



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club

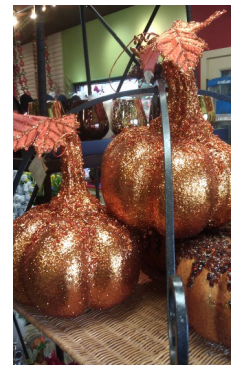
*“No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace
as I have seen in one autumnal face. “*

John Donne

November Meeting November 14, 2012

We're excited to have Jon Robert Throne, Creative Director at Countryside Floral and Garden, return to present a program full of holiday designs and tips! If you've not attended one of Jon's programs before, you're in for a treat. Jon is incredibly talented. He's also friendly and generous.

Be prepared to enjoy a time filled with humor and artistic sensibility, as Jon shares with us the latest design trends, products and tricks of floral design.



We asked last month that you come at 9:45 for our October 17 meeting. That worked so well that we'd like to continue this practice each month. Then the business meeting can start on time with everyone present.

Please don't forget your contribution for the Food Bank! We gave 40 pounds of food at the October meeting.

And don't forget to bring your table setting!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Three "Yes" cheers for volunteers!

As our club looks forward to our 85th anniversary, it is fun to note that The Volunteers of America organization is celebrating 115 years of reaching and uplifting people. As volunteers, we must strive to inspire as many people as we can. Our club uplifts a great variety of ages through our Growing Great Gardeners project and by creating our centerpieces for the elderly at the Issaquah Care and Rehabilitation Center. (See June Willard's article on page three for more information.)

The programs at our garden club meetings or our public displays, such as flower shows, inspire others to be flower arrangers, better horticulturists and landscape designers. What a joy it is to inspire others and to invite them into our world of caring for the environment.

Botanic gardens have played an important role in the history of civilization since the first one was founded in the sixteenth century. In 1995, the United States Botanic Garden celebrated its 175th anniversary. It is the oldest continually operating botanic garden in the United States. It still maintains some of the original collections. The National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs has had a wonderful gardening relationship with the United States Botanic Garden for 55 years.

Their annual Christmas Flower Show draws crowds from all across the country.

When our members volunteer at our local Historical Museum gardens, Pickering Farm gardens, Bellevue Botanical Garden or at arboretums, we are helping our community. Citizens are fortunate to have places to learn more about nature and have these treasures right near the heart of large metropolitan cities.

As we celebrate this autumn with acres of pumpkins and gorgeous fall foliage, plan now what trees and shrubs you might like to add to create an even more spectacular event for the community in your own back yard.

"It is very much in the gift of the community to enrich individual lives.

It is the gift of any individual to enlarge and enrich community.

The great truth that is too often forgotten is that it is in the nature of people to do good to one another."

Marilynne Robinson

**OUR LEGACY – LEAVE THE
WORLD JUST A LITTLE BETTER
THAN WE FOUND IT.**

June Ann Hassebroek



HORTICULTURE THERAPY

For many years, Issaquah Garden Club has brought smiles to the residents, staff and visitors at Issaquah Care and Rehabilitation Center on **Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day** and **Easter** with fresh floral designs for all seventeen dining room tables. With four residents to a table, that's a lot of smiles! This year we are excited to include **Mothers' Day** and **Fathers' Day**...special days for residents, visitors and staff!

It's fun to hear their comments and especially to see the excitement on so many happy faces! Even as arrangements are moved from the work room across the hall to their dining room, we see smiles and hear happy comments from residents, visitors and staff! It's a great feeling of accomplishment for our designers and our club...and brings smiles to our faces, also!

I encourage all members to sign up at our meetings, or call me at 425-746-5336 if you would like to participate in our work parties (usually held a day or two before the holiday). More hands make less work for everyone, and we learn how to make attractive centerpieces!

Thank you...hope to see you soon.

June Willard, Chairman

A NOTE FROM MARIANNE...

Thank you Issaquah Garden Club for a lovely event. It's great to have a chance to meet some new members as well as to acknowledge the ones I know. You have a special group. So many have already helped out at the district as well as the state level. And of course you have some wonderful chefs. Every salad there was perfectly seasoned. The workshop was wonderful too. I have my bulbs packed away in my unheated greenhouse for the winter. I look forward to their spring blooms. Thank you!

Marianne Wilkins



This illustration appeared on a friend's Facebook page. It comes from a blog site that looks quite interesting. There are a variety of articles on this site you might wish to explore:

<http://homesteadsurvival.blogspot.com/>

Preparing the Garden for Winter

Author: John Cretti

Autumn is a season of transition -- it signals a change in direction for gardeners. As the growing season draws to a close, the process of dormancy begins. Annuals are maturing, producing seeds and dying off while perennials are storing food energy in preparation for the winter months ahead.

Many gardeners are tempted to just sit back and relinquish the lawn and garden to winter. It may be tempting, but the seasoned gardener chooses a different path. Depending on the severity of your climate, winter can ravage your landscape unless you take steps to prevent it. Understanding the underlying causes of winter damage can help you prevent problems. Early frosts, temperature fluctuations that cause alternating freezes and thaws, ice storms, snow, drying winds, exposure to sun and even browsing animals all pose threats to our favorite landscape plants.

