

VOLUME III ISSUE I

The Express



Winter 2006

Our Mission

The mission of the Olympus Garden Club is to promote and support the love of gardening, floral arranging, landscape design, horticulture, plant research and environmental improvement by providing education, resources, networking and leadership opportunities to our members and the community.

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Garden Catalogs and Literacy

No matter what chore I did when my daughter was smaller, my every action seemed to fire her curiosity. "Mommy, what are you doing? Can I do it? Can I help?" She often crawled into my lap or grabbed a hold of my legs, to get my attention. used the opportunities to teach her to read.

Late fall into early spring is a time when gardeners thumb through the pages of gardening catalogs that seem to exist just to tempt the cash out of our Many catalogs wallets. are very informative with

So! What's New & Exciting?

We attended a beekeeping workshop last fall and got a brief lesson on the structure and life in the society of bees, on beehive construction, and the safety precautions necessary in the steps before during and after approaching the hive to remove honey. Robert Florin, our president and workshop participant, got the opportunity to don the protective garb required for working with bees and was able to get really up close and personal with the hive after they waited until dusk and used the smoker to pacify them. It was fascinating!

clear descriptions, beautiful pictures, and garden tips.

Garden catalogs can serve as a fun way to teach or to learn for the beginning reader. Consider that the pictures are usually pretty, bright, and eye-catching. The child/ren can sit beside you, (while you ponder on how to spend your money) and help you decide what and where in the garden to plant. While you're at it, you can help improve their literacy skills.

For a pre-reader, ask them if they see any letters or words that they know. No matter what they say, answer, "Of course you do.

How many times as gardeners, we announce in disgust that some much-favored vegetable did not do well?

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One of the many swers to that auestion bees, cause. are the num-

ber one economic insect and pollinator in the world. They are absolutely necessary to our existence and we need to create and maintain an environment that will make them feel at home. The reward is that they reduce our workload

by pollinating our plants, resulting, in an abundant harvest.

I know many gardeners who would do a streak if a bee came close to them and they have good reason. A bee sting, especially if you are allergic, is no picnic on the beach. However, I have learned a few things, one of them is not to wear bright colored clothing while gardening. This allows me to peacefully share their space. So! Bees and beekeeping, that is what is new and exciting.

S. Stephens

What is this letter/word?" Pointing out the letters of the alphabet as you spell out the words, in or under the pictures, can be a fun way to show them that they know some things that the big people know.

As the child names the letters or sounds, you, the adult can read the entire word and slowly pronounce the letter exactly as it sounds in the word. can say combined letters as in phonics, the same way. If they recognize a rose, say as you point to each letter, "Yes. R-o-s-e. Rose. You got it!!"

For example, Rrr-oh-ssseeh - rose; or sss-nnn-aaappp-ddd-rr- aa-gg-o uh-nnn = snapdragon or sn-ap-drag-on.

For a beginning reader, finding the small words contained in larger words can be exciting. Saying the phonetic sounds or combination of sounds, while pointing out the words and letters, is helpful in getting across the concept of phonics and sounding out words.

You can make the lesson into a game when you ask the child to use the pointing finger to point out the little words found in a larger word. Watch the pride in

(Cont'd on page 4)

President's Message

The rather long and dry summer gave way to a pleasant but all-tooshort autumn, followed by a premature blast of winter. Just a few weeks ago it seemed as if the growing season would never end. Changing foliage and a gradual decline in temperature was the only reminder that things were progressing as usual. As much as we would wish to control this cycle and let it go on without interruption, we were made clearly aware of inevitable changethe seasonal cycle.

A gardener dreams and plans for the gardening season to come. In winter we pour through catalogues, perhaps fantasizing about a new world, a microcosm of green over which we are

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the sole purveyors. In this world we are in complete control, or so we believe. In our little world of borders, raised beds and tree pits all would be perfect and serene, nicely controlled for the benefit of all.

The reality of gardening forces us to realize that there are many variables that must be dealt with. Weather and weeds, squirrels, insects, disease, and many more unforeseen events and processes will affect our vision, changing or even ruining it. In gardening, as in the rest of life, we have the power to replace the old with the new, the unwanted with something more desirous, however, other natural forces have the power to replace it all.

