

The Gardeners' Gazette

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Inside this issue:

About Conifers	1, 2
Choosing Conifers for Small Gardens	3
Book Review	4
American Horticultural Therapy Association Meeting	5
T&D Team: Annual Summary	6
MG Profile	7
Shopping Trip 10/4/2011	8
Review Essay: Gertrude Jekyll	9
What's In a Name-Pt. 2 Deer Resistant Bulbs In Memoriam	10
	6

THE CONIFER ISSUE

About Conifers

Conifers are woody plants, usually evergreen trees or shrubs. Conifers exist in a broad range of sizes, forms, colors, and textures, from dwarf size (for small spaces) which frequently do not stay "dwarf," to full size varieties. They also come in ground cover size as well as hedge size. They are definitely "four season." They come in gold and silvery blue hues, sometimes with variegated foliage.

The "leaves" are needles, sometimes thin and stiff or somewhat flattened or small scales that hug the twigs, solitary or grouped into bundles called "fascicles." Conifers are gymnosperms (means "naked seed") that form seeds, but unlike angiosperms (or flowering plants), the conifer seeds are not protected in enveloping fruits—though they are protected in "cones." Cones are either the female reproductive structure (containing the "seed") or the male reproductive structure, pollen-bearing "cones" which are smaller and not woody. Each type of cone is made up of "scales" that bear ovules (female) or pollen-producing sacs (male). When the ovules are fertilized, they develop into seeds which are borne in the cones. Note: not all seed cones are wood, like pine cones. Juniper cones are often fleshy and fruit-like. The cones of some yews are soft, fleshy, red arils (an open-ended cup around a black seed). Male and female cones can be found on the same (monaecious) plant, or male and female cones can be on separate (dioecious) plants.

Conifers share with deciduous trees several outstanding qualities for the homeowner's landscape: trees represent the largest capital investment in the landscape after hardscaping; landscaping with trees represents the largest return on investment at house re-sale; trees generally cost more to buy and sometimes to install, but the least to maintain than other landscape plants; once established, trees rarely need fertilizing, dead-heading, frequent pruning, or yearly replacement; trees have economic, recreational, social and therapeutic benefits—e.g., shade, air cleaner, erosion preventer, wind deflector, screen-er, etc.

Interestingly enough, however, the list of "Trees for the 21st Century" in the usually reliable New York/Mid-Atlantic Gardener's Book of Lists [Bonnie Lee Appleton & Lois Trigg Chaplin, eds. Taylor Books, 2001] does not list any conifers. To be fair though, confers are mentioned in several "Trees" lists—e.g., Shade-Tolerant Trees, Trees for Wet Sites, Trees for Narrow Space, and Deer Resistant Trees, etc. The latter list includes firs (*Abies* spp), Cedars (*Cedrus* spp), False Cypress (*Chamaecyparis* spp), Japanese Cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*), Larch (*Larix* spp), Spruce (*Picea* spp), Pines (*Pinus* spp), and Canadian hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]



While most conifers keep their evergreen needles or scale-like leaves year round, three are deciduous: bald-cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) dawn-redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) and larch (*Larix* spp). Conifer "leaves" conserve water; so conifers thrive in difficult sites. Conifer cultivars are nursery staples. Cultivars are selected variants of a normal species and are propagated asexually to produce "exact" duplicates of themselves. Cultivars normally behave in a stable manner and remain stable so that all propagations grow like the parent plant(s). But genetic mutations occur in nature for a variety of reasons. One reason is that the more growing tips on a plant the more likely it is that a mutation will occur through the spontaneous genetic mutation of a single bud—technically these are "chimeras" where a portion of a plant with a genetic makeup different from the rest of the plant exists. [For more on conifer mutations, see the Waxman Appendix on "Witches' Brooms." on the Website]

The American Conifer Society recognizes four size categories: "miniature" (*Pinus strobus* 'Sea Urchin')—which grow less than an inch a year; "dwarf" (*Thujaopsis dolabrata* 'Nana')—where the growth is between one and six inches a year; "intermediate" (silver curl fir-*Abies koreana* 'Silverlocke'); "large" (blue Atlas cedar-*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glaucua')—where the growth is more than a foot a year.

