

## Protect newly-planted trees from freezing injury

By Lala A. Kumar, Horticulture Specialist, West Central Region, University of Missouri Extension

Freezing can result in bark splitting. During the winter or early spring, sharp temperature changes between day and night can freeze the water within the trunk causing it to explode or split open in a symptom referred to as “frost crack.” Frost cracks are also called southwest injury since this is the side of the tree most often affected. Bark splitting can occur on the trunk or branches of trees.

A related problem is “winter sunscald”. This type of injury occurs when the sun warms the tree bark during the day and then the bark rapidly cools after sunset. This results in bark splitting or cracking.

Newly planted trees or young trees are more prone to trunk bark splitting. Secondly, thin-barked ornamental trees such as red maple and ornamental cherry are particularly at risk. Painting the trunk white with latex paint, wrapping it with tree wrap, or placing tree guards, can prevent splitting in young trees. If the guard is used, it should be loose enough to allow air to flow through the space between the stem and the guard. Many types of wraps are available in the market. In the absence of a commercial tree wrap or guard, wrapping trunks with burlap can also protect them from bark splitting. When you wrap the trunk, begin at the soil line and spiral the paper around the trunk up to the first branches, overlapping the edges of each layer. All wraps and guards should be removed in late spring to prevent girdling or insect damage. Newly planted trees should not be fertilized late in the growing season, as this may promote new growth and predispose the tissue to bark splitting. Bark splitting not only affects growth and development of the plant, but it also becomes the source of borer (insect) damages.



Sunscald



Frost crack

Photos courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

### INSIDE

Springfield Botanical Center.....	2
<i>From Seed to Skillet</i> .....	3
Chicago's finest .....	4
Along the alley.....	6

*Last night, there came  
a frost, which has done  
great damage to my  
garden . . . It is sad that  
Nature will play such  
tricks on us poor mortals,  
inviting us with sunny  
smiles to confide in her,  
and then, when we are  
entirely within her power,  
striking us to the heart.*

• Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The American Notebooks*

# Springfield Botanical Center

By Marjorie Yates, Class of 2006

October marks the anniversary of Springfield's Botanical Center, clearly a monument to the cooperative spirit. Funded with a sales tax approved by popular vote in 2006 and with private donations, the center is located between two adjoining parks, owned and operated by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and houses several organizations. In addition to the Parks Department, the center holds the offices of Greene County's MU Extension Center, Master Gardeners and Friends of the Garden.

the tram provides a free riding tour around the parks. The tour winds through the 26 gardens, including the Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden, English Garden and Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden. Several gardens showcase a particular plant such as iris, lily, ornamental grasses, columbine, peony or wildflowers, and include several different varieties of each plant. The tram driver, familiar with horticulture and the gardens, provides a running commentary and is able to answer specific



Left: The Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center.

Below: Atrium window created by the local Springfield artist, Robin Colture Crabb



There are classrooms, meeting rooms, a library and a gift shop/book store. Accented with beautiful art work and exhibits about the history of the parks, the center offers a lovely place to learn, visit and enjoy the ambience of the surroundings.

The location between Nathanael Greene and Close Memorial Parks is the perfect setting for a center devoted to learning about plant life. The "green building" was designed by architects, H Design Group, to fit in with and complement the surrounding gardens. It maximizes natural light, utilizes geothermal heating/cooling and recycles rain water with its roof paver system. In addition to being environmentally friendly, the center is accessible to people with disabilities. Even the solar powered tram features a wheel chair lift.

Every weekend from 1 to 5 p.m.,



SPRINGFIELD continued on page 3

questions about the facility and plants.

Springfield's Botanical Center was designed to qualify for LEED Silver Certification. LEED certification, the international standard for measuring building sustainability, is administered by the U.S. Green Building Council, a nonprofit coalition of leaders in the building industry. It discourages negative environmental impact and encourages occupant health, but also promotes profitability. The center includes the following LEED recognized elements: heating and cooling by geo-thermal ground source heat pump systems, LED parking lot light fixtures, low water use plumbing fixtures, solar orientation, insulation products containing 30 percent post consumer recycled materials, wood sources from sustainable forestry management businesses and the use of local materials.

