From The Tree Top

As I write this article, it is hovering around zero degrees F outside and it has been in the single digit territory for some time. This has been a brutal winter so far and who knows what is to come. I bundled myself up and ventured outside to feed my chickens, poor things, and walked around the garden to check things out. As I feared, some of my more tender plants have gone to that big garden in the sky. My rosemary, camellias and marjoram are lost and many of my evergreen perennials are showing desiccation injury from the fierce wind chills. I hope that your gardens are coping well with this unusually cold weather. I will be assessing the situation at the arboretum shortly to determine our losses. We continue to upgrade our labeling and signage to offer a better, more educational experience for our students and visitors. Through the hard work of our Horticulturist, Mary Tipping, mapping of our plant collections with state-of-the-art GPS technology and BG-Map software is continuing. Soon it will be much easier to locate our many plant specimens with excellent accuracy.

Thanks to a generous cash donation from an anonymous benefactor, the Arboretum has funding to hire a part-time Volunteer Coordinator who will help us rebuild our Partners Volunteer Program. Dean Russell Redding, former Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, helped find this funding.

We continue to work on special displays and garden ideas. It has been a much slower process than originally envisioned but we will continue to work toward our goal of creating true learning gardens as a learning resource for students, faculty, industry, our membership and the general public. As I mentioned to a group recently, our 117+ year old Arboretum is worth supporting, protecting and improving. As we move into the future, the Arboretum and its learning gardens can play an ever important role in the study of plants, sustainability and the interface of plants, animals and man. With support in the form of money, time, membership, and gifts-in-kind, the Arboretum will be able to reach out to more people young and older to enrich lives through the knowledge of plants.

Director, John Martin
We are happy to announce that long time member Denise Sezack has joined the staff of the Schmieder Arboretum/Learning Gardens as the Partner Program Volunteer Coordinator. For the past 20 years, Denise has been involved in the gardening business specializing in all matters relating to herb, perennial and water gardening. She has been a Master Gardener for over 18 years and enjoys giving advice and guidance to fellow gardeners. Denise has introduced many in the community to gardening through her volunteer work with the Bucks County Courthouse Garden Club, the Bucks Beautiful Garden Fair, and the Doylestown Kitchen and Garden Tour and was the recipient of the 2005 Bucks Beautiful Laurel Award for her service and contributions to Bucks County. Her position on the Bucks Beautiful Board has allowed her the opportunity to bring awareness of the importance of the beautification of public spaces to the community at large. Denise is most excited to coordinate and train volunteers for the Partners Program, and to plan events and activities for the Partners to enhance their volunteer experience at the college.

We invite every member of the Arboretum to join the New Partners Volunteer Program! Give your time, gain new skills, and make new friends. Volunteers are one of the great strengths of the Arboretum, serving as an invaluable resource in making our programs possible. Volunteers provide vital support by maintaining the Learning Gardens, staffing lecture series and other special events. They share their time, their love for gardening and plants, and their dedication to the community. Whether you are a master gardener, a professional or stay at home Mom or Dad, retired or work full-time, a teacher, alumni or a student, the Arboretum needs your time, skills and talents. Although gardening experience or plant knowledge is a plus, none are required. If you cannot contribute time on a regular basis, please consider volunteering for special events, such as staffing the evening lecture series. Add your name to our special event volunteer list and you will be contacted when volunteers are needed.

Benefits of volunteering at the Arboretum include the opportunity to receive hands-on experience and gain valuable knowledge through periodic horticultural and educational training programs, trips and activities. Through your volunteer activities you will meet others who have similar interests and hobbies, and experience the satisfaction of sharing in significant accomplishments. So, join us, and enjoy the beauty of the Arboretum and the rewards and camaraderie of being a part of our team of dedicated volunteers. We look forward to welcoming you to our volunteer program!
Sensory Gardens

It has always been my contention that every garden and landscape should be a sensory one. Sensory gardens have generally been associated with gardens for the handicapped and there is no doubt that the handicapped such as the blind and wheelchair bound benefit greatly from the experiences afforded by such gardens. But why shouldn’t everyone, young and old, have the opportunity to experience the richness and wonder of landscapes that awaken all of our senses? Landscape designers and architects have for years focused almost solely on the visual impact of their designs. Is it not time that we think holistically about the landscape experience?

Visual impacts are fairly easy to obtain in a garden. We are dealing with drop-dead gorgeous plants and accessories. But what can designers do to engage the other senses?

