

# WILSHIRE GARDEN M A R K E T

December, 2005 Newsletter  
Vol. 2, No. 11

2821 Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
(405) 879-1121 [www.wilshiregardenmarket.com](http://www.wilshiregardenmarket.com)  
Established 1997

## HOLIDAY TRADITIONS ROOTED IN THE GARDEN

The Christmas tree, the focal point of current Christmas decoration, had its roots thousands of years ago in Rome, Greece, and Egypt when evergreens were brought from the winter garden into the home.



The modern Christmas tree appeared first in Germany in the 17th century. Germany's Prince Albert, married to Queen Victoria, brought the tree tradition to England's royal family in 1847, and then of course *everyone* wanted one. Just a mere couple of years later, Christmas trees became popular in America, and the rest is history. More than 30 million trees

are decorated each year. Mistletoe became popular with ancient peoples because of its attractive leaves and berries, and it was evergreen when all else was dead.

Ornaments first were used in Germany in the 16th century. Primarily for the enjoyment of children, the ornaments were candy, fruit, and toys. Candy canes were introduced as ornaments in 1670. Supposedly, a choir director handed out candies bent to look like shepherds' hooks to keep his choir children quiet during a Christmas program rehearsal. The coloring and peppermint flavoring were added to candy canes in approximately 1900.

Industrial advances brought into use manufactured ornaments, and by the second half of the 19th century, trees were heavily laden with toys. Tree toys evolved into wrapped gifts moved to underneath the tree, leading to the development of strictly decorative ornaments designed to delight the eye! Woolworth



introduced fragile blown glass ornaments from Germany to the U.S. They were the basis of Woolworth's fortune. During WWII, the supply of German made ornaments obviously was cut off. Corning Glass retooled its light bulb machines to make ornaments, soon producing 60 million ornaments a year.

Tree candles were highly unsafe. In 1882, the Vice President of Thomas Edison's electric company wired 80 red, white, and blue lights on his tree. Electric tree lights became popular after electricity was commonly found in homes in the 1920's.

Gift giving became a tradition in ancient Rome where people gave gifts of cakes and dried fruits



to celebrate the harvest festival of Saturnalia. White tissue paper with a holly sprig was the standard wrap in Victorian England. In December of 1918, in a

small stationery shop in Kansas City, the shop owners ran out of plain tissue wrap. They used the fancy paper that was used to line their envelopes, and it was a big hit. They later founded the Hallmark Company.

Seventeenth century children in Holland would awake on Christmas Day to find their shoes filled with gifts and candy. Shoes got transformed into socks and then those were replaced in the 20th century by larger colorful stockings.

On that traditional note, the following pages are packed with enticing stocking stuffers and garden inspired gifts for gardeners and for those who simply want beauty in their gardens. These and all of the gifts presented on the website and the Gifts for Gardeners on the home page are offered both as ideas and as a source for simple, successful shopping. We wish you a truly joyful holiday season spent with family and friends!

## GARDEN GIFT GUIDE 2005



Festive and fragrant are bayberry scented, holiday wrapped French milled soaps for stocking stuffers, party favors, hostess gifts, or package adornment.

Vintage look silver plated knife handle pens are elegant stocking stuffers, gifts for groups, and teacher gifts. Each comes with its own fabric pouch.



Die cut playing cards in the shape of gingerbread men, Santas, and snowmen make unique stocking stuffers or gifts for card groups.

Red, white, and green porcelain gift tags can be used as tags on packages, place cards at holiday gatherings, or as gifts themselves. A set includes an assortment of six styles.



Rustic bird houses, roosting pouches, and feeder stations make great gifts, provide shelter to birds, and add a charming touch to the winter garden.



This hand blown glass hummingbird feeder in light green with rose colored flower ports is a shimmering jewel in the garden, sure to attract the most finicky hummingbirds. Hang from a tree or in the garden on a small hooked stake.

This attractive copper twirling wind ornament will add the element of movement to the garden. An attractive ornament for year round use, its restful hypnotic movement will capture the attention of all who pass by. Hang from a tree or porch overhang and wait for the wind to blow.



