



HORTICULTURE HORIZONS

The Newsletter of the Oklahoma Horticultural Society

Summer 2005

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

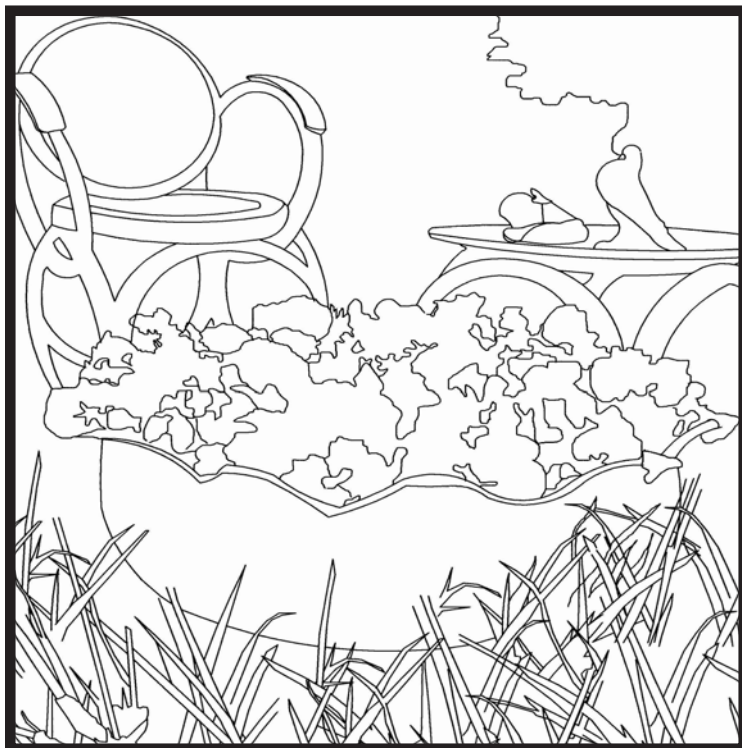
GARDEN TOUR FOR CONNOISSEURS

Saturday, June 4th 2005 9:00 AM To 5:00 PM

(rain or shine)

It's time, once again, for one of Oklahoma's premier garden tours, The Oklahoma Horticultural Society's seventh annual "Garden Tour For Connoisseurs". This year's tour, sponsored by Ken Hutmacher of Prudential Alliance Realty, will be our largest ever, featuring seven beautiful private gardens and two very special public gardens along the way.

This year's garden tour committee, chaired by Beth Wagner and Hugh Stout, has selected gardens representing a wide array of horticultural interest, giving the opportunity to view some magnificent landscapes.



Ranging from professionally designed landscapes to dedicated gardeners own creations, viewers will come away inspired with ideas for their own spaces.

As in the past, Oklahoma Horticultural Society members and Master Gardeners will be present at each garden to show the way and answer any questions.

Tickets are available for \$10.00 in advance at participating nursery's and at the tour gardens on tour day for \$12.00. Children 6 and under are free. The cost to view a single garden is \$5.00. Tickets will go on sale the later part of May at the many outlets. A listing of the gardens and ticket sources can be found in this issue.

The "Garden Tour For Connoisseurs" is our society's major fund raiser. Proceeds go toward fulfilling our mission of promoting good gardening and horticultural practices that help the environment and beauty of our state. OHS is a statewide, non-profit organization.

see page 5 for garden locations and ticket outlets

For more information, visit www.okhort.org, or call Vicky at (405) 330-9150

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi everyone,

I am way too busy in the garden (and etc., etc.) to make this long this time so here is a brief blurb. I do have to say it was exciting to get rain finally on May 2, in my Newcastle neighborhood. April, in my area, made a joke of that ditty about April showers bring May flowers - more like April "spits." Remarkably, though, things have been blooming absolutely beautifully everywhere I look as I go about my yard and the Oklahoma City area.

The busiest time of year for OHS is approaching also. The Garden Tour for Connoisseurs (can we all spell that from memory yet?) is June 4, then Festival in the Park follows the next weekend on the 11th. This newsletter is timed a little late to be very helpful in recruiting, but perhaps you will receive it in time to place a call to help on one or both of those projects. Look for information on those projects elsewhere in this newsletter. The tour, especially, requires a lot of people to pull off, so please see if there is anything you can do to help if at all possible. If you are a new member, don't be reluctant to work on our projects.