Fragrance is an oft forgotten element that can enrich the total garden experience. Fragrance is a powerful tool that can affect people in magical ways. It can transport one back to childhood, a special moment in time, remind one of a special person or place or bring back a pleasant memory. Fragrances can stimulate or relax and contribute to our feeling of well-being. Fragrance in the garden can be added to the garden experience through crushing or brushing fragrant foliage or through the perfumed air derived from fragrant flowers. The following are a few suggestions of plants that can add fragrance to the landscape while providing excellent visual impact. Fragrant plants for the landscape include: moon vine, heliotrope, old fashioned nicotiana, certain daffodil, sweet alyssum, petunia, stock, tuberose, hyacinth, lily-of-the-valley, carnation, sweet violet, lavender, roses, certain azaleas, sweetshrub, many daphnes, gardenia, lilac, privet, mock orange, summersweet, some viburnums, witch hazels, sweet autumn clematis, and many, many others.

The sense of touch is also generally ignored by garden designers, yet it too can add to the sumptuousness of the garden experience. Plants with strong textures-rough, silky, furry, or smooth for example add a tactile dimension to the garden. You do not have to be blind to appreciate this sensual experience. Plants with “feel appeal” need to be placed near walks, patios, walls and entrances, near people, so they can be fully appreciated. The following are a few suggestions of plants that can be incorporated into the landscape to awaken the sense of touch. Plants with tactile value include: lamb’s ears, horehound, artemisia, dusty miller, rose campion, sensitivity plant, hens and chicks, Canadian wild ginger, European wild ginger, the tongue plant, and many, many others.

Pleasant natural sounds have often been used to relieve stress. Why not add the dimension of sound to the landscape? Plants such as most ornamental grasses can add a whisper of sound to the garden on breezy days; wind chimes can add a melodic touch, and water features and gardens can fill the air with the peaceful sound of water cascading and splashing. Through careful selection of plant material, one can attract desirable wildlife into the landscape. There are few things more delightful than bathing in the chorus of bird song, the chirping of crickets and the bellow of frogs.

Through proper design and plant selection, we can add new meaning to the term “a tasteful garden.” There are scores of plants that are both aesthetically appealing and edible. You really can have it all. The following plants have high ornamental value but also provide edible product. Some beautiful edible plants for the landscape include: strawberry, ornamental forms of basil, parsley, numerous herbs, dwarf tomato and pepper, Swiss chard, high and low bush blueberries, ultra-dwarf fruit trees, daylily, Jerusalem artichoke, amaranth, edible flowers such as nasturtium, marigolds, and roses and many, many more.

Isn’t it time to make your garden a sensory one?
Your Landscape Doesn’t Have to Be Kansas

Probably everybody remembers the beginning scenes of the movie The Wizard of Oz. In Kansas all the scenes were filmed in dull sepia tone. The tornado sweeps Dorothy and her house up (in her dream after being bumped in the head). The house twirls round and round, finally lands and Dorothy emerges into the Land of Oz and brilliant Technicolor.

This article has nothing really to do with Kansas or the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy or even Toto but this introduction is being used only as a metaphor of how color can change everything, for example, the landscape.

Color is a powerful artistic element that should always be considered in garden design. Color can aid in visualization, the delineation of space, create moods and impact emotions. It is a powerful design tool.

Do you desire a cool relaxing landscape experience, perhaps a bold exciting one, or a rich romantic garden interaction? Maybe you want your garden to pop at night basking and glowing in the ambient light of the moon. Color can be one of the most important resources to achieve these and many other goals.

OK, it’s now time for a test. Don’t you just love surprise quizzes? I am going to shout out different colors and you, my reader, will think about the feelings, moods and emotions these colors conjure up.

Green ……..
Red ……..
White ……
Lavender ……

We could go on filling the newsletter with colors but let’s stop here. The point of this little exercise is that every color has connotations. Even multiple colors have them. Think of red and green, or lavender and yellow, among others.

Designers often use a color wheel to aid them in developing pleasant color pallets for their projects and to help them achieve their color objectives. A color wheel shows how colors are related to each other and is a tool to create artistic color harmonies. Let’s face it. Some colors do not blend well with some colors; they clash. Color harmonies can be created through the use of pleasant contrasts or relationships. Some of the common color harmonies created through relationship include Monochromatic Color Harmony that is the use of one color and its shades tints and tones. A shade is a color with black added, a tint is a color with white added and a

http://www.northlite.net/ps/blend.htm
tone is a color with grey added to it. Remember that white, black and grey are the only true neutral colors that will harmonize with any other color. Another harmony created through relationship is Analogous Color Harmony. This is the use of neighboring colors on the color wheel. An example would be the use of yellow, yellow-orange and orange. Complementary Color Harmony is an example of harmony created by use of pleasant contrast. It is created by use of a color and the color directly opposite it on the color wheel such as blue and orange, or green and red. Google “color harmonies” for additional examples.

