



The Torii

Volume 9.2

Fall, 2007

From the Assistant Director

From my desk I have a wonderful view of the lowland area of the gardens, and I think I just saw a duck swimming across the lawn. Seriously, I haven't seen this much rain for a long time; I think the rain stopped for a total of ten minutes today; this in contrast to the amount of time we spent hauling hoses, sprinklers and watering wands throughout the gardens. When we weren't watering we were tending to the usual but important tasks such as dead-heading, edging, weeding and detailing. As we head into fall, the stress of the season becomes more evident on our annual flower displays; they are after all, annuals and are not meant to endure six months in top form. And so we begin the task of determining which beds will be declining soon and how many chrysanthemums we'll need to purchase. Each fall Schedel gardens staff and a group

of volunteers drive to Bench's and load up hundreds of mums on pickup trucks, and then promptly plant them in the key areas of the gardens. If you are interested in volunteering your time and/or truck for this project or would like to make a donation to the chrysanthemum fund, please contact the main office for further details.

This spring work began on an addition to the bonsai shelter to house the growing collection, much of which has been donated by Leo Pelka. Leo also made a generous donation to fund the building of the new structure, which is crafted out of cedar and is nearly finished. The maintenance crew is in the process of rebuilding and reinforcing sections, as well as increasing the height of the flood wall in order to prevent flooding in the future.

None of the successes we enjoy in these gardens would be possible without the hard work of our staff and volunteers. We had ten full

and part time employees working in the gardens for 2007. Many of them worked weekends and some evenings to keep up with watering, detailing and events. This was especially difficult given the number of days where the temperature hovered around 90 degrees and above. The volunteers have been critical to our operations for many years and this season is no exception. From working at the office desk to driving carts, giving tours or running errands and assisting with events, they have enabled us to accomplish more for the gardens than we ever could have on our own and for this we say, Thank you!

From the annual, perennial, tree and shrub collections, to the bonsai and art exhibits, to the wonderful events hosted here, the gardens have advanced at an amazing pace in the last fifteen years. What will the next fifteen years bring to Schedel Gardens?

David Halsey

Mulch Volcanoes

I've always wanted to visit Mount Kilauea but have never had the opportunity yet; luckily, there are volcanoes all over northwest Ohio. Instead of spewing molten lava out of the center, these volcanoes spew out trees. Mounding up mulch under a tree and against the trunk is a sure way to eventually kill the tree. Air and water are often prevented from reaching the roots because of these enormous volcano-shaped piles of mulch,

and where it's piled against the trunk, there is potential for cankers, cracks and rot, which open the door



for diseases and pests. If this describes the state of your trees at this time, then you must take steps to save them from further damage. First pull back the mulch from the trunk several inches so that the crown (where the trunk widens at the soil) and trunk are completely free of mulch. If you already have two to four inches of mulch, just loosen it up and spread it out flat; leaving it mounded would cause water to roll off and away.



Tree Guide (Yes, it's here!)

Through the combined efforts of Elaine Mylander, Dr. Noble, Schedel staff and many others, the Tree Guide has been completed and is available for pick up in the office. We have already sold dozens of copies and hope to sell more.

The cost is \$5.00 and well worth it. Members at the Redbud level and above are welcome to pick up one free copy with a current membership card. It is our hope that by next year we will provide a guided Tree tour to accompany the book.

Did You Know?

- The gardens have hosted many events including weddings, anniversaries, receptions, birthday parties, showers, etc... If you are interested in having any of the aforementioned events here at the gardens or in the Trellis Gallery, please contact Veronica for more information.

- Fall is the best time for planting trees. The trees are less active at this time, yet the soil is still warm enough for root growth.

Help Us Save

If you are a regular user of the internet, we ask that you send us your e-mail address so that we can send you the Torii in electronic form. Not only will this help us save on printing and mailing costs, but it will also provide you with a full color version of the newsletter, should it have any photos included in it, and it will help us do our part in saving the environment. We will post the newsletter each quarter and inform you by e-mail when it is posted, then you may print off a hard copy if you wish.

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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.

Volunteer Appreciation

To all of our friends who help us out, we wish to take up just a bit more of your time. In honor of our Wonderful Volunteers, of which we could not do without, Wednesday, October 17th from 4:30-6:00 Schedel Gardens will host a Volunteer appreciation dinner in the Trellis Gallery. We hope you will all be in attendance. Invitations will be mailed soon.



Fertilizer

The most common question we hear from visitors is "What kind of fertilizer do you use?" This is a complicated answer to a simple question, with many factors taken into consideration. After we remove all of the plant material from our beds, a two to three inch layer of compost or organic matter (decayed grass and leaves, soil) is incorporated into the beds. Organic matter provides nutrients to plants and organisms, and also acts as a bonding agent to create different size soil particles, which allows for better drainage and air penetration and creates improved moisture holding capacity. Next we apply Ammonium sulphate (a soil acidifier) and rake it lightly into the soil. In the spring a light cultivation takes place just before planting. After planting, we apply a 'timed-release' fertilizer with a rating of 17-3-11 (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium) in and around each plant, which lasts three to four months. Usually 'bloom builder' fertilizers are higher in phosphorus, but we've determined through soil tests (which we try to conduct once every three years), that we have a high phosphorus rating and a 7.0 or higher ph. If your ph (measure of acidity) is wrong, then all the fertilizer in the world can't make the plants grow, because the nutrients are tied up in the soil. As the season progresses, we look for any signs of nutrient deficiency and apply needed nutrients accordingly.

The New Natives

In looking through past editions of the *Torii*, I came across an article I had written 10 years ago – on native perennials. Quite a coincidence since I was thinking about writing today's article on the "New" Natives – new varieties of old favorites. Four of us from SA&G attended a summer workshop put on by Owens Community College and The Ohio State University Extension at the beginning of August, and one of the classes was "Overlooked and Underused Perennials". During this class, one of the things that struck me was the number of native plants that would do really well in less than perfect conditions. And within these native plant selections, there were many new cultivars.

Native perennials are great plants. Quite a few of us have experienced planting perennials in our cantankerous NW Ohio Hoytville Clay soils, with the anticipation of lovely blooms, only to find in the next year or so, that the plants are struggling just to survive. Many natives tolerate our hot dry summers and hard clay soils. But as much as we might love Coneflowers, Blanket Flowers and Black-Eyed Susans, sometimes we just crave something new. I'd like to introduce you to (many new perennials, but only have room for) two perennials that have had many new cultivars developed in the past few years – *Baptisia* and *Echinacea*.

***Baptisia*, Blue False Indigo**, is a longtime favorite at Schedel gardens, with its wonderful blue flowers in early summer. The foliage is a nice blue/green, and stays strong through fall. Recently introduced by Chicagoland Grows (established in 1986, Chicagoland Grows is a partnership among the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Morton Arboretum and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois) is a new series of *Baptisia*, called '**Prairieblues**'. There are four varieties within this series that are crosses between *Baptisia australis* (Blue False Indigo) and other *Baptisia* species. The four new crosses offer beautiful colors. '**Starlite Prairieblues**' has periwinkle blue flowers, '**Midnight Prairieblues**' has deep violet blue flowers, '**Twilight Prairieblues**' has deep violet-purple flowers highlighted by lemon-yellow spots, and '**Solar Flare Prairieblues**' opens lemon-yellow and takes on an orange blush with age. They all fall within the 3-5' range, and will do well in most soil types in full sun. The 'Prairieblues' series offers great all around plants, nice foliage, beautiful flowers (reminiscent of lupine flowers), and attractive seed pods, and are wonderful plants that will tolerate poor soil and drought (read "my

backyard").

***Echinacea*, Coneflower**, is another popular perennial that has had an influx of new varieties added to it in the past couple of years. From Chicagoland Grows we have '**Orange Meadowbrite**', '**Mango Meadowbrite**' and '**Pixie Meadowbrite**'. '**Orange Meadowbrite**' has vibrant, perfectly formed blood-orange blooms that float carelessly above deep grass-green, healthy foliage. A sweet orange-tea fragrance surrounds each plant. One-year-old plants measure 30" tall with a 24" spread. '**Mango Meadowbrite**' has orange-yellow ray flowers, a golden-orange cone and mouth-watering fragrance. And '**Pixie Meadowbrite**' is a true dwarf, with each plant growing to 18" tall and spreading 20" to 24" wide. It is completely covered with medium-pink, perfectly formed blooms from July to September.

In addition to the Chicagoland Grows introductions, Richard Saul at Itsaul Nursery in Atlanta has been crossing *Echinacea purpurea* and *Echinacea paradoxa* for the past 10 years, and he has gotten some spectacular hybrids which he has named the **Big Sky series**. These coneflower hybrids combine the best traits of their parents - large flowers with reflexed petals, knock-out gorgeous colors of mango, cantaloupe, peach, mustard, butter yellow, strawberry and everything in between, strong stems, and strong fragrance. '**Sunset**' is peach-orange colored, and the cone is henna-brown. '**Harvest Moon**' is the color of its namesake with a golden-orange cone.

'**Sundown**' flowers start fluorescent rose-pink when in bud, and as the petals expand they change to bright rose-orange. They fade to soft purple pink as they age. '**Sunrise**' has soft butter yellow flowers with cones that begin green and change to gold. '**Twilight**' is a vibrant rose-red with a deep red cone. And '**Summer Sky**' is the first bicolor coneflower, having light orange petals with a rose colored halo, and an orange cone. These are just a few of the many new varieties of coneflowers. Check out the internet or your local garden center for more new coneflowers – all-white flowers - even the cone, doubles, dwarfs, quilled petals, etc.