Conifers grow best in full sun in moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil. Some conifers like yews (*Taxus*), hemlocks, and plum yews (*Cephalotaxus*) will grow in shade. Dawn-redwood, bald-cypress, swamp white-cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) and some larches will grow in wet soil, once established. Usually conifers are planted in spring or fall, but bald-cypress, firs (*Abies*) and hemlocks can be dug from the ground and planted in spring or fall or from containers in spring or fall. Water newly-planted conifers to one inch a week for the first three growing seasons. After that water only in periods of drought. ≠ [Editor]

Note: Although there are 65 conifer genera listed in the Encyclopedia, the most common in the United States are the fir (*Abies*), cedar (*Cedrus*), *Cephalotaxus*, false-cypress (*Chamaecyparis*), *Cryptomeria*, cypress (*Cupressus*), Gingko, juniper (*Juniperus*), larch (*Larix*), dawn-redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), spruce (*Picea*), pine (*Pinus*), swamp, bald-cypress (*Taxodium*), yew (*Taxus*), arborvitae (*Thuja*), hemlock (*Tsuga*)

Sources: D. M. van Gelderen. Conifers: The Illustrated Encyclopedia. 2 vols. Timber Press, 1996 (by the Royal Boskoop Horticultural Society); Gerd Krussmann. Manual of Cultivated Conifers. 2nd revised Edition. Timber Press, 1983; The Benenson Ornamental Conifers. New York Botanical Garden, [n.d.]; the November/December 2011 issue of Garden Design magazine contains an article, "Pining Away," that describes various conifer cuttings (pp. 19-22), interestingly enough all taken from the Benenson Ornamental Conifers collection at the New York Botanical Garden.

Tid Bit: Bulb Planting

As reported in the September/October, 2011 issue of The American Gardener (pp. 44-45), Cornell University's Flower Bulb Research Program (FBRP) experimented for three years with "top-planted" tulip bulbs which did quite well placed on the surface of tilled soil and covered with a few inches of mulch. This was in Zone 5 and results could vary in other zones. Oh, yes: they were planted within a deer fence. Visit www.flowerbulbs.cornell.edu for more information.

Tid Bit

Latest trend in much of Europe is the idea of "randomized planting"—"you research a combination of plants that work together well, look good together, that thrive in a particular environment, and can be planted at the same spacing—and then they can be set out at random on a grid. The effect is sort of naturalistic, but at the same time quite controlled. It really makes an impact" [Noel Kingbury quote in Gardens Illustrated no.169 (January 2011):103]

Choosing Conifers for Small Gardens

Mention conifers and most gardeners will picture statuesque Atlas cedars, lush white pines, or tall dense arborvitae hedges—in short, big trees. Because most conifers retain their foliage all year, they are particularly useful for adding shape, structure, color, and variety to garden designs in all seasons, but the automatic association of conifers with big, broad, or dense means many gardeners with small gardens, patios, or even balconies miss the opportunity to add the year-round texture and interest to their gardens that conifers can provide.

Virtually all of the large conifers have smaller “cousins.” Mark Priebe, owner of Wolf Run Landscaping in Reading, Pennsylvania, had a table full of more than twenty of these small-sized cultivars at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s fall open house at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia. A quick Internet search yields lists of hundreds more. So with that many to choose from, where does a gardener begin?

Remember that dwarf conifers are often simply slower-growing versions of their larger cousins. As an example, a tree like *Tsuga canadensis*, our native hemlock, generally grows to 25’ or 30’ in 20 years, while a dwarf variety like *Tsuga canadensis* ‘Bennett’ may only reach 2’ in the same amount of time. Theoretically, the dwarf variety could grow to 25’ or 30’ if given enough time. A miniature variety would supposedly take even longer.