White-colored flowers like the moon flower, pastel colors, and reflective foliage such as silver and metallic grey are very effective in nightscapes since they catch and reflect any ambient light back to the viewer. White is a neutral color and is the summation of color.

Cool colors such as green, blue, blue-violet are best viewed close up. From a distance they fade away. Cool colors are best for intimate secret gardens. They tend to create a relaxed, nonchalant garden experience. Warm colors project out to the viewer and are effective even from a distance. They are more vibrant and stimulating. Michelangelo, Van Gogh, and Rembrandt were masters of taking colored paint and transforming it into artistic masterpieces. We may not be famous but we have the power to transform our landscapes through the thoughtful use of color. The following are some examples of the value of color applied to the landscape.
COLOR CAN HELP CREATE A MORE ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE
WHAT A NICE COLOR GROUPING

A SYMPHONY IN GREEN
COLOR CAN MAKE THE GARDEN SIZZLE
WHY NOT DOUBLE UP ON COLOR?

BLUE AND PURPLE - HOW COOL
SILVER AND GREY ARE GREAT COLOR BUFFERS AND BLENDERS

DAZZLE
We will end where we started, Kansas. At the end of the movie The Wizard of OZ, Dorothy wishes to leave OZ and return home. She clicks her ruby slippers together and says over and over, “there’s no place like home, “there’s no place like home”. Puff – she’s back in Kansas.

It is true, there is no place like home, but it doesn’t have to be dull and sepia tone. Use color and follow your own yellow brick road to a richer, more rewarding quality of life and a garden of a different color.
Decorating With Interior Plants

Plants should be considered accessories to home fashion. Unlike other accessories such as pillows, lamps, clocks, mirrors, paintings, and statuary, etc.; plants are alive and ever changing. They provide benefits that other non-living accessories cannot. Plants can filter the air and remove harmful impurities. They tend to soothe, relax and reduce stress. They fill space economically and attractively.

Like any other accessory, plants and their containers should be chosen to compliment the principal colors, textures, and scale of the room in which they are to be placed and the room’s décor or fashion. For decorating purposes, plants should be used sparingly for color accents and focal points, to soften harsh architectural features or to fill unpleasant empty spaces. You never want to over accessorize with plants or use too many different species especially in small spaces.

In selecting plants it is best to conduct a brief environmental inventory for each room where plants are to be used. General light level, temperature, and relative humidity of the rooms should be considered. Select plants whose culture best matches each room's environmental parameters, while at the same time considering the artistic requirements of the plants and spaces.

In selecting containers for interior plants be sure that drainage can be provided while providing protection for rugs or other floor coverings.

Interior plants do best when provided natural sunlight. Natural sunlight is approximately twice as efficient for maintaining interior plants as artificial light sources. Plants should be placed so that they are situated within a 45 degree angle from a window. If they are too far from the window they will not receive sufficient light. East and west situated windows are generally best since they provide moderate light. Southern exposure windows may be too bright and northern exposure windows too dark. If natural light is unavailable, cool-white fluorescent lighting if positioned close enough to the plants will also sustain plants. Incandescent light sources are generally insufficient for plant growth or even maintenance.

The following are some recommended plants for interiors: Aglaonema (Chinese Evergreen), Aspidistra (Cast Iron Plant), Dieffenbachia (Dumbcane), Dracaena (such as Corn Plant), Ficus (Tropical Figs), Sansevieria (Snake Plant), Beaucarnea (Pony Tail), Epipremnum (Devil’s Ivy or Pothos), Philodendron, Schefflera, Rhaps (Lady Palm), Cycas (Cycad), Spathiphyllum (Peace Lily), Syngonium, and Zamioculcas (ZZ Plant).
Nature Didn’t Promise You a Rose Garden

By now you are probably aware of yet another garden mass murderer on the loose, Rose Rosette Disease (RRD). The disease is spread by a tiny mite and it is spreading rapidly in this area. While the disease may be checked by pruning and removal of infected canes, there is no cure. The disease can also be spread by natural root grafts and by budding with infected buds. The exotic invasive, Rosa multiflora, is a carrier of the disease. It is not spread by dirty tools or handling. There is some good news. Only roses appear to be susceptible to this disease, no other members of the Rose Family, and there appears to be some native roses that are resistant to the disease. Work is underway to breed disease resistance into our cultivated roses. Until resistant cultivars are available you may want to visit the web site http://www.starrosesandplants.com/rose-rosette-disease, a web site of Star Roses and Plants that provides excellent information about the disease, suggestions on controlling it, photographic descriptions and a detailed prevention guide.

