



# GROW

Tulsa Garden Center News

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Volume 63 Issue 9

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Chief Horticulturist
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## Spotlight

**Affiliates Meeting  
October 3rd—6:00 PM**



**African Violet Show & Sale**  
Saturday, Oct 5th & Sunday  
Oct 6th. See Page 5 for  
details.

**Composting Under the Stars**  
October 11th—7:30pm  
See page 2 for details.

**Green Country Bonsai  
Society Show & Sale**  
Saturday, Oct 20th,  
& Sunday, Oct. 21st,  
See page 5 for details.



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## Sumacs

As a youth growing up in south Louisiana, it was long-lived bald cypress that first captured my imagination. After shedding delicate fern-like needles in late fall, these towering, moss covered giants, some standing nearly 100 feet tall, were a sight to behold. How, I wondered, could such massive trees live and thrive for hundreds of years in brackish standing water. Many years later, I still wonder.

Fall is also a special time for lots of Oklahoma native plants. Last fall I walked along an edge line in Osage County where a gnarled black jack oak forest gave way to a magnificent prairie. The bio-diversity represented within just a few square meters of that lush prairie was astounding. I know the names of lots of plants but I couldn't begin to name all the herbaceous species laid out before me.

I was familiar, however, with a magnificent woody plant species growing in transition between the prairie and the oak forest. It was sumac. On that clear early October day, its feathery compound foliage already had turned flaming red.

As I looked at the fiery-red shrubs, I couldn't help but wish that more gardeners would use sumac species in their urban gardens. Sumacs are interesting throughout the year, but never more so than in the fall. They are also tough. Rocky soils, even heavy clay soils, are no problem for most sumac species. And, they are highly drought tolerant.

Select sumacs for their interesting branch structures and soft feathery foliage. When thinned and/or limbed-up, a large sumac makes an outstanding accent plant for an entry, deck or patio area. When used en masse, sumac creates a lovely natural background.

Most sumac species will sucker and, over time, create a colony. This characteristic may be a plus or negative depending upon how they are used in the garden.

When used for screening and background, suckering is a plus. When used as a single accent plant, suckering may be a minor nuisance that requires sucker removal several times during the growing season.

The following sumacs add charm and beauty to a garden:

► **Staghorn Sumac** (*Rhus typhina*) is probably the best known sumac species. Its branches resemble deer antlers, hence the name staghorn. It even develops velvet fuzz on new growth like a deer's antlers.

Female plants produce ornamental cone-like fruit pods, densely hairy with a crimson color. Fruit is highly ornamental during the late fall and winter after leaf drop.

Staghorn sumac develops into a large shrub or small tree 10 to 15 feet in height. Two cultivars, 'Laciniata' and 'Dissecta', are impressive plants with heavily divided, fern-like foliage that turns bright reddish-orange in early fall. They are smaller than the species, topping out at 6 to 8 feet.

Tiger Eye, a new and impressive *R. typhina* cultivar with bright lemon-lime summer foliage and bright orange-red fall foliage, is a real favorite of mine. It can be a finicky grower, however. Plant in moist but well-drained soil. Height and spread is 5 to 6 feet.

► **Smooth Sumac** (*R. glabra*) This is a common sumac throughout much of Oklahoma. It may reach a height and spread of 10 or more feet. Its scarlet fruit persists late into winter. Feathery, compound foliage turns bright yellow to reddish-orange in early fall.

► **Fragrant Sumac** (*R. aromatica*) this sumac is fairly modest in its height and spread, only 4 to 6 feet. I particularly like the new dwarf cultivar 'Gro-low'. Its glossy, dark green foliage changes to a bright red-orange in the fall. Mature height is only 2 to 3 feet; spread is 4 to 6 feet. Gro-low is an extremely durable plant, drought tolerant and insect free. Small, bright yellow flowers appear in April.

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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)

## TGC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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



A note to our artistic friends who will be entering our Portraits of a Garden amateur photography contest in January 2013.

Cool weather in our area is producing amazingly beautiful roses in the Tulsa Municipal Rose Garden and other floral gems all over Woodward Park and the Linnaeus Teaching Garden.

If you are planning to enter in our new category, "**A single Flower in a Garden**", this is the perfect time to photograph your entries.