There seems to be a glitch in the membership cards getting sent out from AHS. If you have paid and not received your card, call Jerri Sharpe at 405.895.6104 or e-mail her at jesharpe@earthlink.net. I haven't received mine either. We regret this problem is occurring. If you have your card, or when you get it, don't forget that you can use it at the Myriad Gardens. I heard an Oklahoma City member say she never goes anywhere to use her card, so I reminded her that she doesn't have to leave town to use it, as it is good at Myriad Gardens which is a wonderful place to visit, especially when you have the winter doldrums.

All for now, hope you are having fun in your yards,

Sharon Beasley

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

	Members	Non-member
Bus card	\$15.00	\$20.00
1/4 page	25.00	35.00
1/2 page	45.00	55.00
full page	85.00	100.00

Issue	Deadline
Spring	March 1
Summer	May 1
Fall	August 15
Winter	November 15

**OHS TREASURER'S
REPORT
April 23, 2005**

**CHECKING ACCT. BALANCE:
\$2,903.08**

**SAVINGS ACCT. BALANCE:
\$16,511.78**

A few items of note...

When paying your annual dues, please send your check to the OHS instead of the AHS. This allows us to update your records more quickly and keep your membership status current.

We are sending reminder notices of meetings and other OHS events to those who give us e-mail addresses. If you would like to be included in this group, please contact Jerri Sharpe at 894-6104 or by email at jesharpe@earthlink.net

Thank you for your continued support!

Jerri Sharpe

The History of the Legacy Garden

In 1987 "The Living Legacy Project" was developed by a special committee; formed by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, composed of such groups as The American Association of Nurserymen, The American Society for Landscape Architects, The American Forest Association, The National Council for Rehabilitation and Therapy Through Horticulture, and the American Horticulture Association. In order for a local project to be recognized as an official Living Legacy Project by the Bicentennial Commission the project was required to be on publically-owned land open to the public and to have a long-term maintenance plan.

The Garden Council of Oklahoma City came up with the idea for the garden (now dubbed the 'Legacy Garden') but turned to the aforementioned groups for help with the labor and plants. George Vaclavek was the main designer on the project.

Over the years, the Legacy Garden was maintained by the OKC Council of Garden Clubs, led primarily by Peggy Estes, and more recently, Pat Miller. Seventeen years after its dedication, the Oklahoma City Parks Department has added an additional parking lot to the Will Rogers Garden Exhibiton Center which has damaged and increased the size and shape of the Legacy Garden. Meanwhile, the City budget has had serious shortfalls, and the Parks Department has been looking for various organizations and individuals to adopt several of its flowerbeds. Because of the extensive repairs needed to the Legacy Garden, we (the Oklahoma Horticultural Society), in cooperation with the OKC Council of Garden Clubs, have decided to adopt the Legacy Garden through Oklahoma City Beautiful. Since we have over 200 members, we should be able to get enough volunteers to plant and maintain the now larger garden.

We still hope for input, and initially, some financial support, from the OKC Council of Garden Clubs. In order to maintain the integrity of the Legacy Garden we are relying heavily on input from George Vaclavek, one of the original designers. And we will be appealing to the local nurseries to donate much of the plant material.

So far there have been two work sessions. The first one on March 5th was a clean-up session, where we dug out poor plant specimens and suckering bushes, trimmed

branches, weeded, and picked up litter. Thanks go out to Sandy Casteel, Wanda Faller, Sharon Miller, Michael Offutt, Jennifer Stout and Wanda White. Hugh Stout helped a little too. Digging out those large bushes and the quice root suckers was really hard work!

The second work day was held on March 19 to add soil amendmets to the bed. We raked back the mulch, and spread and tilled-in 25 bags of composted longhorn manure, 12 cubes of peatmoss, 28 bags of pine bark, 16 bags of sterilized sand, and several sacks of gypsum and composted bark. Thanks go out to Satterlee's Landscape Nursery for giving us a 50% discount on the soil amendmets, and to our labor force which included Fred Anderson, Sharon Beasley, Sharon Miller, Michael Offutt, Jennifer and Hugh Stout, George Vaclavek and Wanda White. I also want to thank the Moesels for donating several sacks of nicely composted bark, and Sharon Beasley for donatng the sacks of gypsum.

Check out our website for pictures from these work days.

The third work session was May 16 at 10 am to do some planting before it gets too hot. At this point I want to thank Juniper Hills Nursery in Bixby for donating a variety of perennials. There will be another planting work day in the fall if you can't make this one. Come out and help if you can!

