



The Glenwild Gardener



Volume 5, Issue 1



Spring 2000



Butterflies, butterflies, butterflies! I've finally fallen in love with this very popular "bug" this season. During my buying for the garden center, I picked up quite a few butterfly garden accessories for you to add to your collections! The perennial plant of the year 2000, *Scabiosa columbaria*, is a big butterfly attractor, and we now have a list of specific butterfly plants to help you with your garden additions. They are mostly sun-loving plants with beautiful flowers in almost every color you can imagine. Also, be wary of picking off any caterpillars stuck to the stems of certain plants. Every year I get at least one big fat one stuck to my parsley. These are the larvae for the Black Swallowtail. I just pick around him. Anyone really interested in which butterflies

need which plants to hatch, go to a web site I found—www.MonarchWatch.org—there is a list of larval host plants for each specific butterfly as well as good nectar sources.

This is another good reason to use organic gardening practices in your yard—butterflies are vulnerable to all insecticides! Come to our organic gardening class on April 24th to learn more about this subject which is dear to my heart. It may not be in the media the way it used to, but it's as important (and easy!) as ever.

Check out the class schedule on page three. Hope to see you all soon...

Jed's MacKeen Brooks



Perennial of the Year 2000

The Perennial Plant Association has chosen *Scabiosa columbaria*, 'Butterfly Blue', known as Pincushion Flower, to be perennial of the year. This sturdy plant, originally from Ireland, has beautiful, pale blue lacy flowers on stems that hover about a foot high over mounding gray-green foliage. It will bloom for months if it is

dead-headed, and even if you ignore it (like I did last summer) it will give you a good few weeks of blooms. It likes full sun to light shade, and well-drained soil with a good amount of organic matter mixed in (Peat moss, compost, etc.). Though it requires moist soil during the growing season, it must be well-drained soil to survive our winters.

Scabiosa has no insect or disease problems, and loves the summer heat. The foliage looks good throughout the season, so plant it at the front of your beds. It looks great in containers too—especially nice with the annual white alyssum—and, of course, the butterflies love it!



The Example

Here's an example
from
A Butterfly;
That on a rough, hard
rock.
Happy can lie;
Friendless and all
alone
On this unsweetened
stone.
Now let my bed be
hard
No care take I;
I'll make my joy like
this
Small Butterfly;
Whose happy heart
has power
To make a stone a
flower.

W.H. Davies
1870-1940

Flowers are a proud
assertion
That a ray of beauty
outvalues
All the utilities of the
world

Ralph Waldo
Emerson
1803-1882



Herbs in Containers

I think there is probably no need to go over the many benefits that herbs have for gardeners, cooks, pharmaceutical companies, and everyone else too. There are articles everywhere doing just that. However, I would like to remind you, the gardener, that herbs are best appreciated when they are seen up close, touched, brushed by, snipped and used frequently. To have a formal herb garden out back would be a wonderful thing—to have a row of parsley out by the tomatoes is a necessary thing. But to be able to reach out the kitchen door and grab a small fistful of fresh leaves out of a pot right there and sprinkle them into your salad just before you serve it—well, what could be better? Also the little benefits, such as rubbing oregano between your fingers as you sit and brush the dog on the patio on a warm spring day, do more than you may think for your general happiness. The fresh aroma wafting to your nose is aromatherapy at its best.

For instance, Rosemary, which was awarded the title “**Herb of the Year**” for 2000 by the International Herb Association, has a beautiful fragrance when brushed by. A large, well-shaped rosemary plant makes a beautiful patio or deck plant, and also makes an easy topiary. Rosemary needs conditions that mimic it’s natural environment—around the Mediterranean Sea. Place it in well-drained, sandy soil in a terracotta pot in full sun. It can’t have moisture sitting around it’s roots, but

it does need humidity. Be sure to bring rosemary indoors for the winter.

Combining herbs in a pot requires consideration of the plant’s needs as well as presentation—group sun lovers together and plants that need moist soil together. The vertical stems of chives, for instance, balance a creeping thyme and a leafy parsley beautifully. Of course, what you use in the kitchen the most is important too.

Remember that certain plants grow quickly and need a larger pot to accommodate their roots. Sage and mint are two that need lots of space.

Herbs usually have very small flowers, and unless you grow varieties known for spectacular foliage, there are two good ways of keeping your herb container garden looking colorful. First, plant your herbs in pots glazed in rich hues. The high gloss finish on many of them add a bright focal point to any container garden. Of course, the other way to have more color is to plant your herbs among some colorful flowering annuals. Mix impatiens and parsley, or purple basil and garlic with white bacopa—and a purple creeping petunia cascading over the edge of a pot looks great surrounding a clump of silvery sage.

To make the whole composition look better, you might like to place your pots not in a row, but in groups of different size and style pots. Put the one in the back up on a pedestal or on an overturned pot to give it height. If in doubt, add more large pots!