If you are not a photographer, this is the perfect time to mark your calendar for January 18th-20th and 22nd-26th to visit the exhibit. You will be truly impressed by the creative artistry found in this exhibit.

See all the information about Portraits of a Garden on our website at [www.tulsagardencenters.com](http://www.tulsagardencenters.com).

## Affiliate Council Meeting October 3, 2012

All Affiliate organizations should have a representative at this meeting. Important issues affecting your organization will be discussed.

## Composting Under the Stars



Thursday, October 11th, 7:30pm—9:30pm

**A Special Composting Event for Tulsa Garden Center members and Linnaeus Gardeners limited to 100 attendees.**

Enjoy wine and Cheese as you learn from the masters of composting

**Reservations are required.** Please call 918-746-5125 to register. Walks-in won't be admitted.

# News from City of Tulsa Chief Horticulturist, Maureen Turner

I had an amazing opportunity to go visit a burned up home site sitting on 20 acres in Mannford yesterday. It was heartbreaking and amazing at the same time. The house was completely hidden by trees and the driveway was long, so just driving by you'd never see the devastation that occurred back in the woods. My friends' house was a magnificent home of over 4,000 square feet, a place he treasured living in.

He was out of state when the fires hit and when he returned, there was nothing left, except the remnants of a pad. Most of the bricks had crumbled from the heat and even the thick concrete slab got so hot, most of it had broken apart and fallen into his basement.

He asked me out to his property, because he is worried about the trees. There are hundreds of trees on this property. Some were completely charred, some had already fallen over, and some looked virtually untouched.

Some of the acreage looked like walking on the moon. Old tree stumps left from the 2007 ice storm looked like burned out craters, reminding me of outer space. The smells were equally foreign, a scent I cannot describe. Recent rains left the area wet, but not wet enough. Some of the trees will not make it, but some of them will. The majority of the trees on his property are oaks, pecans and hickories. Much to my surprise there were also a few cedar elms and some assorted eastern red cedars strewn about.

About halfway into the acreage there was a beautiful open glen that had already started greening back up. It had close to a thousand sumac plants emerging from the ground about a foot or so high. What an amazing sight! I cannot wait to return in about a month and view the beautiful reds and oranges of these sumacs. He said he never saw those plants there before. We discussed the biology of trees and plants and came up with a game plan for the next year or so.

At first he was overwhelmed by everything, but the more we walked and talked, the more he relaxed and realized that only time is going to show us the fortitude of these trees. Some of the trees already had sprouted out new leaves and suckers to get their photosynthetic processes going again. We kept talking about the basics of trees and, after about an hour, he realized there was a common theme to our talk.

All the trees in our area of Oklahoma are living through an exceptional drought, something not experienced since the dustbowl days. Horticulturists around the state have been discussing the fate of our drought-stricken trees, not just our ash-covered friends. The Mesonet (our network of automated weather stations) is reporting virtually no moisture in the ground at 16".

If you like your tree and really want it to do well, here are a few things to consider:

- Keep it well watered. Don't expect your sprinkler system to get your trees the moisture they need. Get your hose out and let it dribble into the root zone for a good hour or so each week. Most of your trees roots are in the top 18-24" and this is the target area for moisture.
- Add about 1-3 inches of mulch under the crown, no more. Too much mulch can actually keep the moisture from getting all the way down into the roots. Do not pile the mulch at the base of the tree. Keep it about 4-6" away from the trunk.
- Your tree needs to be properly pruned and cared for by a certified arborist. Tulsa is lucky to have some wonderful caring arborists.

Many significant tree issues we observe could have been easily taken care of had the tree received regular care when it was younger.

Different trees have different growth habits with some needing more guidance when young than others. Don't be afraid to ask questions about your trees. Tulsa has ample resources to assist in this educational process.