**Marianna S. Anderson Chair,
Oklahoma Horticultural Society
Legacy Garden Committee**

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Oklahoma's Leading Garden Centers

JAPANESE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA

There is a new Japanese garden planned for Oklahoma. The JASO (JAPANESE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA), is sponsoring this garden that is to be located in Oklahoma City and designed and installed by John Powell, a professional Japanese garden builder from Weatherford, Texas.

At this time, the JASO is looking for a Oklahoma City delegate to help with the overall care of this new endeavor. This volunteer position would be an opportunity to learn about the art of Japanese gardening.

Those interested may call Jan Moore in Oklahoma City at (405) 946-4923. Or Mr. John Powell can be reached at (817) 341-0152, (817) 594-6055 or weatherfordgardens@yahoo.com

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

Dear Members:

It is time to remember we need plants to sell at the Festival in the Park, Saturday, June 11. That will be in Will Rogers Park in Okla. City again. Scott Brenkert, one of our board members, is taking over for Shirley Kennedy and will be in charge of the plant sale in the park this year. His number is 381-0020.

The plants need to be priced by the people donating as there isn't adequate time for the crew that starts the day to price and organize the plants on the tables. If the plants are ones slapped in newspaper, then the price wouldn't need to be so much, but ones that are nicely settled in pots should be more. Unusual plants should be more, ones that don't multiply like crazy should be priced higher. I usually price mine just a little lower than store prices, but we don't want to sell dirt cheap either, especially starting out in the morning. If you could, names of the plants are also helpful as customers will ask what

the plant is and sometimes the helpers don't know all the plants unless there is a tag with them.

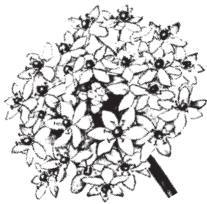
There are two options for getting the plants to the sale. You can take them to the OSU/OKC Horticulture Center in OKC (between Reno and NW 10th) where Scott works or you can bring them early the day of the sale to the park. The sale starts at 9:30 am so the plants would need to be there by 9:00 to get organized. Pictures to show the plant in flower for ones not flowering at that time are useful if you have one to send along.

The plants you donate are donations and no money will be paid for them so that the Society gets all the money. If you want your possible leftovers back, put a distinctive tag (to help you spot them for pickup) in each pot and return to the park at the end of the day to take them home. Plants not picked up are taken care of at the discretion of the person in charge.

Contact Scott 381-0020 if you have questions or to tell him you will be bringing plants. We hope to have as many as usual donated. Last year was a great sale that made quite a bit of money for OHS.

Thanks, Sharon Beasley
OHS President

Bob Scott Nursery & Contracting



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GARDENS on tour are as follows:

1. Marjorie Miller
2205 N. Eubanks

**3. G. Calvin &
Carla Sharpe**
501 NW 38 Street

**5. Roy &
Dr. Aline Brown**
4100 N. Harvey Pkwy

7. John Turman
725 NE 21 Street

**2. Drs. Susan Chambers
& Kyle Toal**
729 NW 38 Street

4. Cindy Miller
505 NW 40 Street

6. Bruce & Suzanne Bockus
3920 N. Harvey Pkwy

Special Feature Public Gardens in the Area:

* **Murrah Memorial
Linden Grove**
Far North Lawn,
State Capitol Grounds,
2400 N. Lincoln Boulevard

* **University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Campus Gardens:**

· Stanton L. Young Walk
· Seven Steps Fountain
· Molly Shi Boren Garden
· Bluestem Stream Garden
· Outdoor Study Room

· Live Oak Grove & Walk
· Fountains Plaza at Children's Hospital
... Also many water features, stunning
sculpture and sitting areas

GARDEN TOUR FOR CONNOISSEURS

Saturday, June 4th 2005 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (rain or shine)

TICKETS can be purchased as follows:

Advance tickets are \$10.00 at these nurseries, (latter part of May; call to check availability), & \$12 at any of the garden entrances on the tour day. Children 6 and under are free. The cost to view a single garden is \$5.00.