Autumn is a good time for reflection. Take note of the season's successes and failures, and make plans now while this year's events are still somewhat fresh in your mind.

Cleaning up the landscape is a good way to begin. Some basic winter preparations include cleaning plant debris around trees and shrubs, removing dead annuals, cutting back many perennials, lawn maintenance, mulching, and installing barriers or applying re-

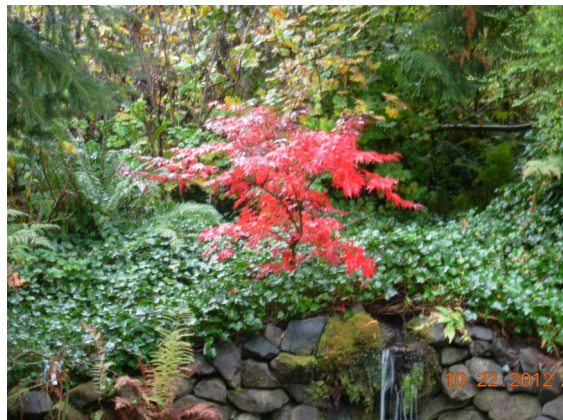
pellents to keep away hungry critters.

Information taken from the [National Gardening Association](#) website: "John Cretti is known regionally and nationally as a Rocky Mountain and High Plains horticulturist who hosts the popular "Gardening With an Altitude" radio and television program. He is a former home horticulture specialist for Colorado State University, and is an author, lecturer, award-winning garden communicator, and, above all, down-to-earth gardener."

[I printed this, November, 2000, in the newsletter of my former garden club. I have no idea where I obtained it in the first place.]

JAPANESE MAPLES

Ever since I started gardening, and perhaps even before then, I've been nuts about Japanese maples. I had one in my garden in Arlington, VA; since moving here, I've planted one, then three, then three more, then ... well, you get the picture. I've found that they've done very well, indeed. And I'm thrilled that they've put on such a show this autumn—I'm just sorry the show is almost over...



PUMPKIN PUREE

Pumpkin pie, pumpkin soup, pumpkin curry...these are a few favorite November foods. Most recipes call for pumpkin puree, which you COULD buy in a can. But if you've grown your own pumpkins, scavenged leftovers from a farm stand or found a good sale on whole pumpkins, you might want to make your own. Jill at Prairie Homestead has a surprisingly easy method. [www.theprairiehomestead.com]

PUMPKIN PUREE FROM A WHOLE PUMPKIN

1. Pick a pumpkin--homegrown or otherwise.
2. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.
3. Put the whole pumpkin in the oven. **Yes, the whole thing.** (You might stick a baking sheet underneath it (or on a lower rack) if you are worried about drips, although usually there is no drip-page.
4. Bake for 45 minutes to 2 hours, depending on the size of your pumpkin (the last one I did was on the larger side. It took 1 1/2 hours).
5. You'll know it's done when the tip of your knife will stick into the skin a little ways. Keep in mind, the skin will still be tough. It's not going to turn into a baked potato.

PUMPKIN PUREE, cont.

6. Remove the pumpkin from the oven and allow to cool. If you are in a hurry, you can remove the top of the pumpkin (like you would if you were carving a Jack-O-Lantern) to let the steam escape and cool it down faster. Be careful, it's hot.
7. Once it's cool enough to handle, cut it into a few large chunks and remove the stringy stuff and seeds. If you've cooked it long enough, the skin might be crispy, allowing the soft flesh to literally fall off. If not, that's ok. Just use a big spoon to scrape it off.
8. Run the chunks of cooked pumpkin through your food processor or blender.



[This appears in the November, 2012 issue of the newsletter of The Gardeners' Club, Santa Cruz County, California.]

GARDEN NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

Take a walk through your gardens as the fall season winds down. Take time to reflect on the successes and failures of your gardens this year. Make notes in your gardening notebook for new things to try and things to fix next spring.

During the cooler temperatures and shorter days of the winter months, the growth rate of most houseplants slows. Unless plants are grown under an artificial light source that is left on sixteen hours a day, new growth will be minimal until spring. Reduce fertilization and water until late April or May when new growth resumes.

Cyclamen is an exception in indoor plants; it should be fed and watered all through the winter.

Amaryllis bulbs may not bloom if they are in too large a pot. There should be no more than one inch of space on each side of the bulb. At least one third of the bulb should be above the soil line.

Plant paper-white narcissus in stones in a bulb pan in early November to have blooms for Christmas time.

Mulch used in spring and summer to control weed growth is different from the mulch used in winter. Winter mulch to protect perennial plants should not be dense and heavy. Put down straw, pine boughs, or small leaves when the ground freezes in your region. In spring, rake away the mulch material and add it to the compost pile.

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**This month: Jon Robert
Throne, Countryside Floral**