Raspberry & Mint Granité

*2 cups water
2 cups sugar
1 cup loosely packed mint leaves
2 pints raspberries (4 cups)
1/4 cup lemon juice
zest of one lemon*

Bring water, sugar, & mint to a boil in a saucepan. Reduce heat, simmer for 5 minutes. Strain, cover, & chill. Press raspberries through strainer & discard seeds. Stir raspberry puree into chilled mint syrup with lemon juice & zest. Pour into stainless steel bowl, cover & put in freezer & stir every hour until firm. (5-6 hours) Scoop into bowls & serve with fresh mint sprigs. (Freeze in ice cream maker to make sorbet)

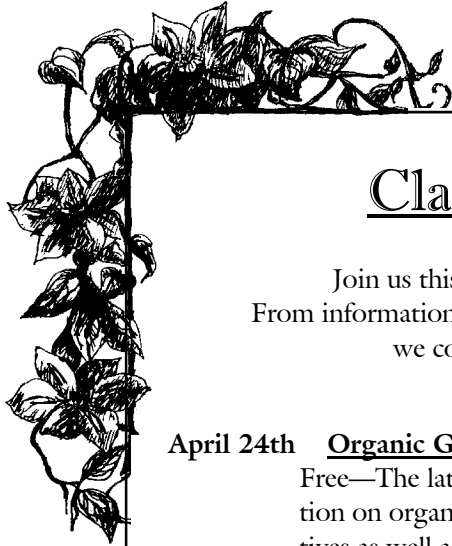
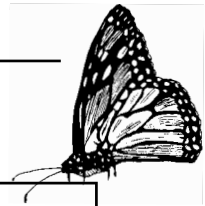


Replanting Our Forests

With the plight of our Hemlocks still hanging by a dead branch, think about slowly re-foresting our area with a different species of evergreen. Hemlocks are shade tolerant and do well in moist, acidic soil. What other trees are similar? Try the Norway Spruce or Douglas Fir. If you’d like a sun-loving evergreen, try the Blue Spruce or White Pine. We are giving away

free seedlings—Norway Spruce—at the garden center during our Open House weekend April 15th & 16th. (Bring the coupon enclosed in this newsletter). If you would like *more* seedlings, talk to us about getting them. Our great-grand-children will appreciate the thought as they look up into towering evergreen woodland trees like we used to.





Class Schedule 2000

Join us this year for some interesting and fun classes. From informational to actually making something for your garden, we cover many subjects requested by you.

April 24th Organic Gardening—Free—The latest information on organic alternatives as well as the old home remedies.

August 14th Herbs—\$5
“The Herbal Wise Woman”, Karla, will teach us about growing, harvesting & using herbs.

May 22nd Making a Living Wreath—\$40
Plant up an English “living wreath” of flowers & moss.

September 11th Feng Shui in the Garden—\$5—Feng Shui expert Tracey Taylor will talk about using this ancient Chinese philosophy in garden design.

June 12th Designing a Rock Garden—Free—Our own Brad MacKenn will talk about designing rock gardens. Perfect for those of us with rocky, hilly yards.

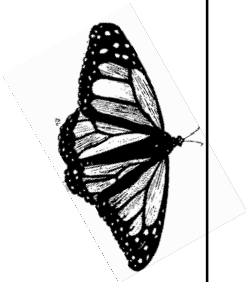
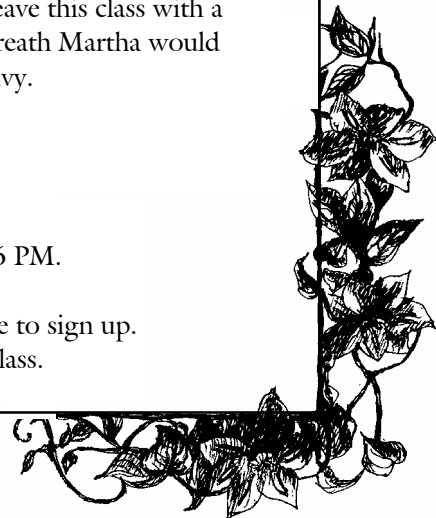
October 16th Over-Wintering Tender Plants—Free
How to keep your tender perennials safely in pots from year to year.

July 17th Making Mosaic Stepping Stones—\$20—We’ll learn how to make these beautiful garden accents from Winnie O’Leary.

November 20th Making a Holiday Wreath—\$15
Leave this class with a wreath Martha would envy.

All classes are held Monday evenings at 6 PM.


Class sizes are limited, so call as early as possible to sign up.
You may pay when you arrive for the class.





104 Glenwild Avenue
 Bloomingdale, NJ 07403

Bulk Rate
 US Postage
Paid
 Bloomingdale, NJ
 Permit # 28



“There is a garden
 where lilies
 And roses are side by
 side;
 And all day between
 them in silence
 The silken Butterflies
 glide...”

Francis
 Turner Palgrave
 1824-1897

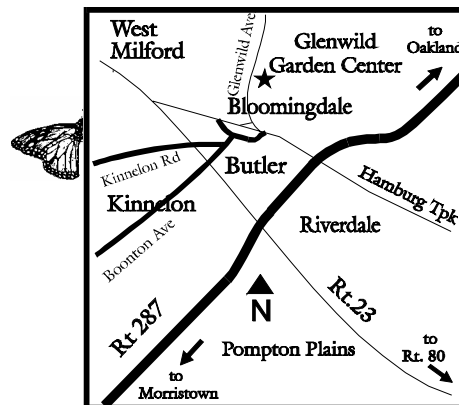
Open House Weekend is April 15th & 16th
 Look inside for a coupon for a FREE Norway Spruce seedling!



Glenwild Garden Center is a full service garden center & nursery. We carry all the basics of gardening & a bit of the unusual too. Visit us for a pleasant & unique experience.



Garden Supplies
 Landscape Materials
 Nursery
 Annuals, Perennials
 Stone, Mulch, Topsoil
 Garden Gift Shop
 Statuary, Fountains
 Christmas Shop in Season



(973) 838-0174
 104 Glenwild Avenue
 Bloomingdale, N.J.
 Just 2.5 miles from
 exit #53 off Route 287



*72 Years
 of Landscape Experience*

Spring Hours— Mon-Fri. 8-8, Sat. 8-6, Sun. 9-5