These quality outdoor mats with holiday flair are made of sturdy, fade resistant, washable material. Either one of these colorful doormats with deer motif will add ambiance and cheer to any entry.



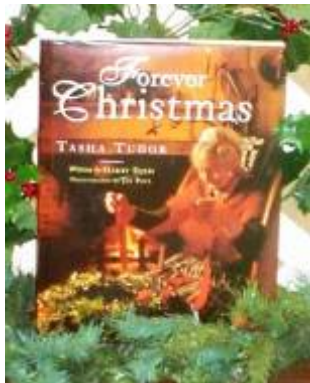
Made in a community just outside of New Orleans, the sales of these doormats will help provide financial support to their post-hurricane economy. Available in styles for all seasons; a number have coordinating garden or standard size flags as well. Sets of all season doormats and flags make a much appreciated gift for new homeowners.





A favorite new fountain design, five small cast stone birds congregate to drink and bathe in water that bubbles up from the center of the disk. The water then flows over the edge into the well, creating an echo of splashing water below. This fountain measures 23" x 17", weighs 228 lbs.

The frog prince rules all that he surveys in your garden. Mr. Personality stands 14"H x 7"W and is ready to snap up all of your pesky garden insects. He will make a great gift for dad or even a princess for that matter.



Rich Victorian holiday photos and Advent and Christmas activities fill this book by artist and gardener, Tasha Tudor. "Christmas has always been my family's favorite celebration. It is a time of magic. Is it not?" – Tasha Tudor.

### TASHA TUDOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE GINGERBREAD

1 C shortening, 1 C light br. sugar, 3 eggs well beaten, 1 ½ C molasses, 6 C bread flour, ½ t ground ginger, 2 ¼ t salt, 1 ½ t baking soda, 1 t cinnamon.

Cream shortening; add sugar, eggs, and molasses. Sift remaining ingredients into mixture, chill, roll out, cut into shapes for the tree. Bake on sheets at 350F until dry but not crisp. Decorate with frosting. (Frosting: 1 C sugar, ½ C water, and 2 egg whites)

Boil sugar, water to spin fine thread. Beat egg whites in separate bowl. When syrup makes fine thread, pour it over the egg whites, beat well.

## SEMINAR SERIES 2005-2006

These seminars begin at 10:30 a.m. and are one hour in length, with time for questions at the conclusion. The fee is \$10 per person; seating is somewhat limited, so call now to reserve a space. Door prizes are given at each seminar. Please join us!

- |                |             |                                  |
|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Sat., Dec.3    | Linda Vater | "Christmas Open House"           |
| Fri., Feb. 10  | Linda Vater | "Creating Garden Vignettes"      |
| Sat., Mar. 11  | Linda Vater | "Gardening Fundamentals"         |
| Sat., April 8  | Linda Vater | "Curb Appeal and Seasonal Color" |
| Sat., May 6    | Linda Vater | "Roses"                          |
| Fri., June 2   | Linda Vater | "Container Gardening"            |
| Sat., July 8   | Linda Vater | "Shade Gardening"                |
| August         | Linda Vater | SKIP IT! TOO HOT!                |
| Sat., Sept. 16 | Linda Vater | "Best Foundation Plants"         |
| Fri., Oct. 13  | Linda Vater | "Bulb Container Gardening"       |

**Watch Linda Vater's garden segments on the KFOR-TV4 4:30-4:45 p.m. News with Linda Cavanaugh every Tuesday!**



## EXTERIOR DECORATING

Give yourself (or someone else) a garden retreat, or update an existing one. Wilshire Garden Market provides an exterior decorating consultation service. By appointment, for a nominal fee, we will make a consultation visit followed by written suggestions to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, and useful. Call the store for details or to set up an appointment.

**Let us help you create your outdoor living room!**

HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM  
HTTP://WWW.WILSHIREGARDENMARKET.COM



**You are Cordially Invited**  
**To a**  
**Happy Holiday Open House**  
**Saturday, December 3**  
**10:30 -5:30**  
*Linda Vater Seminar 10:30-Noon*  
**Drawings for Door Prizes hourly.**

---

Wilshire Garden Market  
2821 West Wilshire Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

---