

# GROW

Tulsa Garden Center News



## WITCH HAZEL By Barry Fugatt, Director of Horticulture

Colonial Americans loved witch hazel. Distilled oils from young flower-bearing branches were used in lotions and salves to treat bruises, insect bites and skin inflammation. Several centuries later, one can still find witch hazel containing products at local pharmacies.

Witch hazel also was the preferred source of witching sticks or divining rods among colonists. Flexible forked branches were used to search out hidden sources of underground water and precious metals. Occasionally, I run across gardeners who still swear by witch hazel's mysterious "divining" powers. But personally, I've never experienced the divine pull when holding a witch hazel branch.

Hamamelis, witch hazel's genus name, also has an interesting history. It's a combination of two Greek words meaning 'fruit and together' and refers to witch hazel's unusual habit of producing flowers at the same time (late fall or winter) that it matures fruit from the previous season, a very unusual quality.

The fruit and flowers are both delightfully interesting. The small fruit capsule has an ingenious means for dispersing its seeds. When mature, the capsule explodes with a cracking pop, catapulting 10 or more seeds from the shrub. This odd phenomenon gave rise to one of witch hazel's common names: snapping hazel nut.

Witch hazel flowers also are intriguing. Depending upon the species, flowering may occur in late fall or winter, even if temperatures are in the single digits.

The season of bloom is strange, but witch hazel's uniquely shaped flowers are stranger still. Petals are long, narrow and crumpled, making each small flower look rather like a tiny yellow octopus. Even so, the fragrant flowers are quite lovely.

Common witch hazel (*H. virginiana*) is native from Canada south to Georgia and west to Arkansas.

This tough species forms a large, erect shrub or small tree with a height of 12 to 15 feet.

Large 3 to 6 inch long leaves turn a pleasant, clear yellow in late fall.

Vernal witch hazel (*H. vernalis*) is an Ozark native, often found along woodland streams in Missouri, Arkansas, and eastern Oklahoma. It blooms in early winter, hence the name "vernal." Height is 6 to 8 feet. Leaves are 2 to 4 inches long and turn golden yellow in the fall. 'Autumn Embers' and 'Sandra' are recent cultivars that produce reddish - orange fall foliage.

*H. intermedia* hybrids may be the most highly regarded of the ornamental witch hazels. Outstanding hybrids include: 'Arnold Promise', 'Diana', 'Jelena' and 'Pallida'. They were produced by crossing Japanese witch hazel (*H. japonica*) with Chinese witch hazel (*H. mollis*).

These winter blooming hybrids form graceful, loosely branched shrubs 10 to 15 feet tall. Flower colors range from bright yellow to reddish-orange.

Witch hazels are easy to grow. They tolerate city conditions better than many native shrubs, requiring only a sunny, reasonably well drained location and a weekly watering during peak summer months. Mixed shrub borders, screening and naturalizing are ideal uses for all witch hazels.

I recently planted several witch hazel hybrids in my garden. Unable to find a local source, I eventually secured quality (albeit small) one-gallon plants from Forestfarm Nursery, a huge mail order nursery in Oregon. Their address is: 990 Tetherow Road, Williams, OR 97544.

Their web site ([www.forestfarm.com](http://www.forestfarm.com)) is well worth a visit. Check out their photo gallery with 4000 plus pictures. Scrolling through hundreds of lovely plant pics is a pleasant way to spend time as we patiently wait for spring.

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**Barry Fugatt is Director of Horticulture at the Tulsa Garden Center and Linnaeus Teaching Garden. He can be reached at 918-746-5125 or e-mail: [bfugatt@tulsagardencenters.com](mailto:bfugatt@tulsagardencenters.com)**

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### Spotlight

FEBRUARY 18, 2012  
 9 AM TO 3 PM

### GARDENING INFO FAIR

Information!  
 Information!

- Whether you are a novice or veteran gardener, this is truly the one day to get all the information you need to start your spring project.
- Area nurseries, horticulturalists and landscape designers will be on hand to answer your questions.
- Tulsa Garden Center's many affiliate gardening groups will be participating. These organizations will provide information and resources on specific topics.

## TGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lucia Lockwood Lewis - *president*  
Mary Lou Havener- *vice president*  
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The *Garden Center NEWS* is published ten times a year on a monthly basis with the exception of the July/August and the December /January issues, which are combined. If you are interested in advertising in the newsletter please contact the Garden Center. The submission deadline for articles is the 8th of the month for the following month's issue.

### TGC Staff

Barbie Raney-*executive director*  
Barry Fugatt - *director of horticulture*  
Janet Gaither - *event & facility manager*  
Dorris Crawford - *head caretaker*  
Toni Alley-*administrative assistant*  
Julie Powers-*horticulture assistant*  
Dyane Lewis-*volunteer coordinator*

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS ?

You are an important part of our organization, and we want to keep in touch with you. If you are moving, please keep us informed by calling us at 918-746-5125 with your new information. Thank you.

**Tulsa Garden Center**  
2435 South Peoria  
Tulsa, Ok 74114-1350  
(918) 746-5125 Fax (918) 746-5128  
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# Note from the Director



As we closed out 2011, we got the sad news that Cheryl Johnson, our Education and Marketing Manager, had a stroke. Memorial services were held December 28. Cheryl was a loyal and devoted employee of Tulsa Garden Center for nine years, starting out as the receptionist where her smiling face greeted members and guests alike. She advanced to Administrative Assistant and served in that role until she took on the role of Education and Marketing Manager. Her creativity and imagination became apparent when she began writing all the press releases and designing this newsletter and flyers for Tulsa Garden Center events. She was a master with the written word and very resourceful when developing new programs.

Words that Tulsa Garden Center Staff and members use to describe Cheryl are kind, considerate, committed, a team player, always stood for what is right, dependable, caring, precise and fun loving. She considered all the Garden Center members her friends, but always put the interests of the Tulsa Garden Center Inc. first. She was an amazing hostess and made everyone who attended Garden Center events feel welcome and appreciated. Online condolences [www.johnsonfhsperry.com](http://www.johnsonfhsperry.com).

It may not feel like it today, but spring is just around the corner. I am sure that many gardeners are busy poring over the many seed and gardening catalogs that fill our mailboxes this time of year, plotting every square foot of earth that can be incorporated into this year's garden. You will want to carefully review this month's Garden Center Newsletter because it is chock full of gardening assistance, creativity and information!

## In Memoriam



**Cheryl Kay Johnson**  
Education and Marketing Manager

Your Friends at Tulsa Garden Center feel honored to have known you and worked with you.

### Midwest Block & Brick Sandy & Tim Shoemaker

Offering

Anchor, Allan Block, Omega Stone, Keystone, Rosetta and Retaining wall.  
Other available hardscape products include Romanstone Pavers, Clay pavers, Clay Brick, Patio products Outdoor fireplace kits and more.....

We support the Linnaeus Teaching Garden And Tulsa Garden Center (Additional 5% discount (up to \$100.00) offered to Garden Center members)

### MIDWEST BLOCK & BRICK

5444 S. 108th E. Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74146  
918.828.0903

# Gardening by the Book

## *Flower Arranging*

Flower arranging is an art form that enhances the quality of life. Anyone who loves flowers wants to be able to arrange them more effectively and creatively. Floral arrangements need not be elaborate. Just a few blooms, well chosen and thoughtfully placed, have the power to change the balance of an interior, to create different moods, and to delight the spirit.

Tricia Guild is known for her original fabric and wallpaper books and collections. She now combines her interest in both flowers and interior design in *Flower Sense: the Art of Decorating with Flowers* (Rizzoli International Pub., 2008). Divided into specialty sections, each contains a mix of formal and informal arrangements, striking photographs, and tips on which flowers to use where.

*Flowers that Wow: Inspired Arrangements for the Floral Impaired* (Watson-Guptill Pub., 2006) makes flower arranging simple, fun, and affordable. Flower arrangements for holidays, special occasions and basic decorating include easy instructions and photographs. Especially unique is the recommended snack suggestion while making each arrangement!

