



THE GLENWILD GARDENER



Spring 2003



**Though warblers
have not called,
in the sound of cascades
pouring down the rocks
spring is heard.**

Princess Shikishi
(ca. 1150-1201)

**To what purpose, April, do
you return again?
Beauty is not enough.
You can no longer quiet me
with the redness
Of little leaves opening
stickily.
I know what I know.
The sun is hot on my neck as
I observe
The spikes of the crocus.
The smell of the earth is
good.
It is apparent that there is
no death.
But what does that signify?**

Edna St. Vincent Millay,
Spring

Aesthetically and practically, a snowy winter makes for a better spring. The stark white and deep brown turn into that wet, blackish-brown, and then that amazing, miraculous pale green. It gives us mud season, which we should be eternally grateful for. The plants are, anyway! The snow also helps protect your plants to some degree, although the wind and the temporary thaws on warm, sunny days can do serious damage. I try to think of these “winter-burn” damages as an opportunity to plant new things, and I swear I’ll remember to put Wilt-Pruf on next year to protect them!

For those of you who don’t already know, Brad is now a licensed Landscape Architect in New Jersey. But much to Alex’s dismay, he and his family have temporarily moved to Europe because of his wife’s job assignment. When he returns in the fall of 2004, we’ll see if the gardens of France & England have had an effect on his designs! In the meantime, very talented John Lauritano has taken over the landscape division.

It’ll be an exciting year in the plant department—Barbara has found some brand new and very unique annuals and perennials this year, and you will be thrilled to see how they jazz up your containers and beds.



One of our trucks, circa 1931, with Alexander J. MacKenn Sr. standing with his crew.

Well, we’ve been around for 75 years now! (Yes, it’s true, every once in awhile it seems you can find something that old on the shelves). I wish my grandparents were around to celebrate with us! Share with us some celebrating on April 26th & 27th—our open house weekend. (The hot dogs are great)!

Jodie MacKenn Brooks 



Alex MacKenn Sr. & Jr. in 1962.

Alexander J. MacKenn Sr. started his landscape business in 1928, often using a team of oxen to accomplish a job. Constantly evolving and responding to the needs of the community, Alex and his wife Mabel added the retail shop in 1958. Alex Jr. started designing and running crews in 1962, and he and his father worked together for at least 20 busy years. In 1990, Brad came in full time, and then Jodie started in 1992. The business truly is ‘a labor of love’ for this family.

A Southern Gardener Transplanted by Winnie O'Leary

My mamma didn't raise a shrinking violet, but as I sit here looking out at my beautiful garden buried under two feet of snow I realize I am way out of my league. The finesse of creating a small courtyard garden in New Orleans was relatively simple by comparison. Ferns and elephant ears created the skeleton, a vine-covered trellis added to the height, shrimp plants and lantana brought the hummingbirds and small-contained water gardens with bog plants and lilies brought birds and butterflies. The goldfish brought the neighborhood cats. I had no real worry about "winter interest". Seasons were marked, not by falling leaves but rather by the blooming roses and camellias. To "ready" my garden simply meant trimming back the Plum-bago threatening my walk or pulling the Montana Rose out of the shutters and off the roof.

As I sit here wrapped in layers uncomplainingly waiting for the ice to melt, I am taught the importance of patience and planning. I have learned that each season, previously unknown to

me, brings with it its own delight. Spring holds new unfamiliar events. Not simply the slightly brighter shade of green New Orleans saw as the backdrop to Mardi Gras, but the metamorphosis from white and gray to brown, and then finally to green. Jodie promises that these bushes are not dead, but rather because they are draped in snow, they are winter interest. Spring brings with it the questions of 'which bulb did I plant there? And there? And there?' Then there is the panic of work to be done to ready for summer, and then fall, and then winter—I must plan for winter interest!



Winnie O'Leary moved to New Jersey full time last year after summering here during her childhood and adult years at one of our local lakes. A teacher and an artist, she will teach one of the summer craft courses again at the garden center as she has for the past few years.

Perennial of the Year 2003



The Perennial Plant Association has chosen *Leucanthemum* "Becky" as its choice for perennial of the year 2003. As with every perennial of the year that I've ever seen, the choice is made because of reliability, combined with ease and beauty in the garden.

Becky is a Shasta daisy, which means the flowers are a pure white, and as most gardeners can attest to the plant is easy to grow. Becky, however, is even more reliable in hot southern areas and also the cold north—zones 4-9. (We are in the middle—zone 6 with microclimates of 5 & 7). The stems are very sturdy, about 40" high, and the flower is about 3" wide with yellow centers. It blooms towards the end of June or the beginning of July—a little later than other Shastas—but continues on until September with deadheading.

