

'THE SAGE'--DECEMBER 2007

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses On-Line Newsletter

Klein's Floral & Greenhouses is proud to announce that our own Rick Halbach is one of the featured writers in the 2008 Wisconsin Garden Journal put out by the Madison Area Master Gardeners Association. Rick's very informative introductory article discusses container gardening and year round interest. This journal and day planner makes the perfect gift for the gardener on your list and is available at Klein's and many local bookstores and garden centers.

Klein's is also happy to announce that we are now part of the Dane Buy Local initiative. We've joined hundreds of other area businesses and civic leaders who are encouraging you to buy local.

The Top 5 Reasons for Buying Local:

1. Keep Madison original. We ensure that unique, one-of-a-kind businesses survive.
2. Enrich the community economy. Each time money is spent at a locally-owned business, the tax stays in Dane County to support local resources such as schools, parks, police and fire...and much more.
3. Provide more jobs. All together, locallyowned independent businesses are our largest employer.
4. Ensure a solid foundation for local nonprofit organizations who serve us. Locally owned businesses give more.
5. Create good places to work: We want work life to reflect home town friendliness and familiarity. Treating our employees well is part of our community commitment.

(from the Dane Buy Local web site at www.danebuylocal.com)

Buy Local Gift Cards Are Now Available.

- These gift cards can make great holiday gifts.
- Can be purchased for any denomination from \$25.00- \$250.00.
- Cards are available at any of the 5 branches of Home Savings Bank.
- Any merchant who accepts VISA can accept gift cards.

Please contact Home Savings Bank at 282-6000 with questions or for a location near you. There's one just next door to Klein's at 3762 E. Washington Ave.

Visit the Dane Buy Local web site for a complete list with links to all participating businesses and organizations. And Buy Local!

DECEMBER STORE HOURS

HOLIDAY HOURS--

Monday thru Friday

8:00-7:00

Saturday:

8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Holiday hours run through Sunday, December 23

CHRISTMAS EVE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 24--Open 8:00-4:00

STARTING DECEMBER 26--
Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00
Saturday:
8:00-5:00
Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Please note that we will be closed Sundays during January

NEW YEAR'S EVE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 31--Open 8:00-4:00

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEAR'S DAY, JANUARY 1, 2008

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 30 thru December 2--Klein's Holiday Open House. Join us for one time savings on our famous homegrown poinsettias--for carry out or delivery anytime during the holiday season. Save on Wisconsin grown pine boughs, evergreen roping and wreaths. Enter a winter wonderland filled with holiday plants and gift ideas. Let us inspire you with our extensive collection of ornaments for all your decorating needs. Free refreshments on hand.

And check out our famous painted poinsettias. Poinsettia Painting is THE hottest trend in holiday decorating. The past few Christmases we couldn't keep our eye-popping creations on the shelves. Ever wanted a blue poinsettia? Tie-dyed? Or how about something elegant, sprinkled in glitter? The possibilities are endless. Have one of our greenhouse associates design and paint a unique creation for your own home decor or to suit any taste. For a peek, click on "Seasonal" on the left side of our home page. Here we've posted a photograph of some of our creative designs and newest colors.

December 3 thru December 9--Order your beautiful poinsettias, blooming plants, designer gift baskets or custom-made centerpieces now for holiday gift-giving and guaranteed delivery. Early ordering ensures you top quality product for your home decorating and holiday party needs.

December 5--Hanukkah Begins

December 22--Winter Solstice

December 18 thru December 24--Stop in and check-out our in-store specials for any last minute gift-giving ideas. We still have a fantastic selection of homegrown poinsettias, blooming plants, houseplants, decorations and more. Shop early for the best selection and we'll deliver anywhere in Madison or the surrounding communities thru noon on Dec. 24.

December 20--Eid-al-Adha

December 24--A Christmas Eve Full Moon

December 26--Kwanzaa Begins

December 26--The After Christmas 75% Off Sale begins at 8:00! Everything 'holiday' must go! This is a great time to plan for this week's New Years Eve

party or to pick up some excellent bargains for next year's decorating. Poinsettias are perfect for adding instant color to your late season holiday party and are gorgeous in fresh arrangements.

