

BACK ACRE NEWS

Volume #56

Number 8

The Men's and Women's Garden Club of Findlay

Organized 1954

August 11, 2011

→ 7:00 PM Municipal Bldg Conference Room ←

Topic: Lavender, with Sharon Hammer-Baker

Refreshments: Lannings & Andrews



Greetings,

At last a cooler day. I do think that we are beginning to adjust to the hotter weather. With all the rain and warm weather we have a bumper crop of mosquitoes. I have given in to using mosquito spray when I work out in the garden. I feel like I am entering a jungle when I go out to pick produce.

I find August to be a difficult month to function as a dedicated gardener. It's the month that I accept that my garden can not be weed free (no matter how hard John works). All of a sudden we have more vegetables than we could possibly eat. We share our produce but it seems like everyone is in the

same boat so that even becomes difficult. When I walked into the Community Foundation building the other day there were two grocery carts full of cabbage and cucumbers. They were all still left when I went out four hours later. I know I should freeze or can more but with just John and I, I really don't cook that much. August is the month that I decide that we should not put out so much. Of course by spring I can't resist planting and watching it come up.

It seems that summer is so full of activities that it flies by. We had our grandkids for about 6 weeks. That prevented me from doing the tours. I have really missed seeing all my gardener friends. I hope that we have a good attendance at the August meeting. Our speaker is Sharon Hammer-Baker, a Master Gardener who has lots of knowledge. Her topic is lavenders. She is very knowledgeable about all herbs. She is also a good speaker. I have taken several classes from her and always found them worthwhile. Bring any herb questions as she is the expert.

Hopefully it will begin to cool and everyone will have a great month. See you Aug 25th at 7PM.

Cathy

Gee, what did I miss? A very beautiful tour of the extensive daylilies in fellow Club member Kit Walter's AHS Display Garden.

Here, *Ann Brickner* and *Connie Schultz* admire the flowers, while *Sharon DeCooman* and *Kit Walter* talk shop. (Photo by *Bill Jones*)



August Flower of the Month – Butterfly Bush

By Bill Jones



Buddleja, often misspelled *Buddleia* and with the common names of Butterfly Bush or Summer Lilac, honors Reverend Adam Buddle (1662–1715), who was a botanist and a rector in Essex, England. It is now included in the figwort family.

As garden shrubs *Buddlejas* are 20th-century plants, with the exception of *B. globosa*, brought from southern Chile to Britain in 1774. The most popular cultivated species is *Buddleja davidii* from central China. Another common garden species is *Buddleja alternifolia* with lilac-colored flowers. Horticulturists are still combing the Himalayan foothills for as-yet undiscovered *Buddleja* varieties. Heronswood Nursery lists three acquisitions from recent expeditions to China and Sikkim: new specimens of *B. colvilei*, *B. fallowiana*.

Butterfly bushes form the foundation for numerous butterfly gardens and are prized for their long, summer bloom period. Many cultivars will flower from June through October (if deadheaded) with peak bloom in July and August. They produce 5- to 12-inch-long panicles (i.e. long, slender flower clusters) in white, blue, lavender, pink, purple, yellow and many intermediate shades. The flowers are a nearly irresistible nectar source for butterflies, bees, lady beetles, and other pollinating insects as well as the occasional hummingbird. Additionally, their flowers have a pleasant fragrance. The shrubs are essentially round in outline and form an excellent backdrop for perennial borders. Removing old flowers will encourage new blooms.

Butterfly bushes are amazingly tough plants and grow well under a variety of conditions. The one critical requirement is well-drained soil, as their roots will quickly rot when waterlogged. Full sun is needed to ensure adequate flowering, and they prefer a soil pH of 6.0 to 7.0. Like most shrubs, they benefit from a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic mulch. Once established they are fairly drought tolerant and only require moderate fertilization. Mulch in the fall and cut back to about a foot high in late winter, before new growth appears. This produces larger flowers in the summer and a neater-looking shape.

Butterfly bushes are relatively trouble free. However, spider mites can be a problem when the plants are drought stressed. Pesticide use on these shrubs is discouraged, particularly when in bloom, because of the wide variety of beneficial insects present at that time. The foliage may irritate some people with sensitive skin.

Buddleja hybridizes easily; volunteer seedlings may not resemble the original bush. This tendency to be a weedy colonizer, along with its exotic (non-native) status in North America, is now making *Buddleja* a cautious addition to the garden. It is included in the book, *Invasive Plants* [Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Handbook #149, 1996].



Do not confuse the Butterfly Bush with Butterfly Weed. Some people mistakenly call another well-known butterfly attracting plant “butterfly bush”, but this is incorrect. “Butterfly Weed” is the common name for the flame-orange milkweed native wildflower, *Asclepias tuberosa*. It grows in dry soil and full sun from Canada to Florida, and can be a summer beauty. Unlike the more common milkweed, Butterfly Weed forms a multi-branched clump only about 2 feet tall. It is also available in colors other than orange.

Disbursements:..... - \$1,001.55

2086	Ann Boyd Presentation	\$31.00
2087	TGOA/MGCA National Dues	\$68.00
2088	GLRC Regional Dues	\$13.00
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2093	Jan Hunter-presentation	\$35.00
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2095	TGOA/MGCA Dues	\$15.00
2096	GLRGC Dues	\$1.00
2097	TGOA/MGCA Dues	\$15.00
2098	GLRGC Dues	\$1.00
2099	Anita Lanning	\$10.87
2100	Kevin Kwiatkowski	\$75.00
2101	Sharon DeCooman	\$184.52
2102	Cash for Plant Sale	\$200.00
2103	Dave Gerber-roses	\$50.61
2104	Bill Jones-Plants for Triangle	\$113.00
2105	TGOA/MGCA (2012 Calendars	\$31.80

Checking Account Balance 07/31/11 **\$3,467.10**

Submitted by:
William C. Jones, Treasurer

A lost garden tool will reappear within 24 hours after it has been replaced. - Murphy

Club Officers, 2011

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