

## **'THE SAGE'--NOVEMBER 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.**

**NOTE: If you of know of any community or neighborhood events or garden tours you would like posted on our web site in our December or January newsletters, please contact Rick at (608) 244-5661. Please include all details, i.e. dates, locations, prices, brief description, etc. Our readership has been growing constantly so this is a great opportunity for free advertising. Events must be garden related and must take place in the immediate Madison vicinity. Your event will be posted in the 'Around Town' section of the newsletter on the first of the month.**

### **NOVEMBER STORE HOURS**

Monday thru Friday : 8:00-6:00

Saturday: 8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Holiday Hours Begin Friday, November 23--

Monday thru Friday

8:00-7:00

Saturday: 8:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:00-4:00

Holiday hours run through Sunday, December 23

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Any remaining spring bulbs will be 50% starting about November 5, depending upon the weather. Selection remains good so shop early and don't forget a few bulbs for indoor forcing. Call Klein's at 608/244-5661 for details about our 50% off sale.

November 4--Daylight Savings Time ends

November 6--Election Day

November 11--Veterans' Day

November 12--Veterans' Day (observed)

November 22--Thanksgiving Day

November 23--Klein's Holiday Hours begin

November 24--Full Moon

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. Also 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.

### **'THE FLOWER SHOPPE'**

Preparing for the holiday season is a big deal here at Klein's and the move from fall to winter is quite dramatic. Overnight floral arrangements change from yellows and oranges to red and white.

Preparing for the holidays actually begins during the summer. This is when we order most of our holiday containers, place standing orders with our floral wholesalers, order our wreaths, roping and evergreen boughs and plant our homegrown poinsettias.

By October, the greenhouses begin revealing a hint of Christmas. While the weather is nice, we move many of our poinsettias from the back greenhouses to the retail area. By month's end the new bracts begin to show color. Also during October, our floral department manager, Kathy Lehman, and owner, Sue Johnson, visited Milwaukee for "Christmas Around the Market", a showcase for industry wholesalers to sell their wares. Everything possible that says "holiday" is displayed and available at this large event. Reliable reports say that Klein's will have our "best season EVER" with all the new and exciting purchases made at the show. Come see for yourself.

Then on Sunday, November 4, Klein's employees will in one fell swoop complete the transition from fall to winter. This is the day our busy elves transform Klein's into a winter wonderland. Christmas trees go up, showrooms are decorated, holiday product is brought from storage and the greenhouses are set aglow with thousands of sparkling lights. With Thanksgiving still a few weeks away, a hint of fall remains. But for the most part, the Christmas spirit now fills our halls.

### **DID YOU KNOW. . .**

. . . that it's easier than you may think to winter over many of your spring and summer plant purchases. Doing so not only saves money, but allows you to keep some of your very favorite plants from year to year. Gardeners are usually

very familiar with wintering over some of our grandparents' favorite annuals. The easiest include geraniums, coleus, begonias, flowering maple, lantana and many others. Now though, tropicals are all the rage and most can be kept through the winter quite easily in the average home. Tropicals are great fun to experiment with and add a lot of drama to the landscape. They can be expensive, and therefore, can be looked at as a long term investment. Some will even bloom sporadically during the dead of winter given a sunny, warm location. Though we've only selected a few of the more common ones to spotlight, nearly all tropicals can be wintered over and our staff would be happy to help you out with any questions at 244-5661. Ask for Rick, Jamie, Craig or Sonya.

**HIBISCUS**--Prune hard to shape in the fall and place in a bright location either warm or cool. Water thoroughly when dry to the touch. Watch for whitefly, aphids and spider mites. Though a lot of literature recommends pruning in the spring, you'll lose at least a month of flowering next summer. With our short summers, you'll see few blooms with some of the later blooming cultivars.

**BANANAS**--If you have room or dwarf varieties, bananas can be kept actively growing as a houseplant through the winter. They require a bright location, warm temps and even watering. Watch for spider mites under the large leaves. An alternative is to let it go dormant. Simply cut last summer's stalk(s) to 2 feet, allow the pot to thoroughly dry out and move to a basement or cool room. Water thoroughly but infrequently throughout the winter. You should see new leaves unfurling late in winter and as you increase watering. It's not uncommon for the original largest stalk to die, but check the base. You may see 2-6 baby plants--your next summer's growth.

