



# The Glenwild Gardener



Volume 4, Issue 2

Holiday 1999

## Winter Trees

“All the complicated details

of the attiring and the disattiring are completed!

A liquid moon moves gently among the long branches.

Thus having prepared their buds

against a sure winter

the wise trees

stand sleeping in the cold.”

**William Carlos Williams**

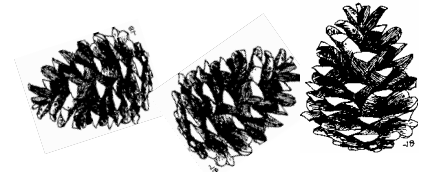
**A**s I sit down to write this, I think, it'll be a miracle if I ever get this thing to the printer. My son was born in early summer, and, well...

1999 was the year of a frightening drought and a huge hurricane. The combination was a disaster for even old, established trees. Losing a big Hinoki Cypress to the drought was my saddest loss, but not the only plant that bit the dust this summer. The year 2000 will be a year of replanting I'm sure. I hope the landscape crew is ready! It may be a good opportunity to do some new things in your yard. Take a look at the article on Feng Shui inside the newsletter and maybe get a new outlook on garden design for the next millennium.

Thank you again to all of you who have let us know you love to shop at our place. We've

been around for nearly 72 years—wow—what would my grandfather say? “Keep it up”, most likely. Things do change—the competition changes and the economy changes—but we'd like to be here another 72 years as well. 2071—even my son will probably be retired by then, and maybe my great-grandchildren will be running the place. What a thought...

*Jedid MacKenzie Brooks*



## Wreaths

Really, now, how many years in a row can we put up the same balsam wreaths on our front doors? Tradition is a wonderful thing, but how about this year livening things up a bit with a wreath that shows a little creativity?

The traditional wreath...well, the wreath has meant many different things in a myriad of cultures. The oldest remains of a wreath were found in Egyptian tombs. In modern times they have been associated

with Christian holiday celebrations but the Druids, Jews, Chinese, Arabians, Romans, and Greeks have all been known to use the wreath symbol for something over the last few thousand years.

These days, balsam is most common for the Christmas wreath and for good reason. It is fragrant and soft and long lasting. However, in all those other cultures, many differ-

*(Continued on page 3)*

Glenwild Gardener

ALL night, all day, in dizzy, downward flight,  
Fell the wild-whirling, vague, chaotic snow,  
Till every landmark of the earth below,  
Trees, moorlands, roads, and each familiar sight



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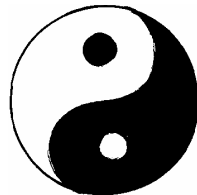
Were blotted out by the bewildering white  
Feng Shui has become quite popular in the western world recently. Pronounced Fung Shway, it is "...a philosophy, of Chinese Origin, which maintains that the configurations of the earth shape the affairs of the people that live among them." It is not a religion, but, to my western mind, a way of understanding my surroundings and manipulating them so that I can live in harmony with the earth, my home, and of course, my garden. It is interesting to note that the basic principles of Feng Shui which are based on Chinese symbolism, luck, and energy flow, correspond exactly to common sense and good design principles. By using the rules of this philosophy it becomes easier to see the problems in your yard and garden. It's a valuable tool for improving your property—and who knows, maybe your luck too.

There are two types of Feng Shui. The form school of Feng Shui, or landscape Feng Shui focuses on the characteristics of topography and interpreting the flow of the land. The compass school of Feng Shui is said to be easier because there is less dependence on interpretation. It deals with precise compass readings, measurements, and ancient Chinese charts which I will not go into here.

Form school Feng Shui is perfect for garden design because it concerns itself with the layout of a landscape, and then placing objects (i.e.: plantings, structures, and sculptures) to enhance positive energy flow and harmony, or beneficial "Chi." One must start with an analysis of the property and interpret the surrounding features like hills, water, open space, and light and shade. Also, man-made objects like roads, buildings, and electrical poles must be observed.

Having a good understanding of Yin and Yang make for understanding Feng Shui a lot easier.