The Tulsa Master Gardeners, Up With Trees Citizen Foresters and Linnaeus Gardeners are waiting for your phone call or visit and are happily willing to help you out. These groups all have a vested interest in our urban forest, so don't be shy about asking lots of questions. If your tree didn't make it or you have room for a new one, next month is the time to start planting trees in our area. Ask your questions now so you can choose the right tree for the right place.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### Tulsa Garden Center

Brookside Cleaners  
Sandra Norman  
Velma R. Renfrow  
Lucy Dolman  
Ann Schwerdt

### Linnaeus Teaching Garden

Friends of Linnaeus Teaching Gardens

Donations received from August 9th, 2012 - September 7th 2012



# Education



## **Brown Bag Lecture-Thursday, October 18th**

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).

### ***Animal Rescue and Why It's Important!***

Kym Roberts-Hardesty and Rachel Shoemaker will discuss their experiences with animal rescue.

They'll cover why they got involved in animal rescue, and why all communities need some type of animal rescue organization.

Their stories are sure to warm your heart and maybe get you involved in a new and important activity with great rewards.



## **Book Discussion Club Tuesday, October 16th**

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)

### ***Trowel & Error***

Join Sandy Cox as she reviews the book *Trowel & Error* by Sharon Lovejoy.

Collected together in a book of invaluable information and charming illustrations, here are hundreds of tips and homespun remedies that come only from season after season of gardening experience.

Sharon Lovejoy never forgets how much fun it is to play in the dirt, all the while revealing the wonder and excitement of all things green and growing.



## **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.

### **Tropical Plant Care**

This class will cover the basics for caring for common interior foliage plants used at home and in the office. Independent study, lecture and self-paced approaches will be utilized.

**Course Fee: \$75.00**  
**October 2nd —October 23rd**  
**Tuesday, 5:30—9:30pm**  
**Tulsa Garden Center**  
**CRN 70143**

### **Home Landscape Design**

Individual landscape plans will be constructed by the students with professional help from the instructor. Emphasis is on what will grow where and what works and does not work for your particular site.

**Course Fee: \$75.00**  
**October 4th—October 20th**  
**Thursday, 1:00—4:30pm**  
**Tulsa Garden Center**  
**CRN 70141**

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

# Affiliate News



## Tulsa Garden Club

The regular Monthly meeting will be held on Monday, October 1st, at 10:30am.

The program will be given by a horticulturist at the Tulsa Zoo, who has started a food-raising project for the animals. Come and hear this exciting program and bring a salad to share for our luncheon.

The public is invited to attend Tulsa Garden Club meetings which are held on the first Monday of every month, except January.

## Tulsa Area Daylily Society

The Daylily Society's October meeting will be on Thursday, October 4, 2012 in the auditorium of the Tulsa Garden Center at 2435 South Peoria. Refreshments are served at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

The program for the October meeting will be **Dana Dobias, Master Gardener and contributing editor of "Oklahoma Gardener Magazine"**.

Door prizes will be given away. There is no admission charge and free parking is available. Everyone is welcome. Contact Randall Barron at 918-369-1581 or [randallbarron@cox.net](mailto:randallbarron@cox.net)

## The African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa

Show & Sale

October 5th & 6th

Sale times: Friday, 1-5pm; Saturday 9am-5pm

Show Hours: Saturday 9am-5pm

Wyndham Hotel  
41st & Highway 169

Public Seminars will be available. This show and Sale is held in conjunction with a district-wide meeting and flower show. On sale will be violets, related plants and supplies.

The regular Meeting will be held at Tulsa Garden Center on October 15th at 7:00pm.

## Tulsa Rose Society

The Tulsa Rose Society invites the public to its regular meeting on October 14th and hopes that the public are enjoying their roses at this time of the year.

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## Let's talk cool weather!

Gardening in Oklahoma is always a challenge, but we also have a diverse selection of plant material to work with for the changing seasons.

My fall garden always includes vegetables along with my pansies and mums. One of my favorites to plant is Brite Lites Swiss Chard. Even if you do not enjoy eating it, you will love how it looks and what fantastic color it can render. It will freeze out, but what a bang it gives for a few months. Place it in a pot surrounded by pumpkins.

Remember that some vegetable varieties are suitable for containers and can be grown just a few steps from your door! Seeds are reasonable to purchase and allow experimentation with different varieties. For example, start your lettuce garden now with seeds and plant a pot a week to extend the crop. Each pot will mature at different times that allows you to harvest longer.

Happy Gardening!