**ELEPHANT'S EARS (Colocasia)**--Allow to freeze off in the the garden or if in a pot, allow to dry completely in a garage. For plants grown in the ground, dig the large, tuberous roots and allow to "cure" a few weeks in the garage, removing any rotted or soft portions. The curing process is the same as with potatoes or onions. After a few weeks, place the tubers in dry peat moss in a large container of choice. A pail or muck bucket works perfectly. Store dry in the warm part of your basement. They can be stored cool, but there is no need. For plants grown in containers, simply move your container to the basement once the pot has completely dried out. Remove all foliage. Again, store dry. **THEN**--the key to success with elephant's ears is jump-starting them early enough for next season, something often overlooked. In late January, begin watering your stored tubers as normal. New growth will appear in about 2 months--sometimes longer! By starting your plants early, you'll be rewarded with larger plants much earlier next summer. By the time you place your stored tubers in the garden in late May, your first leaves will already be 2-3' tall.

**AGAPANTHUS (Lily-of-the-Nile)**--Growing these exotics is super-easy!

In Wisconsin, agapanthus must be grown as a potted plant. Being extremely root bound stimulates the best blooming so keep your plants in the same pot until you must step them up. At season's end, move your pots to a garage to dry completely. Small plants (or if you have room for large plants) can be kept actively growing through the winter as a houseplant. If you choose the dormant route, you'll notice the foliage yellowing as it dries. Remove all foliage, once it has yellowed completely then store in a cool, dry location till spring. Water lightly about once a month during the winter for best results.

BRUGMANSIA (Angel's Trumpets)--Nothing could be easier than to winter over these dramatic tropicals and the older they get, the more dramatic they become! Before a freeze in the fall, simply prune the plants to a manageable size (usually to 3-5'). It's O.K. if no foliage remains. If they were in the landscape, they'll need to be dug and potted for the winter. Immediately move the plant to a cool and dark location. They can be stored as low as 40 degrees all winter. Water thoroughly a few times during the winter. If you don't have a cool and dark location, just do your best--they're not fussy. Heat and light will simply stimulate new growth during the winter. That's also O.K. If possible, move your stored plant to some light (even a basement window) around March 1. This promotes earlier growth and earlier and more blooms next summer. Move outdoors once nighttime temps are in the 50's.

Other easy-to-over winter tropicals include: alocasia, bougainvillea, mandevilla, bird-of-paradise, passionflower, oleander, eucomis (pineapple lily), jasmine, thunbergia and many, many others.

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

November is the month when the root vegetables are in their greatest abundance. The most common, of course, are potatoes, onions, sweet potatoes, carrots and beets. But look for these tasty treasures at any super market: parsnips, celeriac, rutabaga, turnips, leeks and daikon. Any or all can be used in the following Klein's favorites.

**OVEN ROASTED ROOT VEGETABLES**--"Perfection! Veggies evenly done and not overcooked." Modified from the Madison Herb Society Cookbook.

3 lbs. root veggies of choice cut into chunks, peeled if desired

2 TBS. olive or canola oil

4 cloves minced garlic

1 tsp. dried rosemary (1 TBS. if fresh)

1 1/2 tsp. dried marjoram

1 tsp. dried tarragon

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Toss all ingredients together in a large bowl. Transfer to a large, rimmed roasting pan and spread out evenly. Cover tightly with foil and bake 35 minutes. Raise oven temp to 425 degrees. Uncover, turn the vegetables and season to taste with salt and pepper. Roast 30 minutes more until the veggies are tender and the edges have browned.

MASHED RUTABAGA, TURNIP AND POTATO--Easy and rich. A great holiday side dish. From The Frugal Gourmet Celebrates Christmas by Jeff Smith.

1 3/4 lbs. rutabaga, peeled and cut into large chunks  
1 1/2 lbs. turnips, peeled and quartered  
1 lb. russet potatoes, peeled and quartered  
1/2 stick (4 TBS.) butter, melted  
1/2 cup whipping cream  
salt and pepper

Place rutabaga in a large pot with ample water and a pinch of salt. Bring to a boil and cook 15 minutes. Add the turnips and potatoes and cook 15 minutes more or until all is very tender. Drain well and mash with the butter, cream, salt and pepper.

ROAST VEGETABLES GRATIN--From Vermont Valley Farm's CSA newsletter, Plow Shares, of October 17, 2002.

