

GGG

Granville Gardeners Gazette

Promoting Education and Recreation through Gardening Activities

Oxford, North Carolina

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HOUSEPLANTS: FROM CLASSIC TO CONTEMPORARY

By Amy Eudy, Tropical Plants Manager, Macon Gardens, Wake Forest, NC
Monday, November 24 at 7 p.m., Granville County Expo Center, 4185 U.S. Hwy 15 S, Oxford, NC

About the Program

In this program, we'll take a fun tour of houseplant history from the Victorian era until today. We'll discuss which old favorites persist in popularity as well as newer, trending varieties and cultivars. There will be a strong focus on modern "plant parenting" culture and all that entails—the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Think houseplants aren't for you? We'll also be bringing the indoors outside, including which varieties are hardy in our region, how tropicals can be used as annuals or container accents, and how to overwinter if necessary. Finally, we'll touch on design and maintenance practices that can be implemented anywhere—from your living room to your front yard.

About the Speaker

A lifelong Triangle resident, Amy began her horticultural career the old-fashioned way—by pulling weeds in her grandmother's garden. She has developed into an avid indoor and outdoor gardener specializing in houseplant styling, recovery, and propagation. Her particular passion is the intersection of horticulture and art, especially creating unique houseplant design in making stylized terrariums, mountings, bonsai, and kokedama. Amy is a graduate of North Carolina State University and currently lives in rural Franklin County with her husband, two sons, and one sweet dog.

By Amy Eudy and Marty Finkel

Photos supplied by Amy Eudy

President's Notes

In our last 2 meetings, our guest speakers have discussed the importance of leaves during part of their presentation. I wanted to share my fall routine related to leaves. As some of you know that have been to my house, I am blessed (or cursed, some days I can go either way) with larges trees on my one-acre yard in Oxford. Several years back, I picked up a 10 hp. Chipper Shredder. My original intention was to manage tree branches for some land I owned at the time. What I quickly learned was how it could help managing fall leaves. The shredder side of the unit does a great job reducing leaves into nice mulch. I use this around all the plants in the yard. And the process is no more work than hauling the leaves to the street. And, the plants seem to like it.

On a different note, many thanks to the folks that have stepped forward to accept a leadership role in our club. It is impossible to have the kind of successful club like we enjoy without club member participation. If you have interest in helping, let Robin or any of the board members know.

Granville Gardeners Work at the Oxford Post Office.

Sunday October 19, 2025.

David Quinn, Kat Ravenel, Bob Holtaway, Diane Holtaway, James Counts, Jim Nutt and Kay Nutt pitched in to cover the ground at the post office garden with leaf mold.

David used his truck and wagon to deliver this to the garden. Some volunteers filled the wheel barrow full then dumped it throughout the garden so the waiting volunteers could spread this over the bare ground.

In about 2 hours we had the job done. Be sure to check out how good our Post Office Garden looks.



by Kay Nutt

Photo by Kay Nutt

Editor's note: Many thanks to all the PO Garden volunteers, including those who helped weed earlier the same week: Barb S., Symonne F., Linda and Reuben N.; and help with planting from Mark C.

To-Do List for November

- Late fall and early winter are good times to plant fruit and nut trees. Container blueberries can also be planted now. Check local nurseries for compact berry varieties, such as 'Baby Cakes' dwarf thornless blackberry. There are dwarf raspberry and blueberry cultivars, too. Plant some of these low-growing thornless fruits in your perennials beds, mixed borders, and containers.
- Plant garlic now if you have not already done so.
- Leave fallen leaves in place in garden beds. Lawns benefit from a light layer of leaves, but continue to collect excess leaves and compost them.
- Clean and repair, if necessary, your garden tools and equipment before putting them away for the winter.
- Use the internet to order some seed catalogs if interested in trying some new or different vegetable varieties next year. At this time of the year most garden magazines will have many mail-order seed company advertisements. The Victory Seed Co. has seeds for the dwarf tomato plants that have regular size tomatoes, victoryseeds.com/
- Most outside gardening activities should be finished by now. Trees and shrubs can still be planted as long as the ground is not frozen. Install a cold frame in a sunny area to grow radishes, lettuce, spinach, and other greens. They are easy to build and instructions can be found on the internet.
- Still time to apply lime, if needed.
- Most pruning should be put off until late winter or early spring when the weather is more comfortable. You can prune fruit trees and grapes in Jan if the weather allows, otherwise do it in Feb.
- If you want to grow your own onion transplants, start seeds in December so that plants can be set out in February or early March. Use short-day or day neutral varieties for our area.
- Inventory your left-over seeds. Do a germination test if you are uncertain of their viability.
- If you are growing transplants, note that the average last freeze date for the area has been changed (see chart of fall freeze dates in the October issue of the Gazette). Some seeds need to be started as much as 12 weeks before setting out. Thus, seeds will need to be ordered in Dec. or early Jan. to be ready by mid to late January.
- If we have a dry spell in Dec. or Jan. and the soil can be tilled, you may want to prepare part of your garden for planting early cool season crops, because in the late winter and early spring the ground is often too wet to work. Note peas and bulb onions can be seeded in Jan and many plants can be seeded in Feb.
- For fescue lawns, November is the time to fertilize. This is the most important fertilization of the year.
- Have your soil tested now to avoid the spring rush. There is no charge for this service for soil samples received between April 1 and November 25.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs. Use pansies and other cool weather flowers to add color to your winter garden.
- Divide perennials such as hostas, phlox, and ferns.
- Start thinking about what you want to do differently next year, and **write it down**.

