

Winter
1996

The

Gardener's

JOURNAL

FRIENDS OF REYNOLDA GARDENS
July 1, 1994-June 30, 1995

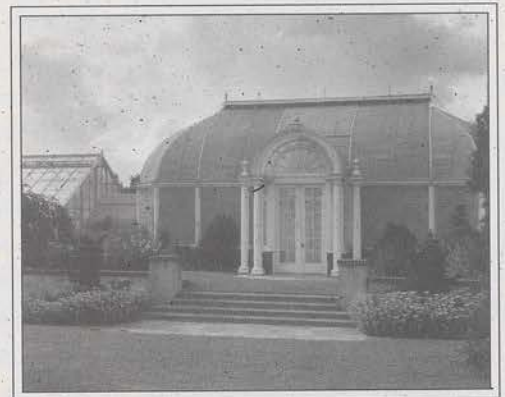
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Mrs. R. Ferdinand Jones

THE *GARDENER'S JOURNAL* continues the tradition, begun by the Reynolds family early in the twentieth century, of presenting up-to-date horticultural information to the public. The *Journal* includes advice for home gardeners on plant culture in the Piedmont region and invites readers to participate in educational opportunities at the Gardens. Articles help readers understand the choice and care of plants featured at Reynolda Gardens and learn the basis for horticultural techniques demonstrated there. In keeping with the rich horticultural and architectural history of the estate, information is presented within horticultural and historical contexts.

REYNOLDA GARDENS: PRIVATE GARDEN, PUBLIC GARDEN

by Camilla Wilcox, curator of education

THE REYNOLDA ESTATE built for Katharine Smith Reynolds and Richard Joshua Reynolds in the early twentieth century incorporated into a 1,000-acre tract farms, formal gardens, woodlands, greenhouses, fourteen-acre Lake Katharine, a modern dairy operation, a golf course, a tennis court, an athletic field, an outdoor swimming pool, and a working village. While the implementation of the overall design was the responsibility of landscape architects, first Lewis Miller and later Thomas Sears, the concept for the appearance and use of the property reflected the personal interests of its owners. Its structure provided for family enjoy-



AN EARLY PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CONSERVATORY ENTRANCE.

ment while opening many areas to the public.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds had come to Winston-Salem from rural areas. They knew that many Southeastern farmers were still using outdated agricultural methods to raise crops on worn-out land, even though newer practices existed to restore and preserve land fertility and to protect the health of farmers and their families.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PRIVATE GARDEN, PUBLIC GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Virginia and Tony Vargas

This new information was available, but often not accessible, to rural people. Reynolda was to serve as a model farm where the latest information on planting, animal husbandry, and home economics could be disseminated. During the years the estate was in operation, visitors attended presentations and observed estate employees at work, gaining skills they could use in their own homes and on their farms.

A formal garden was often the centerpiece of estates of this era. Most often, estate gardens were intended for the private use of the family who owned them. But the placement of the formal garden, alongside Reynolda Road yet close to the house, meant that it could serve both private and public purposes. Within the formal gardens of Reynolda, small gardens of annuals, perennials, and flowering shrubs, fountains, lines of Japanese cedars and Japanese weeping cherry trees, fruit and vegetable gardens, a greenhouse range, arbors, and shelters provided horticultural interest and formed a backdrop for a variety of activities for the family and the community.

Architect Lewis Miller designed the layout of the estate, including placement of the village, the farm buildings, the house, and the lake. Later, the Reynolds family retained Thomas Sears, who designed plantings and garden structures. Sears' first drawing for the formal garden area is dated 1915. Working with Mrs. Reynolds, Sears specified a multitude of varieties of roses, bulbs, perennials, shrubs, and trees in subtle colors and textures of bloom, bark, and foliage in gardens that celebrated the features of individual plants. Later designs and photographs show that the early garden, while retaining the character of the first Sears design, altered over time as plants grew and family interests and needs changed.

In 1931, following the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, Sears drew a plan recommending simplification of plantings, increasing the use of perennial groundcovers, and replacing certain shrubs, including overgrown boxwoods. Plants installed at that time and plants remaining from the original design are the basic horticultural elements of the formal gardens today.