In reality, these plants stay dependably small and, since they are slow-growing, retain their shape without much pruning. The American Conifer Society also identifies six different growth habits of dwarf conifers:

Globose—rounded, ball-shaped

Narrow upright—taller than broad; ranging from columnar, pillar-shaped to conical or pyramidal

Pendulous—weeping or drooping branches

Broad, upright—equally tall and wide

Spreading—broader than tall

Prostrate—carpet-like, ground-hugging; often good as a ground cover

The color palette for dwarf and miniature conifers is surprisingly diverse. In addition to the expected shades of green, there are conifers with blue, lavender, yellow, and even red foliage. Some dwarf conifers have almost black foliage while others have variegated coloring. Still others undergo seasonal changes: *Chamaecyparis thyoides* ‘Red Star’ has foliage that goes from a rich green in summer to a stunning bronze red in winter.

Once you have decided on size and color, you need to consider texture. Conifer foliage ranges from the thin feathery foliage of *Chamaecyparis pisifera* cultivars, to the soft billowy look of *Microbiota decussata* (Russian arborvitae) or the sturdy, stiff needles of *Pinus mugo*. Think, too, about density—conifer foliage ranges from thick, dense, almost solid-looking foliage to looser, more open, practically see-through foliage.

A Google image search for “dwarf conifers” yields hundreds of pictures of these versatile plants. Websites for wholesale and retail nurseries like Mountain Meadows Dwarf Conifers and Singing Tree Gardens have comprehensive lists, as well as detailed information, about cultivars. On the United States National Arboretum’s website, you can take a virtual tour of the Gotelli Dwarf and Slow-Growing Conifer Collection at the arboretum.

A recent article about using dwarf conifers in Pacific Northwest gardens refers to them as small plants with a big role. Remember that what these small plants do for gardens on the other side of this continent, they can do for Mid-Atlantic gardens as well.

American Conifer Society <http://www.conifersociety.org/>

Mountain Meadows Nursery <http://www.mountainmeadowsdwarfconifers.com/dwarfconifers>

Singing Tree Nursery [http://singtree.com/Dwarf Conifers](http://singtree.com/Dwarf%20Conifers)

United States Arboretum <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/collections/conifer>

Dwarf Conifers: Small Trees Play a Big Role <http://www.northwestgardennews.com> ≠

[Debbe Krape]

Book Review

[Debbe Krape]

Two recently published books challenge the reader to look differently at plants generally considered noxious. Released earlier this summer in the US, the first is by British nature writer Richard Mabey. In his book *Weeds: In Defense of Nature's Most Unloved Plants*, Mabey explores mankind's long, frequently conflicted relationship with a number of plants. Reviled through the ages when invading cultivated fields or gardens, many of these plants had useful cultural or medicinal qualities. Mabey explores the philosophical and practical questions of where and when they were permitted to grow, and when and how people tried, and are still trying, to get rid of them. While his initial focus is on weeds in Britain, he expands the discussion in later chapters to other geographic areas including North America. His use of British common names for plants is problematic; however, there is a glossary in back with the botanical names.

The second book is by Peter Del Tredici, Senior Research Scientist at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Although different in form and function, Del Tredici's book also challenges the reader to reconsider the role of invasive exotics in addition to aggressive natives in disturbed environments. Geographically focused on the US, *Urban Wild Plants of the Northeast* is a field guide to plants that show up in the seriously degraded natural environment of urban areas. While Del Tredici gives all the requisite botanical information (including color pictures) for identifying these plants, he also gives their attendant ecological function and cultural significance. Whether using the guide for identification or simply perusing the entries, the reader is quickly aware that, in certain situations and with few exceptions, many otherwise reviled plants have some redeeming quality—knowledge that can lead to a more tolerant view of plants most consider undesirable.≠