December 26 thru December 31--Order your New Years Eve centerpieces and custom designed arrangements early!

'THE FLOWER SHOPPE'

Christmas is a time for personal celebrations and traditions shared with family and friends. Flowers and plants have long played a special role in Christmas festivities and are as personal and individual as the people doing the celebrating.

Decorating and Entertaining Ideas

- For a festive and unique centerpiece, create a table-scape with 4-inch plants in matching pots with ribbon, ornaments and/or candles as accent pieces. When guests leave your holiday party, give each a plant as a memento. Or create a tablescape with fresh flowers in coordinated vases.
- For a fun theme, ask us to create "snowballs" and "snowmen" using white carnations.
- Ask us to fill the pots from your container gardens with poinsettias, cyclamen, amaryllis and ivy.
- If you are invited to a dinner party or open-house, send a floral arrangement or centerpiece to the host or hostess ahead of time or as a thank-you gift after the party. It will make them feel special and appreciated.
- Greet guests at the door with a wreath holding a personal tree ornament for each of them to take home.
- Use fresh flowers on your Christmas tree in water vials. We can recommend long-lasting varieties and tell you how to add water to vials. Dried or treated flowers are also a beautiful choice.
- Use wrapped boxes, festive bows and flowers as table decorations. Give wrapped "packages" to us in advance and we can create floral designs for them. Place your "packages" with flowers under the tree or on the mantle.
- Wrap the pots of poinsettias or other holiday plants in festive paper and ribbons.
- For an elegant celebration take advantage of all places where candles could be displayed:
 - Line a walkway with votive candles in luminaries leading up to a door.
 - Place garland on the mantle with fresh flowers and candles to beautifully grace your room and make the most of light by enhancing the fire.
 - Float candles and flowers in treasured crystal or silver bowls to create a fabulous effect.
 - Place scented candles with fresh blossoms in each powder room.
- If an open house is on the agenda and many persons will be in a room, it is important to give special attention to the larger display areas such as the front door, foyer, mantle, buffet or serving areas, powder rooms, windows and staircase. This will help you get maximum impact because with many people in a room smaller arrangements placed around will not be seen at all times . Additionally, by focusing on a few focal areas in each room, more space is made for glasses, cups and food plates...and there is less chance of an accident.
- As guests leave, have a vase of loose flowers by the door and invite them to take one home as a gift.

Information from aboutflowers.com

DID YOU KNOW...

...that Klein's grows its thousands of breathtaking poinsettias from tiny cuttings sent to us last July? After potting, the cuttings spend the first week or so under timed misters in our back greenhouses. The added humidity lessens the shock of transplanting and allows them to perk up faster during hot summer days. A few weeks later, the poinsettias are then "pinched", creating bushier plants. But many are left "unpinched". These are our famous "uprights". These plants are left to grow on their own and will be taller with fewer, but substantially larger blooms. In September we begin "tying up" the poinsettias with twine or a plastic support hoop. This process gives our plants their perfect shape. Also during this time we try to keep the plants from "stray light", i.e. streetlights and even headlights. Poinsettias bloom as the days shorten. Therefore, any unnecessary light during the nighttime hours can actually delay blooming. Slowly in late October the bracts begin to show their spectacular color. We at Klein's pride ourselves in offering you the newest varieties and color selections on the market--from the richest reds to the purest whites, from deep burgundy to hot orange, and the ever-popular "Winter Rose". Our poinsettias are known throughout the Madison and Dane county, brightening countless area churches, businesses and homes during the holiday season.

KLEIN'S RECIPES OF THE MONTH--These are a selection of relatively simple recipes chosen by our staff. New recipes appear monthly. Enjoy!!

Traditionally we offer recipes using your homegrown garden vegetables. This month, however, it's time for a little holiday cheer. The following are a combination of tried and true family concoctions along with some new favorites. All are meant to warm the body and/or soul on cold winter nights. Enjoy--and drink wisely!

HOMEMADE BAILEY'S IRISH CREME--A holiday favorite passed from friend to friend. Origin unknown. Stores very well so make a batch ahead of time to have on hand when guests drop in. Makes a wonderful homemade gift for family and friends.