Member Marketplace

Name: Joyce Cifers- Dalton Mill Nursery

Location: 2566 Dalton Mill Rd; Bullock, NC 27507

Phone: 919-482-9883

Fall has arrived, and now is the time to plant. We have a wide selection of ornamental grasses, shrubs, trees and perennials for all your needs.

Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio,' Maiden Grass, is just one of the ornamental grasses we have available. Very thin, silvery-gray blades give way to tiny pink tassel-like flowers in late summer. Foliage turns a gold color after frost and along with the crumpled and twisted 'old man hand' plumes, provides winter interest to the landscape. A great compact, drought tolerant grass for smaller areas, it loves moist, well-drained soil.



Camellia sasanqua 'Snow Flurry'

We have Camellias in white and red. 'Snow Flurry' is a double white fall blooming sasanqua type, 5ft. tall by 8ft. wide. [Greensboro Red](#) is a spring blooming *Camellia japonica*, 10ft. tall by 8ft. wide. Both are evergreen with glossy green foliage.

Abelia 'Little Richard' has small white blooms that fade to pinkish /mauve. It is a fast-growing, low-maintenance, and deer-resistant plant that blooms from late spring to early summer and attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.



Abelia 'Little Richard'



Osmanthus fragrans,
(Tea Olive)

Who can resist the allure of a **Tea Olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*)** having once encountered the fragrance!? Fairly inconspicuous creamy white flowers hidden among the evergreen leaves make themselves known in fall and to a lesser degree in spring. Be sure to plant yours in a spot where you can enjoy the scent. According to the [NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox](#), "The flowers of this plant are used in teas and other beverages that are consumed in the Far East. Extracts from the flower are highly valuable, and are used in some of the most expensive perfumes." This well-behaved native of the East Asia requires very little maintenance.

Please call for an appointment to check out some of these and so much more.

November Happenings

Oct. 31-Dec. 21. My Secret Places: Watercolors by Viktor Kramarenko. Opening reception Saturday, Nov. 2. from 2-4pm. Arthur S. DeBerry Gallery within Allen Education Center, NC Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Rd., Chapel Hill. Ukrainian artist is exhibiting and selling his work featuring the Carpathian Mountains of western Ukraine – most proceeds will be donated to volunteer organizations in his hometown. Free and open to the public 9am-5pm, Tuesday through Saturday, 1-5pm Sunday, closed Monday and university holidays. More info here: [Kramarenko Exhibit](#)

Nov. 6. (Thurs.) Fundamentals of Composting. 9-11:30am. Matt Jones, Extension Agent, and the Master Gardener volunteers of Chatham are offering this workshop to turn food scraps and yard trimmings into valuable soil amendment. Participants will learn about the science of the decomposition process, understand the types of materials that are readily compostable, how to fine-tune the composting process by finding optimal temperature, moisture, aeration, and pile dimensions, and troubleshooting common composting problems. Held at the Chatham County Center, 1192 US 64W Business, Pittsboro. Fee: \$12. To register: [Fundamentals of Composting](#).

Nov. 11. (Tues.) Native Plant Solutions: Add Life under Trees. 12-1pm. A virtual program offered by Duke Gardens: This is another presentation by the amazing Shannon Currey of Izel Native Plants – this time about some of the best go-to plants for building ecologically sound landscapes. Take a deep dive into a handful of specific native plants, focusing on a landscape situation or plant adaptation that makes them particularly helpful. Native trees provide a host of benefits, from reducing ambient temperatures to raising property values and creating habitat for wildlife. However, because the sun exposure and soil moisture vary greatly under the tree canopy, figuring out what to plant underneath trees can be challenging. The default is often turfgrass or mulch, which misses an opportunity to realize the full potential of the trees and our landscapes. Soft landings is a strategy that uses diverse native plantings to help support wildlife and add ecological function. Many pollinators start their lives in our native trees. Soft landings provide the critical shelter and habitat underneath those trees that many species need to complete their life cycle. This approach also helps support the trees, improve soil health, and manage stormwater. Free, but registration is required: [Native Plant Solutions](#).

