

The Torii

Volume 8.7

Spring, 2006

From the Director

Thanks to the strong support received from members and donors, we are pleased to report that 2005 was another best ever. Now we are looking forward to an even better year in 2006. We are now beginning to get the feeling that spring is actually just around the corner as we observe the sun rising a little higher in the southern sky each day, (and so do our expectations rise). At this writing (March 9) we have still experienced no spring-like weather; however, the weatherman tells us it is on the way. Even though there is still some snow sticking around in the shady areas, the robins started arriving in large numbers the last few days. From my cozy vantage point in the office, I just counted 33 out on the great lawn busily bouncing about in search of a tasty tidbit. It's great to have them back. Winter started out like a lion and then really tamed down. From Thanksgiving to Christmas we had nearly three feet of snow fall and a string of night time temperatures in the single digits and a long period of below freezing daytime temperatures. The remainder of the winter was quite mild with only a few additional inches of snow. We always worry when the really cold weather comes early before plants have had a chance to acclimate. David & Susan did get our roses protected before the cold hit, but they are still concerned

that there may have been considerable freeze injury. We will soon know. The mild weather in January and February has made it possible for our staff to get a lot of outdoor work done; however, there is much yet to be done. One problem with the mild weather was finding times when the ground was frozen hard enough to permit getting equipment on the grounds for maintenance work such as tree trimming.

David and Susan fired up the heaters in the lower greenhouse on March 1 thus permitting relief of crowding in the upper greenhouse and creating room for the many trays of recently germinated seedlings. Soon these little plants will be large enough to be transferred into flats, and then they too will be moved to the lower greenhouse where additional rooms will be opened and heated. Nurturing will continue until early May when they will take their place in the gardens

With spring around the corner, all of us here are looking forward to the new season with great anticipation.

Our staff is working diligently to ensure that the gardens are the best that they can be this season, and with your continuing support they will be the most beautiful ever.

Reg Noble

Art Exhibits for 2006

Our 6th annual Sculpture in the Gardens exhibit will be in place for our opening on May 2. This year we are pleased to offer a one man show featuring bronze sculptures by Tuck Langland. In recent years Langland has come to be recognized both nationally and internationally as a prominent figure in the world of sculpture. He is a member of the National Academy of Art and a Fellow of the National Sculpture Society for which he currently serves as Vice President. The featured piece in the show is an eight foot bronze entitled "Generations." It stands in a prominent location along the entrance drive in the center of a large flower bed where its beauty will be further enhanced just as it enhances the flower garden



The show will feature ten pieces (including three of his pieces that are part of our permanent collection) that will be located in selected locations throughout the gardens. In addition, he is showing several other indoor bronzes which will be exhibited in the Trellis Gallery and in the home.

Art in the Trellis Gallery will continue to be shown this season. There will be three shows plus exhibits from the first ever Schedel Arboretum & Gardens Photo Contest. Each show will run for one month with the first show opening early in June. The final show, the photo contest, will open in mid September (See separate article about photo contest). Details about the Trellis Gallery Exhibits should be posted on our website early in April and will also appear in our June newsletter.

Notes of interest:

- Volunteers, mark your calendars. We want to kick off the new season with our annual orientation luncheon on Wednesday, April 19 at 11:30.

- WFOB's weekly radio show "A Firm Foundation with Rick and Jackie Metz" will be broadcasting from the gardens from 8:30 to 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, May 6. Be sure and tune in 1430 AM on the dial.

- One of our volunteers, Elaine Mylander, is currently developing a tree tour publication for Schedel Gardens. She is choosing some of the most significant trees on the grounds, and putting together descriptive information about each one. More information on this project will follow.

- Speaking of interesting trees, one of our more unusual trees is the 'Gold Rush' Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides* 'Ogon'). This deciduous conifer (read – cone bearing plant that loses its needles) has been chosen as one of the Collector's Conifer of the Year by The American Conifer Society. It has soft yellow needles in the spring, becoming more golden as they age through the summer. In autumn, the foliage turns a burnished bronze then orange before falling. Be sure and look for it the next time you visit.

