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The Newsletter of the Oklahoma Horticultural Society

FALL 2001

Sept/Oct/Nov

STEVE BIEBERICH - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bi-annual Meeting September 23

The **Oklahoma Horticultural Society** will hold their bi-annual meeting on Sunday, September 23 at the OBGAs building in Stillwater. Our keynote speaker will be Steve Bieberich of Sunshine Nursery located in Clinton, OK. His topic will be "**30 YEARS GROWING SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS PLANTS**".

Co-owner of Sunshine Farm & Nursery, established in 1981 in Clinton, Oklahoma, Steve began working in the nursery business in 1966 while in high school. He pursued this interest in college majoring in Biology at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma.

Sunshine Nursery propagates and grows ornamental trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals for retail and wholesale, employing six to ten people. They specialize in growing plants native to the Plains and exotics. Maintaining a ten-acre arboretum of over 500 trees helps to evaluate the plant material collected for testing woody species for western Oklahoma.

Steve is called upon frequently to provide lectures about his experiences in growing trees and his knowledge of the native flora of western Oklahoma.

BI-ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Sunday, September 23

Place: OBGAs - Stillwater

Time: 2:30 pm (Board to meet at 1:30)

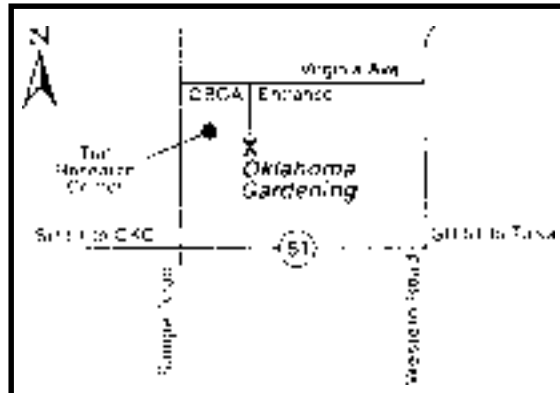
Agenda (beginning at 2:30):

*Short business meeting

*Steve Bieberich, Sunshine Nursery to speak on "*30 Years Growing Southern Great Plains Plants*"

*Auction Fund-raiser (see inside for details)

*Tour of the TV studio gardens of Oklahoma Gardening



OBGAs Educational Building

Mailing address: OHS P.O. Box 770092 Oklahoma City, OK 73177

Web Page: <http://www.okhort.org>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Being a horticulture enthusiast as well as a landscape architect, drought conditions are never a pleasant experience. The brown lawns, roadsides, and defoliating trees are things that always bother me. Waiting for the next beneficial rain becomes a daily vigil.

When I see azaleas, maples and other species adapted to regions with more rainfall and cooler temperatures begin to wilt and die, I'm reminded of the value of native and imported species that are more drought tolerant. The oaks, redbuds, crape myrtles, lacebark elms, native grasses, spirea, forsythia and other more traditional landscape plants are able to tolerate the conditions with minimal impact. Drought tolerant plant species have become more available over the years thanks to pioneering landscape architects, designers, and nurseries. The recent drought is a good reminder that we need to be paying more attention to plants that will survive our conditions rather than concentrating so much on trying to artificially change growing conditions.

We get in a rut of planting species that rely on a constant supply of moisture and that don't tolerate excessive heat and sun. Some years we get by and then we're harshly reminded that this is Oklahoma and that no matter what part of the state you're in from the tip of the panhandle to the pine forests of the southeast – drought conditions can be severe and prolonged. Maybe it's good that we get a dose of reality occasionally to remind us to be wise in our plant selections and recommendations. Using all native materials is certainly one option (assuming you're not planting a loblolly pine in Goodwell); and there are many durable and attractive introduced species that are tried and true.

A similar danger awaits OHS if we become complacent assuming the same people will continue doing the same excellent work. After a time these hard-working people become tired and move on, and we're suddenly left with a void in our programs and fund raising efforts. As we look toward the future of OHS, let's think of bringing in and involving more members in our organization. Let's be ready to get involved, to help-out wherever needed. There are so many opportunities in our organization that everyone truly has a place. Even if it's a small place, it's important. Start small and be ready to move forward into areas of greater responsibilities as the opportunities open up.