1 cup whiskey or scotch
1 TBS. chocolate syrup
1 x 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
4 eggs
1/4 tsp. instant coffee
1/2 tsp. almond extract
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. coconut extract

Mix ingredients well in a blender. One batch=one quart.

GREAT GRANDMA MALSACK'S FAMOUS TOM & JERRYS--A family tradition. Simply eliminate the alcohol for the kids and add more water to taste. The batter can be made before the guests arrive, but the fresher the better.

6 eggs
1/2-3/4 lb. powdered sugar

cinnamon

Per mug:
1 shot brandy
1/2 shot rum
nutmeg
boiling water

Separate eggs, beating whites in a large bowl till foamy. thick and firm. Beat together the yolks in another bowl. Gradually add the sugar to the yolks, beating slowly. As it thickens, add a bit of the whites to the yolk mix. Once all the sugar has been added, fold the yolk mix into the whites. Stir gently. Add a few shakes of cinnamon.

Place a heaping tablespoon, or to taste, of the batter, along with the brandy and rum in a mug. Stir in boiling water and sprinkle with nutmeg. Serve piping hot.

PUMPKIN PIE MARTINIS--Haven't tried this one yet, but flavored martinis are all the rage and this one seems exceptionally festive. let us know what you think.

Ice cubes
2 oz. (1/4 cup) vanilla vodka
2 oz. (1/4 cup) creme de cacao
1/4 cup heavy cream
1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
whipped cream

Fill a shaker with ice cubes. Add the vodka, creme de cacao, cream and spice. Shake well. Dip the rims of chilled martini glasses into the whipped cream. Strain the cocktail into the glasses. Makes 2 drinks.

ROSEMARY PUNCH--The review for this unique and nonalcoholic punch says "wonderful and unusual--refreshing and not too sweet." From a July 2002 Capital Times article.

2 TBS. crushed, fresh rosemary
3 TBS. sugar
1/8 tsp salt
2/3 cup water
2 cups apricot nectar
1 qt. ginger ale
1 cup fresh lime juice

Simmer the rosemary, sugar, salt and water for 3 minutes in a small saucepan. Let cool and strain. Combine the nectar, ginger ale and lime juice. Add the cooled rosemary water. Serve over ice.

NEW PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT--Each month we will spotlight some new product that we already carry or one that we've taken note of and plan to carry in the near future. Likewise, if you would like to see Klein's to carry a product that we don't currently, please let us know. Our goal is to be responsive to the marketplace and to our loyal clientele. If a product fits into our profile, we will make every effort to get it into our store. In addition, we may be able to special order an item

for you, whether plant or hard good, given enough time. This month's new product is:

The AeroGarden™

Join the gardening revolution - ***NO GREEN THUMB NEEDED!***

It has never been easier to start your very own indoor home garden! The **AeroGarden** utilizes hydroponic and aeroponic technology to create a beautiful, indoor home garden without the mess or time involved with traditional soil gardening! With the AeroGarden you can harvest fresh vegetables and herbs in only a few short weeks!

And as seen on TV, **Klein's** is proud to offer this newest gardening craze. Grow fresh herbs, veggies and flowers in the dead of winter. The perfect holiday gift for the insatiable gardener on your list. We have everything to get you started--including the plants!

Smart Garden Technology & The AeroGarden

The AeroGarden utilizes the latest in hydroponic & aeroponic technology - Hydroponics is a method of growing plants using water and air instead of soil. The AeroGarden by AeroGrow uses aeroponics (a variety of hydroponics technology) to deliver nutrients directly to the plants roots while they are suspended in an air chamber with 100% humidity. Nutrient rich water continuously flows over the roots to feed them, allowing plants to use nutrients more efficiently...which results in plants **GROWING 2X FASTER!**

The AeroGarden incorporates Smart Garden Technology which automates the gardening process and delivers the perfect amount of nutrients to your plants. A built in timer lets you know when it is time to add water or nutrients, and the built in lighting system provides the AeroGarden with sufficient light to enhance your plants growth! This technology allows you to effortlessly grow your own indoor herb garden almost anywhere!

Hydroponics & Aeroponics - The Technology Behind the AeroGarden™

The AeroGarden uses revolutionary Hydroponic and Aeroponic technology to grow a variety of fresh herbs, vegetables, even flowers **2X FASTER** than normal soil gardening! Hydroponics and Aeroponics are changing the way we garden and making it even easier for anyone, regardless of their gardening experience to enjoy fresh, home grown produce.