- According to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the following counties are under quarantine due to Emerald Ash Borer: Williams, Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Wood, Ottawa, Sandusky and Erie. This means it is illegal to move ash trees, ash logs, ash branches, ash wood chips, ash bark, and non-coniferous firewood out of these counties. The materials may be freely moved within counties. For more information, go to the Ohio Department of Agriculture website: www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab

Memories Remain

We are saddened by the loss of our friend, and supporter of the gardens, Fuji Kawashima. Fuji, a kind and gentle man whose many talents distinguished him as a very special person, died suddenly on March 5, 2006. We will miss him greatly, especially his warm smile and encouraging words.

SCHEDEL ARBORETUM & GARDENS

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The Schedel Arboretum & Gardens is an operation of the Joseph J. and Marie P. Schedel Foundation. The Arboretum and Gardens is dedicated to preserving and improving this marvelous legacy from Joseph and Marie Schedel. It is funded by income from the Schedel Foundation, memberships, donations, grants, and special fund-raising events. The Schedel Foundation is governed by a Board of directors.

Gifts in Kind

In kind gifts to the gardens have increased substantially over the last four or five years. Such gifts can be very beneficial to the Schedel Arboretum & Gardens and may offer the donor an opportunity to realize a large savings on income tax. We would be happy to assist you in determining if an in kind gift would serve your needs.

Plant Sale Tidbits

We divided our peonies last fall, and will have several unique varieties available at our Spring sale. Of course we will continue to have Dawn Redwoods and Zelkova trees. Cannas, annuals, peppers, herbs and other bedding plants will become available in our greenhouse as we finish planting our beds and no longer need the remaining plants. Some of the interesting plants that we hope to have available are:

Alternanthera 'Party Time', *Alternanthera* 'Crème de Menthe', *Canna* 'Australis' (usually available from mail order for not under \$12/bulb), 'Bengal Tiger', 'Tropicanna', 'Black Knight', 'Wyoming', 'Richard Wallace', Coleus - 'Juliet Quartermain', 'Fright Night', 'Kiwi Fern', 'Peter's Wonder', 'Smoldering', 'Red Ruffles', *Lantana* 'Dallas Red', 'Samantha', *Setcreasea* 'Purple Heart', *Verbena* 'Hot Patio Rose', 'Babylon Neon Rose', Sweet Potato Vine, Assorted Zinnias, Assorted Hot Peppers, Swiss Chard 'Bright Lights', Cardoon, Basil, Bananas, Crinum, Elephant Ears, Variegated Ginger and assorted perennials.

This list is not all inclusive, nor does it take into account the vagaries of weather, plants, and other natural disasters (or changing our minds on a bed design). There will be many other things available, at any given time. Please visit us and check out our sale.

Closed on Mondays

Be sure and note that we are closing on Mondays this year. Our hours the remainder of the week will be the same: 10 – 4:00 Tuesday – Saturday and noon to 4:00 on Sunday. Since May 1 falls on Monday this year, our opening day will be Tuesday, May 2. We hope to see all of you soon!

Help us Save

Costs of printing and mailing the Torii continue to increase due to the growth of our mailing list and ever increasing postal rates. For those of you who use the internet, we urge you to start receiving your newsletter electronically. So, please send us your e-mail address and help us save. Just send an e-mail message (schedelgardens@woh.rr.com) saying you would like to receive future newsletters via e-mail and we will make the necessary adjustments

Flowerbeds Don't Have to be Just for Flowers!

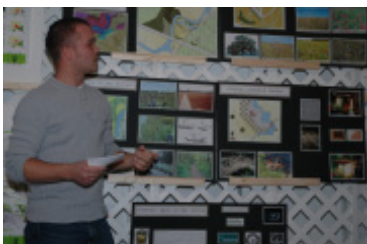
Most often, when a person hears flowerbed, they think flowers. And why shouldn't they – that's what "flowerbed" implies. But recently there has been a resurgence in the use of non-flowering annuals as bedding plants. I say resurgence because throughout history there are many instances of gardens that were highly decorative and didn't use flowers. Examples of these types of gardens are Knot Gardens, Parterre Gardens and Carpet Bedding. Knot gardens evolved from the neat vegetable gardens the monks used in the early middle ages – in these simple gardens, vegetables and herbs were grown in square or rectangular beds that were divided by paths. A Knot Garden was a more elaborate and artistic endeavor using boxwood or herbs planted as dwarf hedges which were kept clipped in the form of interlacing ribbons. These were often less practical and planted in an area that could be viewed from above, and were highly decorative.