• **Farmers Grain Company of Edmond**
102 W. 1 st Street Edmond, OK
(405)341-3310

• **Horn Seed Company** – 2 locations
1409 N.W. Expressway Oklahoma City, OK
(405)842-6607
7405 S. May Ave. Oklahoma City, OK
(405)682-4676

• **Precure Nursery & Garden Center** – 2 locations
8125 W. Reno Oklahoma City, OK
(405)789-4933
4535 N.W. 63 rd Street Oklahoma City, OK
(405)721-5637

• **Satterlee Nursery**
6922 N. May Ave. Oklahoma City, OK
(405)848-6228

• **TLC Florist and Greenhouse** – 2 locations
105 West Memorial Road Oklahoma City, OK
(405)751-0630
8208 N.W. Expressway Oklahoma City, OK
(405)720-0091

• **Gardenworks Landscape Nursery, Inc.**
828 W. Robinson Norman, OK 73069
(405)321-7307

• **O'Higgins Lawn & Garden**
10901 NE 23rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK

TOUR SPONSOR:
Ken Hutmacher
Prudential Alliance Realty
(405) 840-4700

HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED ?

The volunteer party will be Sunday, June 6 at 6pm at the garden of Steve Hill (1505 Oklahoma Ave, Norman). If you went on the tour last year, then you have toured Steve's wonderful garden in Norman. He has added some new structures since last year, so it will be an extra treat to see the new additions.

Remember, that at the volunteer party, anyone who has helped out the club for any of the projects since last June is qualified to attend. Spouses are invited to attend also even if they didn't volunteer. Everyone brings either a main dish or a dessert for pot luck. It usually works out fine without any big planning on the food. Also bring a chair or blanket to sit on. There are usually no tables to speak of for dining at so bring a tray if you don't like balancing plates on your knees. Drinks and eating utensils are provided. We always have a wonderful time getting to relax and visit each other.

Please let me (Sharon) know if you plan to attend so we have an idea of the number of drinks, etc. to provide. Call 405 392 4727 or e-mail me at gardener@pldi.net. by June 2nd please.

If you are a person like me who doesn't live in Norman and easily gets lost, here are the directions I came up with that may not be the fastest roads in Norman, but the ones that provide the easiest directions for people like me. I drove to his house to determine the easiest directions. (These directions are for people coming from North of Norman, so adjust the left/right turns if you are coming from the south of Norman.)

*When you get to Norman, take the Main Street (East) exit off I-35.

*Go East on Main St. to the second stop light which puts you at 24th Ave.

*Turn right (south) on 24th and drive until you get to the first stop light which is at Boyd St.

*Turn left (east) onto Boyd St.

*(From that turn, you will drive app. 2 1/2 miles to get to Steve's house.)

*When you go east on Boyd, you will pass the OU campus, keep going, even past the railroad tracks, and past the stop light at Classen Ave.

*When you cross past Classen, watch for the second street sign on the right (south) and the stop sign there which is at Oklahoma.

*Turn right (south) at that stop sign to the fourth house which is Steve's at 1505 on the left (east). We will try to put a sign out.

If you make a wrong turn and get lost, Steve's phone is 364-4852 . Or try my (Sharon's) cell phone 990-6069.

We greatly appreciate Steve and his wife for being so generous as to hold the party at his home. See you there.

SEPTEMBER GARDEN TOUR FOR MEMBERS ONLY

We are going to try something new this year. If you would like to show off your garden, this is your chance. Maybe your garden is not up to being on the Connoisseur Tour in June or you can't handle that many people in your neighborhood, but you still like sharing your garden. I am planning a tour of the gardens of members for members only. This will not be advertised to anyone but OHS members. The month will be September. Before selecting a date, I need to hear from people who want to show off their gardens. Or maybe we could do more than one date. Contact me before June 30 so plans can be formulated in time for the next newsletter. I think it will be fun and a way to know fellow members better.

Call or e-mail me - Sharon Beasley 405-392-4727 or gardener@pldi.net.

GOURDS GALORE IN OCTOBER

Gourds can break your heart. In the year it takes to go from seed to mature fruit, a gourd is subject to many tragedies. But gourds that make it can be glorious.

Jan Mohr Meng, gourd expert, has experienced the agony and ecstasy of gourd culture. She will be sharing her adventures and ups and downs of gourds as speaker for our Fall Meeting October 23rd in Stillwater. Her program include the horticultural and cultural, the sublime and mundane aspects of all things gourd. She provides hands-on specimens from raw gourds to fine gourd art, she relates tall gourd tales and sad gourd truths. She's willing and able to talk endlessly of all things gourd and answer life's questions if they are gourd related.

Door prizes are awarded and complimentary gourd seed provided.

Meng has been featured in commercial and public television programs, newspapers and magazines. She is resident gourd artist, gardener, scultery maid and spousal co-owner of Hungry Holler Art Center in northeast Oklahoma.