So What Are Hydroponics & Aeroponics?

The definition of hydroponics is basically the growing of plants without the use of soil. Researchers have observed that plants absorb nutrients as simple ions in water. In natural garden conditions, soil acts as a nutrient reservoir...but the soil itself is not essential to plant growth. Plants are only able to absorb the nutrients in soil when the nutrients are dissolved in water. When nutrients can be introduced into a plants water supply, soil is no longer needed. So, instead of drawing nutrients out of the soil, hydroponics allows nutrients to be added directly to the water, eliminating the need for soil completely.

There are a variety of hydroponic techniques, one extremely effective technique is aeroponics (a form of hydroponics).

How Aeroponics Differ From Hydroponics.

Aeroponics is a hydroponic technique that uses air in addition to water, using sprayers, misters or drip systems to feed the plants roots directly while they are suspended in the air.

In the AeroGarden hydroponic and aeroponic home gardens, the plant roots are suspended in the air above a reservoir of nutrient rich water. A pump delivers the nutrient solution via channels directly across the plant roots, and then drips back into the reservoir. The AeroGarden's aeroponic techniques are more effective than other hydroponics methods because the increase aeration allows the plants to absorb more oxygen, which stimulates growth and prevents algae from forming.

Visit www.hydroponic-home-garden.com for more details.

NATURAL NEWS--This column devotes itself to organic techniques, products, pest control, etc.--anything that educates us on the means to protect our environment.

The debate about whether a real Christmas tree or an artificial tree is better for the environment rages on and there are, of course, as in any other debate, arguments for both sides. The reality is that about 80% of American homes purchase a real Christmas tree during the holiday season and there are many options for recycling your tree after the holiday season.

The greenest of all options when choosing a Christmas tree is to purchase a living, potted evergreen available at many tree lots and garden centers. The advantage of purchasing a living tree is that it can be planted into the landscape after Christmas. The biggest disadvantage is that it can remain in the house for only a very short period of time. The trees are purchased dormant and warm indoor temperatures stimulate new growth at exactly the wrong time of the year. A few days indoors, up to a week tops, is best when purchasing a living tree. Keep it moist and away from heat sources. Having the house cool during the night is helpful. Immediately after Christmas, move the tree to a garage or enclosed porch to acclimate the tree for a winter outdoors. After a few weeks, your tree can be moved completely outdoors for the rest of the winter. In spring, the tree can be planted into the yard or garden. With forethought, it's actually best to prep a planting hole before the ground freezes. The root ball will have much better protection from winter cold when placed below the soil line than sitting above ground. Make sure to water the tree throughout the winter during periods of mild weather.

As for fresh cut Christmas trees, nearly all are now recycled in some way or another and few end up in landfills. Municipalities usually provide curbside pick up after the holiday season. The trees are then chipped and offered as free mulch along with chipped brush and shredded leaves in the spring and summer. Another option is to strip the tree of it's branches yourself at home. Pine boughs, like marsh hay, are an excellent winter protection for perennial beds allowing valuable airflow throughout the winter. Pine boughs are especially well suited for

shallow rooted perennials and peonies. The trunk can then be cut into pieces and burned in the fireplace or fire pit.

Another alternative is to use your discarded Christmas tree in the winter landscape. Christmas trees generally remain green throughout the winter and provide valuable protection for your yard's wildlife. Dense evergreens offer roosting options for many songbirds and protection from preying hawks and cats. The dense foliage also hides small mammals like rabbits. Areas with lakes oftentimes place weighted discarded trees on top of the ice. As the lakes thaw, the trees sink to the bottom and provide breeding areas for many fish species and shelter to their offspring from predators.

Some excellent web sites with more information include the National Christmas Tree Association's site at www.christmastree.org and www.christmas-tree-care.com.