A resource for both amateur and professional flower arrangers is *Jane Packer's Guide to Flower Arranging* (Ryland Peters & Small, 2008). More than 25 step by step projects are divided into three sections, the first, flowers to give, include posies, bouquets and flowers in baskets, bags and boxes. The second, flowers for the home, show ar-

rangements of all shapes and sizes. The last, flowers for celebrations, include projects for holidays, table arrangements and wedding flowers.

*Simply Elegant Flowers* with Michael George (North Light Books, 2008) is authored by a well known fashion florist in New York. Step by step projects are arranged by the season with his secrets for creating these arrangements. The detailed instructions and color photographs show the reader how to master the techniques. His specialty is "bunch" arrangements of one color or one flower type, making for a unique look.

*Southern Bouquets* (Gibbs Smith, 2010) show arrangements that are beautiful and elegant, but need not be complicated or expensive. Loose natural looking displays are shown. Arranging the bouquets, growing conditions, blooming time, and vase life are among the many features.

For new trends in floral design, try *Table Flowers* (Rizzoli International Pub., 2007) authored by Paula Pryke. Twenty step by step projects feature ideas for centerpieces and table bouquets. The art of coordinating floral designs with linens, table and glassware creates eye catching color schemes. An in-depth section on centerpieces includes all manner of floral details and incorporating lighting into a floral design.

Mary Moore  
Tulsa City-County Library

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### **Tulsa Garden Center**

Dorothy Laird  
Ken and Lenore Mullican  
Gertrude O. Sundgren  
Jola A. Houchin  
Reatha Oliver  
J. Paige Martin  
David and JoAnn White  
Sue Howard  
Dolly M. Thomas-Dixon

### **Linnaeus Teaching Garden**

Cherokee Nation Entertainment, EVS Department  
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Gabe Lowe  
Julie Stilwell  
Kathy and Leighton O'Quinn  
Sharon Sisson Terry  
Lance and Jenny Laubach  
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Helmerich, III

Carole A. Richmond  
Deborah A. Kennon  
Sheila Sandberg  
Shirlee J. Walker  
Jody Wilkins  
John and Monica Turner  
Pat Hibbard  
Youth Services of Tulsa, Inc  
Myers Nursery  
Vicki Mason  
Ron and Jan Means  
Mae B. Mason  
Karen Kay Witt  
Jim & Janis Walker  
Abiding Harvest United Methodist Church, Inc.  
Beverly S. and Odell Tramel  
Jola A. Houchin  
Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program

Donations received from November 8th through January 7th

# Education



## Brown Bag Lecture

Bring your lunch and enjoy an exciting educational experience. This lecture is **free** to the public and will be held from 12pm to 1pm at Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S. Peoria Ave. For more information call 918-746-5125 or visit [www.tulsagardencenter.com](http://www.tulsagardencenter.com).

## "EASY ENTERTAINING: FOOD AND FLOWERS"

*Unexpected company coming?* Attend the Brown Bag luncheon meeting sponsored by Tulsa Garden Club on Thursday, February 16 at 12:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Tulsa Garden Center for some new ideas on how to entertain your guests.

We will show you some tips for a quick way to impress friends and family with easy recipes and easy floral designs you can do in a hurry with elegant-looking results. The food preparation session will be led by a former OSU Food and Nutrition Specialist. Participants will receive recipes and see "how-to" demonstrations.

## Book Discussion Club



Come join us during your lunch hour for this informative discussion. The Tulsa Garden Center's Library Book Discussion Club is free to the public and held in the Tulsa Garden Center's Library, 2435 S. Peoria Ave. from 12pm to 1pm. For additional information call 918-746-5125 or visit [www.tulsagardencenter.com](http://www.tulsagardencenter.com)

### *Instant Gardens*

Join Sandy Cox on February 21st for her educational discussion on *Instant Gardens* by Peter McHoy.

For many would-be gardeners, nature is just too slow. And the thought of how long it will take before the border is blooming or the fruit trees are producing can be discouraging.

This book shows you ways to transform your garden in short-cut ways.