8 cups root vegetables of choice, cut into chunks  
2 TBS. olive oil  
1/4 cup white wine, sherry or broth  
1 TBS. fresh snipped or 1 tsp. dried rosemary  
1 TBS. chopped garlic  
salt and pepper  
2 TBS. butter  
3 TBS. flour  
1 1/2 cups milk  
2 TBS. horseradish  
1 cup shredded smoked Swiss or cheese of choice  
3 TBS. dried bread crumbs

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Toss veggies, oil, wine, rosemary, garlic, salt and pepper together in a very large bowl. Spread into a large baking dish. Cover tightly with foil and bake 25 minutes. Remove the foil, turn the veggies and bake until the veggies are tender and browning, about 20-30 minutes more. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a saucepan. Stir in the flour and cook over low heat for a few minutes. Gradually whisk in the milk and bring to a boil, whisking constantly. Lower the heat and cook gently 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in the horseradish. When the veggies are tender, stir the sauce into the veggies. Sprinkle with the cheese and bread crumbs and continue to bake

for 15-20 minutes. Serves 6-8.

**ROASTED VEGETABLES WITH BALSAMIC VINEGAR**--Another favorite originally printed in the Vermont Valley CSA newsletter, Plow Shares, from October, 1999.

4 lbs. assorted root veggies of choice in chunks

3 TBS. olive oil

5 cloves minced garlic

1 1/2 TBS. balsamic vinegar (or to taste)

3 TBS. fresh chopped herbs of choice (rosemary, marjoram, oregano, sage or combo thereof). Use 1 TBS. if using dried herbs.

salt and pepper

Heat oven to 450 degrees. In a large bowl, toss together the veggies and oil. Spread onto a large, rimmed baking pan and roast 15 minutes. Add the herbs and the garlic and carefully toss together. Continue roasting another 20-30 minutes (depending on the veggies used), tossing periodically, until all is tender. Transfer to a serving dish and toss with the vinegar (and salt and pepper if desired).

**PARSNIPS AND CELERIAC WITH NUTMEG**--This recipe originally appeared in Bon Appetit magazine in November of 2002.

4 TBS. butter

1 cup chopped onion

2 lbs. parsnips, peeled and cut into 1/2" cubes

1 1/4 lbs. celeriac, peeled and cut into 1/2" pcs. (2 cups)

1 1/4 cups chicken broth

1/2 cup whipping cream

1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg

1/2 cup celery leaves, minced (optional)

Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion and sauté until almost tender. Add the parsnips and celeriac and toss to coat. Add the broth, cream and nutmeg and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium, cover and simmer until tender and the liquid is almost absorbed, stirring occasionally, about 10 minutes. Add water by the tablespoons if it starts to get too dry. Season to taste with salt and pepper, stir in the celery leaves and serve. Serves 8.

**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:

### **Thanksgiving Arrangements from Teleflora and FTD--**

To order, call Klein's at 608/244-5661 or at 888/244-5661 or click on "Floral Arrangements" on the left side of our home page for links to Teleflora and FTD. Once there, you can order from us directly for delivery in the Madison area or for delivery anywhere in the United States. Featured in 2007 and available in-house at Klein's:

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **Teleflora's Shades of Autumn Bouquet**

The spirit of autumn glows warmly in this charming floral gift - from the glorious fall flowers to the beautifully crafted vase. A lovely, lasting gift for your hostess - and for yourself.

Arrangement includes red daisy spray chrysanthemums, gold cushion spray chrysanthemums, yellow button spray chrysanthemums, pitta negra accented with preserved oak leaves.

Delivered in a rustic ceramic vase in the rich colors of autumn.

Bouquet is approximately 12" (W) x12" (H). \$37.95 + tax & delivery

#### **The FTD® Giving Thanks™ Bouquet**

What better way to celebrate the plentiful Autumn than with our handcrafted ceramic pumpkin with a cleverly handled lid. It's an eye-catching design and holds a bounty of fall flowers - mini sunflowers, solidago, "Circus" roses, and red hypericum berries with dried wheat stems as the finishing touch. \$37.99 + tax and delivery.

#### **The FTD® Autumn Splendor® Centerpiece**

Warm colors of autumn permeate this impressive centerpiece - red rovers and burgundy pompons, two-tone orange and yellow "Circus" roses with accents of solidago and seeded eucalyptus. A unique square amber glass vase, only 3" high, creates a low-profile that encourages conversation at your dining table. Ideal to celebrate any Fall occasion. Approx. 9h x 13w \$45.99 + tax and delivery.

#### **The FTD® Bountiful™ Bouquet**

This Bountiful Bouquet is bursting with bright orange Gerbera daisies and alstroemeria, sunny yellow roses and deep burgundy pompons. The simple and curvy gourd-shaped vase beautifully complements the rich hues of the autumn flowers it holds. A great gift for autumn birthdays, or a clever way to extend Thanksgiving wishes. Approx. 12h x 10w \$36.99 + tax and delivery.

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

Cover crops and green manures are a natural and fun way to amend any garden soil. Originally, cover crops were used exclusively on farm fields. Annual rye or perennial cover crops were sown in the fall and then tilled under in the spring, adding nutrients to and loosening the soil. But in the last years there has been increased interest in using cover crops in the home vegetable and annual garden. Using green manure, on the other hand, is commonplace in the home garden. It simply means tilling anything that is or was a plant into the soil: spent foliage, roots, stubble, mulch, unharvested vegetables and fruits, even the weeds. All plant material will add nutrients as it decays and will loosen compacted soil.

Cover crops have become readily available in many seed catalogs and there's tons of information on the subject. In researching this article we googled "cover crops in the home garden" and a lot of informative and easy-to-read and understand web sites popped up--most of them university extension sites. Information is thorough and would be of great interest to anybody who prefers to garden without using chemical fertilizers or soil additives.

### **YOU ASKED. . .**

I've read conflicting information. Should I clean up my perennial gardens in the fall or can I wait until spring?

It depends. People generally clean up their perennial beds in the fall for two reasons. Gardeners usually have more time in the fall than in the spring. The first hard freezes usually occur during early October, giving us two full months to put the garden to bed before the ground freezes and the arrival of the first snowstorms. Springs, on the other hand, tend to be very short in Wisconsin. Weather warms quickly between mid-April and mid-May. In addition to the lack of time, the weather can be very rainy and the garden very muddy, making any cleanup rather unpleasant. On top of that, there are spring bulbs and the early bloomers popping up everywhere, making it even more difficult to walk through the perennial beds.

The second reason for cleaning up in the fall is to cut down on disease problems from the previous season. Fungal problems tend to be the most obvious and are easily carried over in the garden from year to year. Therefore, it's best to remove all foliage and stalks from garden phlox, bee balm, asters, hollyhocks, peonies, vervain and many others.

On the flip side, many perennials add interest to the winter landscape. These

include grasses, coneflowers and sedums. Still others will bring more wildlife into the garden. Goldfinches and juncos are drawn to the seeds of many native prairie plants like rudbeckia, liatris and goldenrod. And still more birds and mammals are drawn to the garden for protection from predators--namely hawks. Birds like sparrows and mourning doves seek shelter amongst the standing foliage and twigs. Therefore, complete clean up depends on one's goals and whether one will have time in the spring when there's so much planting to do.

## **AROUND TOWN**

### **Dane County Farmer's Market**

Saturdays, April 21 thru November 3, 6:00-2:00

On the Capitol Square

### **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](http://www.olbrich.org) for details

### **The Wisconsin Gardener**

"Celebrate Fall"

Thursday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 3, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 4, 4:00 p.m.

on Wisconsin Public Television

Check local listings for the station nearest you.

Host Shelley Ryan celebrates fall with a visit to the La Crosse area for a look at ornamental grasses, perfect plants for the autumn garden. Chef Wave Kasprzak of The Dining Room at 209 Main in Monticello shares favorite fall recipes using onions, leeks and garlic. Learn about viruses and how they can affect garden plants with UW-Extension Plant Pathologist Brian Hudelson. The program also visits some colorful autumn garden displays in Baileys Harbor in Door County, WI.

## Herb Fair

Saturday, November 10, 8:30-4:00.