In our own lives we are constantly reminded of the changes over which there is no control. We, each of us, as living beings, make our very brief appearance. As humans, at least, we can marvel at this creation, awaiting the new season and the first signs of spring.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HAPPY GAR-**DENING TO ALL!**

Robert Florin, President



We received two Club Recognition awards at the District II, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State fall meeting and luncheon for the work we did in 2005. **NEWS**

We are members of the local, state, and national federation of garden clubs. These awards were from our district and the New York State federation.

Olympus' Harry Potter Word Scramble

Albus Beater Broom C C S Dursley R Ghost Goblin G 0 S S М R Golden snitch G 0 Q G S Ζ Hagrid S S Harry potter Hermione M G Hogwarts D Н Н Ε R 0 Ζ D 0 M Malfoy D X D D Ζ 0 Muggle Neville В D R R D Ν X D Owl D В В U X Potion 0 R T X D Ε M Н Н G Quidditch D Ε X Κ S G Q Q Ζ Ζ Ron Seeker Ζ J Q Slytherin G U M Κ X Ε L Ν 0 0 G Snape S S Q М R Т Υ S J Troll Voldemort G J G Q Wand R G Q Q G R. Murray

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Whether the thread is protecting our forests, our water supply or acknowledging the role plants play in our health and wellbeing, it continues to be woven through out the fantasy novels that we have become fans of in recent years.

In the here and now, this thread reminds us that we need to maintain our focus on preservation, waste reduction, food security, hunger, pollution and all the other issues that affect our lives on a daily basis.

As you continue to enjoy the many privileges available have to us, please remember this thread. Keep it unbroken.

S. Stephens

Click Our Newsletter link http://www. olympusgardenclub.org for the answer to the scramble.

Olympus Garden Club Word Scramble

Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

S Q Q Т D G Н Q S Alerts T Υ U L T Α T J Blanket J **Boots** G C V В V Y Q M М Down coat S G ٧ D W S Q M Gloves U N S Ν 0 W S Н 0 Ice Ζ G Н L В L Н F Q Shiver U В Ε W W L Α N K Ski Q 0 D W Sled L Т Ν Q Q Snowshoe T 0 C D L Α N W 0 Wind chill Т Т Z Κ Α U X X R Wool hat S U S J Т J D L Н Ε D L В S ٧ 0 L R. Murray S 0 Ν W L U F Т Q see pg. 4 S 0 Q 0 Ε Ρ В K Κ C C W Ν D н L ı Т R R Κ М Ν M Α Α M R ٧ P S Н I Ε R R P Υ W X Q V J C L F W Χ Ε Q Κ Υ ı В Ν В Κ C C

Warm Winter Drink

1/2 gallon apple juice or cider

½ gallon water 6 tea bags 4 large apples I tbsp ginger I tbsb cloves I tbsp cinnamon I tsp nutmeg large strainer

Optional: ¼ cup of rum, cinnamon sticks,

brown sugar

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Bring water to boil. Turn off heat. Add tea bags, draw to full strength, then remove. Place tea back on burner, add ginger, cloves, nutmeg, powdered cinnamon, and apple juice. Bring to boil and cut heat.

Peel and cut apples into slices, add to bot and simmer for ½ hour. Add rum.

Place cinnamon stick in cup, add tea.

Serve. Sweeten with brown sugar to taste.

Ilithuba Ukachuma



brush the

snow and

ice off

Tip Time



Wrap newly planted or tender plants in burlap to protect them from harsh winter winds.

Freezing and thawing causes clay containers to crack. If you did not remember to bring them in and they are not yet broken, do so now.

I hope that you remembered to turn off all your outdoor faucets to prevent them from freezing.

Winter is the recommended time of year for feeding the

birds. I hope you left some seed heads and a source of water in the garden for them.

If your indoor plants die over the winter and you are sure that the cause was not pest or disease related, add them to the compost pile.

Is that compost pile too far from the house during the winter? How about placing a smaller bin closer to the house so that you can continue to compost shake. during the cold months.

Now that most of the branches are bare, it is the perfect time to take a good look at your trees and shrubs to see what needs pruning. Take the time now to remove branches that are rub-

> bing or crossing and to shape if necessary.

