



# GROW

Tulsa Garden Center News

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Volume 64 Issue 1

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TULSA  
GARDEN  
CENTER

### Oklahoma Native Plant Society Indoor Outing

February 2, 2013, at 9:00am

### Gardening Info Fair

February 16, 2013  
9:00am—3:00pm

### Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs Book Review & Style Show

February 21, 2013, at 10:00am

### African Violet Society Show & Sale "Violets and Memories"

February 23, 2013, at 9:00am

## Gardening Tips for Seniors

A National Gardening Association survey estimates that over 90 million U.S. households (35 million of which are over age 55) participate in gardening activities. Other studies show that the simple act of planting and harvesting spring vegetables or planting flowers has physical, emotional and spiritual health benefits. Gardening also is a wonderful stress reliever.

For millions of seniors the bending and lifting associated with gardening may lead to aching muscles and sore joints. But that can be alleviated by making a few wise garden choices.

Last year, with the help of my son and son-in-law, I constructed several raised beds in my garden. Each of the beds was 12 feet long and 3 feet wide. Building the beds was one of the best gardening decisions I ever made. Simply elevating a garden bed to knee height eliminates lots of unnecessary stooping and bending. Also, elevating a planting bed 18 to 24 inches provides a comfortable sitting height, allowing me to easily reach into the bed to plant, weed or harvest produce.

Plants love raised beds. Raising a planting bed even 6 to 8 inches above ground level insures excellent drainage. And most plants, particularly annuals and perennial, thrive in well-drained soil.

Raised planting beds are easily constructed using landscape timbers, stone pavers or treated lumber. Backfill raised planting beds with sandy loam soil richly amended with organic matter. A commercial grade potting soil from a local nursery also works well; however, bagged potting soil is a more expensive way to go.

Soon, after the last winter freeze has passed, it will be time to plant all sorts of flowers and vegetables. February through early March is an ideal

time to prepare gardens for planting. We typically have stretches of mild weather at this time of year, perfect for preparing new beds or renovating old ones. Incorporating lots of organic matter into our gardens is still the primary and best means of improving soil fertility. A 2 to 4 inch layer of organic matter worked into soil each spring or fall will generally keep a garden highly productive.

Local nurseries always offer a wide selection of seed and potted plants in the spring. I'm particularly excited about the new "grafted" vegetables that will hit the nursery market this spring. We had tremendous success with the grafted tomatoes in the Linnaeus Teaching Garden last year. Grafted plants produced more fruit and had less disease problems than their non-grafted counterparts.

Actually, grafted tomatoes and other veggies really aren't new. They have been widely used in European and Asian countries for many years. But, they are new in this market. And despite their higher cost, they add a fun element to gardening along with some added produce. I hope lots of Tulsa Garden Center members try grafted tomatoes this year and please let us know at the Linnaeus Garden how the plants perform in your garden.

My parents gardened well into their eighties. And, I have to admit that their garden was always prettier than mine. The key to their gardening success was simple. They thoroughly enjoyed the fresh air, the exercise and the timeless joy of watching tiny seeds being transformed into lovely flowers and healthy produce.

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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@tulsagardencenter.com](mailto:bfugatt@tulsagardencenter.com)**



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## TGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John Kahre, Treasurer  
Marilyn Lay, Ass't Secretary/Treasurer  
Lucy Lewis, Immediate Past President

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Barry Fugatt	Heather Pingry
Jola Houchin	Barbie Raney
Betty Kusleika	Patsy Wynn
Sue Lovelace	

Tulsa 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*  
Mike Blake-*Education & Marketing*

### 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  
[www.tulsagardencenters.com](http://www.tulsagardencenters.com)



# Note from the Director



Just as I began to pout that the Holidays were over and the dark winter days had begun, we opened the Portraits of a Garden Photo Contest & Exhibit. The amateurs never fail to amaze me! Wonderful photographs of gardens filled the Auditorium of the Tulsa Garden Center.

I hope you were able to attend this exhibition as the contestants were so kind to share with us the beauty they captured. The photos filled us with hope that spring will really come again.