Homes, commercial areas, and the main

campus of Wake Forest University are now located on portions of the original estate. Reynolda Gardens, comprising four acres of formal gardens and greenhouses and one hundred twenty-five acres of fields and woodlands, was given to Wake Forest University by the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation and family heirs in a series of deeds of gift dated 1957, 1958, and 1961. The 1961 deed of gift stated that "... there is an evergrowing need in Forsyth County for land areas to be set aside, preserved and enhanced in the beauty of their natural state, which land areas can become a refuge for relaxation and contemplation and a haven for reflective outdoor leisure to all mankind..." As the city of Winston-Salem has grown up around Reynolda, the donors' foresight represents a lasting, irreplaceable gift to the community.

The renovation of the gardens, woodlands, and architectural features now underway within the Reynolda Gardens property is being funded in part by gifts to the Reynolda Gardens segment of Wake Forest's Heritage and Promise campaign. In addition, funds provided by the University will help support the addition of staff members to maintain the renewed garden. 🌱

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS for the REYNOLDA GARDENS PROJECT

THE JAEGER COMPANY of Gainesville, Georgia, is the design and planning firm consulting on the Reynolda Gardens renovation. The firm was chosen because of its demonstrated sensitivity to each site's historical and environmental qualities before and during renovation, and because of its experience in the development of historic properties that are used for both education and recreation.

Founded in 1984, The Jaeger Company has worked on projects throughout the South, winning numerous awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Georgia Planning Association, the American Institute of Architects, and other organizations.

In 1995, the company received both the Historic Preservation Award from the American

Society of Landscape Architects, Public Landscapes, and the Honor Award of the ASLA Georgia Chapter for the *Tea Farm Park Master Plan* in Charleston County, S.C. In 1993, it received the Merit Award from the ASLA Georgia Chapter for the *Master Plan for Georgia Southern University Botanical Garden* in Statesboro, Georgia, and in 1994, it received the Merit Award for the *East Side Trolley Greenway Trail Study and Master Plan* in Atlanta, Georgia, from the ASLA Georgia Chapter.

Among the firm's recent projects are a *Preservation Plan for Hillsborough, North Carolina*, a *Conservation and Development Plan for the McLeod Plantation* in Charleston, South Carolina, and the *Renovation of the Hydrotherapy Pools and Springs at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt State Park* in Warm Springs, Georgia.

Currently, the firm serves as landscape architects to the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation in the development of master plans for three Historic Trust properties: the Hay House

in Macon, the McDaniel-Tichenor House in Monroe, and Rhodes Hall in Atlanta. At each of these sites, the firm will guide improvements to visitor circulation while ensuring the preservation and interpretation of historic landscape elements.

Two members of the firm are directly involved with the Reynolda Gardens renovation. DALE JAEGER, ASLA, AICP, and principal, researched the history of the Reynolda estate in preparation for the historical section of the landscape report. A. CHESTER THOMAS, ASLA, analyzed original drawings and old photographs to determine when garden areas were planted and which plants were used in each period. Jaeger and Thomas were responsible for final construction drawings.

Jaeger earned her undergraduate degree at Brenau College and the master of landscape architecture at the University of Georgia at Athens. Thomas earned his undergraduate degree in horticulture science at North Carolina State University and a master of landscape architecture at the University of Michigan. ♡

The GEOLOGY of REYNOLDA'S STONE FOUNDATIONS

"We are not hurrying about the bungalow, as we had originally planned to do, as the greenhouse plans from Lord and Burnham came a week or more ago and the stone mason we have can begin work on this, instead of having to go on the bungalow foundation as we had thought he would have to do."

— July 5, 1912

"In excavating for this building [barn], we were fortunate in striking a great quantity of the round stones, which we need so much in the foundation work, and I believe we will have plenty for use in the foundation of this building — as we have used them for the foundation of the greenhouse — if you think this would be a wise plan."

— January 2, 1913

(excerpts of letters from Katharine Smith Reynolds to Charles Barton Keen, architect of Reynolda House and Village)

THE ROUND STONES, used to face the foundations of many of the estate buildings and create a unique architectural feature for the Reynolda property, are also an interesting geological feature of the Piedmont landscape. Found in many areas of the Piedmont and as far north as New England, they are very heavy, with a distinctive round shape, black interior, and brown exterior.

According to Robert Cannon, president of Applied Geosciences and Engineering, Inc., in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Jo Walker
Z. Bryan Haislip
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Willard and Holly Welsh
James Woodel
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Billy McClain
Kay Bergey
G. B. Manning

Greensboro, these stones are fragments of diabase dikes. Also known as feeder dikes, diabase dikes are igneous or volcanic in origin. They were formed about 200 million years ago, when the continents of North America and Africa separated. Igneous magma was forced up through cracks and solidified to form the dikes as it cooled.