Knot Gardens remained fashionable in England for longer than they did in France. In the 1500s, while the English focused on designing intricate knots, in France, Knot Gardens were evolving into Parterre Gardens. A **parterre** is "a formal garden constructed on a level surface consisting of planting beds, edged in stone or tightly clipped hedging and gravel paths arranged to form a pleasing pattern" – a very ornate knot garden. A parterre is located on flat ground, in which the pattern of the garden is usually as important as the plants. Parterres are most often placed next to multistory buildings because the pattern of the garden is best appreciated from above. Parterres reached their peak of development during the 17th Century, when the French garden was the most influential style in Europe.

Many times people use the parterre style of gardening in their vegetable gardens or herb gardens. Our kitchen garden is set up in a style similar to this, and we try to use only vegetable or herbs to make a highly decorative garden. Sometimes there are flowers, but they are edible. Every plant we use in this garden must meet two criteria – it should be edible, in one form or another, and it needs to be ornamental. The main focus of this garden is the highly colorful hot peppers. We will have over 80 varieties again this year. The "Wow Factor" is at its peak in the fall when the myriad peppers ripen to their ultimate show of purple, yellow, orange, and red. What a display! Some of these peppers are so ornamental that we will be using them in a flowerbed. The purple foliage of many pepper varieties offer a nice contrast to pink, red, or yellow flowers; and the hot colors of the peppers themselves add a splash to the fall landscape.

OSU Landscape Architecture Class Uses the Gardens for Class Project

Juniors in the Landscape Architecture Program at the Ohio State University are using the Schedel Arboretum & Gardens and Schedel Foundation adjacent properties this academic year to satisfy class assignments that involve developing landscape designs and creation of master plans. At the end of spring quarter each of the eighteen students presented their work for review by department faculty as well as a juried review by outside experts from universities including the University of California and Iowa State



Besides using shrubs, herbs and vegetables as decoration in "flower" beds, something else we utilize quite a bit are foliage plants. Coleus, is a major player in the colored foliage game. Many Victorian gardens utilized coleus in a gardening style called "Carpet Bedding". Carpet Bedding was a distinct category of bedding out that developed in the late 1860's which utilized dwarf foliage plants and succulents to create a bed that had the texture of a carpet. Carpet Bedding is like parterre gardening, but the Victorians utilized flowering or foliage plants of similar heights in simple or intricate designs.

In contrast to olden days, there are now coleus for the full sun. And oh, so many colors, textures, heights, and forms. Reds, pinks, blacks, oranges, yellows, purples and greens; speckles, splashes, streaks, filigrees, ruffles, and puckers; tall, short, and medium; upright, spreading, and hanging. There is a coleus for any situation or artistic bent.

With the rise of gardening as a hobby in the U. S., and with more and more people wanting easy maintenance, plant companies are developing more and better annuals, including many foliage plants. We've come to realize that often foliage plants can deliver reliable color throughout the growing season. Many annuals get "tired" after a long, hot summer, and bloom performance declines by August. With foliage plants, that problem is avoided.

Other foliage plants that we like to use for their wonderful colors are: *Alternanthera* (Joseph's Coat) 'Red Threads', 'Party Time', and 'Crème de Menthe'; *Iresine* (Chicken Gizzard) 'Red' and 'Green' – another old fashioned plant reborn, *Perilla* 'Magilla', *Lamium* 'Golden Anniversary', *Artemisia* 'Oriental Lighthouse' and 'Powis Castle', *Duranta* 'Golden Edge', *Fuchsia* 'Autumnale', 'Golden Marinka' and 'Sun Ray', *Ipomoea* (Sweet Potato Vine), *Plectranthus* (Swedish Ivy) and *Stobilanthes* (Persian Shield). One of our major "flower" beds will consist of *Alternanthera* 'Red Threads', *Coleus* 'Dark Star', *Iresine* 'Red', with accents of hot pink geraniums and white begonias. In another bed we will be utilizing the dark purple foliage of Ornamental Pepper 'Black Pearl'. I could go on and on, and some may say I already have, but space only permits a short course. The websites below offer good photos of many of the plants listed above. Enjoy, and let your imaginations run wild!