Irises Do Enjoy Companionship - Other Than Yours

by Loretta Aaron

Many irisarians have never given their favorite flower a chance to mingle with unrelated species of plants. For most of them, an iris is an only child. Most irisarians prefer it that way. As you know, a first child, upon the arrival of a new brother or sister, may sulk for awhile, but after the arrival of maybe the third or fourth, it is an accepted fact that sharing will have to take place. After the additions of a few biennials or perennials, the iris really will not mind. The point I wish to make — why not share a part of your garden with other flowers?

In any garden where irises are well grown, they are just naturally going to be “standouts”. There are quite a number of flowers that bloom at exactly the same time as the iris, and the proximity of other flowers of different form and texture actually enhances an iris planting. I have the feeling that the irisarian might also get carried away and continue with an integrated garden.

BIENNIALS

An often-neglected group of plants, and ones that can be grown easily and successfully from seed at very little expense, are the biennials. These seeds **MUST** be planted in late summer or early fall if they are to bloom the following spring — and at iris time.

SWEET ROCKET (*Hesperia Matronalis*): This is the fragrant lavender one that grows from 30 to 36 inches tall, and is ideal for background plantings. Flowers are similar to phlox. Bloom begins at almost the same time as the early iris begins to open, and extends weeks beyond. Plant in full sun or partial shade. Sow seed in July, August, or early September only. If it does not rain, keep seeded area moist until seedlings appear, which is usually by late September. In planting any biennial seed, I work up the area to be seeded ahead of time, and have the soil loose and friable. Seed is scattered on top of the ground, and watered well immediately. After that, the area is never allowed to dry out, and in a few weeks the tiny seedlings will appear and stay green all winter. They will not freeze out if kept moist.

SWEET WILLIAM: These should be planted in late summer or early fall. Plants should have full sunlight. They will tolerate light shade for part of the day, but more sturdy compact plants can be expected in full sunlight. Height is generally from 16 to 20 inches tall, and they make good plantings in the foreground or middle sections of borders or beds. Seed is available in single or mixed colors, and come in single or double blossoms. A very nice salmon pink is Newport Pink. When plants are about 8 inches tall, sprinkle Sevin or Chlordane dust under the plants, as the sow bugs will hide underneath and chew them off at the base.

LUNARIA (Honesty or Money Plant): This is a charming plant to grow under deciduous trees, or in shady nooks. The plant will not grow well in full sun. It also prefers a slightly acid soil, so the addition of sphagnum peat moss is beneficial

if your soil should be alkaline. Sow seed in July or August. Seedlings will appear in early October and stay green all winter. The orchid blooms appear at iris time, and make a pretty planting. These plants are prized for dried arrangements, as the flower stalks will produce flat discs, that after the outer covering is removed, will leave silver transparent discs, very pretty. The discs should not be removed until late summer.

SIBERIAN WALLFLOWER: This is an ideal plant for a neat edging, border, or even a rock garden. These, as other biennials, should be planted in July or August if you want them to bloom at iris time. In fact, they often start blooming with the dwarf and intermediate iris, and will bloom at least two months, even longer, if the spring is long. Colors are orange, yellow and apricot. The apricot one is not as heavy a bloomer. Height is only 6 to 10 inches all. These little charmers are very fragrant.

NEMOPHILA (Baby Blue Eyes): This pretty border plant thrives in partial shade or full shade — will bloom in the sunlight, but will not last too long. Height is from 6 to 9 inches tall, and the very attractive foliage is simply covered with the one-inch single blue flower with a white center. Plant seed in July, August or September only. Again, this one is in bloom at iris time.

HARDY ANNUALS THAT BLOOM AT IRIS TIME

DRUMMONDI PHLOX: This one annual alone will give more bloom than any other annual I have ever grown. Once introduced into the garden and established, they will become a permanent part of your garden, and nature will scatter them throughout your plantings. Plant in July or August from seed. The small seedlings will come up in late September, and grow slowly all winter long. Bloom will begin before the iris bloom, and will be at peak during the iris season. There are several varieties available, from the star-shaped very dwarf Twinkles, to a regular dwarf and taller one to 20 inches. Colors are available in single or mixed colors. They may be transplanted early in spring to areas you wish them to perform. I like to group a dozen or so plants together in the foreground of iris. They will bloom for at least 3 months.

CHINESE FORGET-ME-NOTS: A very low growing blue flower for the border in a shady area, or part shade. Will grow to about 10 inches tall. May be planted from January through early March. These will perpetuate themselves, and will return each spring, once introduced into the garden.

CALIFORNIA POPPY: To get this to bloom at iris time, it must be sown from seed in the fall months. I prefer September or October. If area is kept reasonably moist, it will not freeze out, and makes a pretty border plant in the foreground of iris plantings. Mixed colors are available —

continued on page 10

Spring Flowering Shrubs and Trees at Will Rogers Horticultural Gardens and Arboretum

Late March and early April are wonderful times to visit the park. Many of the woody plants in our collection are flowering at this time. Just when you really need a good shot of spring enthusiasm, some of the following will really do the trick.

Shrubs

Perhaps one of my favorites for fragrance is the **Winter Honeysuckle**, *Lonicera fragrantissima*. The captivating smell reminds me of citrus orchards in bloom. This shrub from Asia will begin blooming in early March if the weather is cooperative. The small, creamy-yellow flowers open before the leaves unfurl. This is one of those plants that you smell before you see it. The fragrance will literally travel for 25 or 30 feet from the plant. After flowering, the shrub sets small red 'berries' or fruit that are highly attractive to birds. The plant can become quite large at 12 feet tall and wide. But, it is quite pest, disease and weather resistant. Located in the center of the Legacy Bed planting.

One of the fragrant **Viburnums** that we have on display is *Viburnum x 'Chesapeake'*. This hybrid was introduced in 1962 by the U. S. National Arboretum. It will produce clusters of small white flowers. These are followed by small, red fruits that slowly turn black. The birds also love the fruit of this plant. As with most viburnums it is happiest in a partly shaded location with good soils and adequate moisture. The mature size is around 6 feet by 6 feet. These specimens are planted just to the west of the Azalea area.

Many people are familiar with the common, **Dwarf pink double-flowering Almond**, *Prunus glandulosa 'Rosea Plena'*. This shrub is native to Asia and an old garden standby, but what makes our selection so unusual is that it is the single-flowered form. This form is fragrant and sometimes produces small fruit. As with most other spring flowering shrubs, pruning should be done right after blooming, so as to not reduce the flower buds for next spring. Hardy and usually trouble-free, this shrub does a quite a tendency to sucker, and sometimes has problems with tent caterpillars as do most members of the *Prunus* clan. It grows to about 4 feet in height. It is located in the west end of the Iris Display Beds.

Japanese Rose or *Kerria japonica* is one of those great choices for partly to shady locations around the landscape. This import from Asia has bright golden-yellow flowers produced in great quantity. Although the plant drops its leaves for the fall and winter, the stems remain green. There are a couple of common forms that you will find at local nurseries. One, 'Plenaflora' has many small, golden pom-pom like flowers. There are also some single-flowered forms such as 'Golden Guinea'. I prefer the single-flowered forms, as they seem much more graceful and natural in the landscape. However, it is definitely less aggressive and less winter hardy than the double-flowered form. These shrubs will actually do

Satterlee Landscape Nursery has been serving plant lovers from across the state for 36 years. Family owned and operated, we specialize in unusual varieties as well as old favorites. Select from a wide variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, water plants, annuals and tropicals for every situation.

Come enjoy our new water garden area with a waterfall, large pond, flagstone patio and raised planting beds. See our new line of metal bird sculptures from Zimbabwe. Personalize your garden with selections from our new line of garden accessories such as gazing globes, wind chimes, hand-carved granite fountains, spheres and oriental lanterns. We also offer cast concrete fountains, birdbaths, planters and statuary in a variety of finishes to compliment your home.

Our trained staff (including four Oklahoma Certified Nurserymen) will guide you in the best plant selections for our area. Visit with our design staff to bring to life the garden of your imagination. Satterlee's offers landscape design, installation and delivery to suit your needs.

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...including the unusual

somewhat better when located in drier shadier areas. Both forms sucker and allowances must be made for this habit. These two plants can be found at the southeast corner of the Garden Exhibition Building.

Trees

One of the unusual specimens we have is the **Dwarf Chinese Redbud**, *Cercis chinensis* ‘Nana’. This little charmer from Asia is similar to our native redbud, but with some differences. For one thing, the size is much smaller. This little shrubby form only reaches about 7 feet in height. The spring flowers are a nice dark purplish tone. The leaves and bark are similar to our native redbud. It would make a great addition to smaller garden areas, such as patios, etc. This specimen is located on the east side of the Garden Exhibition Building.