Very basically, Yin and Yang represent balance. For instance, the contrast of summer and winter, light and dark, and the sun and moon. Translating this to the garden means trying to have a good balance of sun and shade, dry areas and wet areas, and even flat areas and hilly areas. So a yard completely devoid of a shade garden for instance, would have bad Feng Shui. Also, a garden with no water would have bad Feng Shui. Even having a bird bath can improve this imbalance. Make sure your bird



The ideal configuration is the "armchair configuration" which consists of you sitting in the lap of some rolling hills on three sides, with your front door facing out. This offers protection from "bad luck." When you see a house placed on a piece of land this way, it just feels right. And if the hills are actually too tall and steep, it would seem threatening and would not have good Feng Shui. If you are unfortunate to have a flat parcel of land, you could add small mounds to represent hills. Remember that whatever you do should look natural and be kept in balance.

The subject of Feng Shui encompasses much more than what can fit in this short article. I highly recommend the book, The Complete Illustrated Guide to Feng Shui for Gardens, by Lillian Too, for a thorough introduction to this fascinating and useful subject. I really do believe that by applying the principles you learn, your whole yard and garden will benefit. Get the book for the holidays this year and by spring you will have a new enthusiasm for gardening. Also, Woodstock Chimes now makes a Feng Shui chime that we carry at the garden center—an excel-

All finite things reveal infinitude:

The mountain with its singular bright shade  
Like the blue shine on freshly frozen snow,

The after-light upon ice-burdened pines;  
Odor of basswood upon a mountain slope,  
A scene beloved of bees;  
Silence of water above a sunken tree:

The pure serene of memory of one man,--  
A ripple w  
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Winding a  
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Plan on pruning any evergreens right after Thanksgiving or in early December if you'd like to use the greenery for holiday decorations.



One of the best new ideas for extending the life of your wreaths or any fresh greens in to spray them with Wilt-Pruf, a product that is called an anti-desiccant because it seals in moisture for broad leaved evergreens as well as evergreen needles.



To make matching garland for your wreath, take small bunches of your same greens and wrap them with wire. Then layer them "fish scale" style as you spiral wrap wire down the line of greens.



Don't let anything stop you when it comes to decorating! Old jewelry, tree ornaments, small toys for a child-oriented wreath, and of course ribbons and pine cones. If you need some ideas come to the garden center—we'll even make a bow for you out of our selection of ribbons.

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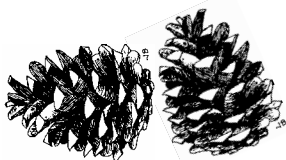
ent types of plant leaves, needles, blossoms and branches were used.

Balsam greens do make a nice base for a wreath, and the biggest benefit is that if you don't have the time or inclination to make one from scratch, you can buy plain circles of balsam anywhere. (Like Glenwild of course). Adding bunches of other greens though adds a richness that is hard to match with just a few cones and a bow. Here is a list of possible greenery and berries to add or make a wreath out of.

- Boxwood
- Holly
- White Pine
- Cypress
- Mountain Laurel
- Fragrant Cedar
- Berried Juniper
- Salal or Lemon Leaves
- Blue Spruce
- Rose Hips
- Pepper Berry

The possibilities are really endless. You'll learn which greens hold up best and which are good for only a few days. Holly is notorious for drying out and looking nasty after a week or so. Look in your yard for the best greens—its nice to use what you already have. However, adding stuff from the florist can make a wreath extremely elegant and interesting. Glenwild Gardens carries different greens around the holidays and we can always order something specific you're looking for.

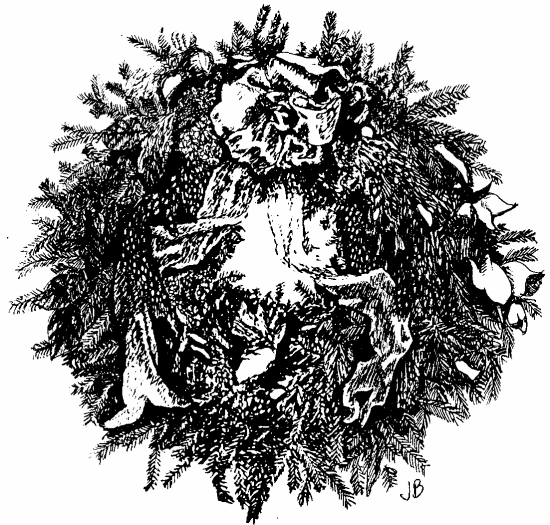
Anything that can be wired or glued to a wire frame can be used. Also, don't think you must use a circular shaped frame! Yes, it's traditional, but if you're making your own frame, try a square, or a star shape, or even a ball.



