



The GRAPEVINE

February 2020

Vol. 16 #1

Presidents message

Presidents Message—by Dorothy Williams

Oxford Garden Club's Master Gardeners

In the National Gardener (Winter 2020), an article published about the benefits of planting native trees, gave stats published in "Science Magazine" concluded, "there is enough space globally to plant more than a trillion trees without interfering with existing farmland or cities...an area of trees about the size of the United States... which could scrub 205 billion metric tons of carbon from the atmosphere out of roughly 300 billion metric tons of carbon from the atmosphere of man-made carbon pollution produced over the past 25 years."

Amaryllis

Holiday party

Contacting Oxford Garden Club member, Marilyn Reedy (Master Gardener and Naturalist) about the best trees to plant in our area, she sent me a chart of woody plants ranked by ability to support species (which is in your president's box). This led me to contact Reenie Rice, another Master Gardener and Naturalist to learn about pollinators and the Baywise efforts.

Rosemary article

Rennie stated, "Baywise is one of the Master Gardeners programs. A point system "yardstick" for various Bay friendly activities that homeowners can do (install rain gardens where appropriate; don't use fertilizers or pesticides, etc.). If a homeowner achieves 36 points, we certify their yard as 'Baywise' and give them a sign if they'd like one."

Rosemary recipe

All of the OGC Master Gardeners are active in this program; they all have gone on several consultations in the past year. Not every consultation results in a certification, but homeowners get a chance to ask questions and receive good answers. Evaluations provide the homeowner with what they need to do to become Baywise certified.

Wreaths Across America

OGC Master Gardeners have played an enormous role in the clean up of invasive plants at the Bay Street Ponds which led to Easton Utilities determination to clean up their invasive laden properties.

Philadelphia F.S.

Master Gardeners have "partnered" with the Talbot County libraries to store a large and wide variety of seeds of native species plants that have been harvested to stock the seed libraries in the Talbot County Libraries in Easton and St. Michaels. Programs have been given at area Garden Clubs and articles written in the Star Democrat, all by Master Gardeners.

Adkins Arboretum Garden Tour

As President of the Oxford Garden Club, I claim bragging rights for our stellar Master Gardeners and Naturalists members. They are more than a resource, they are an ecological "mother lode" of effectiveness.

OGC Baywise Certified Gardens (some members have recently moved and their new garden is a work in Baywise progress).

Sue Betz
Ingrid Blanton
Marie Davis
Susan Fitzgerald
Pat Jessup
Peggy Lott

June Middleton
Chris Myles-Tochko
Phyllis Rambo
Marilyn Reedy
Trish Reynolds
Reenie Rice

Amaryllis –Not Just for Christmas Anymore!.....Trish Reynolds

November often signals the end of our gardening year....the late summer asters and mums are finished, the leaves are off the trees, the winds are cool, almost cold....time to put our thoughts to how do I get through the gray winter months?....

One of my favorites, but often unpredictable flowers, is the Amaryllis. I have put last year's aside with the hope that I can bring them back for another yuletide, or maybe a late winter visit, and of course, I have purchased, dare I say, a few. The beautiful colors and magnificent flowers will lend themselves to brightening up any room as the days grow darker, the snow falls and we can't wait for Spring to be here!

Here are a few tips for success in growing Amaryllis (source – *The Gardener's Workshop*, Lisa Ziegler and my experience):

- Choose a decorative container that is just a bit larger than your bulb, as Amaryllis, I have found, like to be somewhat root bound.
- Speaking of roots – spread the roots apart a bit, and if using an older bulb clean off the dirt from the previous year, then soak the roots in “lukewarm water for a couple of hours” to encourage the roots to grow once they are in your container.
- One of the nice things about an Amaryllis is that they can be grown in a soil mix or in pebbles and water....I have tried both methods and like them equally.

If you are using the soil planting method, be sure your container has a hole in the bottom as bulbs in general do not like wet feet.

Next, fill your container with soil mix to about an inch or two (depending on the size of the container) from the rim....

Place your bulb on top of the mix, adding some more soil mix to cover about ½ of the bulb.

Add water but no so much that your bulb starts to “float” in the soil.

I generally allow the soil to dry between watering until I start to see growth appear....then increase the watering.