Browse through displays of herbal foods, crafts, and books for sale. Sponsored by the Madison Herb Society. For more information call 608-242-1664.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison  
608/246-4550 or [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org) for details

### **NOVEMBER IN THE GARDEN**--A checklist of things to do this month.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Pick up a copy of the 2008 Wisconsin Garden Journal at bookstores.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit Olbrich, Rotary or Allen Centennial Gardens and note plants of fall interest for spring planting and best selection.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Put up all birdfeeders and fill daily as needed. Begin feeding raw suet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make water available to the birds. Begin using a de-icer as needed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dig new beds now! It's easier now than in spring when super-busy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue planting spring bulbs till the ground freezes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plant bulbs for forcing and put in a cool location for 10-12 weeks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stop feeding houseplants and cut back on watering.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue planting deciduous shrubs and trees until the ground freezes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clean up stalks and leaves of annuals and vegetables, preventing viruses and pests for next year's garden.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue harvesting brussels sprouts, kale, greens and root crops.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cut perennials back to 4-6", leaving those for winter interest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make notes in your garden journal for changes, improvements, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mow the lawn at shortest setting for last mowing of the season.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ready lawnmower and tiller for winter. Prep the snowblower.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Keep gutters clear of leaves and debris.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clean empty pots and containers for winter storage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase marsh hay and rose protection. Wait till the ground freezes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wrap trunks of susceptible trees to protect from rodents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit Klein's---The poinsettias are just about ready. Look for end of the season savings on all remaining spring bulbs.

### **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 NOVEMBER:

- Our employees prep the store inside and out for the upcoming holidays.
- The employees have brought to Klein's many of their own tender plants for winter storage--one of the perks of working at a greenhouse. See some of the fascinating things we grow in our own gardens in the back of our Number 1 and 2 Showrooms.
- Our own 80 year old calla lilies begin to bloom. We harvest them every few days for our flower shop. They're more beautiful than anything we get from our wholesalers.
- Wreaths, roping and pine boughs arrive mid-month from northern Wisconsin.
- The first of next year's geraniums are already planted and growing in one of our back greenhouses.
- Violas, hardy annuals and herbs continue to arrive for next February's Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center.
- Most plant material has been ordered for the 2008 growing season. We order early to ensure you best selection in spring.

## **EMPLOYEE PROFILE OF THE MONTH--ANN SCHLIMGEN**

"Are we having fun yet?" is a common question tossed out by Ann toward her coworkers. Fun and working at Klein's seem to go hand-in-hand for Ann. Contentedness and working at Klein's also seem to go hand-in-hand, because when asked about her goals at Klein's, Ann clearly states that she likes things just the way they are; she likes her hours (the late shift), she enjoys her coworkers (for the most part and especially the "bigwigs") and she relishes in her many duties--cashiering, taking orders, filling orders, creating dish gardens, training new employees and providing customer service.

Ann joined the Klein's team as seasonal part-time help in April of 2006. Even though her introduction to working at a garden center occurred at the onset of the busy season, circumstances that make even our diehard employees cringe, Ann's even and peaceful demeanor pacifies both coworkers and customers alike. During the most frenzied of moments, Ann can remain calm and focused. Her sense of humor lightens the most stressful of atmospheres. Her organizational skills and thorough follow-through makes life easier for everyone around her.

Ann is a local girl--yes, of the Rowley-Schlimgen and Schlimgen Ave. clan. Anyone who grew up in Madison will surely recognize both. Ann grew up in what is now Governor Nelson State Park on the northwest side of Lake Mendota. She graduated from Waunakee High School in 1982. After high school, Ann attended Edgewood College where she earned a B.S. in Business Management and then MATC where she received an associate degree in Occupational Therapy. She has worked in nursing homes in both Sun Prairie and Stoughton.

A love of flowers, nature and her sister brought Ann to Klein's. She lists favorite flowers as stargazer lilies, geraniums, coneflowers, coral bells and all the new hydrangeas on the market. Her sister, an east sider and a Klein's customer herself, encouraged Ann to apply for a retail position. On paper, Ann seems a bit overqualified, having been involved with the UW Extension, Olbrich Gardens, Dane County Parks and prairie restoration at Holy Wisdom Monastery (St. Benedict's Center). In addition, Ann is currently on her way to becoming a Master Gardener. But Ann's outgoing personality and a deep desire to learn have made Ann and Klein's a perfect pairing.

Ann and her husband, John, currently live in Sun Prairie, along with their furry family: Bud, Felix, Lacey and Scout. She says that one of her personal goals is to landscape her own yard. Working at Klein's is like being a kid in a candy store for her. She says she's amazed by the wonderful quality of and care put into the Klein's product. In addition to gardening, Ann enjoys kayaking, stamping, playing piano, reading and spending time with family and friends.