DECEMBER'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

POINSETTIA

No where in Madison will you find a larger selection of healthy homegrown poinsettias, inspected daily for your satisfaction. Here are a few tips to keep your plant happy, not only thru the holiday season, but for months or years to come. Upon your selection, we will carefully wrap your poinsettia for the trip home. Poinsettias are extremely cold sensitive and cannot tolerate temperatures below 50 degrees for very long. Once home, carefully unwrap your plant from the bottom up. This ensures that the delicate branches and blooms will not be damaged or broken. The biggest problems for poinsettias in most homes are: not enough light, drafts (both cold and warm) and either over or under watering. Poinsettias prefer indirect or diffuse sunlight at least 6 hours per day. Plants prefer to be constantly moist, but not soggy, and never let the plants stand in water. Therefore, make sure there is a hole in any decorative foil around the pot and set the pot in a plate or saucer to protect furnishings. There's no need to fertilize your poinsettia during the winter months. Drafts encourage leaf drop. This will usually not hurt the plant, but will make it rather unsightly. Though poinsettias will not bloom in your garden during the summer, they make attractive additions to the patio or garden. Plants grow quickly during our hot, humid summers and the deep green, dense foliage makes an attractive shrub in the landscape or in a container. Getting your plant to rebloom next year is difficult and time consuming, requiring very specific lighting conditions. Doing so can be very rewarding, but we recommend disposing last year's plant in favor of a pest free specimen. Poinsettias that spend the summer outside are prone to whitefly and tend to become terribly misshapen with much smaller blooms.

A great web site for more information is www.pauleckepoinsettias.com

YOU ASKED. . .

How often should I fertilize my indoor plants during the winter?

Beginning in October, as the days shorten, most indoor plants require not only less water, but little if any fertilizer. Because there is naturally little or no growth during the winter months, it can actually be harmful to your plants to encourage

new growth during this time. Therefore, it is best advised to begin cutting back on indoor fertilizing progressively during the months of September and October, stopping completely during November and then not fertilizing again until the end of February when the days begin to lengthen. During March and April slowly increase your fertilizing to normal strength by May 1. From May thru August fertilize at full strength per package instructions. Never exceed recommended amounts. There are exceptions to this rule. For example, plants grown under timed light replicating longer days can be fertilized lightly throughout the winter, as with plants growing actively on sunny windowsills, where more watering is required. For ease, one can use fertilizer drops (such as Miracle-Gro) at half strength with each watering even during the winter months. At this diluted rate, plants remain healthy and rich green, with little or no growth. Again, go back to full strength by May. But most importantly, water most indoor plants (during the winter) only when rather dry below the soil surface, rather than to the touch. Over watering more than any other reason is the cause of death during our long Wisconsin winters.

AROUND TOWN

NOTE: If you of know of any community or neighborhood events or garden tours you would like posted on our web site in our monthly newsletters, please contact Rick at (608) 244-5661. Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Our readership is ever-growing so this is a great opportunity for free advertising. Events must be garden related and must take place in the immediate Madison vicinity.

Dane County Winter Farmer's Market

Saturdays, November 10 thru December 22, 7:30-noon
Monona Terrace

Saturdays, January 6 thru April 14, 8:00-noon

Madison Senior Center

330 W. Mifflin

For details visit www.madfarmmkt.org

Olbrich's Garden's

Bolz Conservatory Exhibit-Mystical Medicine

September 5 through January 5, 2008

Daily from 10:00-4:00, Sundays 10:00-5:00

In the Bolz Conservatory

Come learn about the psychoactive properties of plants. Some rain forest plants have special properties useful for zombification, voodoo, hallucinogenic drugs, and shamanic medicine. "Mystical Medicine" will share the findings of famous ethnobotanists who have studied these special properties. Admission to the Conservatory is \$1.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave., Madison

608/246-4550 or www.olbrich.org for details

Olbrich Garden's Holiday Express:

Flower & Model Train Show

December 1 through December 31

All aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express at Olbrich Botanical Gardens! This year, the Wisconsin Garden Railway Society's large-scale model trains wind through an enchanted land of faerie cottages and imaginative versions of two Madison landmarks during Olbrich's annual holiday flower and model train show. Be sure to admire the faerie capitol, reminiscent of Wisconsin's Capitol building, complete with birch-bark roof shingles and other embellishments, and a miniature Monona Terrace, while model trains whiz by. Hundreds of colorful poinsettias and holiday trees provide a festive backdrop.

