



"Your Home, Like A Precious Jewel, Needs The Proper Setting."



# THE GLENWILD GARDENER



Spring 2005 Volume #14

What better way to spend winter than reading some good books. I've just finished A Walk in the Woods, by Bill Bryson. The author walks the Appalachian Trail, and while telling quite a funny story, he shares numerous facts about the eastern United States forest and wildlife history.

Among many other things, he speaks of the decline of the migratory songbird. Doing a little research led me to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens website—[www.bbg.org](http://www.bbg.org), which has a wonderful article about planting vegetation to encourage songbirds to frequent your property. Type in the following address to read it and many other interesting gardening articles as well. [http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/wildlife/2001fa\\_songbird.html](http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/wildlife/2001fa_songbird.html)

We are really looking forward to the new season at the Garden Center. You will see John Lauritano's face around much more as he moves into retail full time, and he's always happy to talk about your gardening and landscape questions. Everyone else is still here, so come over and say hello while browsing the new plants and garden accessories.

*John Lauritano*

**"Trees are the earth's  
endless effort to speak to  
the listening heaven."**

**Rabindranath Tagore**

**(1861-1941)**

Glenwild Garden Center is a full service garden center & nursery with 77 years of landscaping experience. We love what we do, & so will you.

Nursery  
Garden Supplies / Organic Supplies  
Landscape Materials  
Annuals, Perennials  
Stone, Mulch, Topsoil  
Garden Gift Shop, Statuary, Fountains  
Christmas Shop in Season



*Member of the  
New Jersey Nursery and  
Landscape Association*



**CHECK THIS OUT!!!**

[www.whatsthis caterpillar.co.uk/america](http://www.whatsthis caterpillar.co.uk/america)

If you find a caterpillar in your garden this summer—don't kill it! Go to the internet and look it up! There are many sites that will help you identify your caterpillar. Maybe it will turn into the beautiful Eastern Black Swallowtail butterfly like this one will. If you find one, plant extra parsley in your garden so it has plenty to eat (and you still get some too). You can even bring them inside with plenty of food and water to watch them change into their butterfly stage and then let them go.

**Very Exciting!**

# The Black Thumb By Kevin Bross

Every year roughly at this time—a season which for me is somewhat after ice fishing, and not quite yet golf, strange and mysterious things begin to happen around our property. No, I don't refer to the growing of plants, which I am told tends to happen this time of year, but something much more profound.

When Jodie and I first purchased a home together, I felt that my inability to distinguish a legitimate plant from a weed was some sort of self-protection. Who would possibly ask me to pull a weed when I might accidentally extract that lovely purple thing with the long pretentious Latin name? Now that I have greater insight, I realize that though I believed I had triumphed by avoiding the dreaded weeding, Jodie likewise considers herself victorious. This, I judge by the great joy she takes at her tasks as she labors away with a look of complete contentedness, even in the most stifling heat and humidity.

So in this season of brief, but intense gardening, many things are going on that I don't quite understand, and have not necessarily been invited to participate in. Bags, pots and trays of various things come and go, the heaviest of which are left on the stairs for me to transport to their final destination. I just ask where they belong, and deliver them with the

anonymity of a bus driver. Pails of vegetal matter can be found rotting under the kitchen sink, later to be dispatched to the compost pile. The rules of this process, to me, seem unfathomable. Tea bags and coffee grounds are fine. Does compost like caffeine just like people? Do we need to toss in leftover latte for heirloom tomatoes? (Don't even start with me about what an heirloom tomato actually is!)

I now know many new things, and have managed to absorb much more than I ever expected about gardening, but in sum total, my knowledge is but a speck of egg shell in a ton of compost. I think I have learned what is most important though. I used to think of gardening as a hobby, but I now know that it is much more. It is creating, and tending something living. It is both art and food. It *is* life, death and renewal.

Before I met Jodie, the word *CockaDoodleDoo* was not part of my vocabulary, and I'm sure my parents taught me not to say such a thing in polite company, let alone keep it in the front hall closet. If you're not familiar with this product, it comes out of the business end of the chicken. Yet there it is staring me in the face, every time I put my jacket on. Some things are hard to adapt to. After more than 10 years it now seems almost natural, though I do wish it didn't look much like a carton of milk...even if it is organic.



---

## Perennial of the Year 2005

### Helleborus

This year, the Perennial Plant Association has chosen *Helleborus x hybridus*, or Lenten Rose, as it's Perennial of the year. Which means that this plant has a lot of great qualities and almost everyone loves it.



Its delicate flowers are a herald of spring that can last through summer. Blooms have been known to open above the snow. It's evergreen and it's deer resistant. (Really). It's hardy through zones 4-9 and mature clumps can get to be 24" tall, and just as wide. The blooms last a very long time, at least 2 months if its happy, and can get 50 flowers per plant! It loves partial shade and can even thrive in full shade if given the right soil, which is, of course, rich, well-drained, and full of composty stuff. Once established, it only needs watering in the driest of summer conditions.

Prune the ratty foliage in late winter just to tidy it up, but wear gloves, as you could get a rash. There are so many hybrids of this plant, imagine what fun it would be to hunt them all down! The flowers range from pure white to nearly black, with pink, magenta, cream, yellow, and green being other choices. Some have spots, or double layers of petals, and some even a decorative petal edge. The leaves are large, dark green and thick and make a beautiful foil to some of the lacier plants that grow well in shade. Try pairing it with Japanese Fern, Astilbe, Tulips or Daffodils.



## Class Schedule 2005

**May 2—Planting with Succulents** Plant and bring home a container filled with a variety of hardy and stunning succulents, such as Hens & Chicks, Stonecrops & Sedums. Bring your own container—"alpine trough" style works best, or purchase one when you arrive. \$25.00 (or more, if your container is larger).

**May 23—Making a Fairy Garden** Join Abby Miranda for another fascinating evening of garden magic. These container gardens will be practical and whimsical to accommodate your garden fairies, butterflies, or any beauty-loving creature who wanders near. All basic materials will be provided. \$30.00

**June 6th Making an Herbal/Flowering Living Wreath** Plant a wreath form with various herbs & flowers for a beautiful and useful hanging garden \$50. \$25 if you have your own form from previous years.

**June 25th (Saturday)—Critters in your Backyard Pond** Bring the kids to this fun class about the creatures that hang out in backyard ponds. Naturalist Michelle Brook will lead us into the world of frogs and bugs and others who make their home in these small ecosystems we build in our yards. This class will be approximately 45 minutes and is appropriate for kids with adults, ages 4 & up. \$5.00

**July 9 (Saturday)—Christmas Tree Shearing at Two Pond Farm** We have the honor of being invited to visit with Allison Hosford at her working farm in West Milford to learn about evergreen identification, diseases, pests, and proper pruning technique, even if you aren't growing them for Christmas! She will demonstrate the shearing of evergreen trees for Christmas on her "cut-your-own" tree farm. We will meet at the garden center at 8:45AM, and then drive together to her farm 5 minutes up the road. \$5.00

**September 19—Cooking with Andre de Waal at Harvest Time** Once again Andre (of Andre's Restaurant in Newton), will share with us some inventive recipes and inspirations for a delicious meal using seasonally appropriate garden bounty. We hope to be eating under the stars! \$55.00

**September 24th (Saturday)—Painting in the Garden** Whether a life long painter, or just starting out, come learn from artist Dan Barlow for a morning of painting a garden still life. Dan, a local resident, is skilled in oils, acrylics, and watercolor among many other media. Bring your own favorite supplies, or, if a beginner, Dan will tell you what to bring. An opportunity for every artist to relax and have a few scheduled hours to concentrate! \$10.00

**October 24—Creating Birdseed Ornaments** Decorate your yard and feed the birds! This class is great for adults & kids over 4 years. \$10.00

**November 21st and Sat. Nov. 19th — Making a Holiday Wreath**—Due to demand, we now are offering two classes. Sign up for **Monday evening or Saturday morning** at 10 o'clock. Create a gorgeous wreath made from balsam, boxwood, fragrant cedar, and other mixed evergreens. Bring your pruners if you have them. \$20.00

Unless noted, classes are held Monday evenings at 6 PM and usually last about an hour and a half.

Class sizes are limited, so call as early as possible to sign up.

You may pay when you arrive for the class, but please register ahead of time!

Get a 10% discount on any purchases the night of the class.



**GARDEN CENTER  
& NURSERY**

104 Glenwild Avenue  
 Bloomingdale, NJ 07403  
 (973)838-0174  
 www.glenwildgardens.com



Bulk Rate  
 US Postage  
 Paid  
 Bloomingdale, NJ  
 Permit # 28

“When the world  
 wearies and society  
 fails to satisfy,  
 There is always the  
 garden.  
  
 Minnie Aumonier

**OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND**

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 22ND, 23RD, & 24TH 2005**

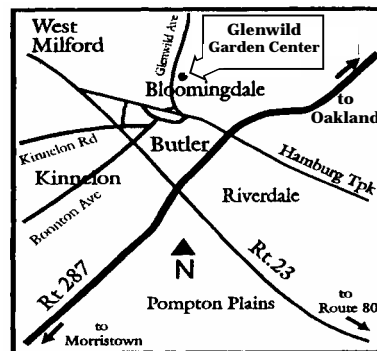
**Open House Weekend  
SPECIALS!**

**Cedar Mulch**  
regular, red  
or black  
 Buy 9 get 1  
**FREE**

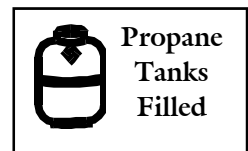
**Peat Moss**  
 3.8 cu. Ft.  
 (Large bale)  
 Reg. \$9.95  
 Now \$8.95



**GARDEN CENTER & NURSERY**



(973) 838-0174  
 www.glenwildgardens.com  
 104 Glenwild Avenue  
 Bloomingdale, NJ  
 Just 2.5 miles from  
 Exit #53 off Route 287



Bring in this coupon for  
**10% off any purchase**  
  
 Cannot be combined with any other offer  
 Good 4/22, 23 & 24, 2005 only

Spring Hours— Mon-Fri. 8-8, Sat. 8-6, Sun. 9-5