If you are interested in seeing our organization grow and become more tolerant of "drought" conditions, please become involved. If you have questions or suggestions please contact myself or other officers and board members as listed in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Joe Howell

**Growing
for All Your Gardening Success**



TLC Nursery & Greenhouses, Inc

180 N. Memorial 6112 N. Phoenix 828 W. Eggenway

751-0630 842-6083 720-3091

Oklahoma's Leading Garden Centers

TREASURER'S REPORT

AUGUST 5, 2001

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE:

\$11,850.08

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE:

\$5,214.55

GARDEN GALA

The Oklahoma City Zoological Park and Botanical Garden is hosting the 3rd annual Garden Gala. The zoo originated this event to heighten the community's awareness of the world of plants, gardening and plant habitats. Horticultural displays and booths representing various plant societies, garden clubs and environmental groups will be on hand to promote their associations. Local greenhouses and nurseries will also be invited as well. Lectures and demonstrations will held throughout the day.

The Oklahoma Horticultural Society is planning their booth and will be calling upon you to volunteer some time. We will be promoting our society by meeting and sharing information with people about all the wonderful things we do.

The new entrance at the Zoo will be the location for this one day event. Please come and volunteer a little time, visit all the booths, and attend the sessions on Saturday, October 13th from 10 am to 3 pm.



AUCTION TIME!

Have you attended one of the OHS's "silent auctions"? If so, you will know what fun they are! If not, here is how it works:

First, this exercise is a fund-raiser and is part of the bi-annual meeting on September 23rd. (see page 1 for details). Everyone brings something horticulturally-related to donate to the auction. Items can range from plants from your garden, books, pictures, tools, flower arrangements, bulbs, pots you get the idea. Each item is numbered and is bid on silently on paper throughout the meeting. After last call, the papers are collected and winners announced. It is great fun and you can really get some wonderful and useful items for little money. So bring an item or two and join in the fun.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mark & Paula Brashier
Roger & Jerelyn Jacks
Connie & Lucian Hodges
Susan Knight
Michael & Stella Lipsinic
Jerry & Jo Logan
Jennifer L. McCann

Connie S. Mace
Paul & Jamie Pipes
Suzanne Rennix
Barbara Spencer
Tim & Denise Tillman
Lois R. Waechter

"The Way We Were - Rediscovering the Rich History of Urban Forestry"

The Oklahoma Urban and Community Forestry Council's Annual Conference will be held Tuesday, October 9, 2001 at the Southern Oklahoma Vo-Technical Center in Ardmore. Registration begins at 8 am with the conference beginning at 9 am and lasting until 4:45 pm. The topics are directed to Horticulturists, Landscape Architects, Community Officials, Nurserymen and those employed in related green industries, utility company representatives and environmentalists.

The keynote speaker is Dr. John Ball of South Dakota State University. He will give two presentations titled "Y1K to Y2K - A Brief History of Tree Care in the Last Millennium" and "Trees and People - A Perfect Example of a Symbiotic Relationship". Also scheduled is Dr. George Diggs of Austin College in Sherman, TX presenting "The History of the Cross Timbers". Followed by Susan Corbett of Jacksonville, FL talking about "American Forests' Famous & Historic Trees Project". Randy McFarlin, Director of Parks & Public Facilities, Ada and Richard Bewley, American Electric Power, Tulsa will be discussing "How Oklahoma Trees Withstand Oklahoma Ice"

The cost is \$15 for students, \$40 for members, \$50 non-members and \$60 after 10/1/01 for everyone. Additional questions or requests can be addressed to Joe Howell at 918/592-1270.

HOW PLANTS GOT THEIR NAME

10TH IN A SERIES BY WARREN FILLEY

COMMON NAME: Water Lily

BOTANICAL NAME: 'Nymphaea' FAMILY NAME: 'Nymphaeaceae'

USDA COLD HARDINESS ZONES: 3-11 for Hardy Water Lily 10-11 for Tropical

With the blistering heat of this summer, it may be hard for any one to find a flowering plant in the garden. However, for those of us with ponds there still is "joy in mudville". Water lilies tend to enjoy the extreme heat of summer, particularly the tropical varieties. Therefore, to be assured of flowers during the heat of the summer, I suggest you have a water garden with water lilies. The pleasing sound of rushing water over a waterfall also tends to take degrees off the heat of the day, even if it is just an illusion. As the many members of the Water Gardening Society of Oklahoma will attest (I am one), these additions to our landscape bring a great deal of enjoyment. I hope that you were able to see at least some of the beautiful water gardens the Society had on display during the July 15-16 public tour.

Those of you who know me well realize that I love art just as much as I love gardening. My daughter is also extremely interested in art with Monet being one of her favorite artists. Although I have never been to his gardens in France, I have viewed many of his spectacular water lily paintings at art museums around the world. Indeed his paintings have helped popularize the water lily.