In addition to being practical and sustainable, the building also provides a charming environment. Of particular note is a multi-story stained glass window created by local Springfield artist Robin Colture Crabb. This huge window in the atrium is a collage of scenes from the surrounding gardens, including flowers, trees, water features, butterflies and hummingbirds. Like most other elements of the Botanical Center, it enhances rather than obstructs the view of the outside world.

The Botanical Center and the Gardens, located at 2400 South Scenic Avenue, Springfield, MO 65807, are open every day. Botanical Center hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday – Saturday and 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Sundays. All are free, except the Japanese Stroll Garden with a modest \$3 admission fee. More information about the Botanical Center and Gardens is available at [www.ozarksgardens.com](http://www.ozarksgardens.com). Gardeners and plant lovers who explore this website will likely decide to make the trip to Springfield to enjoy all the actual site has to offer.

## From Seed to Skillet

A Book Review by Marjorie Yates, Class of 2006

For a novice vegetable gardener or a veteran wanting to update existing gardens and skills, *From Seed to Skillet* is an ideal resource. The background of this colorful book is as diverse as the information it contains. Author Jimmy Williams developed a love for home grown vegetables as a child while gardening with his grandmother on Long Island. After a stint as a sportswear designer in New York, he relocated to California where he now operates HayGround Organic Gardening. Co-author Susan Heeger, a Harvard educated California native, has written for several publications including *Martha Stewart Living* and the *Los Angeles Times Magazine*. Both continue to grow their own vegetables year round.

The idea for this book grew out of ideas and beliefs instilled by Williams' grandmother, "sprouted from the seeds of her wisdom, and also, really, from the seeds of a tomato her great grandmother brought to South Carolina on a slave ship, in her apron pocket". He sees gardening as much more than the physical activity of putting seeds into the ground. He sees it as a mechanism for empowering children to make decisions and promoting a sense of community, civic duty and individual independence. His love for the earth and colorful, healthy vegetables shines throughout the entire book.

Written in lay persons' language, the nine-chapter book includes sections on garden design, composting, soil amendments, planting, harvesting and putting the garden to bed for winter. Williams encourages creativity in garden design and includes plans for everything from vegetables grown in pots on the deck to detailed plans for constructing and filling raised beds to vegetables planted among existing terrace gardens. He promotes seed saving and organic methods, sharing his plans for composting and rejuvenating soil with his own HayGround Organic blend. Worms are his heroes and compost is the caviar for his cauliflower.

Chapter 3, "Planning for Planting" includes a list of "Top Seed and Seedling Sources". In Chapters 4 through 7, he goes into great detail about how to actually carry out all the activities involved in preparing the garden, tilling soil, watering, weeding and removing pests. There is a colorful trip to the tool shed and a detailed plan for construction of raised beds. While he provides a diagram for drip irrigation, he is a proponent of hand watering because it keeps the gardener more in touch with what's going on with the plants and on top of problem solving.

Chapter 8 devotes a full page to the discussion of several favorite vegetable, herb and fruit varieties, with specific instruction on planting, watering and harvesting each. Supplemented with a color photo, each page includes his "Top Picks", with names as colorful as the pictures. Reading about Tall Telephone peas, Sheepnose Pimento peppers, Bartender Red Mammoth radishes and Cosmonaut Volkov tomatoes is enough to get any gardener dreaming! Next Williams shares family recipes for such favorites as Nana's Creamed Corn, Gullah Cornbread with Sweet Potatoes and Blueberry Slump.

The entire 176 page book is filled with beautiful color photographs by Eric Staudenmaier. In addition to the photos of individual vegetable varieties and mouth-watering prepared food dishes, photographs document children in the garden, whimsical plant combinations and the nitty-gritty of plant support sys-



*SEED continued on page 7*

# Chicago's finest

By Becky Peck, Class of 2003

I am so excited I hope I can get this on paper as fast as it is tumbling out of my head. On Sunday, October 30, 2011, I got the opportunity I had been waiting for. It was a big risk at this time of the year, but it worked out perfectly as the weather cooperated. I finally got to visit the Chicago Botanic Garden. It is the second most visited botanical garden in the United States. Only in the last week had the trees really come into golds and reds. The day before Halloween, the garden was decorated with little children in costumes, and there was negligible evidence of frost damage anywhere.