Mary Lou Havener, Vice President  
Tulsa Garden Center Board of Directors

## Help Tulsa Garden Center Preserve its History

The Tulsa Garden Center has a rich and interesting history. Unfortunately, there is much we don't know about both Tulsa Garden Center and the Mansion we call home.

The Tulsa Public Library has allowed us to copy their documents and Tulsa Historical Society has given us digital copies of the pictures they have of the Mansion and Woodward Park, but neither organization had a lot to offer.

Previous attempts have been made to write a time-line of milestones in our history, but without much documentation to back up some of the facts noted.

We'd particularly like to borrow any pictures of the Travis family, the Hall family and the Snedden family and the Mansion and its rooms during these families ownership to be scanned into digital format. The originals would be returned.

Also important would be any pictures of the Mansion and its rooms before the various renovations. We'd also like to scan pictures of Woodward Park during its various changes.

Please contact Mike Blake, 918-746-5141, if you have any pictures, clippings or brochures that you think we might be able to use.

# Children's Activities



## Story Time Under The Stars

A special *Story Time in the Garden* "under the stars" will be held in The Linnaeus Teaching Garden on Tuesday, October 18th at 6:30pm.



- Focus will be on the night time sky and stars.
- Children are encouraged to wear their pajamas.
- Admission is Free.
- Advance Registration NOT Required.



# Shows/Sales/Workshops



## Green Country Bonsai Society Show and Sale



**Saturday, October 20th, 10:00am—3:00pm**

**Sunday, October 21st, 11:00am—3:00pm**

**Tulsa Garden Center Ballroom**

- **Free Admission**
- **Bonsai Demonstrations**
- **Styled Bonsai Trees for Sale**
- **Visit with Club members about your own trees.**

### Tulsa Garden Club

*Creativity Happens Here!*

Presents the Denise Caves Memorial Design Workshop

### "Designing Women"

**Thurs. Oct. 25, 9:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Tulsa Garden Center Auditorium**

**Instructor: Jo Krallman, Benton, Arkansas**

Jo is a Master Flower Show judge, former president of Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, and has given programs and taught Flower Show schools and symposiums in 32 states and Mexico.

She is currently the editor of the *Arkansas Gardener* and president of their Judges Council and Credentials Chairman.

Teaching methods will include demonstrations, instruction, and hands-on practice. Help us give Jo a hearty Oklahoma welcome!

Bring paper, pencil, and a camera if you wish.

Registration fee: \$45, includes all materials, drinks, lunch

Registration deadline: October 19

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**Sign Up Today!**

Send registration fee to:

Joy Lary, Registrar

(918) 850-9522

1905 S. Ash Place

Broken Arrow, Ok 74012-7001

[jlary2@windstream.net](mailto:jlary2@windstream.net)