Speaking of spring, Info Fair is just around the corner. I love this event because it is gardeners getting together and making plans for spring, sharing ideas and past successes and failures, see page six for all the details. See you there!!

## TULSA COUNCIL OF FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS 14TH ANNUAL BOOK REVIEW and STYLE SHOW

FEBRUARY 21, 2013 AT 10:00 AM  
TULSA GARDEN CENTER  
COST IS \$15.00 PER PERSON

MARY HELEN STANLEY WILL REVIEW  
ANOTHER GOOD BOOK



MARY RUBY WILL BE SHOWING THEIR  
SPRING CLOTHES AT OUR STYLE SHOW

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED BY CHARLIE'S CHICKEN & BAR-B-QUE  
OF PRYOR

FOR TICKET INFORMATION CALL: Dea Babb @ 918-396-4769  
TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE



## Literary Gardening

Gardening has always attracted devotedly literate practitioners; people who like to dig also like to write. Every gardener has a story whether the garden is large or small, thriving or failing. Writing about gardens has been a passionate preoccupation of men and women since the advent of printing. These varied writers and poets cover gardens and plants whether by using metaphors or by practicalities.

A book even the most elementary of gardeners can love is *Literary Gardener* (Willow Creek Press, 1997). Author Walter Chandra has been photographing gardens for over 20 years and compiling an extensive horticultural library. He has culled philosophies of gardening, the history and origins of plants, myths and folklore, medicinal qualities and monographs on single species. Each full page photo faces a gardening saying, quote, or thought from the author's collection. This is an inspiring, entertaining, amusing and enlightening book for the garden reader.

This anthology of twelve stories and twelve poems is written by major American and British authors including Robert Frost, Kathleen Raine, and O. Henry. The collection explores the motivation and mystery behind gardening. *Of Leaf and Flower: Stories and Poems for Gardeners* (Persea Books, 2001) sums up the passions of gardening. This is an award winner due to the twelve accompanying ink paintings.

Since prehistory, plants have been the province of women. In *Sweet Breathing of Plants: Women Writing on the Green World*

(North Point Press, 2001), more than three dozen selections of nonfiction and poetry celebrate the diversity. Whether a botanist, geneticist or visionary, these authors are from all walks of life. Ranging from scientific to personal entries, this collection focuses attention on the bond between women and plants.

*Writer in the Garden* (Algonquin Books, 1999) brings together an entertaining selection of garden writing from the past one hundred years. With subjects ranging from roses to weeds, rare plant collecting and even inclement weather, these gardening writers have stories to tell. They are willing to share their own experiences as well as admitting to their occasional moments of failure. The more than fifty gardening writers-and writing gardeners- present a variety of selections.

Including photographs and drawings from their original works, this anthology introduces more than 40 garden writers. Garden historian Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, author of *Writing the Garden* (New York Society Library, 2011), provides historical background, anecdotal material and insight into the charms of each. This discussion and examination makes the book a joy to read.

Mary Moore  
Tulsa City-County Library

### Oklahoma Natives: Plants and People *Oklahoma Native Plant Society Indoor Outing* Saturday 2, 2013

#### Event Details: **The public is welcome!**

Tulsa Garden Center  
2435 S. Peoria Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74114

Time: 9:00am-3:00pm

Admission is \$7.00 at the door, or pre-register at [oknativeplants.org](http://oknativeplants.org) For admission and lunch by 1/26/13.

No pre-registration is needed to attend. Door prizes will be awarded!



**Native Plants for sale, food tasting, vendor displays and demonstrations.**

Distinguished Speakers and Participating Organizations include:

**Dr. Andrea Hunter**, Osage Tribal Historic Preservation  
**Shawna Cain**, Cherokee Native Art and Plant Society  
**Rita Williams**, Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative

**Info: Alicia Nelson: @aknlsn@att.net or 918-599-0085**

### The African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa Invites you to attend The Thirty-sixth Annual Flower Show and Sale "VIOLETS AND MEMORIES"



Open Free to the Public on:  
Saturday, February 23rd, 9:00am to 3:00pm

All Types of African Violets and related plants and supplies will be available for sale.