Chicago Botanic is actually in the city limits of Glencoe, 20 miles north of the city. Their online site at [www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org) lists a neighboring Metra (train) stop that is within walking distance of the gardens (Braeside). However, if you go to the Glencoe station stop, the free trolley from the gardens appears there for each arriving Metra train from downtown, and will bring you back for any of the departures. Total cost? Four dollars each way from downtown Chicago on the Metra's North Line from Ogilvie Station. Don't trust the schedule posted on the Metra site ([www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com)). I found that the omission of any morning trains was in error. Call and check it out. I figured this out the hard way by paying \$55 for a morning cab fare only to find out I could have taken the train for \$4! Ouch. Monday through Friday there is also a bus option for transportation from downtown Chicago.

This was the last day of tram service at the gardens, so we took the Grand Tram around the exterior of the grounds. After walking a million miles in downtown Chicago, I appreciated a lift around the three-mile perimeter. The land is in a flood plain and is owned by the Cook

County Forest Preserve. It started out as Pullman Gardens before it expanded to its current size: 385 acres with 9 islands and 24 gardens. Only Longwood in Pennsylvania can boast more annual visitors.



The Japanese Garden

Going clockwise around the gardens, viewing the Japanese Garden across the water and its many trees pruned into cloud forms was outstanding. Closer to us was a test garden to determine what grows best in Chicagoland in the "sun and wind evaluation garden." The Plant Science Center includes a science lab to solve plant issues. There is also a herbarium of pressed plants and seed bank areas. Thirty-eight full-time people work in this building. They will gladly give you a ride in the golf cart from the Visitor's Center if you'd like to visit this building and learn about their work. They currently have a four-year study going on on ornamental grasses. Some of the grasses have been determined to be rather weedlike in their

aggressiveness. The gardens are also a part of the process of determining the annual All American Rose award.

The oldest part of the garden, Pullman Garden, includes a shade garden and children's garden where they offer day camp for children. The nearby greenhouses are part of the annual process that produces 500,000 plants. Our exuberant guide wanted to make sure we knew about their Wonderland Express holiday exhibit that opens the

day after Thanksgiving.

Along our journey, we pass over a weir. This is a bridge with a dam under it. The prairie on the horizon is burned every fall to return nutrients via ash to the soil. From the prairie, the carillon bell tower is visible. I am used to the Park University carillon tolling on the hour. This tower has many bells, including the 2.5 ton bell at the bottom. In the summer, they present concerts on the carillon.

Spider Island has tropical and semitropical greenhouses along with a four-acre fruit and vegetable garden. While we are talking about acres, 100 acres are woodland and 80 are water at the gardens. Most of the water is in the form of the man-made lake,

*CHICAGO continued on page 5*

which reaches a depth of 18 feet and has a nice collection of fish. If you bring children with you on your visit, you can get a loan of a Discovery Backpack with information on birds and trees to help them identify what they see. If they are lucky, they will see the trumpeter swans.

Graced by their signature weeping willows, 240 full-time staff call Chicago Botanic home. So do 100 grounds people and 1,200 volunteers. Soon, the staff will open the new Children's Learning Center.

Before we began walking through the gardens, I stopped to talk to the Master Gardeners who were sitting at their answer desk, ready to help the public. I asked them what I should share with you. They said to take advantage of the offer to take the cart over to the Plant Science Center. You should also see the waterfall garden. They directed us to their website, which has a section called "What's in Bloom." Everything blooming in each garden is listed with its proper botanical and common names. They



Model Railroad Garden

was a flower display that was attracting a crowd. I would have to say this was my favorite. Below is a picture of the Pot Marigold 'Indian Prince' (*Calendula officinalis*) with its companions, Redbor Kale, and New Red Fire Looseleaf lettuce. My friend, Anthony,

was with me. Mr. Farmer has given me instructions that he wants this in his lawn next year.

As we entered the Vegetable Garden, there were several 150-200 pound pumpkins grown in Wisconsin. The sign said they were started on May 15 in a greenhouse and harvested October 16. The

dark orange ones were 'Prizewinner.' The lighter orange ones were 'Atlantic Giant.' I have been a regular user of Myke when I transplant trees and shrubs. When I walked through the small veggie greenhouse, I saw a

container of Myke Vegetable Garden Transplanter. I took that as a hint.