Water lilies painted by Monet were hybridized lilies from M. Bory Latour-Marliac. These newly hybridized lilies were just becoming available in France in the late 1800's. The process for this hybridization (tropical water lily with European hardy varieties) was reported to the Royal Horticultural Society by Latour-Marliac in 1898.

Of course the water lily has been enjoyed and revered for centuries before Monet produced his lovely paintings. The Japanese and Chinese have cultivated and painted the lotus and water lilies for centuries. Classic Japanese gardens always contain ponds, koi and lotus. The Egyptians also revered the water lily and the lotus. Their god, Osiris, who was murdered by his brother Set was always pictured with numerous water lilies. As the legend goes, Set murdered his brother and chopped up the body scattering the dead parts. However, Isis, Osiris' wife, collected the pieces and was able to revive Osiris sufficiently so that he could conceive the solar god Horus.

The botanical name *Nymphaea* is from the Greek word *nympha* which means "a water nymph and a virgin". The Greeks believed that the water lily

which is edible (including the root) had medicinal properties. (It is interesting to note that so many of the plants that we grow and love had "medicinal properties" as some point in time.) These medicinal properties were felt to be anti-aphrodisiac and in the Middle Ages monks and nuns made a paste of ground water lilies and honey to preserve chastity. It would appear from our present culture that this type of "medicine" is not needed any more and therefore I doubt that we will see water lily pills at the health food store any time in the near future.

Those of us with ponds are well aware that water lilies come as winter hardy and tropical varieties. In my travels around the world, I have seen water lilies blooming profusely in high altitude ponds in the Rocky Mountains and in the tropics of the Australian Outback, as well as in gardens and ponds throughout the developed world. Whenever I see them they bring great joy as I always marvel at their beauty. One of the most spectacular water lilies is the gigantic *Victoria amazonica*. There is a beautiful display of this lily at the St. Louis Botanical Gardens. First discovered in 1832 by explorer Eduard Poeppig, it was named *Euryale amazonica* after one of the 3 Gorgons. Later when the first Amazon water lilies flowered in England in 1849 Joseph Paxton, gardener to the Duke of Devonshire, presented one of the flowers to Queen Victoria and told her he would name it *Victoria regina* after her. However, the lily has already been named *Euryale amazonica*. Botanists then decided that the lily did not belong the *Euryale* family and therefore renamed it *Victoria amazonica*. It was felt that any connection to Amazons was totally unsuited for her Royal Majesty. Therefore the proper botanical name was kept a secret until after the death of Queen Victoria. Interestingly Joseph Paxton also designed the famous Crystal Palace whose structure he modeled after the ribbed leaves of the *Victoria amazonica*.

So the next time you are sweltering in the garden, wiping sweat from your brow, take a deep breath, relax and soak up the beauty of the water lilies in your pond. Think of their long history, royal lineage, and even their medicinal properties. However, unless you are a nun or monk, you can probably pass on any consideration of adding them to your diet as a "health food supplement".

GARDEN TOUR REPORT

Our garden tour for 2001 was another success and we could not have had better weather - for the first time, there was no rain. One garden crew made a good effort at counting heads and came up with 737 passing through that garden that day. We had 86 volunteers manning the gardens throughout the day, 55 of whom had worked one or more of the past tours. It is dedicated volunteers like these who make the Garden Tour for Connoisseurs possible each year. This year for the first time, we had a thank-you party for the volunteers that Hugh and Jennifer Stout were good enough to host (talk about dedicated - they slaved to get their garden in shape for being on our tour, volunteered in their garden all day and then hosted the party two weeks later). We got to tour their garden again and see the changes two weeks had make in it. Everyone seemed to have a great time eating and visiting.

Most important is that we made \$8294 in ticket sales to use for scholarships for horticulture students and other projects of the OHS. A big thanks to Keith Pierce once again for his artistry on the poster design. Sales of several posters during the tour added to the total taken in on that day. Also T-shirts and hats were designed and sold thanks to Hugh and Jennifer Stout.

Already, the date has been selected for next year's tour - Saturday, June 1, 2002. That gives all volunteers plenty of notice about when we will again need their help. We hope to see you in the gardens next year.

