at 2 p.m. on December 24, and will be closed all day on December 25 and January 1.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison  
608/246-4550 or [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org) for details

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

- Pick up a copy of the 2009 Wisconsin Garden Journal at bookstores.
- Mulch perennials to protect from the cold and prevent heaving.
- Purchase marsh hay and rose protection. Wait till the ground freezes.
- Mulch roses by mounding soil and wrapping, rather than using rose cones.
- Keep birdfeeders full. Clean periodically with soap and water.
- Make water available to the birds. Begin using a deicer as needed.
- Plant bulbs for forcing and put in a cool location for 10-12 weeks.

- \_\_\_ Plant bulbs until the ground freezes.
- \_\_\_ Prep lawnmower for winter storage and snowblower for weather to come.
- \_\_\_ Mark driveways and sidewalks with stakes.
- \_\_\_ Finish garden cleanup to make spring easier and prevent pests.
- \_\_\_ Do any last minute raking to prevent smothering delicate plants or beds.
- \_\_\_ Spread fireplace ashes over beds to amend the soil.
- \_\_\_ Make sure clay pots are stored inside and dry to prevent cracking.
- \_\_\_ Place your used Christmas tree in the garden for added wildlife protection.
- \_\_\_ Have trees trimmed--it's often times cheaper and easier to schedule.
- \_\_\_ Inspect stored summer bulbs like dahlias, cannas and glads for rotting.
- \_\_\_ Stop feeding houseplants and cut back on watering.
- \_\_\_ Inventory last year's leftover seeds before ordering new ones.
- \_\_\_ Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- \_\_\_ Wrap trunks of susceptible trees to protect from rodents.
- \_\_\_ Visit Klein's---it's green, it's warm, it's colorful---it's always spring!

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

#### **IN DECEMBER:**

---We're prepping the hundreds of poinsettias and holiday plants that go out for orders each day. After choosing the most gorgeous plants, we need to foil, bow and sleeve each order before loading into our vans for delivery to Madison's homes, businesses and churches.

---Tropicals for next summer sale continue to arrive. Our tropicals (such as bananas, colocasias, aloccasias, xanthosomas, etc.) arrive now so we are able to get the best selection and are able to offer you substantial sized plants next summer.

---Hundreds of herbs for windowsill culture are thriving in the sunny, warm greenhouses. We have chosen only the best assortment for indoor growing and winter harvest. Choose from rosemary, lavender, parsley, thyme and more.

---We continue to plan and prepare for Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center in February by sprucing up display pieces and potting up thousands of violas, primrose, cineraria, etc. for sale at the show. This is Klein's biggest annual event and our most important advertising.

#### **EMPLOYEE PROFILE--JAN LOOMIS**

Gardeners tend to be passionate people and as a rule, gardeners love to share their experiences and knowledge with anyone who will listen. Ask a gardener about both our failures and successes and we'll share every tidbit of information with you. Oftentimes we enjoy sharing far more than we're asked. Sharing is a symptom of our passion. We share plants with our acquaintances and share (literally) the fruits of our labor with family and friends. Gardeners are also artists. We experiment and play with color, light and texture. The plants are our palette and the landscape is our canvas. But first and foremost, gardeners are teachers. It comes with the territory. We want everyone to experience our passion for beauty, the earth and nature. We instruct, we offer advice and we demonstrate. We teach our friends, family, spouses, neighbors and the children in our lives. Plant that gardening bug in them early and it's nearly impossible to avoid its infectious bite.

Klein's own Jan Loomis is that artist and passionate teacher we're talking about, whose love of family, the land and teaching have all been intertwined throughout her lifetime. Jan's passion for sharing knowledge is in her blood, she says. Though a farmer, Jan's father was himself a teacher at heart and shared with family and friends many of the values she treasures to this day, namely compassion for the down and out, hard work, teamwork and a love for the land. She says her father's most important goal in life was to own his own piece of earth on which to grow things--a goal he ultimately achieved. She says he and her mother were a very close team when it came to work, family and decision making. Between the hard work and financial struggles, there was always an abundance of joy and hope and above all a lot of fun! Jan says it's this feeling family and teamwork that she loves most about working at Klein's.