Obviously, I am excited by the prospects of these new cultivars, and hope to be adding some of them to our perennial beds in the next couple of years. I will enjoy doing more research and trying to choose which ones to buy.

By Susan Halsey





Goodbye Seasonal Employees

This time of year always brings a tinge of sadness for us as we say goodbye to many of our seasonal employees; most of them are returning to college or attending one for the first time. This year we had eleven dedicated individuals who braved the chaotic temperature extremes in order to provide our visitors and members with an enjoyable visit to the gardens. Some individuals stay on for longer periods of time to help us through November cleanup and others can come in on weekends for special projects or events.

Mums the Word

We will be planting mums in select areas of the gardens this fall and we could use your help in many ways. If you would like to make a donation to help defray some of the costs, you can send a check with the word 'mums' in the memo, or if you'd like to help plant the mums, we could certainly use some extra diggers or planters. If interested, please contact the office for further information.

Photo Contest 2007

Photo Contest Exhibit in the Trellis Gallery September 16 through October 31. A reception for the 2nd annual Photo Contest will be held Sunday September 16th from 1-3:00pm to unveil the winning photographs. Participants are invited to attend and view the exhibit while enjoying light appetizers. The Top 25 entrants will be featured and ribbon and prizes will be awarded at this time. All photographs were shot on the Schedel grounds from Sept. 15, 2006 through Sept. 1, 2007.

Entrance and Driveway Bed Design

It was daring! It was bold! It was risky! But we decided to take the chance anyway. And it paid off - if the comments and compliments of our visitors are any indication. I'm speaking of the color combination of our driveway beds this year. Not quite the norm. No pink, no red, just chartreuse and purple, with a bit of white as an accent. We are often asked just how this combination happened. No, it has nothing to do with the "Speedtrap Diner" in Woodville, although I do like their paint job. The thought process began with a container we had done last year. It had a purple and lime green color combination, and we really liked the look, and thought we could do this in a flower bed next year. As I've said in many articles before this, often containers are a "trial" for different colors and types of plants; and if it works well in the container, we might try it in a bed. And we always try to do different things every year, especially in the driveway beds, as these are the first beds visitors see upon entering the gardens. But do we risk such a non-traditional color scheme for such a main area? We decided to try it, and see how it goes. The next step was deciding what plants to use - these beds take a large quantity of plant material (3000 plants in 2006). We like to use a variety of plants; in case we have problems with one variety, the whole bed won't

be affected. But in order to tie it all together, too many types of plants can't be used. We decided to use the ever-popular Setcreasea 'Purple Heart' for one of the purple elements. That meant that any purple flowers had to match or go along with the particular shade of purple foliage in Setcreasea. We have used impatiens in these beds in the past with good results, so we found a color that would compliment the Setcreasea. And for the chartreuse element, we thought Sweet Potato Vine would be a good choice, but the variety 'Marguerite' spreads too much for what we wanted. Our best choice was the more controllable Ipomoea 'Sweet Caroline Light Green', so we ordered 300 from Bench's Greenhouse. Often we have found that a white element will highlight the other colors of a bed, so we used a white wax begonia along the edge. And just to give the bed a bit of flair, instead of a solid border, we decided to do a bric-a-brac effect, using the begonia and sweet potato vine. We still needed another tall plant to add height, so we chose Coleus 'Dappled Apple' to carry through with the chartreuse along the border. Then we threw it all together - designing a pattern as we went. And in spite of drought, massive rains, high humidity, feast and famine, the plants performed well, and to the satisfaction of our guests.

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.

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 †)

Dogwood Level -- \$250

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†)

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†)

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†)

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.

Rose Level* -- \$5,000

* 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.

September

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

2007

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail Address _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for my membership at the _____ level.

\$ _____ for general garden improvements \$ _____ for mums \$ _____ for Spring bulbs

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100

_____ I am interested in Volunteer Work. Please contact me with more information.

Schedel Arboretum & Gardens

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In The Gallery

The fall exhibit in the gallery features the work of three artists. Helmut (Pete) Beckmann is primarily a painter of the outdoors. He is a passionate observer of the changing seasons, and paints to capture the mood and poetic beauty of nature. His artwork is on display in galleries and private collections throughout the world.

Larry Golba from Toledo works with oil and watercolor in the 'plein-air' style of painting and has artwork on display at many galleries and private collections throughout the state.

He has won numerous awards for his work and continues to work daily in his studio teaching watercolor painting to adults at the Toledo Art-

ists Club.

Gary Rhiel from Elmore is displaying some of his blown glass pieces in the gallery. He has been blowing glass since 1971 and still works at Crosby Gardens in the Toledo Area Glass Guild. Each year Gary and his wife hold a Christmas Open House where more of his work is available for viewing.

For more complete biographies about the artists, their work and other information, you can visit our website and click on the 'Art Exhibit' button. Be sure and visit this beautiful display in the gallery.

