



The Glenwild Gardener



Volume 3, Issue 2

Holiday 1998

Change is Good

“ I love the look,
 austere,
 immaculate,
Of landscapes drawn
in pearly monotonies”

Emily Hoyt Wylie
Wild Peaches

Every year I think about how wonderful the change of seasons is. I know a lot of people don't like the cold and snow, but I relish the chance to put on big sweaters and walk my dog without sweating!

The smells change, the sounds change, the displays change... Changing all the displays here at the garden center for Christmas gives us a chance to deep clean and to ooh and ah as we unwrap all the new ornaments and decorations. Please do stop by on our Christmas open house

weekend, November 21st and 22nd. Another change, we also have a new employee, Barbara Salt, to add to our group.

If you know our place, you know it's a fun place to stop in, say hello, get some coffee and browse. Thank you all for a great year—if you ever have any ideas for some changes *we* could make, please drop a line! We look forward to seeing you soon.

“Though winter blasts
blow never so high,
green groweth the holly”

William Shakespeare
King Henry VIII

Mistletoe

A parasite and a pest. Not quite the romantic image I always had of the magical kissing branch growing up. The history of mistletoe is filled with ancient symbolism though, which of course is a little different in each culture that used it. *Phoradendron flavescens* is the American variety which we are familiar with around here during the holidays. It grows as far north as southern New Jersey, and as far south as Florida. A parasite, it grows among the top branches of various trees, sucking the nutrients out of the bark and sometimes eventually killing its host.

The European version, *Viscum album*, some of which grew on the sacred oak of the Celtic Druids, was thought to be a sign of peace. If two enemies met under the mistletoe in the



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forest, they held a truce until the next day. The Druids also believed it had the ability to protect against witchcraft, ensure fertility, and cure illnesses. It was usually gathered at the winter solstice by them and other pre-Christians, which is why it has become a Christmas tradition now.

It seems likely that the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe comes either from the truce that must be held under it, (couples fighting should kiss and makeup underneath it in Scandinavia), or from various ancient marriage rites because of its properties of “good fertility magic”.

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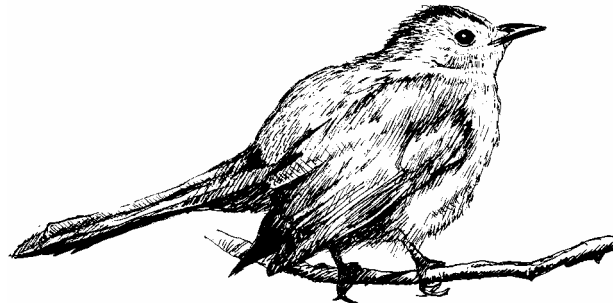
Birding Paradise By Julie Elliott-Schultz

Viewing our feathered friends on frosty days is one of the few joys for gardeners during the long bleak winters. Bird-watching is an activity that can be enjoyed by young and old alike. Even those with disabilities can gain much from observing and nurturing our winged creatures. Birding now ranks second only to gardening as America's favorite pastime.

Luring birds to your yard is simple: they require shelter, food, water, and places to perch and hide from predators. Most local resident birds travel only short distances. Many will visit your backyard habitat at the same time each day—if it is appealing enough, they will stay forever.

Birds *love* areas where different heights and types of vegetation are located. Edible berries and seeds are highly desirable—select diverse plants that will bear food in different seasons. Cone-bearing evergreens, Globe thistle, Coreopsis, Coneflower, Black-eyed-susan, and berries (especially raspberries and blueberries) for summer. Pyracantha, hawthorns, chokeberries, winterberries, dogwoods, roses and oak trees for fall and winter.

Remember that birds like plenty of cover—shrubs providing hiding places from 5'-8' are the perfect height. Red twig dogwood, viburnums, junipers, Japanese



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barberry, Mugo pine, and hollies are a few excellent choices.

To supplement your plantings and help the birds make it through our winters, you will want to place some birdfeeders in your yard (in prominent areas where you can view them from inside). There

are many different varieties of feeders ranging from small, simple and inexpensive to ones that cost hundreds of dollars. To attract the widest variety of birds you need a hanging feeder, a platform feeder and a suet feeder.

Seeds are the preferred food—sunflower, mixed seed and thistle are all that is needed, although there are other types available to experiment with. Suet can be purchased inexpensively and provides the oils necessary for their rapid metabolism.

Late fall is the best time to hang bird houses for birds to move in the following spring. Natural wooden houses may be the most attractive to the birds, though many beautiful choices exist for our viewing pleasure.

The holidays seem to be the time to give extras to our “winged angels”—why not make a popcorn and cereal strand, or peanut butter and seed cone to decorate an evergreen? Enjoy!

*“—why not make a popcorn
or cereal strand, or peanut
butter and seed cone to
decorate an evergreen?”*

Important Fall Reminders

Fall is definitely the best time to prep for spring. Even this late a lot can be done. Bulbs can still be planted—as a matter of fact, anything can be planted as long as you can get your shovel into the ground. Now is a great time to fertilize with a granular fertilizer. Sprinkle around the base of your shrubs and trees, rake in and/or cover with mulch and by next spring the granules will have dissolved down into the root zone.