For the most part, Jan grew up in the Cottage Grove area of eastern Dane County. Early memories include working in her dad and mom's extensive vegetable gardens. To this day, Jan says that, though she enjoys all types of gardening, vegetable gardening remains the most satisfying. She loves all facets of raising and enjoying vegetables--from planting, growing and harvesting to chopping, cooking and eating them. Potatoes, she says, are her very favorite.

After graduating from Madison East High School, Jan attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where she received her undergraduate degree in Education. After graduation, Jan says she taught K thru 9 in many school districts throughout southern Wisconsin, including Waunakee, Sun Prairie, Cottage Grove and Madison, though it was in Portage that she met her future husband, Clayton "Bud" Loomis, himself a P.E. teacher in the Portage school district at the time. Though Jan also had a career in real estate, she says her real joy has been education. Ultimately, Jan, along with her daughter Whitney, received her masters degree in education from the University of Wisconsin- Whitewater. Even in retirement, Jan frequently substitute teaches to this day in the Madison schools.

After retirement, Jan, a self-proclaimed "free spirit", needed to explore some of her other life passions--namely her tie to nature and to the land. This brings us to the Klein's portion of Jan's story. Jan's son, Nick, had been a Klein's greenhouse worker and delivery driver for many years. Nick knew that his mom and Klein's were a perfect match. Jan had, in fact, shopped with her dad at Klein's as a young child. Life comes full circle. Jan joined the Klein's team in the fall of 2001 and says she could not be happier. She says her job at Klein's is satisfying on so many levels. She has the opportunity to share her knowledge about some of the things she relishes most in life. She says she thoroughly enjoys working with our customers, especially our older clientele. Many a Klein's customer has commented on Jan's patience and helpfulness and how pleasant she makes their shopping experience. Jan has also shared some of her own treasured garden heirloom plants with the Klein shopper. In fact, the kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate we sell each spring are seedlings from Jan's own garden--themselves hand-me-downs from Bud's grandmother. Jan is also a member of the Madison Herb Society.

In Jan's own garden, she says she especially loves perennials and roses, though she says that increased shade has made growing them successfully at her DeForest home increasingly difficult. She says that one of her current goals is to create extensive perennial and rose beds at her family farm in rural Sun Prairie and reconnect with the land. Her hopes are to invest in the farm for her family's future generations. In fact, her son Nick is already an avid and accomplished gardener and Whitney's son, Lucas, has also apparently been bitten by that same gardening bug. We're pretty sure that the teacher in Jan has had a little something to do with that!

## **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 community UW athletics and academics with advertising and coupons in the 2009 edition of the Bucky Book. Visit [www.buckybook.com](http://www.buckybook.com) for more information and to order your copy.

## **DELIVERY INFO**

Klein's Floral and Greenhouses delivers daily, except Sundays, throughout all of Madison and much of Dane County including: Cottage Grove, DeForest, Fitchburg, Maple Bluff, Marshall, 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. A minimum order of \$25.00 is required for delivery. Delivery to the Madison hospitals is \$4.95. Deliveries to the four Madison hospitals are made during the early afternoon. There is no delivery charge to funeral homes in the city of Madison, although regular rates apply for morning funeral deliveries to Madison's west side. Regular rates also apply for funeral deliveries in the surrounding communities.

Morning delivery is guaranteed to the following Madison zip codes, but only if requested: 53703, 53704, 53714, 53716, 53718 and Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, Marshall, 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, 53713, 53717, 53719, 53726, Fitchburg, 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. We do not deliver to Cambridge, Columbus, Deerfield or Stoughton.

**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](mailto:kathy@kleinsfloral.com)

Head Grower & Horticulturist Jamie VandenWymelenberg

[jamie@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:jamie@kleinsfloral.com)

Assistant Grower

Craig Johnson

[craig@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:craig@kleinsfloral.com)

Retail Manager

Jennifer Wadyka

[jennifer@kleinsfloral.com](mailto:jennifer@kleinsfloral.com)

House Accounts & Billing Barbara Foulk

Delivery Supervisor

Rick Halbach

Owner Sue Klein

[sue@kleinsfloral.com](mailto: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/](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/)

[www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort)

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

Dept. of Plant Pathology

1630 Linden Dr.

Madison, WI 53706

[www.plantpath.wisc.edu/](http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/)

Insect Diagnostic Lab

240 Russell Labs

1630 Linden Dr.

Madison, WI 53706

[www.entomology.wisc.edu/](http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/)

State Soil Testing Lab

5711 Mineral Point Rd.

Madison, WI 53705

608/262-4364

[www.soils.wisc.edu](http://www.soils.wisc.edu)

American Horticultural Society

[www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org)

Garden Catalogs (an extensive list with links)

[www.gardenlist.com](http://www.gardenlist.com)

also [www.mailordergardening.com](http://www.mailordergardening.com)

Invasive Species

[www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org)

Friends of Troy Gardens

Rm. 171, Bldg. 14  
3601 Memorial Dr.  
Madison, WI 53704  
608/240-0409  
[www.troygardens.org](http://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/](http://www.cacscw.org/gardens/)

Madison Area Master Gardeners (MAMGA)  
[www.madison.com/communities/mamga/](http://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/](http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/)

The Wisconsin Gardener  
[www.wpt.org/garden/](http://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](http://www.horticulture.wisc.edu/allencentennialgardens/Index.html)

Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave.  
Madison, WI 53704  
608/246-4550  
[www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org)

Rotary Gardens  
1455 Palmer Dr.  
Janesville, WI 53545  
608/752-3885  
[www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org)

University of WI Arboretum  
1207 Seminole Hwy.  
Madison, WI 53711  
608/263-7888  
[www.uwarboretum.org](http://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/](http://www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/)

**PLANTS POISONOUS TO CHILDREN:**

Children may find the bright colors and different textures of plants irresistible, but some plants can be poisonous if touched or eaten. If you're in doubt about whether or not a plant is poisonous, don't keep it in your home. The risk is not worth it. The following list is not comprehensive, so be sure to seek out safety information on the plants in your home to be safe.

- Bird of paradise
- Bull nettle
- Castor bean
- Chinaberry tree
- Crocus
- Daffodil
- Deadly nightshade
- Dieffenbachia (dumb cane)
- Foxglove
- Glory lily
- Hemlock
- Holly berry
- Indian tobacco
- Iris
- Jimsonweed
- Lantana
- Larkspur
- Lily of the valley
- Marijuana
- Mescal bean
- Mexicanes
- Mistletoe
- Morning glory
- Mountain laurel
- Night-blooming jasmine
- Nutmeg
- Oleander
- Philodendron
- Poison ivy
- Poison sumac
- Pokeweed
- Poppy
- Potato
- Privet
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Water hemlock
- Wisteria

#### **PLANTS POISONOUS TO PETS:**

Below is a list of some of the common plants which may produce a toxic reaction in animals. This list is intended only as a guide to plants which are generally identified as having the capability for producing a toxic reaction. Source: The National Humane Society website @ [www.hsus.org/](http://www.hsus.org/)

- Aconite
- Apple
- Arrowgrasses
- Autumn Crocus
- Azaleas
- Baneberry
- Bird-of-Paradise
- Black locust
- Bloodroot
- Box
- Buckeye
- Buttercup
- Caladium
- Carolina jessamine
- Castor bean

- Chinaberry tree
- Chockcherries
- Christmas berry
- Christmas Rose
- Common privet
- Corn cockle
- Cowbane
- Cow cockle
- Cowsliprb
- Daffodil
- Daphne
- Day lily
- Delphinium (Larkspur)
- Dumbcane
- Dutchman's breeches
- Easter lily
- Elderberry
- Elephant's ear
- English Ivy
- European Bittersweet
- Field peppergrass
- Foxglove
- Holly
- Horsechestnut
- Horse nettle
- Hyacinth
- Iris
- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Jimsonweed
- Lantana
- Larkspur
- Laurels
- Lily of the valley
- Lupines
- Mayapple
- Milk vetch
- Mistletoe
- Monkshood
- Morning glory
- Mustards
- Narcissus
- Nicotiana
- Nightshade
- Oaks
- Oleander
- Philodendrons
- Pokeweed
- Poinsettia
- Poison hemlock
- Potato
- Rhododendron
- Rhubarb
- Rosary pea
- Sago palm
- Skunk cabbage
- Smartweeds
- Snow-on-the-mountain
- Sorghum
- Star of Bethlehem
- Wild black cherry
- Wild radish

- Wisteria
- Yellow jessamine
- Yew