Another unusual redbud selection on display is the **Mexican Redbud**, *Cercis mexicana* ‘Royalty’. This ‘redbud’ is very shrubby in growth. The flowers are more of a washed-out pink color. The leaves are unusual in that they are ‘wavy’ the foliage texture is quite outstanding in the landscape. This plant is located in the arboretum just south and west of the large Lacebark Elm.

Crabapples (*Malus*) come in all shapes, sizes and colors. The park is home to a quite a large collection. Some of the better selections are the following:
 ‘White Angel’ – This older selection is quite pest and disease resistant. The spring flowers are pure white and very showy. The fall fruit is quite large, up to one inch in



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diameter. The full size of the tree is about 15 feet tall and wide. This selection is located just to the northeast of the Sheppard Garden Area.

‘Prairifire’ – A nice selection with dark pink flowers. Also quite pest and disease resistant. This variety can grow to a larger size up to 20 feet high and wide. This specimen is located in the arboretum at the north end of the Rocky Mountain Juniper Collection.

‘Spring Snow’ – This form has pure white flowers and essentially no fruit. The shape is an upright oval to 20 or 25 feet tall. It is quite susceptible to scab but only slightly to fireblight and cedar apple rust. This tree is located right at the west parking lot entrance to the Garden exhibition Building.

Louis Scott
 Assistant Naturalist
 Will Rogers Park

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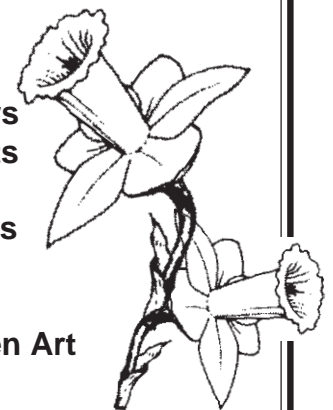
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Loretta Aaron continued from page 7

DIANTHUS (Pinks): These will sometimes live over the second year, but are best treated as hardy annuals. For bloom at iris time, seed should be planted the following summer. The small plants will not freeze out during the winter if kept moist. Small bedding plants are not too expensive, and to assure that yours will bloom at iris time, you may want to purchase plants, but do set them out early — late March or very early April, as soon as hard freezes are past. They will take light freezes or frosts, even if they have been grown in a greenhouse. Try to get plants that have been grown in cold frames, and these will be completely hardy. I prefer the variety “Gaiety”, which is a large single, and colors are distinct and very pretty. “Bravo” is an orange-red that is also pretty. Protect all Dianthus from the sow bug by sprinkling Sevin or Chlordane dust underneath.

PERENNIALS

PEONIES: Most peonies bloom at iris time. It takes the third or fourth year clumps to really put on big displays. Should some of you have this in mind, for a possible convention display, get with it in the fall four years prior to the convention. Peonies prefer fall planting. Choose an area away from large trees or hedges, and one that you will not want to disturb for years, as Peonies do not like to be disturbed once established. Plant shallow, with the tips covered with not more than 1-1/2 to 2 inches of soil. Use only 3 to 5 eye divisions to start your clump. Give them generous amounts of cattle manure, as Peonies are heavy feeders. Peonies are ideal as companion plants near iris plantings. Keep enough distance that the cattle manure would not get too close to the iris rhizomes.

COLUMBINES: These always bloom at iris time. Takes about three years to get dense plantings from seed, which should be planted in July or August. The small seedlings will come up in September, stay green all winter, and will bloom some the first year. Second year plants should give reasonably good bloom, and the third year the bloom will be terrific. Plants are available, and these should be put out in early March for best results. Columbines are a cool weather plant, and should be planted in shady locations. They will do well with morning sun, or on the east side of a house. Columbines prefer a slightly acid soil — I use sphagnum peat moss in my plantings, as my soil is naturally alkaline. Be sure the drainage is good, or you will have troubles.

CERASTIUM (Snow-in-Summer): This is strictly a border plant, or is good in rock gardens. Growth habit is similar to the well-known creeping phlox. Foliage is an attractive grey, and is completely covered with the single, fragrant white flowers during iris season, and several weeks beyond. Seed is easily germinated if planted in July or August, and kept moist during this period. Give full sunlight for best results. After the plant is established, divisions may be taken and transplanted to different areas. Will perform well in any average garden soil.

PHLOX SUBULATA (Creeping Phlox): This is a well-known perennial, and is in bloom at iris time. Bloom begins at the same time as the little dwarf iris shows color. Colors are white, red, fuschia, and blue. Idea to border beds or walks. Does best in full sun. The best way to get this started is to call on a friend who has a large planting, and take up small divisions. It is also available in greenhouses; best time to plant is early April.

