



HORTICULTURE HORIZONS

The Newsletter of the Oklahoma Horticultural Society

FALL 2003
SEPT/OCT/NOV



Bi-Annual Meeting - September 21 Crapemyrtles are the subject!

Get your walking shoes ready, because we have been invited to visit the farm of Dr. Carl Whitcomb.

This year for our bi-annual meeting we will tour his nursery, learning about his crapemyrtle breeding program. This will be a very special treat for our members, giving us the opportunity to see firsthand the ins and out of cultivar development. Dr. Whitcomb's farm is located only 7 miles from Oklahoma State University. There is plenty of parking and even some transportation for anyone needing to ride rather than walk the tour. He does have a strict policy of **NO SMOKING** anywhere on the farm and asks us to stay together during our stay. The tour follows our annual business meeting and auction. We will meet at the "barn" of the Oklahoma Gardening TV show gardens. After completing our meeting and auction we will drive to the farm for our tour. Take a moment to check the schedule of events for Sunday, September 21 and join us for a fun and informative Oklahoma Horticultural Society event.

Bring Your Auction Items

As part of our bi-annual meeting, we will have a silent auction again. This is a fundraiser and is always a lot of fun. Basically it works like this: 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, etc.... 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.

map

Bi-annual Meeting Schedule

- >Sunday, September 21
- >The "barn" at the Oklahoma Gardening TV show gardens in Stillwater
- >1:00 pm OHS Board Meeting
- >2:30 pm Short Business Meeting
- >Auction Fundraiser
- >Drive to Dr. Whitcomb's Farm

2003 OFFICERS

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Things have been happening fast this year and so far everything has been terrific. Both the Garden Tour for Connoisseur's and the Festival in the Park were very successful. As most know, but maybe some new members don't, we take a lot of pride in giving back to the state horticulture community and our members. Last year alone the Oklahoma Horticultural Society donated over \$18,000 for scholarships, educational lectureships, awards for FFA, 4H and the Oklahoma Garden Festival as well as becoming a sponsor of OETA's Oklahoma Gardening. We also help support Junior Master Gardener's Camp and the Myriad Botanical Garden's Garden School. Our society has touched many lives across the state, young and old.

Sunday, September 21 we will have our Bi Annual Meeting and Silent Auction at the OBGGA Gardens in Stillwater, home of the studio gardens of the TV show, Oklahoma Gardening. This meeting provides us with another opportunity to provide excellent lecturers for our members. This year is no exception. Dr. Carl Whitcomb will be speaking and giving us a tour of his nursery operation in Stillwater. Dr. Whitcomb's book, Know It and Grow It, was required reading in my college days and is still a common site on nursery shelves (and back rooms!) His knowledge of Oklahoma plant materials is unprecedented. He has also become a leader in plant breeding, especially in the crapemyrtle family. This is an opportunity that won't come around often.

October 4th we need your help in donating plants and art for our booth at the Oklahoma City Zoo's Garden Gala. This is rapidly growing into a great place to go shopping as the list of clubs and nurseries attending keeps growing. It's also a good idea to tour the zoo and Botanical Gardens. Our own Pearl Pearson has done us all proud in her efforts as head horticulturist at the zoo. Wanda White is chairing this event for us so contact her at 405. 771.3665 if you can help.

It's also time to start organizing plans and ideas for the Oklahoma Gardening Festival in late January. Those interested in volunteering for design or manning our booth can contact Jennifer Stout at 405.843.7130. Design meetings should start up very soon. Getting the times you want to work the festival are best if you call early on. Out of town members are encouraged to join in on the fun.

Lastly, our monthly meetings are starting up again on the 4th Tuesday's of the month, 7:00 PM at Will Rogers Exhibition Center in OKC. We have great programs and it's a good place to come to here what we're up to and make any suggestions on directions you'd like to see us go. I hope to see you there.

Hugh Stout, Jr.

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

HOW PLANTS GOT THEIR NAME

15TH IN A SERIES

BY WARREN FILLEY

Anemone

Common name: Wind flower
USDA Zone 4-8

Botanical name: *Anemone* **Family name:** *Ranunculaceae*
AHS Heat Zone 9-3 (or for some species 8-1)

This fall the beautiful white spires of my *Anemone x hybrida* are literally blowing in the breeze and bouncing on the wind. Each fall I look forward to these flowers as a bright spot in the garden at a time when many other plants have long since stopped blooming. Many visitors to my yard who are not familiar with the Japanese anemone are quite taken by them having never seen them before. They are indeed quite smitten by them, as have many other individuals. I was intrigued to read Dan Hinkley's account of his love affair with the Japanese anemone in Chapter 1 of *The Explorer's Garden*. His delightful story is one of his happen chance first observation of these flowers in a garden. Almost unbelievably they seemed to have disappeared without a trace within 9 hours of his first sighting. Although this disappearance left him bewildered he soon found they had been thrown out in the trash bin because the gardener thought them "invasive". She said "I have been trying to rid the garden of the beast for years". Dan, however, retrieved that plant from the trash bin and has had it ever since. Obviously one person's trash is another person's treasure, and I certainly treasure my anemone.