Sharon Beasley

Thanks to the following people for volunteering for working on the garden tour:

Patricia and John Steffens
Sybil Bryant
Valerie
Sonderegger
Bobby Rimer
Juhree Bassett
Judy Alston
Rhoda Myers
Shirley Kennedy
Shroeder Wilson
Denise Tillman
Pearl Pearson
Debbie Robertson
Karen Martin
Madeline Baldwin
Marge Long
Wanda and Everett White
Fran Whilton
Pat Lee
Steve Hill
Ora and Gerald Hare
Kaylan Hand
Doug Dale
Anna Harper
Elaine and Lyle Henry
Brent Suttles

Vicky Michalik
Tempie Simon
Teresa and Mark Hoehner
Ann Baer
Patti Snyder
Claire Bryant
Charlene and Elmer Swalwell
Carol Blackwood
Bill Kopplin
Gina Steele
Mardi McKenzie
Kitty Champlin
Julia Linger
Janis Johnson
Shirley McFarland
Terry Bailey
Deanna Rizer
Dora Prather
Nancy and Al Fernandes
Betty Thompson
Katrinka Greear
Kathy Poore
Gerald and Barbara Luton
Scott Brenkert
Rhonda Simmons

Kathleen Ryan
Olen and Teresa Thomas
Judith Hill
Pat Killian
Eleanor Fleming
Bob and Dorothy McLemore
Louise South
Gene Groves
Chop Sparks
Hugh and Jennifer Stout
Greta Burnett
Frank and Lila Arney
Pat Miller
Dean and Wanda Mandershied
George Vaclavek
Jeannie Spence
Beth and R J Wagoner
Cathy and Scott Connel
Warren Filley
Sharon Beasley
Darlene Michael
Bob Corcoran
Tom and Norma Taggart
Keith Pierce
Russell Studebaker

GARDEN FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

The 2001 Garden Festival in the Park was another big success. \$425.00 was raised with the sale of donated plant material from our members. OHS had a booth along with numerous other plant-related groups during this one day horticultural event. A special thank you to Linda Shackelford of TLC for her large donation of plant material. Many thanks to the following members who donated their time:

Sincerely,

Shirley Kennedy

Shirley McFarland
Wanda White
Brent Suttles
Rosemary BRown
Dora Prather
George Vaclavek
Vicky Michalik
Jeanie Spence
Julia Linger
Lyle Henry
Nancy Fernandes
Warren Filley
Linda & Charles Shackelford
Datsy Lee
Sharon Beasley
Janis Johnson
Cathy Connel
Shirley Kennedy

SIGNING UP VOLUNTEERS

We want to get sign-up sheets started right away for next year's **Garden Tour for Connoisseurs and Garden Festival in the Park**. If you would like to work the next garden tour and/or festival, please sign up right away. Sign up sheets will be available at all of our events or call Sharon Beasley at 392-4727 for the tour or Vicky at 330-9150 for the festival.

OHS Highlights

The Sooner State Iris Society

by Mona French

The Sooner State Iris Society was founded in 1969 and currently has 244 members. We meet at the Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th St., Oklahoma City, at 7:00 pm on the fourth Friday of each of the following months: February, March, May, June, August, September and October. Each meeting has a program dealing with irises or other plant interests.

We sponsor three annual Iris Shows during April and May. Our Summer Rhizome Sale and Picnic is held in July. We also have an Autumn Rhizome Sale during September.

One of the highlights of the year is the Pollen Dauber's Seminar each March, where SSIS brings in famous iris hybridizers from the US and other countries to teach an all-day seminar about hybridizing. Some of our past seminar speakers have been Keith Keppel, Joe Ghio, Bob Schreiner, Ben Hager, Melba Hamblen, Chuck Chapman from

Canada and Barry Blyth from Australia.

Our meeting on September 28th will feature Paul Gossett of Tulsa, with a slide presentation of the gardens on tour during the American Iris Society National Convention in York, Pennsylvania earlier this spring. On October 26th, we will be honored to have Paul Black of Mid-America Gardens in Salem, Oregon as our speaker. He will be presenting a slide show and talking about his new garden in Salem since moving from Oklahoma in 1999. You are cordially invited to attend any of our meetings.

Sooner State publishes five newsletters per year. The annual dues are \$3.00 per household. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact: Mona French, SSIS Membership, 4521 NE 55th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73121 (Phone: 405-424-6634).

2001-2202 OHS Nominees

Officers

President - Hugh Stout
 Vice President - Lyle Henry
 Secretary - Brenda Sanders
 Treasurer - Joanne Vercinck

Board Members:

Cathy Connel
 Allan Storjohann
 Brent Suttles
 Sharon Beasley
 Vicky Michalik
 Pearl Pearson
 Wanda Manderscheid

T-SHIRTS AND HATS FOR SALE!

The OHS still has a few T-shirts and hats left for sale. These were sold during the "Garden Tour for Connoisseurs" and were very popular. Prices are \$10.00 for T-shirts and \$12.00 for hats. Contact Hugh Stout at (405) 843-7130.