ANCHUSA: This is the big one - the variety that grows from 3-1/2 to 4 feet tall, and always steals the show — even from the iris! I general use from 3 to 5 of these showy plants, mixed between the iris plantings, each spring. Generally, a mature plant will live from 5 to 6 years before it dies, but there are always small plants that appear from seed dropped from the parent plant. If you plan to grow this from seed, plant seed in July or August. The perennial Anchusa rarely blooms the first year if grown from seed. Color is about the brightest, deepest shade of blue I have ever seen. As the bloom stalks are tall and quite heavy, use a double ring plant support around the entire plant. Plant in full sunlight in any good garden soil. This is a perfect companion for irises.

PERENNIAL POPPY: These should be planted in fall only for best results. I have found the ideal location is one that gets morning sun only, and filtered sunlight during the heat of the day. My planting is near some iris, and shaded in the afternoon by a Tulip tree. (The irises are in full sun). Once a planting is established, put out a DO NOT DISTURB sign. These plants do not want to be crowded by other plants either. A deep organic soil is appreciated by the perennial poppy.

RANUNCLUS (Buttercup): This is the perennial form, not the bulb. There is also a perennial for used for ground cover that has a creeping habit, and very little bloom. The compact form blooms during iris time, and is completely covered with the yellow blooms for weeks, and during the entire blooming season or iris. Grows to about 20 inches tall. Full sunlight, with all types of soil. One of the easiest perennials of all to grow — just be sure you get this one, and not the creeping form, unless you are looking for a ground cover.

In fact, this journey into experimenting with a few biennials and perennials just might develop a latent collecting instinct. By this time, the iris will have accepted the idea, and will be performing beautifully in their allotted space, and not mind at all. Really! Do I grow iris? You bet! They rate at the top of the list as one of my favorite perennials. They have learned to co-exist with my other plants. Every spring I explain to them, that if they stand straight, unfurl each little standard and fall just right, they will get to go to the show. Some do. Maybe they want to get away from those cotton-pickin’ drummondi phlox surrounding them!

*Reprinted from Sooner State Iris News,
June - July 1983*

OKLAHOMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2004-5 EVENTS

Oklahoma Horticultural Society (OHS) Monthly Educational Meeting - 7 PM - OKC
 Monthly educational meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month (except July, August and December) at 7 PM at the OKC Will Rogers Garden Center. Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

- May 24** OHS monthly program ... 7 PM at Will Rogers Garden Center
- June 4** OHS presents the Annual *Garden Tour for Connoisseurs*. See inside this issue for details.
- June 11** *Festival in the Park* Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Will Rogers Horticultural Gardens' lawn will transform into a gardener's paradise during the Oklahoma City Council of Garden Club's annual "Festival in the Park." This National Garden Week celebration will combine a plant and garden sale with free horticultural seminars, floral displays and entertaining kids activities.
- June 11 & 12** The Backyard Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour; Tulsa, contact eiland@swbell.net
- June 11, 2005:** *4th Annual Summer Garden Fest* Celebrating 30 years of of Oklahoma Gardening at the OSU Botanical Garden. Info call 405.744.5414

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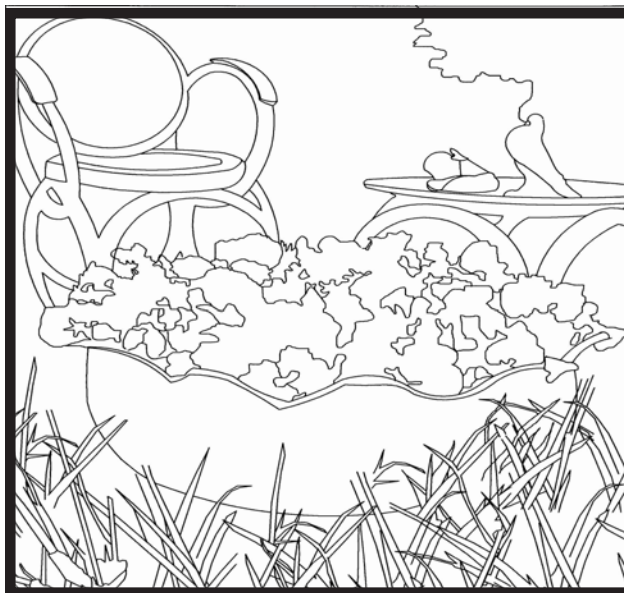
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