The name anemone probably comes from the Greek word anemos for "wind". However, another compelling story is that they are named after Naamen, the Persian name for "Adonis". Since the time of the Greeks Adonis has been associated with Grecian anemone (*Anemone Pavonina*), an early spring flowering variety native to the Eastern Mediterranean area. Aphrodite (Venus) fell in love with Adonis and tried unsuccessfully to protect him from harm. One day, according to the Greek myth, Adonis was gored by a wild bore. Aphrodite found him as he was dying and held him in her arms weeping over him at the site. The legend is that the anemone grew from her tears or sprang from the blood of Adonis. Thus the flower became associated with protective love that could not protect, and of adventurous love and beauty that challenged life but lost. In the Mediterranean area the flowers are considered sacred and may in fact have been the actual "lilies of the field" mentioned in the New Testament. One Christian legend states that the red petals of the wild anemone came from the blood of Christ on the cross, and when earth was taken back from the Holy Land during the Crusades to the Campo Santo Cemetery at Pisa, Italy the flowers sprang up miraculously. Indeed having been to Pisa's Campo Santo I would think its grassy expanse would look stunning covered with anemone.

The Japanese anemones (*Anemone hupehensis* and *Anemone X hybrida*) are a fall blooming species, which were first brought back to England in 1844. They had been found, interestingly enough, growing on the tombs in China and were labeled by their discoverer Robert Fortune as a "most appropriate ornament for the last resting places of the dead". One could in fact take this a step further and state that autumn blooming flowers are indeed a symbol of hope and resurrection. Certainly as we end the long hot summer and look toward the cooling weather of fall, all of us should breathe a sigh of relief, enjoy our garden vistas complete with anemone, and look forward to future seasons in the garden.

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What gives leaves their bright fall colors?

by Steve Owens

Just before the trees and shrubs drop their leaves and go into their long winter nap of dormancy, many of them put forth brilliant fall colors that light up our landscapes and the countryside. The process that turns leaves from green to their bright fall color is a very interesting one. It's very similar to the process that green fruit goes through when it changes color as it ripens.

In order to explain this process, we first have to understand what exactly leaves are and what they do. Plants are amazing in that they can make their own food. We can think of the leaves of plants as thousands of little food factories. Plants take water out of the ground with their roots and transport it up into the leaves. Carbon dioxide from the air enters the leaves, then the leaf, with these two ingredients in the presence of light, makes glucose. Glucose is a type of sugar the plant uses for food. This is the process of photosynthesis. The substance inside the leaf wherein photosynthesis occurs is a green pigment called chlorophyll. This is the source of the green color of leaves. Chlorophyll doesn't last long as it is a fairly short-lived pigment. It is susceptible to photo-degradation, so it decomposes, or breaks-down after a short period of time. In order to keep feeding its self, the plant has to continually produce chlorophyll throughout the growing season.

As fall arrives, our days start getting shorter. This change in day length causes a reaction in the plant that signals it to start shutting down and getting ready for winter. One of the first changes is a decrease in the production of chlorophyll. Eventually the production stops altogether. Once the leaf stops making chlorophyll, whatever is left of it routinely decomposes until it is all gone. Once all the green pigment disappears, other pigments are unmasked,

like the carotinoids. Carotinoids are yellow to orangish pigments that are present in the leaf throughout the growing season, they aren't visible because of the chlorophyll. These pigments give the orange color to carrots, the yellow color to the petals of our yellow flowers, and the color to ripe banana peels.

Plants that have bright red or red-orange fall color get this from another group of pigments, the anthocyanins. The anthocyanins are the pigments that give us the color in our red, blue, and purple flowers as well as the color in blueberries and the skin of red apples. Anthocyanins are produced in late summer and fall and also form as the last of the leaf's chlorophyll decomposes. To have really good anthocyanin production and overall brilliant fall color, the weather has to cooperate. We'll see good color if we have an autumn with cool temperatures, a lot of bright sunny days, and some fairly dry conditions. These all favor a good build up of anthocyanins. On the other hand, if we have a warm fall with a lot of cloudy rainy weather, we can expect some pretty drab fall color. So when a banana is still green, that means it still contains chlorophyll and the photosynthesis process is still moving glucose into the fruit. Once the fruit is completed and has all the sweet sugars it needs, the chlorophyll is phased out, leaving the yellow carotinoid pigments visible, thus causing the peel to be yellow.