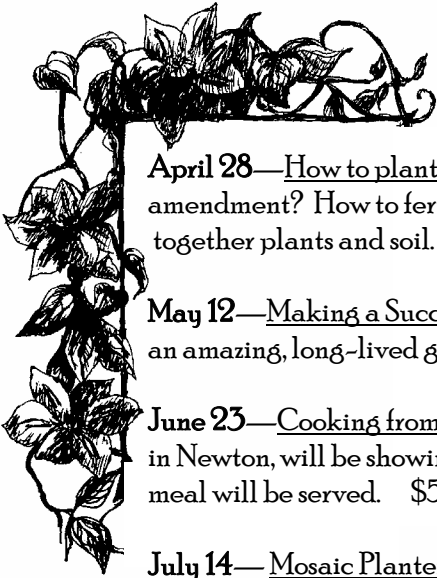
As with all daisies, Becky loves full sun, but will tolerate light shade, and likes regular, 'good-garden', well-drained soil. Just avoid wet soils in winter, which will kill it. I have found that the better the soil, the more tolerant of partial shade your sun-loving perennials will be. (Full sun is considered 6 hours or more of direct sunlight).



'Becky' looks wonderful planted en masse but would also be great in a large container. Imagine a golden glazed pot with this bright white daisy, some annual blue Lobelia, spiky blue Salvia, Miscanthus 'morning light', (a delicate light green grass) and some 'Blackie' potato vine trailing down the side. Beautiful! It attracts butterflies, is great for cutting—blooms last a long time in a vase, and is extremely resistant to insects and diseases.

Every naturalistic garden will benefit from a bunch of 'Beckys' in it! (Buy them by the dozen!)





Class Schedule 2003

April 28—How to plant—The basics—What plant? What soil? What amendments? What is an amendment? How to fertilize? Watch a small landscape be put together & learn the basics of putting together plants and soil. This class is free. Dress warmly if needed!

May 12—Making a Succulent Living Wreath Plant a wreath form with various succulent perennials for an amazing, long-lived garden accent piece. \$45. \$20 if you have your own form.

June 23—Cooking from the Garden—A special treat. Andre deWaal, owner/chef of Andre's Restaurant in Newton, will be showing us how to use fresh herbs and vegetables straight from the garden. A light meal will be served. \$50.00

July 14—Mosaic Planters—Winnie O'Leary will lead this class in creating beautiful garden accents. \$14.00

August 11—Ornamental Grasses—John Lauritano will teach us all about these fabulous perennials. This class is free.

September 29—A Wild Card—We will wait and see what the season brings. Let us know what you want to learn about! The class will be posted at the Garden Center a month in advance, or call.

November 24—Making a Holiday Wreath Create a stunning wreath made from balsam, lemon leaves, berried juniper and fragrant cedar among other greens. Nicer than the catalogues! \$18.

All classes are held Monday evenings at 6 PM and usually last about an hour and a half.

Class sizes are limited, so call as early as possible to sign up.

You may pay when you arrive for the class, but please register ahead of time!

Get a 10% discount on any purchases the night of the class.



A Recipe for a Container

For a 16" pot in part or mostly sun, use:

1—1 gallon ornamental grass like the plumed Pennisetum 'Rubrum'

1—6" white & green Calladium

1—4" Spengeri (Asparagus Fern)

1—4" Million Bells Petunia in pure white, or

1—Ipomea (Potato Vine)

Use a good quality potting soil, or your favorite mixture, add slow release fertilizer and/or a water retention product if you like, and water well. (If gardening organically, add a good amount of compost, and then water well with fish emulsion). Don't let it dry out!

Look at the video playing in the garden center for more great ideas with unusual plant choices.





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“O, how this spring of love
resembleth
The uncertain glory of an
April day;
Which now shows all the
beauty of the sun,
And by & by a cloud takes all
away.”

William Shakespeare
The Two Gentlemen of Verona

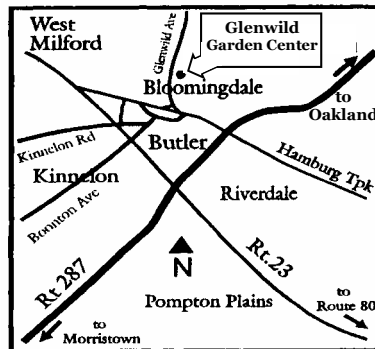


Open House Weekend is April 26th & 27th Look inside for a Free Giveaway coupon!

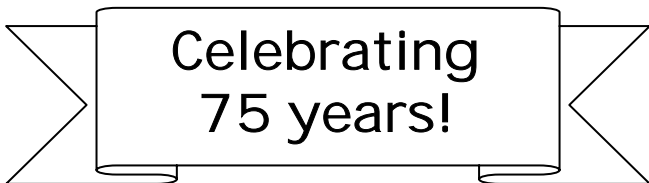
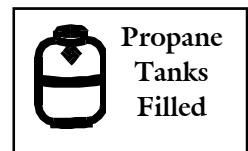
Glenwild Garden Center
is a full service garden center & nursery.
We carry all the basics of
gardening & a bit of the unusual too.
Visit us for a pleasant & unique experience.

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