GERTRUDE JEKYLL [continued from page 9]

Chapter 4 "Colour in the Flower Garden" is, in this writer's opinion, her most lasting contribution to garden design. "To plant and maintain a flower-border, with a good scheme for colour, is by no means the easy thing that is commonly supposed" she is reputed to have said. And, while Jekyll designed in collaboration with nearly 50 architects, she is rarely mentioned in descriptions of their work. Sometimes that is because the architects are allied with other garden journals. She always suited her border design plantings of hardy perennials in colors and textures to individual situations; even when she could no longer visit a site, she continued to get soil samples and ask questions about sun/shade, etc. She is famous for borders that begin with one color (usually a "cool" color like purple or blue) at one end of a border and shade through lavenders, to pinks to reds to oranges and back to blue or purple at the other end.

The last chapter is given over to garden ornament, about which Jekyll and Lutyens had very definite ideas. No careless adaptations of Italian gardens for them, but plenty of water, fountains, cisterns, pools, garden houses, pergolas, pavilions, etc.

In conclusion, Jekyll's ideas are somewhat dated now, even though we still think of "drifts" of plants in herbaceous borders. She gave a great deal of thought to methods of arranging flowers in borders, especially in ways of color-combinations. She used plants to form "beautiful pictures," "fashioned into a dream of beauty," provide "a place of perfect rest and refreshment of mind and body," a "series of soul-satisfying pictures," or "a treasure of well-set jewels." All Tankards' words. In Jekyll's own words: "Every plant or group of plants needs to be placed with thoughtful care and definite intention so that they shall form a part of a 'harmonious whole' and 'show a series of pictures.'" ≠ [Bob Deming]

American Horticultural Therapy Association Annual Meeting on the 'The Role of Horticultural Therapy in the Therapeutic Community'

[by Carmela Simons]

I was able to attend the conference thanks to a generous scholarship from our organization. It was, indeed, a great experience to interact with a group of people who are as committed and passionate about their organization as Master Gardeners are of theirs, if that is possible.

The 2011 AHTA Conference welcomed over 170 attendees in Asheville, N.C. The thirty ninth annual conference was one of the best-attended in recent history. Pre-conference tours at the Bullington Center and Cooper Riis Healing Farm kicked off the event with perfect fall weather complementing their beautiful settings.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Sharon Young, Chief Recovery Program Officer and Clinical Psychologist at the Cooper Riis Healing Farm gave an electrifying speech entitled "How to Become a Recovery Revolutionary."

In this speech, the audience was oriented to the progressive Recovery Paradigm. This unconventional approach which has been described as a paradigm shift, a new model of care, and even a civil rights movement, has clearly gained international momentum as it has galvanized efforts to improve the provision of services to individuals with mental health and/or addictions challenges.

During the presentation, five key recovery principles were explained; the nature of recovery enhancing relationships, the importance of a holistic approach, the necessity of fostering empowerment, the importance of nurturing hope and the power of connecting with meaning and purpose. Audience members learned how these principles can be actualized in myriad health care and educational settings so that they too can join the recovery revolution.

I was the only person from Delaware at the meeting, although there were several from the Mid Atlantic Chapter of AHTA. Hopefully that will change in the near future.

I hope to give more information on this as soon as I get my photos together. ≠

SHOPPERS [continued from page 8]

After that great lunch we decided to get some goodies to take home. We walked to Claudio's —The King Of The Cheeses. It is a short walk from Ralph's, maybe three blocks. If you are a cheese nut, Claudio's is your heaven. If you can't find it there, it probably isn't available locally. They have freebie samples and lots of characters working there. At Claudio's you will find: cheeses from around the world; a wonderful selection of olive oils; salts of all types including Himalayan Pink; olives of all types; dry pastas; Italian lunch meats; dry salami and sausages; and many more Italian specialities.