> If you want to keep your poinsettia as a house plant now that the holidays are past, do not leave them near the ra-

diator, they like cool rooms. Remember to do the finger test before watering, and keep it over a pebble tray filled with water to maintain humidity.

Snow, ice, and strong winter winds will break branches or leave you with misshapen trees and shrubs, especially the evergreens. If you did not tie them up for protection, be sure to brush the snow and ice off as soon as you can after a storm. Remember, I said brush not

Shaking could break the branches.

If you are going to be somewhere that you can burn wood this winter. Save the ashes for the garden. Natural wood ash is a source of potash but it is best when added to soils that are too acidic because it raises the pH of your soil. Do not use wood ash if your pH is close to neutral.

A great way to get rid of outdoor insects that come in to share your warmth for the winter is to vacuum them up and discard.

Winter is a good time to review insect and disease damage so that you can be better prepared for the coming season. It is the best time to do the research that will help you find the least toxic methods for controlling those pesky critters next season.

Seeds of beets, onion seed, kohl rabi, turnips, summer squash, peas, and radishes can be planted outdoors in March.

(Catalogs cont'd from page 1) their eyes when you say, Look, you're reading!"

Say, "Look at this word and see if you can find a word you know or if you see something you can read." For example:

Butterfly makes them chuckle. It sounds naughty. For example, butterfly = but or butt, butter, fly. Snapdragon gives you snap, a, nap, drag, rag, go,

Tomato has - to, tom, ma, instead mat, at, to.

Even eggplant gives up egg, plan, an, plant, ant.

Don't forget watermelon - when on, melon.

There are several catalogs from which to choose. Some of my favorite catalogs include the Cook's Catalog and Growing Na- from outdoor plants tive Plants (Australia)

Make it a good day.

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TAHLOOK RPPFB

C. L. Charles-King

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Word Scramble Answer

Over-Wintering Geraniums

Three Methods

Indoors in containers

frozen geraniums around ing (having taken them in-coarse them next season. cut them back to about drainage. half of their original size. Move them into containers using botting mix of garden soil. Place in a cool location with sunlight. Water well after potting and as needed soil begins weak growth. May, fertilize lightly.

Taking cuttings

These plants root easily stem tip with a sharp

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Pinch off leaves knife. from the lower half of the cutting and dip the cut ends into rooting hormone. (Rooting hormones are available at garden centers).

Place cuttings in a moist, If you still have some un- porous, well-drained rootmedium such sand or doors), you can still use lite. Make sure your pot First or container has holes for

> To maximize the ideal humid environment, place a clear plastic bag over the cuttings and container using some wire from coat direct hangers to keep the plastic from touching the cut-

water, at, ate, term, me, dry. Pinch back shoot tips Place covered cuttings in as needed to prevent bright indirect light. Check Before the container or pot to inbringing plants outside in sure that it remains evenly moist. Rooting should occur in 6 to 8 weeks. After roots are about one inch long, transplant into 3 to 4-inch containers with a from cuttings. Remove a 3 standard potting soil and to 4-inch section of the place in a sunny window Water as needed.

> Pinch shoot tips back to force branching and prevent spindly growth.

Dormant storage

in the dormant stage. To do this, remove plants from soil before frost and shake soil from roots. Place plants in open paper bags in a cool dark location. The ideal temperature should be 45-50°

Two or three times during winter take plants out of bags and soak roots in water for 1-2 hours. Inspect blants and discard shriveled stems.

Pot up healthy looking geraniums in containers in late March or early April. It takes several weeks for new growth to emerge.

R. Florin

Our Monthly **Meeting Schedule**

January 12, 2006 Time to Plan

February 9, 2006 Time to Plan: Continued

March 9, 2006

Propagation: Starting from Seed

April 13, 2006 Spring Gardening

Please check our website for last minute changes or cancellations.

> Federated Garden Club of NYS P.O. Box 531 Olympus Garden Club

Website: http://www.olympusgardenclub.org Contact us: info@olympusgardenclub.org

Plants may also be stored

Editor: S. Stephens Assistant Editors: A. Cushion & E. Villanueva