

# WILSHIRE GARDEN

## M A R K E T

October, 2004 Newsletter

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

Established 1997

## WATER AND WILD BIRDS IN THE FALL GARDEN

Try to imagine a garden without the chirping and movement of birds; it would be empty and unappealing. Most true gardener types cannot get enough birds (except starlings) in their gardens. They seek to attract more of the beautiful feathered creatures, especially songbirds, by providing cute and cozy houses, tubs of bird seed, and other features that they might enjoy. It is, after all, rewarding for humans to feel connected to nature by caring for wild birds and watching them as they lend grace to their surroundings.

Birds will frequent gardens that provide what they need to survive--food, water, and shelter. They will thrive in gardens that offer plants that provide shelter and are loaded with berries and seeds, such as holly hedges. Vines grown on fences and other supports are excellent food, nesting, and shelter for birds. Grasses and mulch attract insects on which many birds feed.

Adding bird feeders where they can be seen from the house gives the added enjoyment of being able to watch their activities. Cardinals, finches, chickadees, and mourning doves visit feeders.

Multiple bird baths or sources of water are necessary for most gardens to make sure that there is always an adequate supply. Birds need water in the fall just as much as they do in the other seasons. In addition to the birds that reside in gardens all year round, there are thirsty migrating birds passing through.



Well placed bird baths add beauty and structure to the garden as well as attracting birds and keeping them healthy. The proper placement of bird baths will also help ensure the birds' safety.

According to Audubon Society guidelines, there should be a clear area around each bird bath of approximately ten feet in diameter to prevent



sneak attacks by predators. In warm weather place bird baths in shady areas of the garden so that the water will stay cooler and evaporate more slowly. A tree should be close by, not only for shade

but as a place where birds can make a quick retreat when danger threatens while bathing or drinking. In cold weather, the leaves will be off the trees and the sun will help keep the water ice free.

The water depth of the bird bath should be only two inches; birds are small and they do not swim well. Placing a rock or small garden ornament in the center can make it easier and safer for the birds to use. Every week, wash out the bird bath with the garden hose; several times a year, disinfect with watered down bleach. A source of clean water is vital to the survival of wild birds all year round and wild birds are vital to the beauty of our gardens all year round.

## WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET ASKS THE EXPERTS

In order for our readers to be better informed regarding the latest trends and all matter of horticulture and landscape design issues, our series of interviews continues with knowledgeable experts in their fields.

Klee Black is a well known local horticulturist and landscape contractor. He will be presenting a seminar on bulbs at Wilshire Garden Market on October 26.

Q: What are your clients requesting this year?

A: Generally my customers have been asking for easy, low maintenance, "cruise control" gardening. This requires consistent watering that is made simple by a good sprinkler system (one that hits everything and hits it properly). I don't install sprinkler systems, but I run water lines off of the sprinkler systems into planters and even into second story window boxes. Sprinkler companies don't like to bother with this because it is a lot of work. Besides that, since they are not horticulturists they don't know what is best for the plants and for the container. I install a valve on the end of the line that can be adjusted by the homeowner for seasonal conditions. I conceal the lines with plant materials.

Another problem for homeowners is outdoor privacy. I have installed numerous privacy screens made with trees and other plant materials. I like to use columnar trees and plants because they take up less space horizontally. English White Oak is one of my favorites because it holds its leaves until it puts on new ones in the spring and it will eventually grow to a height of 30 feet.

In the evergreens, American Holly, Foster's Holly, and Nellie Stevens Holly are favorites. Sky Rocket Juniper and a columnar Yaupon Holly also can be used.

Q: Have you noticed any new trends in the industry?

A: There is renewed interest in orange blooming flowers. For a long time, no one wanted orange in their color palette. Now wholesale growers are developing new varieties in orange hues and many of my clients want to incorporate orange into their plantings. I like to combine orange with purples and blues to really make an impact.



Q: What do you use to add interest to shady garden areas?

A: Tropical plants make attractive additions to a shade garden. Because they are "shade plants", most of them have large, interesting leaves and they make a bold statement that is unexpected in an Oklahoma garden. To add a color splash I have also been using bromeliads, assorted varieties of begonias such as the Angel Wing and Dragon Wing. Persian Shield grows to a nice size and has beautiful purple and green foliage. There is a new variety of Japanese Painted Fern that has more white in the foliage that makes it very showy in shady areas. Hydrangeas are one of my favorite shade plants as well. Oak Leaf Hydrangeas have good foliage and the Golden Leaf Hydrangeas show up from a distance. Of course, Caladiums are a good standard plant for shade.