If you don't find what you are looking for in Claudio's, you can stop in DiBruno Bros right next to Claudio's. There are so many interesting businesses on 9th St., you could spend an entire day there.

Secret Shoppers Tip: For a day trip, take along a small cooler. You never know what you might find that would need a cool spot!

We hope that you have enjoyed our Fall Philly Adventure and as Roy and Dale always said, "Happy Trails to You". ≠ [The Shoppers]

T&D Team: Annual Summary

In 2011 the Telephone & Diagnostics Team was inundated by reports and questions about **diseases in lawns**. Small wonder, considering the weather patterns since Spring.

A weed sample came from a home in Newark, next to a wooded area. MGs identified it as **poke weed** and called the homeowner with simple instructions for control. We could have cited <http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/plantoftheweek/articles/Pokeweed.htm> from the University of Arkansas, which suggests making a salad or cooking young shoots for an unusual, but free and nutritious treat.

We'd be rolling in dough if we had a nickel for every **bagworm** question/complaint this year. Bagworms were described as "balls", "things hanging", etc. Would it help if the News Journal ran a comprehensive article, complete with pictures and diagrams?

A maple tree in Wilmington had holes in its leaves, ranging from small to "teeny tiny." Sample also included an insect, suspected of causing the damage. MGs identified Frog-eye Leaf Spot and suggested better clean-up of fallen leaves. They also pointed out that the disease is neither fatal nor especially treatable. They did a masterful job of keeping straight faces while identifying the insect as a **lightning bug**.

One of the T&D Team members had an anguished summer disposing of all her **Echinaceas**. Apparently all varieties in this garden were infected with phytoplasmas related to aster yellows. This episode continues, waiting for more definitive information. If other gardeners had similar experiences, please share your information.

Hopefully, when the homeowner in Newark was told he had "**tooth fungus**" he didn't go running to his dentist. The properly named *Climacodon septentrionale* is similar to a bracket fungus, in this case growing on an older maple, but has "teeth" instead of gills.

North Americans are one of the few peoples on this planet who don't cultivate and eat **purslane**. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portulaca_oleracea

A volunteer sprout appeared in a damp area in an Elkton garden. MGs identified it as **Swamp Hibiscus** (*H. coccineus*), grown by many for the unusual foliage and large, showy flowers. The owner was advised that most gardeners would not consider it a weed. ≠ [Gil Martin]

Tid Bit

News about Burning Bush, that thug! Researchers at the University of Connecticut have found the genetic combination that will grow a seedless, non-invasive version. The decade of work also insures that the fall color and durability of the "parent" will remain. As one newspaper account put it: "they've neutered the incorrigible plant to make it behave." ≠

Tid Bit: Vines

Vines are perfect for horizontal and vertical spaces, covering fences, walls, pergolas. There's even a mail-order nursery that specializes in vines and climbers [www.gardenvines.com which is Brushwood Nursery]. It carries clematis, climbing roses, jasmine, honey-suckle, wisteria, etc. It even has the native climbing aster (*Ampelaster carolinianus*) which is drought tolerant, climbs like a rose, and has lavender-pink flowers. *Bignonia capreolata* is evergreen to semi-evergreen with purple and brown winter foliage and is loved by hummingbirds. ≠



Master Gardener Profile Betsy Rosenberger '09

Despite her protests that she "is not that interesting", Betsy was interviewed for our Interesting Master Gardener series. Is your family home built on a land grant from King George III? Has your family been in Delaware since 1735? These two facts alone make you sit up and recognize an interesting MG.

The Ratledge Award, established by Betsy and her family, reflects the family's long commitment to the state of Delaware and to the University of Delaware. The award recognizes significant public service by members of the UD community that contributes to the well-being of all Delawareans. Preference is given to members of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the College of Education and Public Policy. The award was endowed in 2002 and the first recipients were named in 2004.