Contact: Nancy Moerer @ 918-938-6977 or [nmoerer@cox.net](mailto:nmoerer@cox.net)



# Education

## Upcoming Horticulture Classes

Presented by Tulsa Community College and the Tulsa Garden Center. Classes are held at the Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S. Peoria Ave., Tulsa, Ok. 74114. This is a Pilot Program that allows you to take credit classes as a Continuing Education Student.

- More in-depth study.
- Improve your skills without the intensive application process for credit classes.
- Take as non-credit student with possible option to switch to credit.

### Annual and Perennial Culture

The culture and uses of a number of types and varieties of annuals and perennials including bulbs, corns, tuberous plants, and ornamental grasses. The class will include planting, maintenance, and Propagation methods.



Course Fee: \$75.00  
February 20th—March 13th, 2013  
Wednesday, 8:30am—12:30pm  
Tulsa Garden Center  
CRN 25501

**Call 918-595-7200 to Enroll Today!**



### Brown Bag Lecture—Thursday, February 28th

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).

### Curb Appeal

The entrance of a home deserves special attention because it is the first impression your guests receive. A well-designed front landscape increases property and resale values and increases beauty and utility of spaces surrounding the home.

Whether you are readying your home for sale or planning to stay there for years, easy and relatively inexpensive ways to enhance your home allow you to stage it to keep or to sell.

Join Sue Lovelace, OSU Tulsa Master Gardener as, she offers tips on increasing your property's Curb Appeal.



### Book Discussion Club Tuesday, February 19th

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)

### *The Complete Book of Terrarium Gardening*

Join Sandy Cox as she reviews the book *The Complete Book of Terrarium Gardening* by Jack Kramer.

Terrarium gardens are becoming popular again. Terrariums require little care. Once planted & watered, the container is covered with its top and seldom needs any attention. Come and learn the technique.

# Affiliate News



## The African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa

The African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa invites all who are interested in growing violets to join them on February 18th at 7:00pm for fellowship and growing tips for these wonderful house plants.

Don't forget the February 23rd Show and Sale which will be held at Tulsa Garden Center. All kinds of plants and growing supplies will be available for purchase.

## Oklahoma Native Plant Society-Northeast Chapter

The next meeting of the Northeast Chapter of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society will occur on Monday, March 4, 2013, at 6:30pm in the Ballroom of the Tulsa Garden Center.

The evening will begin with refreshments followed by a brief business meeting at 7:00pm. A presentation of interest to the members will follow. The public is invited. Interested individuals may contact Alicia Nelson, Chair of Northeast Chapter at [aknlns@att.net](mailto:aknlns@att.net).

## Tulsa Area Daylily Society

The Tulsa Area Daylily Society will not meet in February.

Contact: [randallbarron@cox.net](mailto:randallbarron@cox.net) or 918-369-1581 for more information.

## Tulsa Area Iris Society

The Tulsa Area Iris Society will not meet in February.

## Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs

The Council will meet on Friday, February 1st, at 10:00am. The program for this meeting will be "Growing African Violets" presented by Judith M. Carter, President of African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa.

## Tulsa Garden Club

The public is invited to visit any Tulsa Garden Club meeting. Coffee is served at 10:00am with the meeting starting at 10:30am.

Do you want to know more about what's happening at Oxley Nature Center and Redbud Valley? This "outdoor living laboratory" is a great resource for local citizens. Learn more about it at the regular monthly meeting of Tulsa Garden Club on Monday, February 4th at 10:30am in the auditorium of the Tulsa Garden Center. The program will be presented by Amy Morris, Staff Naturalist who will answer questions from the audience and inform the public of volunteer opportunities.

## The Tulsa Herb Society

The Tulsa Herb Society will meet on January 12, 2013, at 10:00am in the auditorium of the Tulsa Garden Center. Carla Grogg of Grogg's Green Barn will present a program about the organically-focused

nursery and garden center which she and her husband established in Tulsa.

## Tulsa Orchid Society

The Tulsa Orchid Society will meet on February 10th at 1:30pm. Program will be announced later.