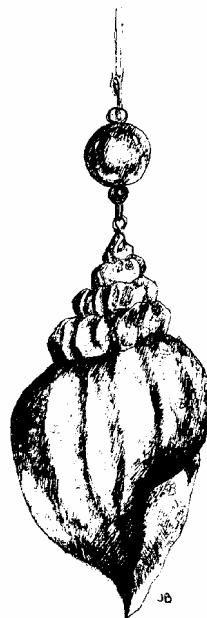
Also, now is the best time to fertilize your lawn.

Now that the leaves are down, pruning certain plants is easier. Roses can be cut back, as well as mulch put around their bases. As far as fighting the woolly adelgid on your hemlocks, spray dormant oil in the fall. One last thing—don't forget to bring in all the garden accessories that are made from porous materials such as birdbath tops and ceramic decorations.

Our Holiday Shop

It was a whole lot of fun shopping for all of you for Christmas this year. We started in January and just finished up last month, and have been putting it all out for you for quite a few weeks now. There have been many of you coming in to peek!

There are classic hand blown ornaments from Old world Christmas and Christina as well as completely new lines such as our fantastical rhinestone insect jewelry from La Contessa and a line of sterling silver gardening jewelry. We found wonderful new artificial trees perfect for a small corner or tabletop—they show real-looking cedar bark on their trunks and are perfect to show off some of your very delicate ornaments. We've got all the new Charming Tails pieces for Christmas, Two's Company decorations, a



new nautical and beach themed tree and many more birding ornaments. Local artist Richard Connolly has brought in more of the antique chocolate mould figurines—and his prices have actually come down.

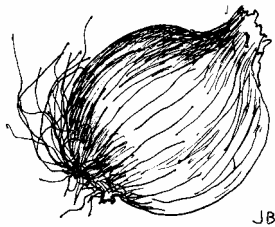
All of our gardening accessories are still out and ready to be a great gift for someone this year. We do have cards and can gift wrap if you'd like—plan on doing some Christmas shopping with us!

Our live Christmas trees will be in just after Thanksgiving.

Caramelized Balsamic Onions

This is an interesting alternative for creamed onions (One of my favorites.) I found it in a magazine a few years ago, scribbled it down and never tried it. I'll be trying it out this November. Possible ingredients from your garden: Onions, leeks and thyme.

2 lbs. pearl onions (if possible mix with red pearl onions)
 2 lbs. leeks
 5 TBS Olive Oil
 1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
 1/4 tsp. fresh ground pepper
 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
 1 cup chicken broth
 2 TBS butter
 1/2 tsp. fresh thyme



Boil the onions for a minute to loosen the skins. Let them cool, then peel. Put them in a bowl with 2 TBS of the oil, and a little salt and pepper. Clean the leeks, (carefully-there's a ton of sand in them). Cut them in half or slice them into rounds (doesn't matter) and toss them in a bowl with 2 TBS oil

A Recipe for Thanksgiving

and some salt. In a saucepan on medium-hi, add 1 TBS of oil and the leeks. Sauté for 5 minutes until brown and set aside.

Add 1 TBS of oil to saucepan and add onions. Cook for about 7 minutes or until brown. Reduce the heat to medium-low and add the vinegar and chicken stock, and cover. Cook until the onions are tender—about 20-30 minutes, but add the leeks halfway through. Uncover, and increase heat to high. Shake the pan occasionally, reducing liquid so the onions get a nice brown glaze. This should take about 3 to 4 minutes. Transfer everything to a serving dish and sprinkle the chopped thyme over the top. Add a little salt and pepper if necessary.

If you use the best ingredients, it really does elevate the flavor of the dish. Try to use *Kosher* salt, *fresh* ground pepper, *extra virgin* olive oil, homemade or Campbell's chicken broth—no MSG, *sweet* butter, and *fresh* thyme. I don't always have everything on hand though either, and I can never get my hands on the really good aged vinegar. Don't let it stop you—it'll still be good! *JB*



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Winter Classes

All classes are held Monday nights
 at 6 PM and are *free*

(There may be a small materials fee for some classes)

Please call to sign up

Nov. 23, 1998 *Thanksgiving Centerpieces*

Dec. 7, 1998 *Christmas Wreaths* with interesting greens

Jan. 25, 1999 *Cabin Fever Gardening Social*
 Come with ideas to share with other gardening enthusiasts

Feb. 23, 1999 *Seed Starting*

Open Mon.-Fri. 8am-8pm, Sat. 8-6, Sun. 9-5

We sell aged firewood
 Stove size available

 *Propane Tanks Filled*



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 Exit #53 off Route 287

Christmas Open House Weekend

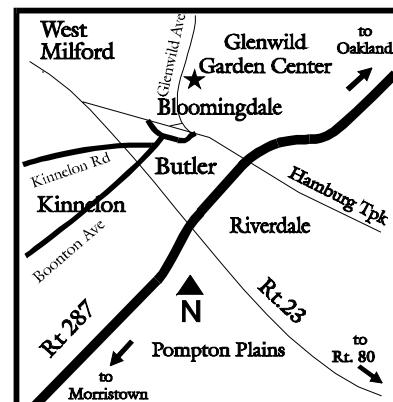
November 21st & 22nd 1998

Gift & Christmas Shop

20-50% off

Free Poinsettia!!

With this coupon
 1 poinsettia per customer while supplies last
 11/21-11/22, 1998 only
 Glenwild Garden Center 973-838-0174



Off the beaten path, but worth the trip