There have been many UD alums in her family. Betsy's father was a USDA agronomist. No surprise, then, that Betsy has been gardening from childhood. After experiencing the annoying and apparently arbitrary gardening rules and regulations in a planned community in Pennsylvania, she has returned to the family homestead. We can all envy her twenty-plus acres south of the canal; far enough south to be in 7B where she can grow caladiums, camellias and dahlias in wild profusion. She can even leave her figs outside in winter, unwrapped.

Most of her many niches and microclimate areas are devoted to ornamentals. She is relatively new to growing vegetables and finds the learning curve is steep. She terms it "learning by failure". It may be hard to believe, but the very rural property has zero deer. Her beds are either "eclectic" or "experimental" (take your pick), but no one would mistake them for formal. She also makes liberal use of containers.

Betsy has benefitted greatly from the MG training that she completed in '09. As would any microbiologist working around chemicals, her first response to seeing insects in her garden was to reach for a spray can. That has changed 180 degrees after learning about IPM (Integrated Pest Management). She is now a fan of compost, aware of ecology of her property and its environs, and understands the importance of native plants.

Her advice for planning a new garden or flowerbed: rather than planting "always in groups of 3 or 5" she prefers to plant ONE! Then if it survives add two or four the next year. Sound advice, no? ≠ [Gil Martin, Bill Horne & Kris Chiappa]

Tid Bit: Dahlias

"At Anglesey Abbey, in Cambridgeshire (England), there is a dedicated dahlia garden that was established in the 1940s by Lord Fairhaven. When the National Trust took over the property in 1966, the Trust's garden adviser, Graham Stuart Thomas, opined that dahlias were not worthy plants for a great garden and should be removed. Fortunately the gardeners ignored him." The garden contains many old varieties. Quy Road, Lode, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB25 9EJ. Tel 01223 810080. Source: [BBC Gardens Illustrated](#) No. 177 (September 2011): 19.

Shopping Trip 10/4/11

October 4th was sunny, 70 degrees and sensational! It was the perfect day for another Secret Shoppers Outing. This time we headed to Conshohocken, Pa. to a gem of a place called **Garden Accents**. Since it was a little tricky to find, a co-pilot was a good idea because of the heavy traffic area, and you need to keep your eyes on the road. Let the co-pilot read the directions, and you concentrate on driving. All we could say when we found it was WOW!, what a place.

We are going to quote from their literature because we could not say it any better. "A unique collection of over 3000 Items from around the world": Limited edition bronzes; antique estate pieces; contemporary garden ornaments; urns, fountains, statues; containers and furniture; lead, terra cotta, iron and stone; Garden Design services; Custom Orders; Personalized Sales Service. What a place! A hidden gem! Nirvana for the container gardener, and heaven for the landscape designer.

It takes about forty-five to fifty minutes to get there from the Extension Office. That depends on the traffic on I-95 and I-476. Their address is: Garden Accents; 4 Union Hill Rd.; West Conshohocken, PA.; Phone: 610-825-5525; www.gardenaccents.com. Directions are available from their website, and they are easy to follow. If you are a gardener and interested in garden accents, you don't want to miss this place. It is worth the trip. If you are in a browsing mood, plan on an hour and a half to two hours. Since they don't sell nursery stock, you can browse all year long. Most of their stock is outside and uncovered; so your winter browsing might not take that long.

Garden Accents is a must visit. They have garden decor from \$20.00 to \$20,000.00 dollars. It was voted "BEST OF PHILLY" for garden products. Where else could you find a mirrored obelisk, hand made Italian and Greek terra cotta, French Anduze Blue glazed planters, outdoor furniture, and custom made pieces? If you have been there, then you know what we are talking about. A must visit.