Please include your name, address, phone and e-mail



918-746-5125 Phone  
 918-746-5128 Fax  
 www.tulsagardencenter.com

# October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 10:00am Tulsa Garden Club Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm Green Country Bonsai Meeting</p>	<p>2 9:00am Tulsa Herb Society Crafting</p> <p>5:30pm TCC Tropical Plant Care Class</p>	<p>3 9:00am <b>Linnaeus Training Class</b></p> <p>6:00pm <b>Affiliate Council Meeting</b></p>	<p>4 1:00pm Home Landscape Design Class</p> <p>6:30pm Tulsa Area Daylily Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm Cacti &amp; Succulent Society Meeting</p>	<p>5 10:00am Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs Meeting</p>	6
7	<p>8 10:30am <b>TGC Executive Comm. Meeting</b></p> <p>12:00pm <b>TGC Board Meeting</b></p>	<p>9 9:00am Tulsa Herb Society Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm TCC Tropical Plant Care Class</p> <p>7:00pm Green Country Water Garden Society Meeting</p>	<p>10 9:00am <b>Linnaeus Training Class</b></p>	<p>11 1:00pm Home Landscape Design Class</p> <p>7:30pm <i>Composting Under the Stars-Linnaeus Garden</i></p> <p>7:00pm Tulsa Area Iris Society Meeting</p>	12	13
<p>14 1:30pm Tulsa Orchid Society Meeting</p> <p>2:00pm Tulsa Rose Society Meeting</p>	<p>15 7:00pm African Violet Society Meeting</p>	<p>16 9:00am Tulsa Herb Society Crafting</p> <p>11:00am Anne Hathaway Herb Society Meeting</p> <p>12:00pm Book Discussion Club "Trowel &amp; Error"</p> <p>5:30pm TCC Tropical Plant Care Class</p> <p>6:30pm Audubon Society Meeting</p>	<p>17 9:00am <b>Linnaeus Training Class</b></p>	<p>18 12:00pm <b>Brown Bag Lecture</b></p> <p>1:00pm Home Landscape Design Class</p> <p>7:00pm Tulsa Perennial Club Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm Story Time Under The Stars-Linnaeus Garden</p>	<p>19 2:00pm Nat'l. Assoc. of Parliamentarians Meeting</p>	<p>20 9:00am Green Country Bonsai Show</p>
<p>21 9:00am Green Country Bonsai Show</p>	<p>22 6:30pm Calligraphy Guild Meeting</p>	<p>23 9:00am Tulsa Herb Society Crafting</p> <p>5:30pm TCC Tropical Plant Care Class</p> <p>7:00pm The Hosta Connection Meeting</p>	<p>24 9:00am <b>Linnaeus Training Class</b></p>	<p>25 9:30am Tulsa Garden Club Workshop</p> <p>1:00pm TCC Home Landscape Design Class</p> <p>7:00pm Sierra Club Meeting</p>	<p>26 8:00am Calligraphy Guild Workshop</p>	<p>27 8:00am Calligraphy Guild Workshop</p>
<p>28 8:00am Calligraphy Guild Workshop</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9:00am Tulsa Herb Society Crafting</p> <p>5:30pm TCC Tropical Plant Care Class</p>	<p>31 9:00am <b>Linnaeus Monthly Meeting</b></p>			



September 20-21, 2012

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

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# Gardening by the Book

## Shrubs

Shrubs are the backbone of the garden. After several summers of severe heat and drought, gardeners may be reconsidering the plants in their landscapes, including shrubs. Chosen carelessly they can be expensive mistakes. Chosen wisely shrubs will do more for your landscape than any other kind of plant. They can provide shade, flowers, and attractive foliage from spring through fall (or year round if they are evergreen).

Although older, *Flowering Shrubs* (DK Publishing, 1999) is an excellent resource from the American Horticultural Society. Whether growing shrubs in containers or in windy, shady or dry places, practical information is given in a compact format. The listings by size, bloom shape, foliage color and optimal conditions are very specific, and new gardeners will find many tips.

Useful lists highlight shrubs that are known for their scent or foliage in *Gardening with Shrubs* (Guild of Master Craftsman, 2003). Advice on selecting species to make the most of the plants and utilizing their architectural qualities is given. Basic information on pests and diseases accompanies tips on general maintenance and care. The author includes advice on how to select the best species for specific soil types, climatic conditions and geographical locations.

Taylor's *Guide to Shrubs* (Houghton Mifflin, 2000) covers

selection basics, landscaping and cultivation tips, and is a color gallery of plants. This compact guide helps choose the perfect shrubs, whether to give privacy or screen out unattractive views. They can also act as a focal point or enhance a mixed border. For each plant growing information is in the encyclopedia of plants chapter.

The heart of *The Gossler Guide to the Best Hardy Shrubs* (Timber Press, 2009) is the plant directory. Arranged alphabetically by genus, each entry describes the plant, its best features and offers specific advice for successful growing. Additional details are the place of origin, appropriate U.S.D.A. hardiness zones, and favored exposure. The listing of shrubs for specific sites and purposes is helpful for the gardener.

Organized alphabetically by botanical name, *The Timber Press Encyclopedia of Flowering Shrubs* (Timber Press, 2011) has roughly 1700 plants with each briefly described and photographed. Plants are also readily accessed using the common name index. Essential horticultural notes for each entry include expected height and spread after 10 years, season of flowering, soil and pruning requirements, U.S.D.A. hardiness zone rating and more. The 'Table of Selected Shrubs by Key Design and Cultural Characteristics' is a quick reference for many shrubs.

Mary Moore  
Tulsa City-County Library