## SEMINARS

### Installing a Drip Irrigation System

Join Gordon and Mary Colebrook of Colebrook Nursery on February 9, 2012 at 7:00 pm as they de-mystify the installation of a low pressure irrigation system for containers and flower beds. Since successful projects always start with a good design, project design will be covered including how many sprinkler heads can be utilized for proper watering of your plants.

This seminar is designed to inform the public on how easy it is to install low pressure irrigation systems and how cost effective they can be in maintaining a prized landscape. These systems are easily incorporated into existing systems to provide state-of-the-art solutions for our hot, dry landscapes.

An actual system will be assembled during the presentation, whose design can be modified for different applications. Use of the different components will be demonstrated and their proper usage in a system. Class participants will be provided with a complete starter system for their own garden.

The class is scheduled for February 9, 2012, from 7 pm to 9 pm. Cost is \$45 per person or \$40 for Tulsa Garden Club members. Registration is required. To enroll call 918-746-5125 or go to [www.tulsagardencenter.com](http://www.tulsagardencenter.com).

### Patios, Paths, Driveways and Retaining Walls

Join Tim Shoemaker of Midwest Block & Brick who will present a seminar on "Patios, Paths, Driveways and Retaining Walls."

Learn the different materials you may use to create a beautiful backyard with attractive paths and useful patios or create more usable space with a retaining wall.



Attendees will learn proper construction techniques for either building it yourself, or for you to be more knowledgeable about what to expect prior to hiring a contractor.

This presentation will be held in Tulsa Garden Center ballroom from 9:30 am to 11:45 am on February 18, 2012. Cost for the seminar is \$10 (\$8 for TGC members) and may be paid at the door, but prior registration is recommended.

To reserve your spot or for more information call 918.746.5125. or visit [www.tulsagardencenter.com](http://www.tulsagardencenter.com).

# Affiliate News



## Hosta Connection

The first Hosta Connection meeting for this year is Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00 pm .

Mark your calendars for April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.: Rob Mortko, aka The Hosta Guy, will be at the TGC to present his take on hosta tissue culture. Plus, he'll have many hostas for sale . You won't find these beauties in local nurseries. so be prepared for a great presentation and the chance to enlarge your hosta garden. The public is welcome. Pay \$5.00 at the door and refreshments will be served after the program.

## The Oklahoma Native Plant Society

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society will hold its annual Indoor Outing, Saturday, February 4th, on the campus of Oklahoma City University in Oklahoma City.

The Society's Central Chapter will host the 2012 event which will feature speakers, displays, vendors, and hands-on demonstrations. For more information including registration and scheduling, contact Joe Roberts, Central Chapter Chairman, at [joeroberts13@cox.net](mailto:joeroberts13@cox.net) .

## Tulsa Area Daylily Society

TADS begins the new year hosting the Region 11 Winter Gathering at the Southern Hill Hilton on February 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. Winter Gathering will feature outstanding daylily hybridizers Jamie Gossard of Columbus, Ohio, and Nicole Harry DeVito of Orlando, Florida. Jamie will do a presentation on Converting Dips to Tets, a presentation on Heavenly Gardens, and be the auctioneer for the weekend.

Nicole will do a presentation on Evaluating Daylilies, Nicole's Daylilies and participate in the Hybridizers Roundtable with Jamie Gossard.

The Mavis Smith Award and the Jerry Mix Award will be presented to deserving recipients at Winter Gathering. Surprise entertainment is planned and it is going to be a fun and educational weekend with Garden Judging and Exhibition classes offered.

The registrations and hotel expenses are well within budget, so register today and win one of these beautiful daylilies for early registration. Check out the schedule and registration forms. [tulsadaylily.org/](http://tulsadaylily.org/) If you have any questions, please contact Ron Azzanni at 1-314-706-8500 or [Azzanni@charter.net](mailto:Azzanni@charter.net) .

## Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs

Join the Tulsa Council of Federal Garden Clubs on February 3rd for an informative program by Maureen Turner, Chief Horticulturist for the City of Tulsa. Ms. Turner will present an entertaining lecture focusing on Woodward Park. The public is invited to attend. Hospitality at 9:30 am with meeting beginning at 10:00 am in the Tulsa Garden Center ballroom.