## Tulsa Perennial Club

The Tulsa Perennial Club will meet at 7:00pm on Thursday, February 21st, in the Tulsa Garden Center auditorium. Please join the members for a fun program of gardening interest and to meet new gardening friends. The public is invited to attend the meeting. For more information please visit [www.tulsaperennial.com](http://www.tulsaperennial.com)

## Tulsa Rose Society

The Tulsa Rose Society will meet on February 10th, at 2:00pm. The program will be a panel of consulting rosarians speaking on "Awakening Your Rose Garden for Spring" led by Dr. Don Johnson. Refreshments will be served and guests are always welcome.

Oklahoma Horticulture Society  
and Tulsa Garden Center  
Present

*The Artistic Record as a Source of Information  
on Horticultural Technology,*  
a presentation by Dr. Jules Janick.



**Tulsa Garden Center, February 23, at 6:30pm**  
**Admission is Free to the Public**

Dr. Janick, an internationally recognized horticultural expert and historian will give a presentation focusing on the use of paintings, sculpture and other forms of art as a resource for horticultural research.

Dr. Janick describes horticulture as "food for body and soul, and that "our lives depend on horticulture".

**CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**NOVEMBER 8, 2012—JANUARY 7, 2013**

**Tulsa Garden Center**

ALKY Co-workers  
Kathy Tye  
Roger Johns  
Valerie Mildenberg  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Borden  
Jim and Mary Donovan  
Betty L. Conway  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert I. Lucas  
Steve Soychak  
Sarah Naifeh  
Joy Naifeh  
Sam and Candy Naifeh  
Betty Seay  
Olen L. Aemisegger  
Chuck and Nancy Andrina  
Claudia and Bart Bartlett  
E. K. Livermore, Sr.  
Diane Kennedy  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Robertson  
Martha and Joe Vazzo  
Jean Beesley  
Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Naifeh and family  
John and Diana Sharp  
J. Paige Martin  
Janet and Derwin Folger  
Katie Sattre

Rose Garden Meeting Group  
Cindy and Thomas McNicholas  
George and Ann Gebetsberger  
Brett Brough  
Leisa Gebetsberger  
Robert Miller  
Marina Metevelis  
Kay Johnston  
Tulsa Garden Club  
Robert Lamar  
Gertrude O. Sundgren  
Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program and  
Vince Zardus  
Sue Lovelace  
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Party Perfect Linens

**Linnaeus Teaching Garden**

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South Tulsa Home & Garden Club  
Dr. William A. Coberly  
Linda and Bill Mildren  
Karen and Bill Copeland  
Green Country Water Garden Society  
Jeanette Easterling  
Party Perfect Linens

# Gardening Info Fair

**Get Ready for Spring!**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2013, 9:00AM—3:00PM**

**Tulsa Garden Center—2435 S. Peoria Ave.—Tulsa, OK 74114**

Discuss Gardening Trends—Learn about Tulsa Garden Center Affiliate Organizations  
Attend an Educational Seminar