Speaking of fun. . . The crazy springtime rush is certainly made much more tolerable for the Klein's staff due to the fact that John's family owns Schoep's Ice Cream--a Madison institution. Ice cream bars are never in short supply on those hot spring days in the greenhouse. Ann is certainly a keeper!

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

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (October 2007), Growing Fuel--The Wrong Way, The Right Way. "Green Dreams" by Joel K. Bourne, Jr.

For years we've heard on the news or read in the papers that in the current state, the production and use of biofuels is potentially as dangerous as the continued use of fossil fuels. This article in the most recent National Geographic lays it out in a very simple and concise way; discussing the history of biofuels, the current downfalls and then a potentially optimistic future. For those of us who are naive and thought that ethanol from corn was a leap in the right direction, this article provided a very eye-opening picture and single handedly changed any opinion I might have had. The article makes it quite clear that corn farming and ethanol production are as harmful for the environment as the production and use of either coal, gasoline or oil. This push in the wrong direction comes from the current administration. It's clear the technology exists to create biofuels that will not hurt the environment. But under the current government, there is little incentive to do so. The motivation is to grow as much corn as possible at the expense of any alternative crop. Demand is high; prices are good for the farmer; we're lessening our dependency of foreign oil; there's no reason to change the course, right?

Wrong! Producing corn ethanol uses both natural gas and coal, adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Growing the best corn requires chemical fertilizers, harvesting requires huge, fuel guzzling machines. In addition, corn could feed starving people around the world, as the article points out. On top of that, corn is an annual that needs to be replanted yearly. The system clearly needs a bit of tweaking.

The optimistic side of the article then points out some of the alternatives and the fact that creating any alternative fuel is step in the right direction. Perennial, native crops like switch grass or quickly renewable crops like algae may supply the answer. Corn was maybe just the first step. Technology also exists that will change the way biofuels are produced, using self-contained systems and alternative fuels in their own production.

In short, the National Geographic article is a thought provoking introduction to the whole biofuel dilemma. The easy reading opens the discussion up to a larger audience and I believe even young teens would find it absorbing and easy to understand. It would make great classroom reading at the high school level and would stimulate very engaging and topical discussion.

#### **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](mailto:kathy@kleinsfloral.com))  
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Retail Manager Jennifer Wadyka  
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House Accounts & Billing  
Barbara Foulk  
Delivery Supervisor  
Rick Halbach  
Owner Sue (Klein) Johnson  
([sue@kleinsfloral.com](mailto: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/](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/)  
[www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort)

Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic  
Dept. of Plant Pathology  
1630 Linden Dr.  
Madison, WI 53706  
[www.plantpath/wisc.edu](http://www.plantpath/wisc.edu)

Insect Diagnostic Lab  
240 Russell Labs  
1630 Linden Dr.  
Madison, WI 53706  
[www.entomology.wisc.edu/entodiag.html](http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/entodiag.html)

State Soil Testing Lab  
5711 Mineral Point Rd.  
Madison, WI 53705  
608/262-4364  
[www.soils.wisc.edu](http://www.soils.wisc.edu)

American Horticultural Society  
[www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org)

Garden Catalogs (an extensive list with links)  
[www.gardenlist.com](http://www.gardenlist.com)

Herbicides and Pesticides  
[www.extoxnet.orst.edu](http://www.extoxnet.orst.edu)

Invasive Species  
[www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org)

Madison Area Master Gardeners (MAMGA)  
[www.madison.com/communities/mamga](http://www.madison.com/communities/mamga)

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Program  
[www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener](http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener)

The Wisconsin Gardener  
[www.wpt.org/garden/](http://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](http://www.horticulture.wisc.edu/allencentennialgardens/index.htm)

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave.

Madison, WI 53704

608/246-4550

[www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org)

Rotary Gardens

1455 Palmer Dr.

Janesville, WI 53545

608/752-3885

[www.rotarygardens.org](http://www.rotarygardens.org)

University of WI Arboretum

1207 Seminole Hwy.

Madison, WI 53711

608/263-7888

[www.uwarboretum.org](http://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/](http://www.cals.wisc.edu/westmad/)