<http://www.provenwinners.com>

<http://www.glasshouseworks.com/gallery2.html>

<http://www.raretrees.org/alte84.html>

University. Following the juried review on campus, students returned to the Schedel Arboretum and Gardens and presented their projects to our Board of Directors, Director's Council, our staff, and invited guests. Their work was very impressive and offered many outstanding ideas and concepts which will be most beneficial in aiding in shaping our thinking as we develop our vision for the gardens in the decades ahead. This is yet another example of how our efforts to promote educational serve to advance both education and the gardens.

Schedel Arboretum and Gardens Membership Program

FRIEND'S CIRCLE

Buckeye Level -- \$35

Single membership (fully tax deductible †)

Redbud Level -- \$50

Family membership. (fully tax deductible †)

Lilac Level -- \$100

Family membership and four passes.
10% discounts on plant and gift sales.
(fully tax deductible †)
Family = Spouse and dependent children.

Dogwood Level -- \$250

Family membership and four passes.
SA&G tee shirt for new members.
10% discounts on plant and gift shop sales.
(fully tax deductible †)

Magnolia Level* -- \$500

Family membership and four passes.
SA&G tee shirt for new members.
10% discounts on plant and gift shop sales.
10% discount for a hosted social event. ††
(\$465 is tax deductible †)

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Benefits also include all those at Friend's Circle levels.

Lily Level* -- \$1,000

An invitation for two to attend the Director's Reception and Dinner at the gardens.
(\$930 is tax deductible†)

Dahlia Level* -- \$2,500

An invitation for two to attend the Director's Reception and Dinner at the gardens.
Use of the gardens for a social event for up to 100 guests at no charge. ††
(\$2,320 is tax deductible†)

* At this level, payments may be made quarterly.

† Estimated for Federal Income Tax purposes. Consult a tax advisor.

†† Arrangements to be mutually agreed upon. Benefits at any level may be waived to maximize tax deduction.

Rose Level* -- \$5,000

An invitation for two to attend the Director's Reception and Dinner at the gardens.
Use of the gardens for a social event for up to 200 guests at no charge. †† (\$4500 is tax deductible†)

Life Membership

An invitation for two to attend the Director's Reception and dinner at the gardens. Use of the gardens for a social event for up to 200 guests. †† Recognition with a plaque in the gardens.
1 - \$10,000 one time payment.
2 - 10 annual installments of \$1,250 each
3 - Cumulative gifts exceeding \$15,000.

March

Please cut out and return with your check to:
Schedel Foundation, P.O. Box 81, Elmore, OH 43416

2006

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail Address _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for my membership at the _____ level.
\$ _____ for general garden improvements \$ _____ for a flower pot display
\$ _____ for the following use _____
_____ I am interested in Volunteer Work. Please contact me with more information.

From David's Desk

I'm always amused by northwestern Ohio weather. During November and early December, I was sure we were in for a tough winter, given the amount of snow and stormy weather. Since December, the ground at the gardens seldom froze and when it did, it was only a few inches at most. Because of this weather we will likely have to deal with some interesting pest and disease problems, but thanks to the miracles of modern science, we have nearly all of the tools we need to face such adversity.

Throughout the winter, Susan and I have been busy fine-tuning our landscape designs, taking advantage of successes we've had in years past and coming up with some new and unique designs as well. We'll be using many new coleus in our designs again this year in addition to tried and true annuals such as geraniums, marigolds, begonia, impatiens, ageratums, grasses and many more. We choose plant material based on many criteria. Following are examples of factors considered in arriving at our final plant selection decisions:

- Color scheme selection (hot or cool colors, contrasting colors, monochromatic, etc)
- Site location (is it full sun, partial shade, wet, dry, etc)
- Decide on borders or no borders
- Timing and duration of flowering of the annual in question
- Cultural requirements of the annual including labor involved in upkeep
- Tolerance for weather extremes, disease, and pests
- How well this annual contributes to the overall design

Membership Drive

By opening day of this season, we hope to have added 100 members. This is an ambitious goal and we need your help. If you have allowed your membership to lapse, have not ever been a member, or it is time for you to renew, we urge you to do so before the end of April. Memberships and donations play a vital role in keeping our operation afloat; in fact, we could not continue without this support.

One hundred new memberships at the \$50 and \$100 level would add between five and ten thousand dollars to our budget, which would go a long way towards purchasing the flowers we will be planting in May. As an indication of our appreciation of your support, we are offering a professional prepared video presentation on the gardens (DVD or VHS) to all who purchase a family membership in the gardens by April 30. Send your check along with the completed membership form (on center page) and a note saying you would like to take advantage of our offer and indicate which video format (DVD or VHS) that you would prefer. This offer will continue until the end of April.