Olbrich's Holiday Express is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Olbrich will close at 2 p.m. on December 24, and will be closed all day on December 25 and January 1. Olbrich's Holiday Express is sponsored by American Family Insurance.

Admission to Olbrich's Holiday Express for the general public is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children ages 3 to 12. Children 2 and under are free. Admission to the tropical Bolz Conservatory is included. Admission is always free for Olbrich Botanical Society members. Admission is free Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Please make reservations for groups of ten or more. Call 608-246-4550 to schedule your group's visit.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison
608/246-4550 or www.olbrich.org for details

DECEMBER IN THE GARDEN--A checklist of things to do this month.

- _____ Pick up a copy of the 2008 Wisconsin Garden Journal at bookstores.
- _____ Mulch perennials to protect from the cold and prevent heaving.
- _____ Purchase marsh hay and rose protection. Wait till the ground freezes.
- _____ Mulch roses by mounding soil and wrapping, rather than using rose cones.
- _____ Keep birdfeeders full. Clean periodically with soap and water.
- _____ Make water available to the birds. Begin using a deicer as needed.
- _____ Plant bulbs for forcing and put in a cool location for 10-12 weeks.
- _____ Plant bulbs until the ground freezes.
- _____ Prep lawnmower for winter storage and snowblower for weather to come.
- _____ Mark driveways and sidewalks with stakes.
- _____ Finish garden cleanup to make spring easier and prevent pests.
- _____ Do any last minute raking to prevent smothering delicate plants or beds.
- _____ Spread fireplace ashes over beds to amend the soil.
- _____ Make sure clay pots are stored inside and dry to prevent cracking.
- _____ Place your used Christmas tree in the garden for added wildlife protection.
- _____ Have trees trimmed--it's often times cheaper and easier to schedule.
- _____ Inspect stored summer bulbs like dahlias, cannas and glads for rotting.
- _____ Stop feeding houseplants and cut back on watering.
- _____ Inventory last year's leftover seeds before ordering new ones.
- _____ Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- _____ Wrap trunks of susceptible trees to protect from rodents.

_____ Visit Klein's---it's green, it's warm, it's colorful---it's always spring!

BEHIND THE SCENES AT KLEIN'S--This is a sneak peek of what is going on each

month behind the scenes in our greenhouses. Many people are unaware that our facility operates year round or that we have 10 more greenhouses on the property in addition to the 6 open for retail. At any given moment we already have a jump on the upcoming season--be it poinsettias in July, geraniums in December or fall mums in May.

IN DECEMBER:

---We're prepping the hundreds of poinsettias and holiday plants that go out for orders each day. After choosing the most gorgeous plants, we need to foil, bow and sleeve each order before loading into our vans for delivery to Madison's homes, businesses and churches.

---Tropicals for next summer sale continue to arrive. Our tropicals (such as bananas, colocasias, aloacasias, xanthosomas, etc.) arrive now so we are able to get the best selection and are able to offer you substantial sized plants next summer.

---Hundreds of herbs for windowsill culture are thriving in the sunny, warm greenhouses . We have chosen only the best assortment for indoor growing and winter harvest. Choose from rosemary, lavender, parsley, thyme and more.

---We continue to plan and prepare for Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center in February by sprucing up display pieces and potting up thousands of violas, primrose, cineraria, etc. for sale at the show. This is Klein's biggest annual event and our most important advertising.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE OF THE MONTH--BARB SPARKS

Some may say it was fate that brought Barb Sparks to Klein's, others may say it was perseverance. Barb first applied for work at Klein's while a university student back in 1974. She had taken three botany courses at the university. The desire to learn about plants was there. The years passed, family came along and grew up, the stars had realigned themselves and thanks to the recommendation of one of our fellow greenhouse associates, Mark Anderson, Barb happily joined the Klein's team in the spring of 2007. Oh, by the way, Barb's maiden name is Cline. Fate?