GARDEN GALA - OCTOBER 4

The OHS is planning on selling plants at the OKC Zoo's annual Garden Gala event again this year. If you could donate plants to this fundraiser, please call Wanda White at (405) 771-3665.

PLANT SWAP

Not many have shown interest in the plant swap idea as requested last newsletter, so we have not set a date. Please call Sharon 392-4727 or e-mail @ gardener@pldi.net if you are interested. Unless we have more response, we will hold up on having this. One concern has been what kind of plant to bring so the plant requirement has been revised - bring whatever you think is a nice plant, whether it is a houseplant or outside plant. We can get picky about plants after we see how this goes the first time. But if you don't call to say you are interested, then we won't plan it.

VOLUNTEERS' PARTY

For the third year in a row, Hugh and Jennifer Stout welcomed the volunteers to their lovely garden for the Volunteer Pot Luck Dinner. Although the weather was a bit warm, it was an great evening with plenty of good food and visiting. We enjoyed seeing the new major garden additions to the Stout's acreage.

We all appreciate their generous hospitality - a GREAT BIG thank you Hugh and Jennifer.

Crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)

The crapemyrtle is a small Asian tree that has become popular worldwide because of its great beauty and hardiness. The deciduous tree grows from eighteen inches to forty feet in height. Trees may grow in upright or spreading forms, depending on variety. Leaf size similarly varies. Some varieties are noted for their bark, which may flake off (or exfoliate) to reveal fresh pinkish bark beneath. But the crapemyrtle is best known for its flowers. They may last from 60-120 days, making the crapemyrtle the longest blooming tree. The summer-borne blooms appear as showy clusters of white, pink, lavender, or purple-red. The crinkly flowers have been compared to crepe paper. (But remember: It's called a crapemyrtle, not *crepe* myrtle!) Color is also added by the bronze-colored leaves, which turn yellow, orange, or red, before falling late in autumn. Small wonder the crapemyrtle has become such a popular ornamental! Crapemyrtles became more popular once smaller varieties that grow only five to seven feet tall became available. They have long been planted along highways in the South. The crapemyrtle was adopted as Texas' official state shrub in 1997.

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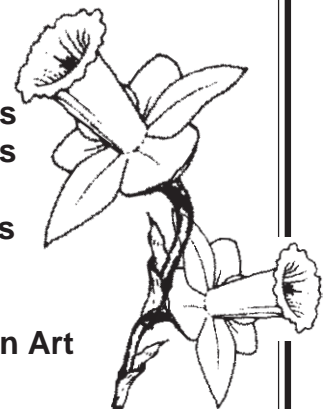
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BY-LAWS REVISIONS TO BE VOTED ON BY MEMBERS

The members will vote on the following bylaw changes during the business meeting September 21 at the bi-annual meeting in Stillwater. Please take a moment to review the changes and come to the meeting and voice your opinion.

ARTICLE IV Section II.

Current by-law:

General membership in this organization shall consist of persons of good character and community standing who are professional horticulturists, amateur horticulturists, or are interested as a hobby or otherwise; Family membership in the society shall consist of family groups of more than two individuals who also fulfill the criteria for General membership listed above; Life membership in this organization shall consist of any person eligible as a General member in this organization; Honorary membership shall consist of any person who has performed distinguished service in the field of horticulture and is elected to such a position by the board of directors.

Revised by-law:

General membership in this organization shall consist of persons of good character and community standing who are professional horticulturists, amateur horticulturists, or are interested as a hobby or otherwise; Life membership in this organization shall consist of any person eligible as a General member in this organization; Honorary membership shall consist of any person who has performed distinguished service in the field of horticulture and is elected to such a position by the board of directors.

The above underlined statement has been removed in the revised by-law.

ARTICLE IV Section IV.

Current by-law:

Until further changed by this corporation the following dues structure shall be implemented:

General membership including American Horticultural Society dues - 35.00 annually;

Family membership including American Horticultural Society dues - \$50.00 annually;

Life Membership - \$300.00 one time payment to the Oklahoma Horticultural Society, with an additional \$20.00 per year for the American Horticultural Society dues including American Horticultural Society; Honorary membership bestowed at the direction of the Oklahoma Horticultural Society board (without fee) for the year in which it is given.