Oklahoma Board of Allergy & Immunology
 Established 1988

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Warren V. Filley, M.D.
 Diplomate American Board Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

WORK OFFICE Allergy/Pharmacy Offices 1740 W. Northwest Rd. Suite 115 Oklahoma City, OK	CENTRAL OFFICE 750 N.E. 24th 2nd Fl., East of Interstate P.O. Box 20021 Oklahoma City, OK 73125 (405) 335-0549	HOME OFFICE Physicians & Surgeons Group 1511 North Parker Suite 131 Norman, OK
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Enjoy the benefits of your local gardening society as well as the nations most prestigious horticultural organization

**Acquaint yourself with the very best plants for our climate*

**Gain knowledge of plant culture - flowers - trees - shrubs - fruits - vegetables*

**Promote gardening and stimulate interest in horticulture across the state*

**Tour public and private gardens in the U.S. and around the world*

The Oklahoma Horticultural Society was formed in 1970 to further the appreciation of horticulture throughout Oklahoma. Since 1922, the American Horticultural Society has played a major role in shaping how Americans garden. Mutually, these two non-profit organizations recognize and promote excellence in horticulture across Oklahoma and the United States.

Members enjoy numerous benefits including Horticulture Horizons, the OHS quarterly newsletter containing articles written especially for Oklahoma gardeners, six yearly issues of the AHS American Gardener magazine, free admission to over 100 botanical gardens, a seed-saver exchange program, and free or discounted membership to flower and garden shows across the nation. Memorable tours are frequently offered through both organizations.

Sign Up Today and be a part of the most prestigious gardening associations around!

OHS - AHS JOINT MEMBERSHIP FORM

- | | | | |
|--|--|------------|--------|
| | | Date _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> General - may include 2 persons in same family | | 35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - 3 or more persons in same family | | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Life OHS Member - Does Not Include \$20 yearly AHS Dues | | 300.00 |

YEARLY DUES PAYABLE JANUARY 1

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____ Occupation _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Other horticulture-related groups to which you belong: _____

Please make check payable to:

Oklahoma Horticultural Society * P.O. Box 770092 * Oklahoma City, Oklahoma * 73177

Oklahoma Horticultural Society
P.O. Box 770092
Oklahoma City, OK 73177

OKLAHOMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY EVENTS 2001

September 13 & 27, "FLOWERS 'N FUN DRAWING CLASS; Will Rogers Garden Exhibition

9:30 am --12:30 pm 3400 NW 36 OKC; (405) 943-0827; Free (call for schedule of repeating classes)

September 23 'OHS FALL ANNUAL MEETING'; "30 YEARS OF GROWING SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS PLANTS" by Steve Bieberich of Sunshine Nursery; OBGA In Stillwater 2:30 PM (see page 1 for details)

September 25 "NO-NOs & OH YEAHs OF LANDSCAPING" by George Vaclavek; OHS Monthly Meeting. Will Rogers Garden Center; OKC; 7 pm

September 28 MARVELOUS MYSTERY TOUR; Will Rogers Garden Exhibition

9:30 am --11:30 pm 3400 NW 36 OKC; (405) 943-0827; Free (call for schedule of repeating classes)

October 9 THE WAY WE WERE - REDISCOVERING THE RICH HISTORY OF URBAN FORESTRY; Presented by the Oklahoma Urban and Community Forestry Council; Southern Okla. Vo-Technical Ctr. in Ardmore. 8:00 am to 4:45 pm. (see page 3 for details)

October 13 'GARDEN GALA', Sponsored by the Oklahoma City Zoological Park & Botanical Garden

October 13 LANDSCAPE PLANNING CLASS; Will Rogers Garden Exhibition

9:30 am --12:30 pm 3400 NW 36 OKC; (405) 943-0827; Free (call for schedule of repeating classes)

October 23 "OUT OF THE PAST, TRIED & TRUE HEIRLOOM BULBS FOR OKLAHOMA "

by Russell Studebaker; OHS Monthly Meeting. Will Rogers Garden Center; OKC; 7 pm

November 27 "WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A LICENSED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT" by Joe Howell;

OHS Monthly Meeting. Will Rogers Garden Center; OKC; 7 pm

December 8 'OHS CHRISTMAS PARTY'; More details to come...

2002

January 31- February 3 2nd 'OKLAHOMA GARDEN FESTIVAL'; Myriad Convention Center

June 1 - OHS Garden Tour for Connoisseurs

For information, visit the website at www.okhort.org or call 330-9150