In the bedrock below the earth's surface, diabase dike fragments are very angular blocks, but exposed to groundwater and air over geologic time, the iron-rich minerals of the diabase begin to weather into a brown, rust-colored soil. The angular edges begin to wear away more quickly than flat or rounded surfaces, resulting in the development of characteristic round stones. After they have rounded, additional weathering continues to reduce their size. In Piedmont areas where diabase dikes are found, the round stones typically litter the ground surface. They have been exposed over time as other, less resistant Piedmont rocks weather and erode the ground surface, leaving the rounded diabase stones lying on or near the surface.

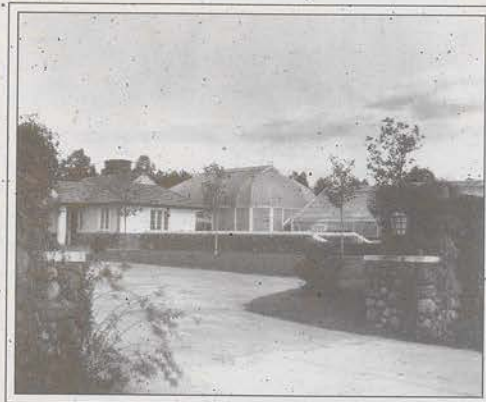
Regardless of the geological origin, both Mrs. Reynolds and Charles Barton Keen agreed that the stones would be suitable material for the buildings at Reynolda.

In this excerpt from Keen's reply to Mrs. Reynolds' letter, Keen says,

"I am glad to know that you have found so many round or boulder stone in excavating for the Farm Building.

"I presume it is your intention to use these for the face work of the stone walls, the same as the Greenhouses, which I think is the very best material we could use for this purpose."

—January 14, 1913



AN EARLY PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ENTRANCE TO REYNOLDA VILLAGE. THE LONDON PLANETREES ARE GROWING BESIDE THE STONE WALLS BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN POLLARDED.

PRUNING TECHNIQUE: POLLARDING

by Tom Pratt, greenhouse manager

THE FEATURED TREES around the circumference of the entrance drive to Reynolda Village are LONDON PLANETREES (*Platanus x acerifolia*). They are a European relative of the American sycamore. Their unique form is created using the specialized pruning technique known as pollarding.

To achieve this effect, first practiced in

Europe, a suitable young tree is chosen, allowed to grow to the desired height, and pruned to an appropriate framework. The tree is then allowed to produce a season of new shoots. Each year in the dormant season, the tree's past season's growth is cut back to the original shape. As the tree grows, only new shoots are cut.

In the early history of pollarding, shoots were purposefully developed and cut for making baskets, bean poles, and other useful items. By restricting branch length, the process also allowed potentially large trees to have a place in confined yards and along narrow streets. A

practice that is still often used in Europe, it is rarely done today in the United States except for ornamental purposes.

For the home gardener or amateur arborist, there are two special notes to consider before undertaking this method of pruning. First, only certain types of trees—beeches, hornbeams, lindens, willows, and London planetrees—respond favorably to the practice. Second, pollarding is very different from the common practice of topping. When a mature tree is topped, random cutting of branches allows disease organisms to enter at points where a tree is unable to form a protective callus. Over time, as the interior structure of a tree deteriorates, dying limbs create a hazard.

Before joining the Gardens staff last July as greenhouse manager, I worked with the specially trained Wake Forest University arborists who pollard the London planetrees each winter. I found that each of the London planetrees has an indi-

vidual character that helps determine the proper placement of cuts for that particular tree. Sometimes, despite a history of careful pruning, branches decay. The arborists cut carefully to ensure the continued health and good overall appearance of each branch.

Among the sixteen trees, there is a single sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). This tree, which is located at the entrance to the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation offices, creates special challenges in the pollarding process not only because of its size but also because of the difference in the branch scaffold between the London planetree and the sycamore.

Beginning in 1996, the shoots removed from the Reynolda London planetrees during pollarding will be sent to American Forests, a nonprofit conservation organization, to be propagated, grown, and sold through their *Famous and Historic Trees* catalog, along with others propagated from trees located at historic sites around the United States. ♻️

GREENHOUSE RESTORATION

by John Kiger, building superintendent for Reynolda Gardens

THE LORD AND Burnham conservatory and greenhouses were built in 1912. Over the years, the structure has required numerous major repairs. During the previous greenhouse renovation in 1983, the deteriorating wooden framework of the conservatory dome was replaced with aluminum framing and worn wooden shades were replaced with aluminum shades.

