



Backyard Views

The Backyard Gardeners

Summer, 2013

The Backyard Gardeners, Inc. was established in 2007 as a non-profit organization to provide free education to homeowners in the Hampton Roads area on gardening and horticultural practices, designs and techniques in order to encourage conservation of our natural resources, the enjoyment of gardens, garden-related activities and creative garden art.

Calendar of Events

Garden Talks, 6:30-8 pm
Chesapeake Library
298 Cedar Road

June 18

“How to BEE a Successful Gardener”

Frank Walker,

Tidewater Beekeepers Association

July 16

“Shade Gardens”

TBA

August 20

“Trees, Shrubs and Perennials of Tidewater”

Sherry Kern,

Tidewater Community College



“Dirty hands, iced tea, garden fragrances thick in the air and a blanket of color before me, who could ask for more?”

Bev Adams, *Mountain Gardening*

“A summer's sun is worth the having.”

French Proverb

Invite the Natives by Patti McCambridge

One of the best ways to reduce maintenance efforts and costs, offer a habitat for wildlife and insure survival in our sometimes difficult climate is to install native trees, shrubs and perennials. However, you can add interest to your landscape using natives without going totally wild!

A variety of different native trees are available for our area, but Sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) with its smooth bark and highly scented flowers and Fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) with its multi-colored bark and distinctive white blooms, can either be feature plants or provide architectural interest in the landscape.



Fringe tree



Oakleaf hydrangea

Shrubs such as Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) with its lobed leaves and panicle flowers; Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) which offers brilliant fall foliage; Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) with its evergreen habit and ability to grow in moist areas; and Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) with its dramatic berry-covered branches in winter, provide excellent choices for foundation plantings as well as year-round interest and habitats for wildlife.

Because of their ability to connect the elements of your landscape together without becoming over-bearing, native perennials offer a variety of options and uses. Great choices include Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) which makes a beautiful groundcover; Joe pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*) which offers height, a late bloom time and attracts butterflies; and Cardinal flower (*lobelia cardinalis*) with its brilliant red blooms attractive to hummingbirds, can offer interesting, low maintenance alternatives to the mundane.



Cardinal flower

Now is the time to invite natives in to your yard. You won't regret the move!



Summer is the season for locavores to be in their element! During June, July and August, a variety of local fruits, vegetables, herbs, meats and seafood will be available at markets, roadside stands and in local restaurants. All you need to do is look. The best way to find those businesses supporting the local growers is on the Buy Fresh Buy Local Hampton Roads (BFBLHR) website.

BFBLHR has a food guide that gives seasonal availability, lists and locations of markets and restaurants with local foods, recipes and more. The guide and recipes are under the “Find Local Food” tab on the [BFBLHR website](http://www.bfblhr.org). Recipes for Strawberry Pie and Strawberry Salsa are very tasty and timely! The entire guide can be downloaded so the information is always at your fingertips.

Spotlight on Gardens

Norfolk Botanical Garden...75 and Counting! *by Patti McCambridge*



Luckily for us, in the 1930's, Thomas P. Thompson and Frederick Heutte had a vision of an azalea garden that would rival those of Charleston, SC. The Norfolk City Manager and the young horticulturalist respectively, saw this as both an economic and a horticultural investment. In 1938, the city of Norfolk set aside 75 acres of land and 75 acres of reservoir to create a city garden named the Norfolk Azalea Garden. The project was a very visible part of The New Deal and was completed under a Works Progress Administration (WPA) grant. For months working from sunup to sundown, 200 African American women and 20 men cleared the land so thousands of azaleas, rhododendrons and other types of trees and shrubs could be planted to create the gardens. Additionally, 100 bushels of daffodil bulbs were installed. In 1955, the name was changed to Norfolk Municipal Gardens and expansion continued. Three years later maintenance of the garden was taken over by the Old Dominion Horticultural Society, the name was changed to the current Norfolk Botanical Garden and gardens were slowly added. Today, the Garden is a horticultural treasure and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Currently, the Garden contains over 40 different themed garden areas including a Japanese Garden, a colonial herb garden, a rhododendron glade, the Bicentennial Rose Garden, a fern glade, the Bristow Butterfly Garden, children's garden and many, many more. The beauty of each of the gardens can be explored on foot, by boat or by tram.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary, in addition to many classes and summer camps, a variety of special events and activities are planned for the summer including "Reflections of Nature", an installation of glass sculptures created by Craig Mitchell Smith; the opening of the Butterfly House; Military-Hometown Heroes Day; and the 3rd Annual Honey Bee Festival.