Place your container in a cool bright spot, rotating as the bulbs starts to grow.

Stages of Growth for an Amaryllis flower



Amaryllis (cont'd.)



One of the problems we have with growing Amaryllis is their vigorous growth often resulting in the stem and flower to “tilt” or actually come out of the pot and fall over. To avoid that we need to support the stem and resulting flowers.

○ Lisa Ziegler recommends providing “support for your bulb before you need it”.

“Using 3-4 twigs from your yard, diameter the size of your little finger, about 18” tall, create a natural looking support for your bulb to grow through.” Lisa pushes the twigs into the soil around the bulb to lend support as it grows, or she creates a tri-pod or a teepee around the stem of the bulb as it grows to its full height.

○ Once your flowers have finished blooming cut off the stem and the flower heads, letting the leaves continue to grow....continue watering.

○ When the weather is warm, say May or June, move your container to a sheltered space where it will spend the summer.

As the weather starts to change in the fall, trim off the leaves, let the bulb dry out a bit, and start all over again!

One of the unpredictable things about your Amaryllis is finding a bloom in the heat of the summer.....the beautiful bloom of this Amaryllis was the result of pure neglect and nature intervening with a summer surprise.....an Amaryllis blooming in July!



Amaryllis Poem – by Connie Wanek (from the internet)

A flower needs to be this size
to conceal the winter window,
and this color, the red
of a Fiat with the top down,
to impress us, dull as we've grown.

Months ago the gigantic onion of a bulb
half above the soil
stuck out its green tongue
and slowly, day by day,
the flower itself entered our world,

closed, like hands that captured a moth,
then open, as eyes open,
and the amaryllis, seeing us,
was somehow undiscouraged.
It stands before us now

as we eat our soup;
you pour a little of your drinking water
into its saucer, and a few crumbs
of fragrant earth fall
onto the tabletop.

OGC Holiday Party hosted by member Trish Reynolds

The annual holiday party is a time for members and guests to relax, enjoy, eat good food, and have a chance to chat with one another. The culinary committee did a wonderful job of preparing the appetizers and main menu. Of course dessert is always a big hit!!!

Everyone enjoyed the gift exchanged with some folks needing to give their choice of gift up more than once. This is all done with good humor and there is a gift for everyone.

The Christmas tree was a beautiful centerpiece for our celebration



Our hostess Trish was happy with her gift and hoped not to have it taken away



Kay Ruark liked her gift of socks so much she wore right away. Actually, Kay hoped no one would ask her to exchange them, especially since she wore them!

OGC President, Dorothy Williams is not quite sure what she is opening!!



The holiday party is always a lot of fun and gets folks in the spirit of the holiday season. If you have not hosted the party yet, please consider making that part of your holiday season for 2020 or for a future year. There is lots of help with preparations for the event. Call Dorothy 202 403-7104 if you would like to host this fun event in the future.



Rosemary is not a separate species of plant after all—it is a sage. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has ruled as they tell gardeners to change their plant labels.

The RHS is to adopt a change in the scientific name for rosemary after research has shown that it is in fact a salvia, or sage. In technical terms it will now be known as *Salvia Rosmarinus*, rather than *Rosmarinus officinalis*, but its common name, rosemary, remains unchanged. This is a significant change as the plant has been known as *Rosmarinum officinalis* since 1753. when the international system of naming plants began and salvia and rosemary were deemed to be two different genera.

Although they have always been thought to be similar, a difference in the stamens of the plants was held to be enough to view them as separate plant types. However, this difference has now been found to be not significant enough to rule them as distinct. The RHS will now be changing all its plant labels in its gardens and shops, though they have acknowledged some gardeners may think they are “meddling for meddling’s sake”.

A spokesperson explained: “When plant name changes happen there is sometimes some confusion or resistance by gardeners, Simply owing to something having been known as something for so long”.

The change will appear in the net edition of the RHS Plant Finder—The definitive guide to cultivated garden plants available to buy in the U.K.—and precedes publication of the charity’s rosemary plant trial which recommends those plants that perform best in U.K. gardens.