Is the love for gardening nature or nurture? In Barb's case, she says the latter is certainly the case, for nobody in her family has a green thumb. Neither of her parents, nor any of her six siblings would be considered a gardener by nature, though she says that her grandmother had a talent for growing African violets. After moving to Appleton, WI from Detroit, MI, Barb says her mother attempted a family vegetable garden with considerable success. After graduating from Appleton West in 1972, Barb moved to Madison to attend the UW. She says that while living in Sallery Hall on campus her interest in plants surfaced. She enjoyed shopping for houseplants at the nearby Choles Floral on University Avenue. After a few years at the university, Barb ultimately received an associate degree in clothing and textiles from Madison Area Technical College. Not surprisingly some of her current hobbies include sewing, quilting and decorating her home.

Barb and her husband, Will, built their lovely DeForest home approximately 18 years ago. Her extensive gardens, which evolved from a completely barren lot, can now be described as an urban woodland. One of the very first things she and Will did was to plant over 125 trees and shrubs. Many have now matured to the point where they have created the perfect woodland hideaway. She says they designed their garden to be viewed from their home looking out, blocking the view of the neighbors, rather than the typical landscaping around the foundation, surrounded by extensive lawns. In fact, Barb says if Will could have it his way, the entire lawn would be garden with no grass.

Barb says she's very lucky to have a partner who shares in her love of gardening. Will enjoys the mechanics of gardening--building new flower beds and enlarging and improving the old beds. Barb's interest is in the plants themselves. Perennials have historically been her forte. But she says working at Klein's has opened her eyes to the wonderful world of annuals. Barb especially loves all the tropicals now available. Favorites include: dipladenia, mandevilla, duranta and especially hibiscus. Her favorite perennials are those that are somewhat unique with striking foliage--those that stand out in their woodland setting, including: hostas, lungwort (pulmonaria), heuchera, tiarella, astilbe and grasses. Barb says she approaches gardening in a realistic, rather than idealistic way, through trial and error. At work, Barb is the eternal student. She enjoys learning about gardening from both her coworkers and customers alike, listening to the barrage of questions and answers each day. At the end of the day, Barb, like most of her coworkers, finds it hard to leave work empty-handed, needing to learn first hand about all those new perennials and annuals Klein's carries. Maybe Will will get his wish regarding the lawn. Time will tell.

THE CRITIC'S CORNER BY RICK HALBACH--Recommended readings and other media for the garden novice or enthusiast.

Klein's Web Site (www.kleinsfloral.com) and "The Sage", Klein's On-Line Newsletter

Thank you, thank you, thank you to our loyal readers! December is a milestone for our ever-changing and ever-developing web site. This month marks the one year anniversary of our on-line newsletter and the feedback has been phenomenal. Monthly readership continues to increase and our customers have told us they enjoy the abundance of practical information we share--information specifically targeting the Madison area gardener. But, believe it or not, we actually have a subscriber in Australia (she says she loves the recipes) and a few from outside the local area. There's something for every gardener in our extensive newsletter. Remember to sign up, if you haven't already done so, by clicking on "Newsletter" highlighted in bright green on the RIGHT side of the home page. We'll then e-mail you the newest version about the 1st of each month. It's amazing looking back at how our newsletter has grown and changed in just one short year.

Maintaining a web site and keeping it fresh has been a daunting but fun endeavor. Our spring plant list has been a favorite of both customer and industry people alike. By clicking on "Spring Plants" on the left side of the home one has

access to a list of every plant Klein's carries in the spring--annuals, vegetables, perennials, herbs and shrubs. Having this information allows customers and landscapers alike to plan their gardens and container combinations. Shopping early ensures that we still have all items in stock. The list also gives tons of valuable cultural information and the pot size. Then just give Klein's a call, ask about current pricing and availability and place your order or stop in. It's great fun to browse our extensive plant list and plan your garden in the comfort of your own home. Keep in mind that selection changes slightly from year to year. But chances are that our offerings will continue to expand as our customer base grows. The new plant list for 2008 will be posted in mid-April.

Very popular sections of our web site are those relating to the floral department. They not only discuss our own floral department, but contain vital links to the FTD and Teleflora web sites for worldwide delivery. Our extensive "Weddings" section was recently added to the site and contains tons of relevant information to get you started on planning for your big day.

During the upcoming months look for more added features including a section devoted to the houseplants and blooming plants we carry and also a section describing hot, new merchandise. As you can see, we are dedicated to making and already great web-site even better. Stay tuned and see what distinguishes Klein's from all the rest!