Well, after that fantastic visit, we shopping buddies were ready for some great food. We jumped on I-76 East, the Schuylkill Expressway, and made a B-line to I-95 north. Then the co-pilot missed the sign. Finally we found 8th street and took that to Washington St., made a right on Washington, went one block, and there we were right in the heart of the Italian market. Ninth and Washington in front of Giordano's Produce is the start of the Italian Market. Walking up 9th St. from Giordano's Produce, you are walking in the same place that Sylvester Stallone did in the original "Rocky" movie. Well, he was jogging; we weren't, passing all of the vendors who have fires burning in 55 gallon steel barrels. They are roasting peanuts and chestnuts. The fires also provide some relief from the cool temperatures and a way to burn up some of the trash.

We recommend two places that you should visit if you go to the Market. For lunch we recommend Ralph's. They are about eight blocks up on 9th on the left. Ralph's is an Italian restaurant and, on a scale of 1 to 10, we gave it a ten for food and history. As a bonus, Sarcone's Bakery is right next to Ralph's. Sarcones is a major supplier of Italian Breads to the Philly market. When they "sell out", they close! Check with them if that is the reason you are going to Philly.

Ralph's is documented as being the "Oldest continuously operated family owned Italian restaurant in the United States." We started our meal with a table order of fresh Mussels in Marinara sauce with a basket of Sarcones fresh bread on the table. You may think you've had mussels in red sauce, but until you have eaten them at Ralph's, you don't know what they taste like. The Mussels were sweet and plump and the bread made a great sponge for the sauce. WOW!!, a little bit of heaven. Our main courses were: Veal Piccata with a side of Pasta; Veal Marsala with a side of Pasta; Ziti with Peas and Prosciutto.

Another customer couldn't wait to tell us not to leave without tasting the Pumpkin Cheesecake. He looked like he knew what he was talking about; so we ordered one piece and split it. If truth be told, we all wished we would have ordered a whole piece for each one of us. It was delicious. We all had the House Chianti and it was excellent. The wine was very smooth without any bitter bite. We had an excellent meal from start to finish. **Ralph's is cash only**. If you go to the Italian Market, don't forget that many of the old neighborhood restaurants are **CASH ONLY**. [continued page 5]

Review Essay: Gertrude Jekyll

Judith B Tankard's most recent book Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden (London: Rizzoli, 2011) is based on articles originally appearing in the English horticultural magazine Country Life. In this case, the articles are not written by Ms. Jekyll but describe the country houses and gardens that she helped design, many of them with her favorite architect collaborator, Edward Lutyens. In fact, when Jekyll moved from her mother's house, Munstead House, to her own lifelong home, Munstead Wood, it was Lutyens who designed the Surrey- and Arts and Crafts-style house.

In Tankard's words, Jekyll, who developed the double herbaceous border that we still know today, was an "artist, a gardener, a designer, a writer, and much more" (p. 9). Born in 1843 (she did not die until 1932), she was also a good friend of William Robinson (The Wild Garden) and was influenced by his "naturalistic" gardening style. From an Arts and Crafts background where she included embroidery and crafts with her botanical studies, she developed an aesthetic that emphasized the "flow" from house, to lawn, to gardens. Following Robinson who praised the "beauty of hardy, native plants in their actual settings as opposed to annuals planted in elaborate carpet-like patterns" (p. 12), she also learned photography to illustrate her articles (about 1,000 of them not all in Country Life) which added another artistic aesthetic to her training. And, from the time she moved to Munstead Wood in 1897, she developed a nursery which continued to provide plants for her proposed garden designs up to her death.

She produced ten books (two were co-edited), over a 1,000 articles, and about 100 signed articles in Country Life and in The Garden and Gardening Illustrated. These combined her carefully researched horticultural knowledge and skills with her art studies. They emphasized "composition" and "colour" harmonies. She designed over 100 gardens. Her fifteen acre nursery was developed before Munstead Wood was even built, with paths leading from lawn to woodland to house to borders. Her first border (1895) was 14' X 180' backed by high sandstone walls (a favorite feature along with grass paths, pergolas, and gray foliage plants) that provided a succession of bloom from June to October (without spring bulbs which she avoided because of the mess of their decaying foliage!).