As I walked through the gardens, the burgundy edges of the Pee Wee Oakleaf Hydrangea looked nice in the fall garden. In the Model Railroad Garden, the Jewell Dragon Plant, *Ophiopogon japonica*, caught my eye. Let's talk about this train garden. The entrance to the botanical gardens is free. There is a fee for riding the tram and there is a fee of \$5 for going into the train garden. Do not miss this. There were over 30 trains of lengths from 1 to 20 cars transporting varying cargo through the cities and states of the US. In New York you will see the Statue of Liberty. In DC you will see the White House. Some trains are lead by Thomas the Train, or carry varying cargo like veggies, animals, and my favorite, a tanker of Tootsie Rolls. Some are designed as ladybugs, trolleys, or Amtrak replicas. Volunteers were helping little ones pot up a small plant to take home. As I left the train garden, where at least three conductors were tending the trains, I saw Al Capone being chased by the FBI. (It was Halloween, remember?)

As I continued my journey, the Korean mum 'Clara Curtis' from the

CHICAGO continued on page 8



Pot Marigold 'Indian Prince' with its companions, Redbor Kale, and New Red Fire Looseleaf lettuce.

also wanted you to know about the Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, Illinois ([andersongardens.org](http://andersongardens.org)).

I wanted to see the Vegetable Garden. At the entrance to the garden



# ALONG THE ALLEY

by Joanne Couture, Class of 1991

Play GARDEN JEOPARDY: Avoid planting this fall favorite near any night illumination such as street or bright yard lights, which might prevent them from blooming. WHAT IS...? (Solution at end of article.)

Thankfully, the MG June Garden Tour was spared the ferocious storms, searing sun, and drought that plagued much of the metro this summer. For us garden junkies, we don't just "ooh and ahh" over the magnificent gardens. We get out those pens and pads and check into what we might add to our own gardens. In case you lost your notes, the tour hosts described favorite plants and features that especially impressed visitors. (Note: Bob and Frances Schmuck were unavailable for an interview. And extra information on various plants was generally from *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust, a must-have primer on tending these plants throughout the seasons.)

Few water gardens compare with MG **Pat Wright** and husband Rodger's three small ponds, two waterfalls, and a 50' streambed emptying into a 15' x 20' pond! Nor can many water plants match the huge floating water lily 'Victoria' (named in 1837 for the new young English queen); it looks like a 24" pizza and was on tour display in a large container before joining the big pond's water plants. On land, however, Pat's hosta 'Chartreuse Wiggles' is a great ground cover or front border; only 10" tall, it has graceful, slender leaves—and even is sun-tolerant. Her clematis 'Henrii' has huge white blooms with chocolate anthers throughout

the summer (10-12' tall; full sun/part shade). Asked later if any plants suffered from the summer's heat and drought, Pat said, "Are there any that didn't? The water bill suffered. Azaleas and red twig dogwood and tomatoes did. I did!" What she won't use again? Black mulch. "While the contrast is good, it absorbs too much heat." Ditto her English laurel shrubs, which demand a milder climate.

If your house is on a high perch, here's an idea from MG **Janeil Egger\*** and husband Gary's tour garden that amazed visitors: they added "over 200,000 tons of boulders to create an expansive living wall, a rock garden, and stone pathways that meander through the garden." They had kept the desirable native plants and trees, such as bur oaks and Eastern red cedar but added a variety of trees plus perennials featuring blue and chartreuse plants. "This repetitive combination of these two colors seemed to have a big 'Wow!' factor among visitors," Pat said. Included in the shady area: the unusual leatherleaf mahonia (*Mahonia bealei*), similar to holly with coarse-textured, spiny foliage but especially delightful in late winter/early spring for its stem-tip clusters of green bud balls that become fragrant shiny yellow flowers, and later, bird-attracting summer berries; Tiarella (*T. cordifolia*), a native evergreen shade-loving groundcover whose spring blooms give it the descriptive name 'Foamflower'; *Fothergilla major* 'Blue Shadow'; much more cold-hardy and vigorous than other blues, it joins spring-blooming bulbs with "hundreds of white bottlebrush-like blooms that cover the plant"—plus the leaves turn orange and red in the fall; and quick-spreading wormwood (*Artemisia stelleriana*) aka 'Silver Mound.' Janeil's other interesting plants: witch hazel 'Diane' (*Hamamelis vernalis*) with "hundreds of fragrant, ruby-colored blooms in late winter/early spring." Looking for a sturdy but lovely shiny green groundcover? *Lysimachia numularia* 'Goldilocks'—aka creeping Jenny. What Janeil won't plant again? The

aggressively self-seeding Chocolate Joe-Pye-Weed! "I had a massive planting three years ago. I killed it out—but am still pulling it up. Plus blue spruce. It dislikes K.C. weather." \*(Note: Though family names are the same, Janiel and Gary Egger are not related to MG **Molly Egger!**)

If you missed the tour, look up MG **Teede Stipich's** *KC STAR's* article (4-7-2011, D3) on Lee's Summit gardener **Dianna Lanz**. She and husband Gus had to add "truckloads of soil, compost, mulch and rock" to correct the yard that "sloped eastward into the lake at Lakewood." Visitors admired Dianna's talent for design, especially her "dramatic leaf castings from elephant ears, castor beans, hostas or crotons," concrete artistry tucked into garden niches. Dianna's favorite annuals? "Orange marigolds and orange 'Profusion' zinnias. In fact, 'Profusion Orange' made the September 2011 cover of *The Kansas City Gardener* and was featured in the article "Summer Survivors." The 2" blooms of this zinnia smother the 12" high plant all season and won the prestigious AAS Gold Medal Award. Dianna's special perennial is hydrangea 'Limelight' (MGs have raved about it before) whose profuse explosion of bright green summer blooms turn into a "hot deep pink" in autumn. 'Limelight' is a "Proven Winner," took top honors at the Royal Horticultural Academy award three years ago, and is in garden celeb P. Allen Smith's "Platinum Collection." And Dianna was one of the few who had superb luck with tomatoes. Her 'Super Fantastic' had nearly 3-4 pound fruits, unusual for *Lycopersicon esculentum* Fl. "But I think chicken manure had more to do with the size," she said. (Anyone have coops I can clean?)

**Bob and Sophie Bryant** claim "a very organic local fertilizer—fish remains" for the success of their garden by Lake Winnebago as reported by MG **Terry Blair Michel** in the *KC STAR* (4-21-2011, D3). A spring pleaser was the front courtyard's ground cover, the

*ALLEY continued on page 7*

herb sweet woodruff. Aptly named; its foliage is so sweet-scented, that dried, it's often used as potpourri. It's fast-growing and can be aggressive. So how is the Bryant garden doing in the fall? Tour-favorite perennials still in bloom in September: the stunning blue fan flower *Scaevola aemula* 'Outback,' spilling over a rock wall; *penstemon* 'Jingle Bells,' whose coral tubular flowers attract hummers. And their *dianthus* 'Neon Star,' Bob reported, "is even prettier this fall" with mounds of purplish-pink blooms over silver-grey evergreen foliage. A summer-dazzling annual was *tithonia* 'Mexican sunflower' with orange-yellow dahlia-like blooms alive with butterflies. (The last two were purchased at MG plant sales, Bob said, so thank you, somebody!)

Linda and John Boyd thought the most admired in their tour garden was their 'Sweetbay' magnolia tree, in creamy-white bloom and "smelling heavenly" even several hundred yards away. Later, its red fruit attracts turkeys, quail, and songbirds. A native, it's evergreen in milder climates, semi-

evergreen in more northern zones, fast-growing yet sturdy and storm resistant. But summer was cruel to the Boyd garden; lightning splintered the lovely birch by the pond, and plants suffered when Linda entrusted her garden to a "not very dependable teenager" for two weeks.

### Cuttings

As for my garden, even with vigilant root-watering, the relentless sun made burnt toast of the usually dependable 'Jet Star' tomato vines, though 'Fourth of July, 'Juliet,' and cherry-types struggled through with some afternoon shade--but weary and meager of fruit. Even reliable perennials wilted or went semi-dormant.

Yet even in full sun, many annuals triumphed. *Vinca pacifica* 'Burgundy Halo' lived up to its name: large intense burgundy blooms with white centers that showed off next to the huge pink 'Magellan' hybrid zinnia recommended by Duane Hoover, horticulturist at the Kauffman Memorial Garden. Their companion was *gomphrena* aka globe amaranth 'All Around Purple.' Not showy—more like a gangly clover--it thrives in con-

tainers or mid-garden, keeping its intense color even when dried. *Cleome* 'Sparkler' hybrid, shorter than other "spider flowers," was tough and persistent and attractive to bees and butterflies. And if you need a hummer-attractor, nothing short of Roundup kills the cypress vine that reseeds and pops up in spring with ferny foliage and masses of red trumpets. All began blooming in May and were still at it in mid-September

But the real survivors—call them the garden bullies—were the summer weeds! Field bindweed (aka creeping Jenny but not to be confused with Janeil Egger's respectable *Lysimachia* 'Goldilocks' with the same common name) and wild morning glories clambered up everything vertical. Nimbleweed, pigweed, sorrel and spurge thrust up through mulch, sprawled insolently over limestone edging, even sneaked out of sidewalk cracks. Yank 'em out--they came back again!

*GARDEN JEOPARDY solution: What is the chrysanthemum? It is considered a "short-day bloomer."* Poinsettias are also in this category.



### Seed continued from page 3

tems and raised bed construction. The photographs add to the warmth of this book and help communicate the strength of friendship and sense of community forged by gardeners the world over as they share the love for what they do.

Published by Chronicle Books, this soft cover volume is available for check-out from Mid-Continent Public Library and for purchase at several book stores and websites. Its size and beautiful photographs make it lovely enough to display on the coffee table, but it is clearly designed for practical use in the garden. At \$30 or less, it would make a thoughtful holiday gift for any gardener.



**Jewell Dragon Plant,**  
*Ophiopogon japonica*

### The Back Fence

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**Chicago** *continued from page 5*



#### Cascade mums

aster family caught my eye. Sadly, I also saw a sign announcing the presence of the emerald ash borer at the gardens. The hostas were failing and it was hard to tell what they looked like in their prime. What remained of the Gold Standard Hosta was intriguing. Looking it up online has convinced me it is one to try.

The bookstore was running a half-price sale on a book called *The Revolutionary Yardscape—Ideas for Repurposing Local Materials* by Matthew Levesque. I will read that one on a winter's night with my 2012 planning notebook close at hand.

I want to follow tradition and tell you about the fine food in Chicago to serve as dessert for your day of garden touring. The “thing” now in Chicago are breakfast restaurants. You’ll find the Yolk (my favorite) in three places. There is also West Egg, Eggsperience, Eggcetera, and many more. For \$9-\$10 the eggs benedict platter with two eggs, English muffin, hollandaise sauce, fruit, and potatoes can’t be beat. It will take you through to dinner. For dinner, Gibsons is well-known for their aged beef. USDA has a category for Gibson beef as it is raised to specific specifications. Although you can

find cuts up to nearly \$100, my prime rib was \$25 and to die for. Gibsons oftentimes boasts celebrities. Angelina Jolie was seen there recently.

Weber Grills has a restaurant. Huge Webers sit under an exhaust system and your dinner is cooked over charcoal. The pumpkin soup was really good too. If you are into seafood, Roy’s can’t be beat. They originated in Hawaii and are now in many mainland cities. To really expand your palate—try Sushi Samba. They offer Japanese/Brazilian fusion. The new rage in beef is Wagyu—supposedly better than Kobe Beef. They have it from Australia or the US. The marbling is superb. Just for fun, order a side of purple mashed potatoes from Brazil. The high iron content makes them purple. I know you are going to think this is an odd comment, but be sure to visit the restaurant while you are there. Most of it is enclosed in glass!

Although I flew to Chicago, there is an overnight bus for \$30 each way.

I wish I could have taken you with me. At least I can share my pictures. Click here to see every photo I took. Enjoy! <http://share.shutterstock.com/share/received/welcome.sfly?fid=72b9f0b8724fdcbd&sid=0CasXDNozbsWbQ>