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE A PART OF THE ARBORETUM:

Become a Partner volunteer!
Call the Arboretum at 215-489-2283 for more information and a special tour.
Arboretum@Delval.edu
Henry Schmieder Arboretum 2014 Membership Application

**Member Information**

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**Payment Options**

- [ ] Check (make check payable to Henry Schmieder Arboretum)

**Credit Card Payment Information**

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**Remittance Instructions:**

The Henry Schmieder Arboretum  
700 East Butler Avenue  
Doylestown, PA 18901
Founders Lectures & Other Happenings

Site Assessment for Better Gardens and Landscapes
Charles Mazza
Tuesday March 18, 2014
7:30 pm Mandell 114

Discussion of evaluating characteristics for a property before designing a landscaping or sit- ing a garden on it. Discovery of how this is done with an emphasis on the sustainability of the resultant landscape.

Charles Mazza is the former Director of Education at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, former leader of Urban Horticulture in NYC for Cornell Cooperative Extension, former statewide leader for Home Grounds & Community Horticulture extension program for Cornell Cooperative Extension (including the Master Garden Program for NY State. M.S. Horticulture, Rutgers University.

Unusual Geophytes & Cyclamen
John Lonsdale
Tuesday March 25, 2014
7:30 pm Mandell 114

Discussion of the many choice and beautiful unusual geophytes which are grown at Edge- wood Gardens by John Lonsdale. Plants will include a wide variety of bulbs, tubers, corms and rhizomes suitable for all conditions from dry shade to vernally moist sunlit woodland edges and which can be in flower from February through July, and September through December. Plants which will be featured include Iris, Fritillaria, Crocus, Trillium, Erythronium, Cycla- men, Corydalis, and Risaema. The presentation will focus on methods for their successful planting and cultivation, and propagation by division and seed.

John Lonsdale grew up in Sheffield, England and moved to the U.S. in 1995, since when he has developed a remarkable garden and plant collection. He has been active as a participant and lecturer in many horticultural organizations including the Alpine Garden Society, the Daphne Society, the Scottish Rock Garden Club, the cyclamen Society and the North American Rock Garden Society. Lonsdale holds a Ph.D. in microbial biochemistry and has worked in the pharmaceutical and biotech industry for over 30 years. He lives in Exton, PA with his wife and three daughters.

Those Glorious Natives
John Martin
Tuesday April 8, 2014
7:30 pm Mandell 114

Native herbaceous perennials are a natural choice for our gardens. They belong here! With a vast selection to choose from, there are many species that will fit almost every landscape need and location. Tough, colorful and interesting, native perennials provide a perfect fit with today’s more sustainable landscaping. Get acquainted with some new perennial friends and be reintroduced to some old favorites. You will fall in love all over again.
Founders Lectures & Other Happenings

A River Again: A Story of the Schuylkill River Project
Chari Towne
Tuesday April 22, 2014
7:30 pm Mandell 114

In a short time, the Schuylkill went from being considered waters of "uncommon purity" to being this country's dirtiest river. That distinction resulted in the Schuylkill River becoming the focus of a precedent setting river cleanup effort from 1947 to 1951. The story of that clean-up is told in A River Again: The Story of the Schuylkill River Project. Researched and written by Chari Towne, Schuylkill Watershed Specialist with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, A River Again tells the story of how the Schuylkill was allowed to become so polluted and details the efforts of those who worked to restore the health of the river.

Chari Towne has been leading the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Schuylkill River protection efforts since 1996. Towne contributed to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's publications Protecting Pennsylvania's Cleanest Streams: A Review of Pennsylvania’s Antidegradation Policies and Program with Recommendations for Improvements and Protecting Streams in Pennsylvania: A Resource for Municipal Officials. Towne has a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Master of Science in Natural Resource Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. While training on the Schuylkill, Towne qualified to represent the United States in the women's pair without coxswain in the 1984 Olympics.

NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY
Friday May 9, 2014
All Day Event

National Public Gardens Day is a national day of celebration to raise awareness of America's public gardens and their important role in promoting environmental stewardship and awareness, plant and water conservation, and education in communities nationwide. Once again, Delaware Valley College and The Henry Schmieder Arboretum – THE LEARNING GARDENS will be participating in this event with public gardens across the country. Our arboretum will be offering free guided tours, giveaways, contests and special programing. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration. More information will be released shortly.

*******PLANT SWAP DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED************