

GGG

Granville Gardeners Gazette

Promoting Education and Recreation through Gardening Activities

Oxford, North Carolina

www.thegranvillegardeners.org

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Sedges



Shannon Currey



Panicum (Switch grass)

THE NEW WORKHORSES OF THE GARDEN: NATIVE GRASSES AND SEDGES

By Shannon Currey, Izel Native Plants

Monday, October 28 at 7 p.m., Granville County Expo Center, 4185 U.S. Hwy 15 S, Oxford, NC

About the Program

Shifts in attitudes toward native plants, ecological landscapes, and progressive planting design are making grasses and sedges more popular than ever – from low-key groundcover to seasonal superstar. They lessen the need for maintenance, fertilizer, and pesticides. Their ability to anchor the soil and help manage stormwater gives them a workhorse reputation, but their aesthetic qualities give them star status. With a focus on functionality, learn about native grasses and sedges and discover where they do their best work.

About the Speaker

Shannon Currey is a horticultural educator with Izel Native Plants. She's worked in the nursery trade since 2006 and has established herself as an expert on grasses and sedges, with a focus on native species. She has shared her knowledge in nationally published articles and traveled the country speaking to professional organizations, community groups, and at public gardens. She currently serves on the North Carolina Plant Conservation Program Scientific Committee, advises several organizations on horticultural programming, and has served on the Boards of the Perennial Plant Association and the Perennial Plant Foundation. Shannon lives in Durham, North Carolina and loves exploring the native flora everywhere she goes.

By Shannon Currey and Marty Finkel

Photo credit: Shannon Currey

President's Notes

Greetings Gardeners,

As we start to shift into the fall season, my project board is full of activities that will take me into the early spring. Still a lot of weeds to deal with as I got behind. But now shifting to the beds. Six yards of mulch so far with more to go. I have two sections of the back yard that will experience a complete re-do this year. So, lots to keep me busy.

For those of you that can, please consider joining our bi-monthly Post Office maintenance crew. We meet in the early evenings for about 1.5 hours and knock out the various things that need attention. The group has fun and has been known to meet for a beer afterwards!

I want to give a special thanks to Mark Arnott for taking on the role of Webmaster as Brenda moves on. Brenda has done so much for the club it is hard to begin to list it all. We will indeed miss her.

We had another great program last month. Near and dear to my heart (that may be overstating it a bit), we learned more about weeds than any of us knew we would. Johnny did another great job.

Christmas – yes Christmas – is on its way and we have a wonderful banquet planned for the club. You will hear more about that in coming meetings.

See you in the Garden,

David



JCRA Plants for Auction in October 2024

Rob and Sophia have chosen something for everyone this month. Be sure to come to the meeting and bid – or share in the fun and congratulate the lucky winners!

Hypericum forrestii, Forrest St. John's Wort.

This St. John's Wort grows to a semi-evergreen shrub 4' tall x 5' wide. Its new growth has light green leaves and red stems, fall colors are reds, yellow and orange. Summer flowers are bright yellow. This St. John's Wort takes normal water for our area and does best with sun and late day shade.



Photo: JC Raulston Arboretum, <https://jcra.ncsu.edu>

Salvia 'Newe Ya'ar.' This is a wonderful dual-purpose sage, Ornamental and culinary star in one plant! It likes a dry, well drained sunny location. It grows to a 3' tall x 6' Part sun, routine with grey green leaves and lavender-pink bloom spikes. We are on its border for hardiness; however, it should survive.



Photo: Plant Delights Nursery, www.plantdelights.com



Photo: JC Raulston Arboretum, <https://jcra.ncsu.edu>

Clematis integrifolia 'Blue Boy.' Part sun, routine water and well drained soil create a late spring nodding bell-shaped bloom that is blue and so worth having! Easy to grow, cut to the ground each late winter as it blooms on each spring's new growth. "Best when allowed to wind through and around other perennials."



Photo copyright by Ken Woolfenden, used with permission; www.clematisinternational.com.



Photo courtesy of Friedrich M. Westphal Clematiskulturen, <http://clematiszucht.de>

***Taxodium distichum* ‘Falling Waters,’ Weeping Bald Cypress.**

Will grow to 20’ tall x 20’ wide. The beauty of a well planted healthy Falling Waters cypress is so very striking! This beauty (grafted by Sophia) loves moist sunny spots where it will grow to 20’ tall x 15’ wide. Can be allowed to reach its height naturally or it can be assisted by staking.



Photos taken at Duke Gardens, by Kat Ravenel



***Cornus* ‘NCCH3’, Cloudburst™ Dogwood.** Developed at NCSU , Cloudburst likes part sun with late-day shade and well drained soil that is not allowed to dry out. Cloudburst blooms in the spring like *Cornus florida*, and the flowers look the same, but there are more of them and they are larger: 3½ to 4 inches wide. Best of all Cloudburst is highly disease resistant.

Photos on right show our native *Cornus florida*. Cloudburst is so new that no photos are available.



Cornus florida. Photo: © icotton111 [CC BY-NC 4.0](#)



Cornus florida. Photo: © Penny L. [CC BY-NC 4.0](#)

Listen! the wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves, We have had our summer evenings, now for October eves! ___Humbert Wolfe, *Autumn Resignation*

Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree. ___Emily Bronte



Winter Hydroponics and Growing Sprouts and Micro-greens

Wow! Granville Gardeners, Reuben and James gave a top-notch demonstration of how to grow winter greens hydroponically (Reuben) and sprouts and micro-greens (James) at the library for anyone interested in having more super-fresh, nutritious vegetables for the winter.

Each of the presenters gave us information on:

- how to start, maintain, and complete the growing process from seed (also from transplant, in the hydroponics case) to maintenance, to harvest
- best vegetables to grow with the method
- sources for the equipment and supplies needed
- pitfalls to avoid

We had time for many questions, and afterwards, were invited to taste some of the vegetables. The longer the time between harvesting vegetables and preparing them, the more nutrients they lose. Using the methods presented, we will be able to eat well even in the coldest months of the year. Many thanks to James and Reuben for their excellent presentation!



October To-Do List

- The average first frost date is now November 11. Usually there are a few weeks of frost-free weather after this date, so protecting vegetables with lightweight floating row covers could extend the harvest period. There are different weights of this fabric, and several seed and/or supply catalogs carry it, such as Pinetree Garden Seeds, Jung Seeds & Plants, Johnny's Selected Seeds, Territorial Seed Co., and others. Reuse the covers in the spring for frost protection and for insect protection for newly set-out transplants.
- If it has been a couple of years since soil tests were done, test garden and lawn areas now, and apply lime if indicated. There is no charge for samples submitted April through November, but from December through March there will be a \$4 charge for each sample. So, get those samples in before the first of Dec. – boxes and instructions are available at the Ag. Ext. Service Building.
- Roses: Remove and dispose of dead flowers and yellowed and/or spotted foliage: Any debris left in the bed will continue to produce fungus spores that will over-winter and cause problems again.
- Sow cool weather annual seed now, such as larkspur, forget-me-not, poppies, coreopsis, cosmos, nicotiana, stock (*Matthiola incana*), vinca.
- Plant seeds of radishes, spinach, leaf lettuce, Asian greens (including mustard), cilantro, arugula, collards, fennel, radish, parsley, beets, carrots, turnips, and kale. If you can't get the seeds planted by the first week, plant transplants of broccoli, kale, cabbage, and lettuces.
- Plant new perennials, shrubs, and trees. Take notice of colorful and/or shredding bark, berries, weeping and/or contorted trunks and branches for winter interest when choosing trees and shrubs.
- Clean up perennials and shrubs: remove any dead and diseased parts but do not put this material in the compost.
- Watch for aphids and caterpillars on broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, collards, kale, etc. and use insecticidal soap for control.
- Take advantage of end of the summer sales on plants but be sure the plants are in good enough condition to survive with tlc.
- Do not use any pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, miticides, other "cides") that contain neonicotinoids (neonics) since recent research has shown that this class of chemicals kills pollinators and other beneficials.

by Marty Finkel

Member Marketplace

Name: Danny DeVito.

My wife Cindy and I have been members of the Granville Gardeners for 10 plus years. We sell our fruits, vegetables, and plants at the Oxford Farmers Market. This month I will have Japanese persimmon and peppers.

Cindy will have:

- herbs
 - basil
 - peppermint
 - oregano
 - shiso
 - rosemary
 - pineapple sage
- hand scrubs in
 - lavender
 - sugar cookie
 - citrus
- lavender sachets



Name: Judy McHugh.

I have a backyard nursery for old-fashioned flowers and shrubs. At present I have:

- butterfly bush (purple, yellow, and lavender)
- snowball bush
- hydrangea (blue and limelight)
- bee balm
- purple coneflower
- spirea
- green dragon
- honeysuckle bush

I'm at the Oxford farmers market on Saturday mornings from 8 o'clock until 12 o'clock. If it's an old-fashioned shrub or flower you're looking for, I may have it. Prices range from \$5 to \$10. Plants can be picked up at the farmers market, or arrangements can be made for pick up by calling me at 919-691-4790.

Name: James Counts

Location: Stem, NC

Available this month: Bean sprouts!

I will also have bean sprouts and micro-greens at the Pop-up Market, Oct. 19 from 7am-12:30pm at Strong Arm Baking Co., 117 Main St., Oxford.

Order ahead for lentil and sunflower sprouts. For micro-greens, order a minimum of 7 days in advance.



Name: Joyce Cifers – Dalton Mill Nursery

Location : 2566 Dalton Mill Rd, Bullock 27505

Phone: 919-482-9883

Fall is the time to plant. Let those plants get well established before the hot weather next summer, since we don't have much of a spring. One of my new favorite plants is the Caryopteris Grand Bleu. It is a compact cultivar that reaches 2.5' in a season. Great pollinator, featuring shrub-covering blooms of fragrant deep blue flowers in terminal and axillary clusters from late summer to fall. We have these available in 1 gal and 3 gal containers.



American
Beautyberry

We also have an old favorite, American Beautyberry. This native-to-North Carolina shrub is stunning in the fall with magenta berries highlighted by golden yellow leaves! All of the Ornamental grasses are on full plume and beautiful.

Huge Mums are still available in limited colors and quantities for only \$12.

Pansies have arrived in 4pks. Limited amounts available. Get them while they last.



Caryopteris Grand Bleu

Name: Brittnee Worthy (Geassa Apothecary)

Location: Farm in Stem, Retail location in the Art and Craft Space, Oxford. The next Oxford pop-up will be November 2nd! Durham Market, October 5th (details below)!

General: We are a small batch herbal apothecary offering herbal products and botanical crafts grown largely here in Granville County! Our products include herbal tinctures, bitters, and extracts, teas, salves, candles, hydrosols and soon I will have herbal honey, herbal latte powders, seasonal syrups, botanically dyed bandanas, botanically dyed yarn, botanical prints of my linocut artwork, dried and fresh bouquets, and more!

This month: For anyone who will be in Durham Saturday October 5th, we will be participating in the Hummingbird Market's "Whimsigoth Party," a Halloween themed market at the PS37 Venue at 600 Foster St. in Durham. It is going to be fun!

With the start of fall, we now have a line of autumnal products including Elderberry Elixir and my "Autumn Wander" line, including an immune boosting elixir and a beeswax scented candle for setting the autumn mood. Our ever popular "Dream Weaver" collection is coming back too with the popular sleep aid and dream enhancing elixir in addition a new tea version by the same name! We are also introducing a few new teas, including Women's Daily Blend and Magic Pink Celosia! You will of course also find our ongoing collection of tinctures, such as panic ease, migraine soother, sleeping beauty, single herb tinctures and more. We will also have blue butterfly-pea flower infused honey (yes, it's blue!) as well as botanical art prints and handmade jewelry!

Our next time at the Oxford Pop-up market will be November 2, and of course, we are always at the Art and Crafts Space in Oxford, NC!

Please follow @geassaapothecary on Instagram and Facebook for updates and herbal fun! I am also available to contact via geassaapothecary@gmail.com



Thank you so much for all your support, Granville Gardeners! You're making my little herbalist dreams come true!

Name: Vickey Thornton

I sell produce at **Oxford Farmers Market**. I am at market on Saturday mornings from 7:00-12:00. I will have watermelon rind, beet, and cucumber pickles this week, along with peach, pear, and fig preserves, pepper relish, and peppers in vinegar.

For produce: red potatoes and Yukon gold potatoes, Cayenne, Jalapeno and Serrano peppers, a few watermelons and cantaloupes, okra, dried apples, pears, and figs. Pumpkins are in as well.

Produce can be picked up at the farmer's market or arrangement can be made for pick up by calling me at 919-603-7975.

GRANVILLE GARDENERS CALENDAR

October 28. October Meeting. 7pm. Program: Native Grasses and Sedges, Granville Co. Expo Center
Post Office Garden. Every two weeks. We meet to tidy up the PO garden then head off to a local eatery. As the season changes, we will be adjusting the times and days. Please let Kat know if you can help, and we'll add you to the email list to keep you up-to-date.

GG Walking Group. We have begun walking at the Granville Athletic Park for exercise and conversation. Tell Kat if you want to get on the email list. At the moment, we are walking Monday mornings at 8:00, Thursday evenings at 6:00, and Friday mornings at 7:30, but it's not set in stone.

OTHER GARDEN/PLANT/FOOD RELATED EVENTS IN THE AREA

OCTOBER

October 4 and 5. Lord Granville Agricultural Heritage 17th annual Harvest Show. Corner of 12th and G Street, Butner. Antique tractor show, vendors/food trucks, equipment demonstrations, silent auction, Mama's Kitchen, cake baking contest (Sat.), and more. Check on FB for details: [Lord Granville Ag Show](#)

October 4-6. Pottery and Glass Festival. 10am-9pm Fri., 10am-6pm Sat. & Sun., Cedar Creek Gallery, 1150 Fleming Rd., Creedmoor. Plant sale, glass blowing demonstrations, pottery demonstrations, other demos, live music, food trucks, and more. Find details and more here: [Cedar Creek Festival Schedule](#)

October 5. JCRA Friends of the Arboretum Annual Plant Giveaway. 9am-9:15am (members only) - New members who sign up that morning (starting at 7:30am) are eligible for the plant giveaway. Gates open at 7:30 for check-in. Arrive before 8:45. The give-away starts at 9:00 sharp and only lasts a few minutes, so don't be late. More here: [JCRA Plant "Rodeo"](#)

October 12-13. Pottery and Glass Festival. 10am-6pm both days. Find details and more here: [Cedar Creek Festival Schedule](#)

October 19. Sweater weather pop-up market. 7am-12:30pm at Strong Arm Baking Co. 117 Main St., Oxford. More info at 919-603-1164.

October 24. Planting for Pollinators and Hummingbirds. 12pm-1pm. NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill, NC. Learn the basics for encouraging wildlife in your own backyard and contributing to scientific data right from your garden. Free, but must register: [Planting for Pollinators](#)

ON-GOING

Seed Library. Thornton, Stovall, and South Branch libraries have seed libraries where you can donate, or find seeds to take home and plant. Click here to learn more: [Seed Library](#).

Farm to Fridge. A program Thornton, Stovall, and South Branch libraries have where you can donate your produce to help people in need. Click here to learn more: [Farm to Fridge](#) (Not shown, but Stovall Branch has a fridge.)

Mobile Food Market. Every Tuesday from 3-4:30pm at Tobacco Wood Brewing Co., 117 Wall St., Oxford: A mobile market, organized by non-profit Ripe for Revival, to distribute excess farm produce, and reach people in need. Anyone is welcome to shop here. At check-out, a suggested price is given, and the shoppers decide "what they can pay." Read more here: [Ripe For Revival](#).

Plant of the Month



Climbing Aster (*Ampelaster carolinianus*)

This perennial vine sends out abundant pale purple to lavender flowers beginning in late October. It grows to 4 to 5 feet tall, and frost does not seem to impede the blooms. It can attract bees and butterflies well into November. To get the best flower display, give climbing aster as much sun as possible. It should also have something to lean on, like a fence, a trellis, or an ornamental shrub. Don't prune it over the winter, no matter how dead it may look. It's better to wait to tidy up things after the new growth appears in spring. Grow in well-cultivated, fertile, moist soil in sun or partial shade.

Also in Bloom This Month

Note that bloom times vary, depending on climatic and meteorological conditions, and many plants bloom several months in a row (and sometimes rebloom).

- Abelias
- Asters
- Mallows (photo of Chinese Red)
- Climbing aster
- Autumn flowering *Arum*
- Lespedeza
- Hybrid angel's trumpet (photo of Inca Sun)
- Butterfly bush
- French hybrid *Ceanothus* (photo of Gloire de Versailles)
- Camellias
- *Chrysanthemum* (photo of Gethsemane Moonlight)
- Cannas
- False rosemary (photo)
- Mexican giant cigar plant
- Hybrid tea roses
- Shrub roses
- Variegated hidden ginger (photo of Emperor)
- Silver leopard plant
- Maiden grasses and muhly grasses
- Red ginger-lily (photo of Disney)
- Hardy ginger lilies
- Dahlias
- Hairy alumroot (photo of Autumn Bride)
- Sunflowers
- Toad lilies
- *Tradescantias*
- Nippon daisy
- Sweet olives
- Oxblood lilies
- Salvias
- Passion flowers (photo of 'Elizabeth')
- Spotted *Aloe*

Photos of some of the plants in bloom this month



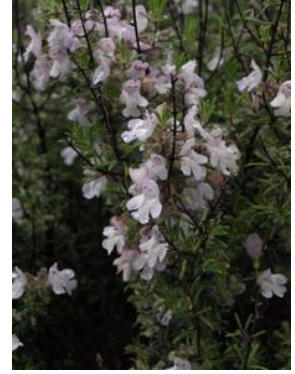
Abutilon 'Chinese red'



Ceanothus 'Gloire de Versailles'



Chrysanthemum 'Gethsemane Moonlight'



False rosemary



Hybrid Angel's Trumpet
'Inca Sun'



Passion Flower
'Elizabeth'



Begonia 'First Blush'



Solitary clematis



Red Ginger-Lily
'Disney'



Hairy Alumroot
Heuchera 'Autumn Bride'



Variegated Hidden
Ginger 'Emperor'



Aromatic aster
'Raydon's Favorite'



Rain Lily



Autumn crocus



Bush clover



Blazing star



Eastern silvery
aster

Chosen by Marty Finkel from Pollinator Paradise (Blazing star and Eastern silvery aster) by Debbie Roos, Chatham Co. Agriculture Extension Agent, and all others from JCRA October Photo Collection