

# WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

May, 2010 Newsletter

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CELEBRATING 13 YEARS

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Established 1997

## IT'S NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S GARDEN ANYMORE

Think of how your garden knowledge and habits have changed during the past 10 or so years. They're probably radically different. When Wilshire Garden Market opened in the spring of 1998, we received information from a friend in England who attended the Chelsea Flower Show and sent us the show video and materials. Their focus was "Bringing the Indoors Out" or blurring the lines; we thought that was the best idea ever and adopted that as our focus. Today those lines are so blurred; they will never be the same. Most people continue to move further and further outdoors, nearly turning their homes inside out. Isn't it wonderful? Gardeners are becoming much more sophisticated in their knowledge of exterior design and the use of beautiful accessories to add charm and comfort to their outdoor living areas.

Container gardening has grown immensely in popularity in the past five years. As people discover the dura-



bility of containers, they are adding them in beautiful cast stone and glazed terra cotta to their patios and landscapes. Containers add drama to entrances and create beautiful vignettes from the inside looking out. Containers add architectural interest or garden "bones" even in winter months when nothing is blooming. A large pot, planted or unplanted, can add form, weight, color, and height when needed, whereas a plant might not fulfill expectations. When a plant dies or has to be pruned back, it can leave a gap in the garden. The gap can be filled instantly with a plant in a pot; the adaptability of pots offers many relatively simple "fixes" for gardeners.

Gardeners are learning how to create charming vignettes with plants and accessories.

This vignette from a local garden features a unique mermaid statue surrounded by a planting of shrimp plants! The gardener had a good time with this.



Sometimes in moving statues or accessories from place to place within the garden, you will inadvertently create a wonderful vignette. The only welcome bunny in a vegetable garden could be your bunny statue; stone cabbages or asparagus bundles could be the corner finials in a vegetable bed.

If you have an empty spot in the garden, it could be the perfect spot for a small statue: a turtle or frog under caladiums or hostas. Incorporate pieces that you love, and have fun finding a home for them; when you put yourself into your garden, it becomes uniquely yours. Imagination is a key component of gardening!



## GREAT MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS



Give Mom a living bouquet that she will enjoy for months; we have both cauldron planters for the entry or patio and elegant verdigris metal parasol hanging baskets.

As one of our customers just said "You can never have too many gloves!" This is especially true of the new Floral Infusion gloves; these are similar



to our popular Weeder Gloves, comfortable and tactile but in a watercolor motif. All our gloves protect your hands and fit well for greater sensitivity. From short, cool Sun Grips and Weeder Gloves to elbow high Deluxe Rose Pro's gloves of premium goatskin, there is a glove for every garden need. Pairing a colorful tub trug with a pair of gloves and perhaps a pair of Joyce Chen garden scissors is a useful and pretty gift.



This sparkling ruby red hand blown glass hummingbird feeder etched with "Mom" in script and a leafy hummingbird design is jewelry for her garden. She can hang this beautiful work of art in her garden and enjoy the humming-

birds that it will attract through out the summer.

Swings are the thing! They are one of the most admired items in the store. Reminiscent of leisurely summer days from our childhoods, updated for durability and style, these swings are also amazingly comfortable.

Hang them easily from a tree branch or covered patio beam. Shown here are the new Domino stripe swing and the accent pillow with the whimsical flamingo print.



Add comfort and charm to any corner of Mom's garden with our artful outdoor pillows. Mom can enjoy this beautiful bouquet for years, some patterns available in garden flags and doormats as well.

Flour sack tea towels with floral prints and vintage images make lovely gifts.



Pair with a melamine cheese board or a French triple-milled soap and hand crafted ceramic soap dish.

**As always, gift wrap is complimentary!**

## COME WITH US TO THE GARDENS OF ENGLAND!

We are working with an experienced professional travel company for a trip to England from May 18 to May 28, 2011. The trip centers on exclusive tours of some of the finest private gardens in England; it includes admission to the Chelsea Flower Show on the private Members' Day and memberships in the Royal Horticulture Society. Also included are private lectures from head gardeners of the renowned estates. Accommodations are at least 4 stars, ground transportation by private coach; most meals and tips are provided. The group is limited to 20 people. The general cost is \$5,000 per person; persons who have airline miles can use them and reduce the overall trip cost by approximately 20%. A brief agenda is as follows:

May 18 overnight flight from USA

May 19 Arrive London; meet tour manager; board private coach to Salisbury. Tea and snacks, then to Stonehenge. Arrive in Bath; cocktail & canapés reception.

May 20 Morning walking tour of Bath PM short drive to Garden Rosemoor and village from 13<sup>th</sup> century.

May 21 Plymouth Visit Cotehele Tudor Manor House... Hotel in area of Dartmoor National Park.

May 22 Hampshire. Visit Stourhead with Greek temples, Renaissance inspired grottoes.

May 23 Hampshire. River barge trip along Basingstoke Canal. Dinner at 17<sup>th</sup> century English pub.

May 24 London. En route visit 200 acre Wisley, RHS flagship garden with recently opened Glasshouse greenhouse.

May 25 London. Experience impact of the Chelsea Flower Show on Members' Day before it is opened to the public. Unprecedented access to the displays. Return to Central London for lecture from Fergus Garrett, head gardener of Great Dixter and Chelsea Flower Show Judge.

May 26 London. Local guide will introduce you to London's highlights. St. Paul's, Changing of the Guard, and Garden Museum.

May 27 London. Visit Sissinghurst and Great Dixter.. Specialist lecture on topiary, mixed borders. Farewell dinner.

May 28 Depart for USA.

Email us at [wgmok@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wgmok@sbcglobal.net) to indicate serious interest or to get more specific information. We will make final arrangements in December; this gives everyone time to make sure papers in order, etc. We will publish more information in each newsletter.

## MAY TO DO LIST

- Gently clean up flower beds if not already done.
- Top dress afterward with organic fertilizer, compost, and a layer of fine, dark mulch.
- Edge beds to make a clean defining line.
- Deadhead spring bulbs as blooms fade, but leave foliage intact to ripen bulbs naturally.
- Put grow through supports on peonies.
- Watch for aphids and spider mites.
- Plant lettuce, asparagus, spinach, beans.
- Plant herbs.
- Trim thyme before it flowers.
- Feed lawn with high nitrogen fertilizer and water in.
- Deadhead spent perennials unless they have showy seed heads or you want to collect seed later.
- Divide iris after bloom.
- Check trees and shrubs for bagworms, borers and winter burn.
- Clean out birdbaths.
- Refresh outdoor furniture and pillows.
- Entertain outdoors!

## 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. 879-1121



**Furnishing fine gardens for 13 years; let us help you enhance your outdoor living room!**

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WILSHIRE  GARDEN  
M A R K E T



**MAY 9 IS  
MOTHER'S DAY!**

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