Q: You are very interested in bulbs; has this influenced how you help your clients?

A: My enthusiasm for bulbs is passed on to my clients because I continually introduce my clients to new and unusual varieties. We work together to determine what colors will compliment their homes and landscapes. I suggest early, mid, and late season bulbs to use in flower beds, the landscape, and planters for a visually pleasing, cohesive effect that will last throughout the spring.

Contact Klee Black for a landscape consultation at 210-6747 (cell).

## EXTERIOR DECORATING

This year give yourself a garden retreat, or refresh the one you have. In response to repeated requests, Wilshire Garden Market now provides an exterior decorating consultation service. By appointment and for a nominal fee, we will make a consultation visit followed by written suggestions to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, and useful. We also plant pots or window boxes. Call the store for more details or to set up an appointment.



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

## WHAT'S NEW AT WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

- OU/OSU flags, stepping stones, garden stones
- outdoor PILLOWS in fall hues
- DOORMATS in ornate rubber and stylish coir.



### OCTOBER TO DO LIST.

- Plant cool season grass/Overseed warm season grass with cool season grass
- Mid-month fertilize cool season grass
- Dig and store tender bulbs.
- Plant spring bulbs and perennials
- Remove diseased plants from garden to reduce disease next year
- Clean up water garden after frost kills tips of plants
- Before cold temperatures nip tomato plants, pick green tomatoes and make tasty fried green tomatoes with this recipe:

In a large bowl, combine 1c cornmeal, 1c flour, 1T garlic powder, and a pinch of cayenne. In another bowl, pour 1 ½ c buttermilk seasoned with salt and pepper. Slice 4 green tomatoes ½ inch thick. Dip the tomatoes in buttermilk, and then dredge in cornmeal mixture, coating both sides. Heat ½ c vegetable oil in a skillet over medium heat. Fry tomatoes until golden brown on both sides, about 3 to 4 minutes per side. Remove and drain on paper towels.

### SEMINAR SERIES 2004/2005

Wilshire Garden Market is pleased to feature two special evening seminars this month featuring Klee Black and Steve Hill.

Garden designer and landscape contractor Klee Black will present "Bulbs" on Tuesday, October 26 at 7:00-8:00 p.m. In addition to his informative presentation, Klee will bring a large array of spring bulbs fresh from Holland that can be purchased that evening.

On Thursday, October 28, at 7:00-8:00 p.m., Steve Hill will present "Plant Partners", a class that he created for his series at the Firehouse Art Center in Norman. Hill is a landscape architect, contractor and a professor at the University of Oklahoma; his work includes the grounds of the Natural History Museum in Nor-

man. Come to this slide seminar to create stunning new plant combinations now and next spring.

The daytime seminars begin at 10:30 a.m.; evening seminars begin at 7:00 p.m. All seminars are one hour in length, with time for questions at the conclusion. The fee is \$10 per person and seating is somewhat limited, so call now to reserve a space. Door prizes are given at each seminar. Please join us!

The 2004/2005 series is as follows:

(\* indicates 7:00 p.m. evening seminar) :

*Tues, Oct.26	Klee Black	"Bulbs" (includes bulbs on hand for purchase)
*Thu Oct 28	Steve Hill	"Plant Partners"
Fri., Nov. 5	Linda Vater	"Holiday Gardening"
Sat., Jan. 2	Linda Vater	"Basic Garden Design"
Fri., Feb. 4	Linda Vater	"Gardening Fundamentals"
Sat., Mar.5	Linda Vater	"Kitchen Garden"
Fri., Apr. 8	Linda Vater	"Use of Color in the Landscape"
Fri., May 6	Linda Vater	"Creating Curb Appeal"
Sat., June 11	Linda Vater	"Vertical Gardening"
Fri., July 8	Linda Vater	"Shade Gardening"
Sat., Aug. 28	Linda Vater	"How to keep Your Garden Looking Good"
Fri., Sep. 16	Linda Vater	"Container Gardening"
Sat., Oct. 15	Linda Vater	"Bulbs"

### FALL CONTAINERS GO BEYOND MUMS

On Saturday, September 25, Linda Vater presented "Container Gardening". In this seminar Linda discussed and demonstrated how to design and maintain seasonal container plantings. Two containers were created that, although they now have a fall theme, will survive the winter and will be adapted for following seasons by changing a few plants.

A contemporary glazed terra cotta pot is planted with tropical plants, Oriental Jasmine groundcover, and yellow pansies with dark eyes that are the perfect compliment to the copper red color of the container.



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