Some items you will need to make a wreath are:

- A wire form or a pre-greened form
- Spool/paddle wire
- Florist picks—square, green wood sticks usually with a piece of wire attached to one end.
- Floral tape
- Greens and decorations

We do carry all these items at the garden center. If you are starting with a balsam base, the best way to add other greens is to take small bunches of for instance, white pine and "pick" them. Use your wire and tape to wrap around and form a stiff "stem" to the bunch. Then push the bunch into the wreath at an angle going with the grain of the other greens. To get a natural effect, scatter bunches across the entire surface of the wreath.



If you are starting with just a wire form, you will need to tie one end of your spool of wire to the form and then wrap small bunches of greens in fanning layers to give a full look. Use a variety of greens for interesting texture and color. Any kind of berry that holds up will enhance the look of your wreath as well.

When hanging, try to keep your wreath out of the sun and it will last much longer.

-- Wallace Stevens

ALL night, all day, 1928 dizz  
 Fell the wild-whirling, bag  
 Till very late in the  
 Trees, no garden center  
 Were blotted out by the bewildering white.  
 104 Glenwild Avenue  
 Bloomingdale, NJ 07403  
 whimpering low,  
 I woe  
 That death must swallow life and darkness light.

All finite things reveal infinity:  
 The mountain with its singular bright shade  
 Like the blue shine on frozen snow,  
 The after-light upon ice-burdened pines;  
 Odor of basswood upon a mountain slope,  
 A scene beloved of bees;  
 Silence of water above a sunken tree:  
 The pure serene of memory of one man,--  
 A ripple widening from a single stone  
 Winding around the waters of the world.

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But all summer goes, down away,  
 The snow in a sigh;  
 Then lie noon on high  
 Leaped; pure as they,  
 Earth v Milky Way:  
 Herself and brown sky.

"Silly gardener!  
 summer goes,  
 And winter comes with  
 pinching toes,  
 When in the garden bare  
 and brown  
 You must lay your  
 barrow down."  
**From The Gardener**  
**Robert Louis Stevenson**

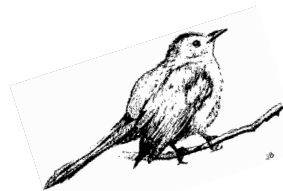


Mathilde

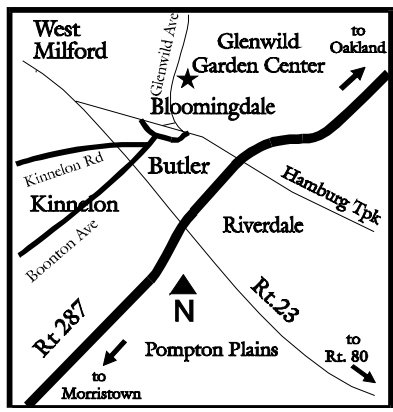
-- Theodore Roethke

Look inside for a coupon for a **FREE POINSETTIA** at our open house 11/20 & 21st

Now is the perfect time to start feeding the birds so they'll reward you with visits throughout the winter. Nothing is as beautiful as seeing the bright red male cardinal flit from dark green evergreen to sit on the edge of your feeder with the bright white snow behind him. Glenwild carries high quality mixed bird seed, black oil sunflower seed, and thistle for the little birds. We're right down the road and are open all winter.



"Feed the birds, tuppence a bag,  
 Tuppence, tuppence, tuppence a bag.  
 Feed the birds, that's what she cries,  
 While overhead, her birds fill the skies."  
**Mary Poppins**



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