For more information and a complete history of the garden, check their website at <http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/>.

Recycling and More...

As gardeners, one of the things that seem to pike up are those plastic nursery pots and trays. Local garden centers recycle them but each has different guidelines. McDonald Garden Centers accept #2, #3, #5, #6 category pots only. The numbers can be found on the bottom in the triangle. For complete guidelines and location for collection at each of the 3 permanent garden centers, [click here](#).

Timberlake Garden Center, 1228 Kempsville Road, accepts all plastic pots and trays. There is a collection area in the parking lot.

Check with other local garden centers to see if they have recycling programs in effect. Gardeners are great at "reusing, repurposing and recycling."



Brent and Becky's Bulbs offers a fundraising project for non-profit groups. If you wish to order from them, click on the logo above and select our group, The Backyard Gardeners, from the list. We will receive a portion of the sales. This a great way for you to help us help you!! For more info on this program, check www.thebackyardgardeners.org.

Garden Hints *by Patty Bennett*

- Compost can help prevent plant disease, so use it liberally.
- Pest problems in plants may be the result of problems with the amount of light, nutrients and/or moisture, so check these before using a pesticide.
- Diversity helps prevent pests by limiting food sources and boosting biodiversity.
- For more information and seasonal gardening tips, check our website at www.thebackyardgardeners.org.

You may request to be added to the newsletter mailing list at www.thebackyardgardeners.org or by emailing gardenguru@thebackyardgardeners.org.





Summer Calendar of Gardening & Outdoor Events 2013

compiled by Nancy Radcliffe

Ongoing events:

Norfolk Botanical Gardens – Bike Night, every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday thru October 14th from 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Virginia Air & Space Center – Now showing Flight of the Butterflies in 3D IMAX

Plant-A-Row for the Hungry surplus produce collections begin June 4 from 9 am-noon and run through September at the Va. Extension Agricultural Trailer at the corner of Holt and Shea Drives in the Municipal Center.

June

- 1-2 Virginia Bonsai Society Annual Exhibit at Norfolk Botanical Gardens

- 1-2 American Indian Festival from 10:00 am- 6:00 pm at Chesapeake City Park

- 1 Clean the Bay Day- check your local city for locations; <http://cbf.org/clean> for more info

- 7-9 37th Annual Norfolk Harborfest

- 7-16 Elizabethan Gardens Father's Day Week Long Plant Sale

- 8 Smithfield Gardens – Growing Hydrangeas at 10:00 am

- 8-9 Tidewater Daylily Society Show & Sale at Norfolk Botanical Gardens

- 14 Norfolk Botanical Gardens – Butterfly House Opens

- 15 Smithfield Gardens – Flower Festival

- 15 Smithfield Gardens – Daylillies and Perennials class at 2:00 pm

- 20-21 Virginia Beach McDonald Garden Center – Crepe Myrtle Festival

- 22-23 Knotts Island Peach Festival, Knotts Island, NC

- 27 McDonald Garden Centers all year-round locations– Star-Spangled Centerpiece Workshop, 6 pm



- 8-30 Hampton Jazz Festival at the Hampton Coliseum
- 29 McDonald Garden Centers all year round locations – Kid’s Butterfly Bell Workshop at 11:00 am

July

- 1-31 Elizabethan Gardens – House Plant Sale
- 3 Celebration Freedom – Chesapeake City Park 7:30 pm, \$5.00 for parking
- 4 AT & T Fourth of July Great American Picnic & Fireworks at Norfolk Town Point Park
- 4 32nd Annual 4th of July Celebration at Lakeside Park, Chesapeake starting at 10 am
- 19-20 Norfolk Jazz Festival at Norfolk Town Point Park
- 20-21 Crepe Myrtle Fest, year round locations of McDonalds Garden Centers
- 21 I Scream, You Scream-Kid’s Workshop, 12 pm at McDonalds Garden Centers year-round locations, kids eat ice cream, learn basics of planting and plant an ice cream cone
- 24-25 88th Annual Wild Pony Swim & Auction – Chincoteague, VA

August

- 16 Elizabethan Gardens – Virginia Dare Birthday Celebration -Special Celebratory General Admission price of \$4.26
- 19-25 East Coast Surfing Championship at the Virginia Beach oceanfront
- 24 Venus Fly Trap Kid’s Workshop-McDonalds Garden center year-round locations, 11 am