Each of the very short chapters in Tankard's book describes several of Jekyll's gardens in terms of the country houses they surrounded. Some are historical gardens (like St. Catherine's Court in Somerset), some are about the "sympathetic arrangement of site in the natural conditions of its surroundings" (p. 54) like Owlpen Manor in Gloucestershire, and all mention the architects who designed or restored the manor houses. Special place is given to those houses designed by Lutyens or gardens designed by him with input from Jekyll. She admired Lutyens, as well as another Arts and Crafts architect, Harry Triggs (Little Boarhunt in Hampshire), for the standard he represented, his "picturesque Surrey-style vernacular, and his almost formal geometry mixed with informal textures. "A Lutyens house and a Jekyll garden" became the catch-phrase among a certain set of wealthy patrons. Over 40 years and 50 gardens, their collaboration defined a certain aesthetic standard.

The best example of their partnership is Hestercombe Gardens which features Lutyens' creation and manipulation of space, reliance on geometry which results in a rigid framework and the contrast with Jekyll's more informal style based on "lush planting compositions which give contrasting coordination to color, texture, and three-dimensionality" (p. 77). Formal geometry and informal texture, representing Arts and Crafts approaches, are hardscape and herbaceous borders. Their collaborations include: Tigbourne Court in Surrey, Orchards in Surrey, Hestercombe Gardens in Somerset, Folly Farm in Berkshire, Gledstone Hall in Yorkshire, and Plumpton Place in Sussex. For the latter, when she was 82 and nearly blind, she designed multiple borders (the original plant list had 700+ plants), a long 200' canal, recessed pools, flanking terraces, an elevated pergola to frame the vista. Loggias from the projecting wings of the house were rose-filled parterres and pillars entwined with wisteria. It featured strong colors and dramatic foliage. Jekyll particularly liked Lutyens' use of connected pergolas—not standing out with no connection to the house or garden—where he alternated round and square pillars usually made from local stone. **[continued on page 4]**

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Deadlines for articles in our quarterly issues are the second of each of these months: February, May, August, November

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Cooperative Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES

What's in a Name (Part Two)

Colorful Latin Translations

BLACK:

anthracinus: coal black, bluish black

ater: pure black

atratus: clothed in black for mourning

carbonaceous: black like charcoal

coracinus, *corvinus*: crow black, shiny black

denigratus: blackened

ebenaceus, *ebenus*: black like ebony

mela-, *melano-*: pure black

nigellus: blackish

nigrescens, *nigricans*: blackish, blackening

nigritus: dressed in black

piceus: brownish black, pitch black

pullus: dusky, grayish black

Tid Bit: Deer Resistant Hardy Bulbs

According to the most recent van Engelen catalog [www.vanengelen.com], the following hardy bulbs are "deer proof": *Allium azureum* (coneflower blue, 24"), *A. multibulbosum* (white, 18" to 24"), *Allium sphaerocephalon* (Drumstick Allium, dark crimson-purple, 24"), *Fritillaria me-laegrif* (The Guinea Hen Flower, purple and white, 8"), *Hya-cinthoides non-scripta* (English Bluebell, dark violet-blue, 18"), *Scilla siberica* 'Spring Beauty' Siberian Squill, vivid sky-blue, 5", *Narcissus Grand Mixture*, white-yellow-bicolor, 18" to

20"; also *Allium aflatunense* 'Purple Sensation,' reddish-purple, 24" to 30"; *Chionodoxa sardensis* (blue, 5" to 6"), *Eranthis hyemalis* (yellow, 4"), *Muscari armeniacum* (cobalt-blue, 6"), *Narcissus Ice Follies* (white with yellow cup that matures to ivory, 18" to 20"), *Narcissus Marieke* (yellow, 18" to 20").

IN MEMORIAM

Jane Warter class of 1988

Died August 5, 2011

Patricia Strahorn class of

1996

Died September 9, 2011