Revised by-law:

Until further changed by this corporation the following dues structure shall be implemented:

General membership including American Horticultural Society dues - 35.00 annually;

Family membership including American Horticultural Society dues - \$50.00 annually;

Life Membership - \$300.00 one time payment to the Oklahoma Horticultural Society

Endowment Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation (tax deductible donation), with an additional \$20.00 per year for the American Horticultural Society dues including American Horticultural Society;

Honorary membership bestowed at the direction of the Oklahoma Horticultural Society board (without fee) for the year in which it is given.

The above underlined statement has been added in the revised by-law.

What About Me?

By Brent Satterlee

Variegated Lantana Viburnum (*Viburnum lantana* 'Variegata')

Although there are several varieties of viburnum, this is my favorite. The leaves are each a mix of shades of green and gold that brighten with full morning sun. Fire engine red berries in late summer make this viburnum burst with interest. Slowly reaching a size of 8' x 8', this shrub is just what your landscape has been waiting for.

Plum Yew (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia*)

A much bolder texture than other yews, the Plum yew is a must have for shade

gardens. The spreading plum yew (*Cephalotaxus harr.* 'Prostrata') is a low spreader that reaches a size of 2' tall and 4-5' wide. The upright plum yew (*Cephalotaxus harr.* 'Fastigiata') is strictly upright reaching 10' tall and 3' wide, but can spread out some in deep shade. Use these unusual shrubs in your garden where something special is required to catch your eye.

Henry's Garnet Sweetspire (*Itea virginica* 'Henry's Garnet')

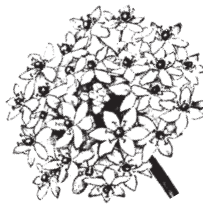
The name sweetspire is derived from this shrub's blooms in May. They are sweetly fragrant blooms that splash off this light green shrub. Fall color of garnet red will sometimes hold on through the winter. Henry's garnet reaches a size of 5' x 5', but for smaller spots you could try Little Henry (*Itea virginica* 'Sprich' pp. #10988), a smaller growing version reaching 3' x 3'. Sweetspire is an extremely tough plant for afternoon shade adapting to a wide range of soils.

OHS TREASURER'S REPORT June 13, 2003

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THANKS TO THE TOUR VOLUNTEERS

Although I fretted that we wouldn't have enough volunteers for the tour because of the Festival in the Park taking place on tour day, we did round up enough people. What saved us were the friends and relatives that some volunteers recruited. I apologize to the few people who signed up, but didn't get called. Once I filled the schedule, I quit calling. It was good to get some members signed up who had never worked the garden tour before. We hope everyone signs up for the various activities next year.

Carol Blackwood	Micki Morgan	Hugh Stout
Olen Thomas	Kelly Brewer	Jennifer Stout
Teresa Thomas	Pauletta Banowetz	Teresa Hoehner
Diane Van Landingham	Pat Killian	Lou Jenkins
Ora Hare	Wanda Faller	Vicky Michalik
Jerelyn Jacks	Scott Brinkert	Vanessa Michalik
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Frank Arney	Norma Taggart	Rhoda Myers
Wanda White	Judith Hill	Marge Long
Janis Johnson	Jane Holcombe	Kaylon Hand
Jack Hollingsworth	Sandra Krug	Kamala Gamble
Beverly Hollingsworth	Barbarba Kirby	Mad Baldwin
Ginny Greenburg	Jim Kirby	Keith Pierce
Donna Dugger	Chop Sparks	Von DehKoda
Pat Lee	Sylvia Nelson	Valerie Sonderegger
Ann Baer	Eleanor Fleming	Kathleen Ryan
John Fluitt	Joanne Hendrick	John Fluitt
Beverly Hollingsworth	James Prock	George Vaclavek
Ginny Greenburg	Patricia Steffens	Bob McLemore
Brent Satterlee	John Steffens	Dorothy McLemore
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Wanda Manderscheid	Marge Long	Warren Filley
Leslie Tippet	Barbara Breithaupt	Karen Filley
Marianna Anderson	Jay Breithaupt	Sharon Beasley
Beth Wagoner	Jerry Logan	Jeanie Spence
Mary Ann Lees	Jo Logan	JoAnne Vervinck

“The farmer should remember that every tree, shrub, and flower he cultivates constitutes a new link of attachment to bind him to his home, and render that home more delightful. They multiply our means of enjoyment, they make additions to our stock of knowledge, they invite us to a more intimate communion with nature, and they prevent the concentration of the mind on wealth, and the narrow selfishness that is too often its attendant.”