**Retail Nurseries  
Environmentalists  
Horticultural Experts**

**Landscape Designers  
Educational Institutions  
Tulsa Garden Center Affiliates**



# February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:00am Calligraphy Guild Workshop  10:00am Council of Federated Garden Clubs Mtg.	2 8:00am Calligraphy Guild Workshop  9:00am Okla. Native Plant Soc. Indoor Outing
3 8:00am Calligraphy Guild Workshop	4 10:00am Tulsa Garden Club Mtg.  12:00pm Tulsa Garden Club Study Group  7:00pm Green Country Bonsai Mtg.	5 9:00am Tulsa Herb Soc. Crafting  6:00pm TCC Class "Basic Plant Science"	6 9:00am TCC Class "Annual & Perennial Culture"  10:00am Tulsa Rose Soc. Board Mtg.	7 7:00pm Cacti & Succulent Soc. Mtg.	8	9 9:30am Little Green Thumbs "Plant Dormancy"
10 1:30pm Tulsa Orchid Soc. Mtg.  2:00pm Tulsa Rose Soc. Mtg.	11	12 9:00am Tulsa Herb Soc. Mtg  6:00pm TCC Class "Basic Plant Science"  6:30pm Green Country Water Garden Mtg.	13 9:00am TCC Class "Annual & Perennial Culture"	14	15 1:30pm National Assoc. of Parliamentarians Mtg.	16 9:00am TGC <b>Gardening Info Fair</b>
17	18 7:00pm African Violet Soc. Mtg.	19 9:00am Tulsa Herb Soc. Crafting  11:00am Anne Hathaway Herb Soc. Mtg.  12:00pm Book Discussion  6:00pm TCC Class "Basic Plant Science"  7:00pm Audubon Soc. Mtg.	20 9:00am TCC Class "Annual & Perennial Culture"	21 10:00am Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs Book Review/Style Show  7:00pm Tulsa Perennial Club Mtg.	22	23 9:00am African Violet Show & Sale  5:00pm Oklahoma Horticulture Soc. Lecture
24	25 6:30pm Calligraphy Guild Mtg.	26 9:00am Tulsa Herb Soc. Crafting  6:00pm TCC Class "Basic Plant Science"	27 9:00am TCC Class "Annual & Perennial Culture"  <b>9:00am Linnaeus Monthly Meeting</b>	28 12:00pm Brown Bag Lecture  12:30pm TGC Board Mtg.  7:00pm Green Country Sierra Club Mtg.		



January 24, 2013

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*Visit us at [www.tulsagardencenter.com](http://www.tulsagardencenter.com)*

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

As I woke up this morning to 15 degree weather, getting out of bed was not something to look forward to. The temperature is not expected to rise much higher and the wind makes the temperature feel like zero. This temperature may be the norm for North Dakota, but not Oklahoma. As I trudge into the kitchen wearing slippers and pajamas, I am thinking of about 15 different excuses to crawl back into bed, but work is calling my name and knows that my presence is expected. My thoughtful husband has already gone outside with the reluctant dog and picked up the newspaper for me. I open it up and on page A2 is a beautiful picture of daffodils swaying in the wind at Woodward Park in the springtime. Nothing cheers me up like a beautiful picture of some pretty flower!

It is easy to forget about the cold of winter when thinking forward to spring and the beautiful flowers that pop up all over town, but it is important to remember that cold weather arrives for a reason. Most plants that grow in Oklahoma need some period of dormancy to survive. This is witnessed when deciduous trees drop their leaves in the fall and settle back in for a nice winter's nap. This is a term gardener's call dormancy. According to my trusty Botany for Gardeners handbook, "Entry into dormancy entails a reduction of physiological activities, to the minimum needed for survival". When a plant goes into dormancy, it may shed vulnerable parts, such as leaves. Several important physiological processes take place during the winter and depend upon the occurrence of reduced temperatures. These plants become well prepared to face winter's low temperatures, strong winds, cloudy days and possibly snow cover. Some plants go dormant in the summer to withstand the long, dry months of summer. The latter is something not usually seen in Tulsa, except for the past few years when we have observed plants shedding

their leaves during periods of drought to reduce the amount of water loss in the plant.

A dormant plant has well protected itself from the brutal elements of weather. These protections are put in place to allow the plant to withstand prolonged periods of cold or dehydration. Seeds are the hardest structures of the plant and can survive seasonal temperature extremes, and are genetically programmed to grow only during the most favorable period of the year. If favorable conditions are not present, seeds merely wait in the soil for the opportunity to fulfill their destiny. (I usually think of weeds when envisioning seeds lying in wait).

Tulsa and the state of Oklahoma are still in a significant drought and although plants are in a dormant state right now, weather experts predict the drought will persist or intensify. Oklahoma experiences many warm days in the winter and plants must be able to withstand these crazy temperature swings. Keeping our soils moist can help plants get through this period of dormancy better. Winter injury reduces plant growth and viability. Check the soil on warm days and give your green friends a good drink of water, so on days like today they'll be better prepared for the bitter wind and cold that has been unleashed upon us. A good blanket of mulch will also help them stay healthy.

Thinking of blankets, maybe 20 more minutes of dormancy under the warm covers won't hurt a thing!