## Tulsa Herb Society

The general public is invited to attend a presentation by Todd Lasseigne, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden at the February 14th meeting of the Tulsa Herb Society. His program will start at 11:00 am in TGC ballroom.

## Tulsa Rose Society

The Tulsa Rose Society invites the general public to its February 12th meeting to hear Dr. Damon Smith. Dr. Smith is a Professor and Research Scientist at OSU in the field of Plant Pathology. He will speak about the diseases that plague gardens with emphasis on proper identification of each. Identifying the pathogen that is causing damage helps in effective treatment.

The meeting starts at 2:00 pm in the Tulsa Garden Center auditorium.

## The Tulsa Area Iris Society

The Tulsa Area Iris Society doesn't meet in the months of January and February.

## The Tulsa Perennial Society

The Tulsa Perennial Club meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm. For our February 16th meeting, we'll hear from a Tulsa Master Gardener who will give us all the low-down on the Oklahoma Proven Plants for our landscapes. So, come and be inspired, and perhaps discover a new and interesting plant!

## Special Notice to all Users of Tulsa Garden Center Facilities:

- Please turn in event floor plans as soon as possible, at least 30 days in advance.
- Please indicate the time you will need access to the building, both opening and closing so staff can be scheduled.
- Please advise of any special needs such as microphone, screen, additional chairs or tables or the Infocus projector.



## Tulsa Garden Center Tour

### English Gardens in Bloom

May 10-18, 2012

Join us as we make our way through the scenic landscape of the Cotswold region of England. Known for its quaint villages & streams that meander through the country side, we will see fields dotted with sheep and moss-covered rock walls that have stood for centuries. All of the gardens and homes will be a profusion of color. A feast for the eyes and senses.

Unpack your bag only once as our 7 night stay will include accommodations at Bruern Holiday Cottages, [www.bruern-holiday-cottages.co.uk](http://www.bruern-holiday-cottages.co.uk), home to Lady Astor, who has done a wonderful job in restoring the 18<sup>th</sup> century stables into charming cottages. There will be plenty of space to have afternoon tea and relax, as well as use of a spa and heated pool.

The tour will include a wide variety of gardens and stately homes with the head gardener available at most of the properties. HRH Prince Charles' home, Highgrove is included on the itinerary however since it has not been confirmed by Highgrove and is determined by HRH Prince Charles' schedule, this is subject to change.

The gardens that will be visited are some of England's best. Blenheim Palace, home to the Duke of Marlborough is an architecture delight with grounds designed by Lancelot "Capability" Brown. Hidcote Manor, maintained by The National Trust features many outdoor rooms, providing intimate spaces for relaxation and viewing the garden features. Sezincote is a private garden and home featuring an Indian theme. The Rosemary Verey house is now a hotel but the gardens are still as special as before. No trip would be complete without visiting the town of Oxford, including a guided walking tour of the universities, a visit to Ashmolean Museum and lunch at the Turf Tavern.

Additionally the tour includes an opportunity to rub shoulders with the locals at a country pub and attend a musical concert. This will truly be a trip to remember.

The above includes – Round Trip Air – 7 nights accommodations – 7 continental breakfasts – 3 dinners – 2 lunches – all ground transportation while on tour - Guides when applicable – entrance fees to 9 gardens & homes, 1 musical concert & tips to guides. Luggage service will not be available at Bruern Holiday Cottages and some bedrooms are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor with no lift. Please make us aware of any special needs.