Three projects were completed on the glasshouses during the summer and fall of 1995. Following the removal of lead-based paint, interior surfaces in the main houses were repainted. All glass was replaced in the melon house, and the main entrance passageway to the formal garden was restored to its original appearance.

Because the front entrance to the conservatory is a distinctive architectural feature of the building, the restoration of the door, columns, and fan light was an important part of the project. Tim Reynolds of Tim N. Reynolds Construction Company, the construction contractor, examined early photographs of the building and adapted modern processes to recreate as nearly as possible the appearance of the building's original structure. The four columns originally supporting the glass arch over the entrance had at some time been replaced by two columns, but, aside from that change, the overall appearance of the entrance had remained stable for over eighty years.

The most challenging aspect of the entrance renovation was the recreation of the sunburst fan light above the conservatory door. Taking 111 hours to complete, the project involved a number of skilled craftsmen. Jimmy Poindexter of Poindexter Lumber Company in Clemmons duplicated the detailed curved moldings of the frame in redwood, Jay Harmel of Precision Glass in Clemmons handcut and installed each piece of glass, and workers at Salem Art Glass etched the glass to give it the appearance of the original frosted glass. ♻️



TIM REYNOLDS SURVEYS THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CONSERVATORY ENTRANCE, JULY 1995.

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Dr. and Mrs. John A. Maselli
Mr. and Mrs. George B. Whitaker III
Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Koach
Betty W. March
Judith Hanes
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Rose Ellen Bowen
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Rickert
Patti Moran
Mrs. Zachary T. Bynum Jr.
Village Tavern
Mrs. Gordon DeHaan
Beverly Gavatt
Dr. and Mrs. Ethan Wiesler
Sara L. Harper
Reynolda Village Soda Shop
Heitman Place
W. J. Humalo
Mrs. Howard Wilson
Dr. Ken Bridle
Sophia Cody
Mary Saunders
Mr. and Mrs. E. Roger Howard Jr.
Ruth M. James
Dr. and Mrs. Allston J. Stubbs
Mrs. Joyce Robertson
Twin City Garden Club
Harry and Nancy Underwood
Helena Reed
Paul and Loy McGill
Mimi Whaling
Dr. John W. Keyes
Ms. Janice M. Purdy and family
Mrs. S. Landon Alfriend
Mrs. Donald L. Whitener
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First Winston Securities
Mrs. F. Bradford Myers, Jr.
Garden Club Council of
Winston-Salem and Forsyth County
Joanne Yates
Phyllis L. Footland
Mrs. R. D. Welshmer
Marina Nowell
Laura Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Marshall

1994-95 Friends of Reynolda
Gardens donations totaled
\$25,335

Volunteer Profile PAM FAINO

REYNOLDA GARDENS CAMPAIGN Gifts and Pledges Received

Anonymous (3)
Garden Club Council of
Winston-Salem and Forsyth County
Bruce and Anne Babcock
L. M. "Bud" Baker Jr.
J. Scott Cramer
Dr. and Mrs. Eben Alexander
Dr. and Mrs. Peter T. Allford
Mrs. C.E. Allman Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William Alsop Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Avera
Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baldwin
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Margaret R. Beach
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David B. Butler
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Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Goodson Jr.
Mrs. W. L. Gordon

PAM FAINO FIRST visited Reynolda Gardens as a chaperone with her son's class. Shortly after that visit, she decided to become an education volunteer. Now, twelve years later, she is an active and dedicated volunteer, leading groups of students who range in age from preschool through high school in studies of many aspects of plant and animal life, art, and writing. "I thought it would be an entertaining way to spend my mornings when both of my children were in school," she said. "Little did I know then that it would become my mission."

A native of Idaho, Pam did not grow up expecting to lead students in science and horticulture experiences. Although she often went camping with her family, enjoyed the outdoors, and was interested in science, she did not pursue formal training in a scientific field; her degrees, from Idaho State, are in English.

Instead, her own interest and knowledge grew after she began leading groups at Reynolda. At the same time, she began to read nature stories with her younger child, a preschooler, and together the two of them sought out stories and books with a scientific basis. Gradually, she read more on her own and learned from her experiences with children at Reynolda. "Kids are so open to nature. Everything is new to them. They suggest things."