Nov. 25 (Tues.) Last day to get soil samples to state soil lab for free testing. The lab has to receive the samples by 5pm, Nov. 25. Samples received later will incur a \$4 fee per sample. Granville County Extension Center takes samples to the Raleigh lab one or two days a week, but at the time of writing, they could not be reached. Better call them soon to know what day the Granville County office needs the samples: [\(919\) 603-1350](tel:9196031350). Also, for info on testing: [Gardener's Guide to Soil Testing](#)

ON-GOING

Every Tuesday. Ripe for Revival Mobile Market. Two locations: 12-1pm. 416 Central Ave., [Butner, OR](#) (starting Nov. 18) 10-11:30am. Warren County Senior Center, 435 W Franklin St., [Warrenton](#). Pay what you can, pay it forward. Open to all to shop.

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec. 6. (Sat.) A Christmas Wreath-Making Event. Choose one session: 9-10:30am, OR 11-12:30pm Granville and Person County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association is offering their annual holiday wreath event. Greens, tools, and supplies will be provided. Fee: \$45 per wreath (cash/check only). Event will be held at the NC Extension Office Auditorium in [Roxboro](#), 304 S. Morgan St., [Roxboro](#). Call or text 919-451-9745 to register by Nov. 30. More info here: [Wreath-Making Event](#).

Jan. 17. (Sat.) Native Seed Propagation with the Milk Jug Method. 10am-12pm (tentative) Thornton Library, 210 Main St., [Oxford](#). Free, but registration will be required. Details coming soon.

Fall Potting Party in Kay Nutt's Garden

Ten Granville Gardeners gathered at Kay Nutt's garden Tuesday 14th of October with their trowels, shovels and garden work gloves to pot up over 150 plants for the April '26 GG Expo. Some of us dug the chaste trees, American wisteria, Turk's cap shrub and jasmine with the shovels. Others gently pried out the small cardinal flower plants, while the small columbine were troweled out. A group mixed the soil and potted the plants at the labeling table where each received a label. No mixed-up identity plants here!

It was a busy and very productive morning with each member carrying home plants for their garden. Be sure to join the group when we have another Potting Party.

The Gardeners

Joyce Cifers, Mark Currin, Diane Holtaway, Judy McHugh, Linda Niles, JoAnn Watts, Robin Word, Yvonne Word, and Barb Strode.



Potting Party from the Past

Here are a few photos from another Potting Party **in March 2013** in the garden potting area at Marty Finkel's – there were several through the years. These plants were for the annual plant sale fundraiser held in September on what was then the Agriculture Extension Building lawn (now the County Board of Elections). Members baby-sat these plants all summer to have nice-size full plants for the sale. Some of the Gardeners were Gerry Alston, Liz Donohue, Judy Reich, Jim and Kay Nutt, and others. We also had a lot of fun – highly recommend!



Plant of the Month: Tree Dahlia (*Dahlia imperialis*)



Imagine a dahlia up to 10 feet tall! If you haven't seen one, there's a beauty blooming now at the JC Raulston Arboretum, where the photos were taken. For scale, a couple posed in front of the plant (the dark, round shape is another shrub). Native to southern Mexico, Central America south into Columbia, it is easy to grow here. It's quite dramatic with clusters of 4" – 5" wide, light lavender flowers that nod downwards to be seen from below. The bees flock to its late fall food supply. It's hardy to about 20-25° F. Plant in sun (6 hours/day) or partial shade and water regularly until established in a site protected from wind. Plant in rich, easily draining acidic, sandy or loamy soil. Propagate by seeds, stem cuttings, or tubers. Cut stems into pieces with at least 2 nodes and plant about 4" deep – new shoots will arise from the nodes. Cut plants to about 4" to 12" above ground in late winter and mulch to protect tubers.

Also in Bloom this Month (*indicates Southeast native)

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

Abelia

Peruvian lily

Evergreen Chimonanthus

Cyclamen

Echinacea *(4 spp. native to Southeast)

Pineapple lily

Leopard plant

Double Carolina jessamine *(native cultivar)

Witchhazel*(3 spp. native to Southeast)

Hardy ginger lily

Firecracker vine

Butterfly iris

Snowbush

Rose *(3 spp. native to Southeast)

Japanese fatsia

Flowering maple *(4 spp. native to Texas area)

Cestrum 'Compact Purple'

Crinum lily *(1 spp. native to Southeast)

Dahlia

Loquat

Chrysanthemum

Lesser catmint

One-spotted giant snowdrop

Parrot-beak gladiolus

Hibiscus *(7 spp. native to Southeast)

Drummond's wax mallow*

Reblooming lilac

Hardy gloxinia

Reblooming azalea

Osmanthus

Chosen by Marty Finkel from

Photos: JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University

Information for text: San Marcos Growers; Kelly Martin, urbangardengal.com

Some Other Plants in Bloom this Month



Silver & gold chrysanthemum



'October Magic Carpet' camellia



Chrysanthemum.
'Gethsemane Moonlight'



Compact strawberry tree



Autum crocus



Fortune's osmanthus



Jerusalem sage



Chrysanthemum Froggy



Garden dahlia



Japanese fatsia



Mt. Omei impatiens



Iris 'Daughter of Stars'



Lespedeza 'Little Volcano'



Oregon grape holly



Salvia 'Jean's Purple
Passion'

Photos chosen by Marty Finkel

Source: JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University