John David, Head of Horticultural Taxonomy at the RHS said: “Not everyone will approve of this change in the scientific name of a much loved garden plant, but it is important that our naming system reflects the latest science, otherwise it stands to lose its Meaning. Rosemary is one of the most popular garden plants in the U.K. and gardeners may be surprised and interested to know that it is so closely related to the culinary sage (*Salvia officinalis*) that it is now put in the same genus, having been considered a different genus (*Rosemarinus*) for over 200 years. Understanding plant interations and therefore their uses, which is reflected in the scientific name they carry, could inspire more people to grow for people and plant. We’re certainly not meddling for meddling’s sake by adopting this name change, but reflecting the latest research that could help us in conserving our gardens for the future”.

Rosemary Cookies—from the Chesapeake Bay Herb Society Cookbook “Herbal Potluck” 2004

Ingredients: 1 cup unsalted butter
1 cup canola oil
1 cup sugar
1 cup powdered sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cream of tartar
4 cups all purpose flour
3 tbls. chopped rosemary

Oven 375 degrees

Method: Combine all ingredients, except rosemary in mixing bowl, mix thoroughly. More flour may be needed if dough appears sticky, add one tablespoon at a time. Add rosemary and gently mix into batter. Form into 1/2 inch balls and place on non-stick baking sheets 1 inch apart. Flatten with the bottom of a glass dipped in sugar. Place in oven and check after 6 minutes. Turn baking sheets and bake 2-3 more minutes until cookies are pale golden brown and firm to the touch. Baking times vary with how large you form cookies and individuals oven. Makes six to eight dozen cookies.

Wreaths Across America—by Marie Davis

Saturday, December 14th, 2019 was a cold, rainy, and damp day. However, hundreds of people including the general public, garden club members, and members of all military branches arrived at Hurlock Veteran's Cemetery to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedom of America and other countries around the world. There are now over six thousand graves at the Cemetery and for the first time in my memory there were enough wreaths to place one on each grave. All participants were encouraged to say a prayer over each grave where they laid a wreath. It was amazing to see so many families together participating in this emotional ceremony. Despite the weather conditions, the wreaths were all in place within half an hour.

The Purdue Company provided trucks and drivers to bring the wreaths from Maine for the trip to Hurlock. All truck drivers are veterans themselves. A photograph of the Cemetery at sunset was presented to each of the drivers to recognize their part in this event.

This was the scene at the entrance to the Cemetery



FGCMD, Inc. District I Director Doris Key welcomes participants while Lynn Riley and Bozy Markiewicz look on



Two of the veteran drivers holding photo gift.



The scene after the wreath laying was complete.

The Philadelphia Flower Show– February 29-March 8, 2020 excerpted from PHS brochure

The Flower Show Theme for this year is Riviera Holiday. “No other region of the world evokes such powerful and seductive images of paradise. Jaw-dropping coastlines, mountainous green island, and never-ending blooms await in the everlasting sunshine of the Riviera. Inspired by the world’s exotic Mediterranean gardens, the 2020 Philadelphia Flower Show invites you to embrace your inner romantic and explore the allure and extraordinary plant palette of some of the world’s most captivating coastal regions.”

According to the brochure, one of the features is “A Royal Legacy” which will highlight Her Royal Highness Princess Grace Kelly’s treasured connection to Philadelphia and the Flower Show will feature hundreds of roses named after the royal family.

Some of the signature attractions include early morning tours where docents guide you through the gardens providing insights on the displays. Tours are offered Monday through Friday and ticket price includes all day admission. DIY activities where visitors chat with gardening experts to get the best ideas for their home garden. There is also a Make & Take. The marketplace has shops with handcrafted and on-of-a-kind items and more than 160 micro-shops selling live plants, cut flowers, and much more. Fine wine and good spirits can be sampled. Ticket price adult \$32.00; children 5-17 \$15.00.



The Arboretum is celebrating “Natives Garden Tour” Saturday May 30, 2020, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The spring garden tour will take you on a tour of several gardens from the Easton area toward the Wye River. Quiet sanctuaries on the water, herb gardens, and havens for birds and pollinators; these unique native gardens are sure to inspire! Cost is \$30.00 in advance and \$35.00 day of the event. Visit adkinsarboretum.org or call 410 634-2847 ext. 0 for tickets.



Daffodils and snowdrops are blooming in my garden; keep smiling knowing spring is just around the corner!!

The Grapevine is published February, June, and October and produced by Marie Davis, edited by Dorothy Williams
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