PERMANENT FEATURES--

KLEIN'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Have our monthly newsletter e-mailed to you automatically by signing up on the right side of our home page. We'll offer monthly tips, greenhouse news and tidbits, specials and recipes. . .everything you need to know from your favorite Madison greenhouse. And tell your friends. It's easy to do.

SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

We offer a 10% Off Senior Citizen Discount every Tuesday to those 62 and above. This discount is not in addition to other discounts or sales. Please mention that you are a senior before we ring up your purchases. Does not apply to wire out orders or services, i.e. delivery, potting, etc.

BUCKY BOOK COUPON

Klein's is again showing our proud support of UW Athletics with advertising and coupons in the 2008 edition of the Bucky Book.

DELIVERY INFO

Klein's Floral and Greenhouses delivers daily, except Sundays, throughout all of Madison and much of Dane County including: Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Middleton, Monona, Oregon, Shorewood Hills, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee and Windsor. Current delivery rate on 1-4 items is \$6.95 for Madison, Maple Bluff, Monona and Shorewood Hills, slightly more to the surrounding communities and for more than 4 items. We not only deliver our fabulous fresh flowers, but also houseplants, bedding plants and sundries. We offer free delivery to all Madison hospitals and funeral homes.

Morning delivery is guaranteed to the following Madison zip codes, but only if

requested: 53703, 53704, 53713, 53714, 53716, 53718 and Cottage Grove, DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Monona, Sun Prairie, Waunakee and Windsor. We begin our delivery day at 8:00 a.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. Except during holidays, the following west-side zip codes and communities can be delivered only during the afternoon: 53705, 53706, 53711, 53717, 53719, 53726, Middleton, Oregon, Shorewood Hills and Verona. During holidays (Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, etc.) we are able to make morning deliveries to all of the above areas. We are not able to take closely timed deliveries on any holiday due to the sheer volume of such requests. It's best to give us a range of time and we'll try our absolute hardest. Orders for same day delivery must be placed by 12:30 p.m. or by 2:30 p.m. for Madison zip codes 53704 and 53714.

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Please refer all questions, concerns or feedback in the following departments to their appropriate supervisor.
Phone: 608/244-5661 or 888/244-5661

Floral Department Manager Kathy Lehman
(kathy@kleinsfloral.com)
Head Grower & Horticulturist Jamie VandenWymelenberg
(jamie@kleinsfloral.com)
Assistant Grower
Craig Johnson
Retail Manager
Jennifer Wadyka
(jennifer@kleinsfloral.com)
House Accounts & Billing Barbara Foulk
Delivery Supervisor
Rick Halbach
Owner Sue (Klein) Johnson
(sue@kleinsfloral.com)

RELATED RESOURCES AND WEB SITES

University of Wisconsin Extension
1 Fen Oak Ct. #138
Madison, WI 53718
608/224-3700
www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/
www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic
Dept. of Plant Pathology
1630 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
www.plantpath/wisc.edu

Insect Diagnostic Lab
240 Russell Labs
1630 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
www.entomology.wisc.edu/entodiag.html

State Soil Testing Lab
5711 Mineral Point Rd.
Madison, WI 53705
608/262-4364
www.soils.wisc.edu

American Horticultural Society
www.ahs.org

Garden Catalogs (an extensive list with links)
www.gardenlist.com

Herbicides and Pesticides
www.extoxnet.orst.edu

Invasive Species
www.invasive.org

Madison Area Master Gardeners (MAMGA)
www.madison.com/communities/mamga

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Program
www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener

The Wisconsin Gardener
www.wpt.org/garden/
Has a list of garden clubs and societies

Allen Centennial Gardens
620 Babcock Dr.
Madison, WI 53706
608/262-8406
www.horticulture.wisc.edu/allencentennialgardens/index.htm

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
608/246-4550
www.olbrich.org

Rotary Gardens
1455 Palmer Dr.
Janesville, WI 53545
608/752-3885
www.rotarygardens.org

University of WI Arboretum
1207 Seminole Hwy.
Madison, WI 53711
608/263-7888

www.uwarboretum.org

University of Wisconsin-West Madison
Agricultural Research Center
8502 Mineral Point Rd.
Verona, WI 53593
608/262-2257
www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/