Those joining or renewing in one of the "Director's Circle" categories will also be invited to a special reception hosted in their honor by the Director.

during the entire season

Once we have addressed the above factors, then we have to put things together into a coherent bed design. What if the border flower selected requires much less water than the plant behind the border? Can we get to the taller plants in the center of a large bed to deadhead them regularly or do we need to create a path through the bed. If all of the questions are answered and we have all of the data in hand, we can then decide if this is a design that we want to stick with or if we should head back to the drawing board. The next phase involves a new set of questions such as:

- Is this plant available in seed form, plugs, or both?
- What grower should we obtain the plant material from?
- What shipping date should be specified to best coincide with our projects?

Seed material usually arrives in December and January, while plug material arrives in late February to mid March. Seed sowing begins with hot peppers in week three of January and continues with other seeds until early April, while plugs are transplanted into 4.5" pots a week after arriving. Both greenhouses are bursting at the seams by May 1.

Visitors this season will notice some changes in the stream feature terrace area. Previously this area contained rhododendrons and azaleas. These have been removed due to their poor health and lack of seasonal interest. We removed over 250 cubic feet of heavy clay from the terraces and will be backfilling with good topsoil and organic matter. We plan to replant the terraces with dwarf conifers and other evergreens along with some deciduous shrubs.

We Need Your Help

Each summer we get many compliments on the beautiful pots that Susan painstakingly designs for special garden locations. These are done at considerable expense and we invite our friends to help by sponsoring a potted display. They range broadly in size and complexity, so sponsorships are available at \$50, \$75, \$100, and \$250 (large urn) levels. Each donor will be recognized with a sign identifying their pot. Donations of less than \$50 are also welcome and will be applied towards the purchase of more expensive, unique and especially beautiful plants that we can not otherwise afford. Just send your check indicating you want your contribution used for creating a pot display. -

Volunteers

Our volunteer staff contributes immensely to our operation. We simply could not get along without them. Would you believe that their ranks have grown from eleven in 1998 to eighty in 2006. This number needs to continue to grow. So, if you would like to join our team please let us know.

An example of the value of volunteer efforts is the recent work being done by Walt Busdiecker. Walt is building 28 new Japanese garden path lights to replace our present ones which have fallen prey to the elements. Thanks to Walt and all of our volunteers for your help.

Schedel Arboretum & Gardens

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How Tall Can Trees Grow??

We have a tendency to think of trees just growing taller and taller each year. But when we stop and think about it, we realize there must be a maximum height. So, there must be some factor(s) that come into play that controls just how tall a tree can grow. There are of course many things that limit growth including climate, soil conditions, genetics, etc.; however if we get a little theoretical and look for that “ultimate” factor, the answer comes down to fairly basic physics. As a practical matter, all plant parts require water, including the leaves at the top of the tree. At one time it was thought that the trees pushed water to their tops utilizing air pressure as it does when we “suck” water through a straw (We don’t really pull water up a straw, we withdraw air from the straw and atmospheric pressure pushes water in replacing the air). Numerous physiological studies in the last century clearly demonstrated that water is pulled through roots and stems to the top of a tree. Some aspects of this mechanism are still somewhat of a mystery, but botanists have a basic understanding of the process.

So, how tall can a tree grow? To answer this ques-



tion, we first ask how tall do trees actually grow, and this question turns our attention to the giant redwoods in California, the tallest of which towers to a height of 370’ (Three times the height of trees we are accustomed to seeing in our forests. So, how much higher might a redwood tree be able to lift water without violating any laws of physics? A scientist at Northern Arizona University investigated this question and concluded the absolute maximum height to which a redwood could lift water would be 427 feet.

Don’t ever expect the trees growing in your back yard to reach 427’, even if they are redwoods – there are always a variety of factors in nature that prevent an organism from reaching its theoretical limits.

The moral to this story is that there are always absolute limits in natural processes and it is important that we understand the mechanisms that impose the limits. In the future it is likely that botanists will look at redwoods and compare their anatomy and physiology with trees that attain lesser heights in order to get ideas for how to breed or genetically engineer new varieties.