**Price for a double/twin room- per person - 2 people sharing..... \$ 3,195.00**

*Single supplement \$ 410*

**DEPOSIT - \$295.00 to hold space – non refundable after Dec. 15, 2011**

**Dec. 16, 2011 – non refundable payment due \$ 900.00**

**Jan . 16, 2012 – non refundable payment due \$ 1,000 .00**

**March 1, 2012 – non refundable payment due \$ 1,000.00**

**Contact: Tulsa Garden Center, Mike Blake ,918-746-5141**

**Make checks payable to : Lin Kobsey Travel, L.L.C., 8912 S. 70<sup>th</sup> East Ave., Tulsa, Ok. 74133**

**918-747-0077 tel. 918-284-5053 cell. LKobsey@sbcglobal.net**

Travel insurance is highly recommended. We can not be held responsible for airline delays or missed flights. From time to time we may have to make adjustments to itineraries. Will substitute with similar or like products when available.  
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TULSA  
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# February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00 pm Cacti and Succulent Society	3 10:00 am Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs	4
5	6 10:00 am Tulsa Garden Club 12:00 pm Tulsa Garden Club Study Group 7:00 pm Green Country Bonsai	7 9:00 am Tulsa Herb Society	8	9 7:00 pm Drip Irrigation Class - Colebrook Nursery	10	11
12 2:00 pm Tulsa Rose Society 1:30 pm Tulsa Orchid Society	13 10:30 am TGC Executive Comm Mtg 12:00 pm TGC Board Meeting	14 9:00 am Tulsa Herb Society 6:30 pm Green Country Water Garden Society	15	16 12:00 pm Brown Bag Lecture 7:00 pm Tulsa Perennial Club	17 1:30 PM Nat'l. Assoc. of Parliamentarians	18 9:00 am Gardening Info Fair 2012 9:30 am Patios, Paths, Driveways and Retaining Walls
19	20 7:00 pm African Violet Society	21 9:00am Tulsa Herb Society 11:00am Anne Hathaway Herb Society 12:00 pm Book Discussion 7:00 pm Audubon Society	22	23 10:00 am Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs Book Discussion and Style Show 7:00 pm Sierra Club	24	25 9:00 am African Violet Show & Sale 6:30 pm Oklahoma Horticultural Society lecture - Felder Rushing
26	27 6:30 pm Calligraphy Guild	28 9:00 am Tulsa Herb Society	29 9:00 am Linnaeus Monthly Meeting			



January 19-20, 2012

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## **News from City of Tulsa Chief Horticulturist, Maureen Turner.....**

Happy New Year to all my friends in Tulsa! I hope that each and every one of you enjoyed your holidays in a happy and healthy way. If not, this year is young and fresh and is offering the perfect opportunity to do something special. This year has already seen some big changes for many. My office location has changed for the third time in four years. Most people find relocating is a chore, but I look for the opportunity to see things from a different perspective. Hopefully this new location will be as good and fun as my last.

While talking about locations, this past year the Tulsa Garden Center was able to have a complete assessment of the physical structures under their management. The good news is the buildings are in pretty good shape. The park was assessed separately and is getting some assistance with areas that have not been in such good shape.

Recently I received an email about a donation of several thousand dollars to fix a few things in the Rose Garden. I am in the process of obtaining some quotes for repairing the fountains on Terraces 4 & 5. I have personally never seen these fountains work and am filled with trepidation at the thoughts of seeing them in action!

I was contacted by a group offering to purchase benches in the Rose Garden – something that has been on our list for many years. You should see the first couple of benches being placed in the garden soon. The benches will match the ones placed on the Garden Center grounds to keep a cohesive look for all who visit. The benches on the grounds are classic.

The old maintenance shop has been removed and a new building is in the final planning stages; almost ready to be built. Many visitors have expressed their opinion on how 'out of place' this metal building looked. It certainly did not match the beautiful older buildings in the park. A philanthropist stepped forward and has offered to pay for a more appropriately designed building.

The Tulsa Beautification Foundation and Friends of Woodward Park stepped forward and paid for fifteen beautiful large trees to be planted on the grounds. They were planted last month and already look fantastic. I can't wait for them to leaf out this spring and show us the beauty they have to offer.

The Friends of Woodward Park and the City of Tulsa are working together to repair the overlook railing in the azalea gardens. This railing has been broken and repaired more times than I can count. The original concrete railing looked like carved tree trunks and limbs. The contractor will replicate the original. He is almost done, making a few more artistic adjustments before installing the new railing on site.

Before we know it, old man winter will retreat and spring will show us her beautiful colors. The plants and trees will bloom their pretty little heads off, showing us the beautiful wonders of the world. Take an afternoon out of your busy schedule to walk around and visit all the beautiful gardens in the park. You won't be disappointed.

See you next month!