Cultivator, vol 9, “The Garden”, 1842

THE GINKGO TREE

The Maidenhair tree, Ginkgo biloba, is an unique tree with an interesting history and is of great ornamental value in the garden. It's fan shaped leaves are unlike any other tree and provide instant identification even for the most casual of observers. Ginkgo is the Japanese name for the tree or for its nuts it yields.

According to Buddhist religion, the Maidenhair Tree is sacred. The Ginkgo is native to Japan and China and has been cultivated there for centuries, especially on the Temple grounds. Because of its role in Buddhist religion and its value as an ornamental, Ginkgo may have been saved from extinction, for it now occurs in the truly wild state only on the borders of two providences in Eastern China.

Ginkgo is often referred to as a living fossil. The genus Ginkgo dates back 300 million years to the Mesozoic era, making it one of the oldest tree groups known to man. Ginkgo remains relatively unchanged during all this time and its seed producing mechanism is primitive, very much like that of conifers.

During the Mesozoic era, the order "Ginkgoales" had many, many species.

The order flourished everywhere and had a world wide distribution. Toward the end of this period, Ginkgo declined and continued to decline until today only one species, Ginkgo biloba, remains.

As an ornamental, Ginkgo is unrivaled in fall color, turning from a medium green to a brilliant shade of creamy yellow. Its foliage is fan-shaped or wedge-shaped and is often referred to as fern-like. The tree tends to form two or three central leaders. It is a slow grower but has the potential of becoming massive in size. They grow well in all temperate regions, like Oklahoma, but not in the colder northern regions.

Ginkgo does well in all soil types but does best in one that is fertile. They do best in the full sun. They are drought tolerant, disease resistant and insect free. They are also resistant to air pollution damage and are therefore good for city planting and industrial areas. There are two varieties available, the "Fastigata", which is columnar in form and "Pendula" which is a weeping form.

*source: Horticulture Horizons;
Spring 1982*

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2003 GARDEN FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

The 2003 Garden Festival in the Park was a great success. Over \$820.00 was raised with the sale of donated plants. If it had not been for the work of the many volunteers listed below, this fundraiser would not have been possible. The Oklahoma Horticultural Society was one of a number of plant related groups participating in the day long event on June 7, 2003. Everyone enjoyed working and we certainly had a wonderful time. Thanks again for everybody who donated their time and / or plants.

Sincerely, Shirley Kennedy, Chairman
Garden Festival in the Park

VOLUNTEERS

Sharon Beasley
Scott and Cathy Connel
Shirley McFarland
Nancy Fernandes
Warren Filley
Marjorie and Dick Moesel
Jeanie Spence
Hugh and Jennifer Stout
Linda and Charles Shackelford
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Steve and Sherry Bieberich
Joel and Cathey Bartledej
Johnnie Keupker
Jessica Kennedy
Juhree Bassett
Jean Hart
JoAnne Vervinck

GARDEN FESTIVAL BOOTH SET UP

The OHS currently is looking for people interested in working on the "design and build" team for the 2004 Garden Festival booth. The Festival is scheduled for January 29 -February 1, 2004 and will be held at the Cox Communication Center.

Interested members should contact
Jennifer Stout at 843-7130



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OKLAHOMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2003 EVENTS

- >**September 21** - OHS Bi-Annual Meeting & Program; Oklahoma Gardening Garden Barn in Stillwater; 1:00 pm
 - >**October 4** - Garden Gala; A one-day horticultural extravaganza; Oklahoma City Zoo
 - >**Jan. 29-Feb 1, 2004** - Oklahoma Garden Festival; Cox Communication Center, Oklahoma City
- For questions, call Vicky at (405) 330-9150.

OHS DRAWS WINNERS AT THE GARDEN TOUR

This year during the Garden Tour for Connoisseurs, the OHS had a drawing for two gift certificates at a local nursery. The two lucky winners were Donald Drew of Choctaw, and Dusty Pool of Oklahoma City. Donald chose to use his gift certificate at TLC and Dusty cashed hers in at Marcum's Nursery. We congratulate the winners and thank the nurseries for participating.



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Society**

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OKLAHOMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY presents

Bi-Annual Meeting - September 21
Crapemyrtles are the subject!



*Get your walking shoes ready, because
we have been invited to visit the farm of
Dr. Carl Whitcomb.*

Bi-annual Meeting Schedule

- >Sunday, September 21
- >The "barn" at the Oklahoma Gardening
TV show gardens in Stillwater
- >1:00 pm OHS Board Meeting
- >2:30 pm Short Business Meeting
- >Auction Fundraiser
- >Drive to Dr. Whitcomb's Farm

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