Children have changed in some ways during the course of her volunteer work, Pam says. Twelve years ago, many children who visited Reynolda with their classes often played outside at home, or came from gardening families and had some understanding of nature. Now, "out of a group of eight children, one child might have played in the woods before or know something about gardens," she says. "I've even talked with children recently who did not grow any plants of

any kind, inside or outside, and did not even know anyone who grew plants."

Even so, children are still interested in nature, often finding their own lessons in the field trip experience. "Last fall, when we were working on leaf collections and seeing the glorious fall color, one child, who had already led the group in discoveries several times, was so excited about finding a slug that she picked it up and examined it while the others were finishing looking for leaves."

And children now sometimes garden at their schools, an activity that was rare when Pam



PAM FAINO WITH EBONIQUE ROBINSON (LEFT) AND KATHERINE FITZGERALD IN THE CONSERVATORY. THE GIRLS ARE 'GARDEN BUDDIES' IN A GARDENS PARTNERSHIP WITH FIFTH-GRADE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS FROM JEFFERSON DAVIS DIGGS SCHOOL AND SUMMIT SCHOOL.

began her volunteer work at Reynolda. "It's unusual to have a sluggish group. Usually, they're really interested at any age. Their teachers prepare them well. They know that this is not a passive experience, that it adds to the school curriculum."

The experience of working with children at Reynolda Gardens has changed Pam's outlook on ecological issues. "Last fall, when students from UNC-G protested the use of rainforest wood in furniture, some news broadcasters seemed to think that it was funny. Years ago, I might have thought raising the issue of environmental responsibility was funny, too. But now I know that it's not just the tropical forest that's endangered. People do have misconceptions about nature." Thanks to Pam, now not quite so many of them do. 🌱

PLANTS for COLLECTORS: ASTERS for the FALL GARDEN

by Preston Stockton, superintendent

YEARS AGO, a very good friend told me that God had shown her a vision of hell—gardening in the South in the summer. It wasn't a pretty sight, and it had changed her life considerably! Surely after the past growing season, I think we all can share her insight. Long hot summers are one of the reasons I am such a fan of the autumn season. I always look forward to the cooler nights, beautiful blue skies, and the maples on Reynolda Road. Who can resist nature's wonderful roadside displays of ironweed, Joe-pye, goldenrod, and wild asters? Why we do not take Mother Nature's cue and make room for some of these beautiful fall treasures in our own gardens has always puzzled me, for some of our native fall blooming plants are certainly fine indeed. The asters are especially worthy of more use.

The aster genus is a large and important group of plants that includes over 600 species, most of which are native to North America. Native Americans used the young leaves of asters as a potherb and made a tonic from the dried leaf stems. Most asters bloom in September and October; this alone makes them invaluable garden plants. The flowers are rayed and usually violet-purple or blue, but many shades of purple, blue, pink, or white are available. Produced at the end of the stems, flowers are approximately two inches across.

Most hybridization of our garden asters has been done by the English. This accounts for the popular common name Michaelmas daisy, as they are in bloom at the time of the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. Asters are almost exclusively perennial; they should not be confused with the China aster, a popular Asiatic annual that actually belongs to the genus *Callistephus* and is not related to our native asters.

Generally, there are three species of asters widely used in American gardens. The **NEW ENGLAND ASTER**, *A. novae-angliae* is native to moist areas from New England to the Rockies, while the **NEW YORK ASTER**, *A. novi-belgii*, is native to coastal

marshes in the East. Today, there are wonderful cultivars of both of these species available that are very well suited to our Southern gardens. Both prefer an average, well-drained, evenly moist soil. Do not over-fertilize, as this can produce weak stems that are susceptible to disease. Plants should be divided every two to three years to keep them vigorous. Most will need to be pinched once or twice in early summer to keep them from growing too tall. (I almost hesitate to mention this because in the past, whenever I have given lectures or programs, it seems like every time I mention the words "pinch" and "divide," pencil erasers immediately begin to work vigorously to erase names previously highlighted. But to omit these wonderful plants from a garden because they need pinching is a dreadful mistake.)

In the last ten years, some very nice new cultivars of the New England aster have been offered by many of our fine North Carolina nurseries. **'PURPLE DOME'** is the first true dwarf form; it never needs pinching or support. It was developed by the Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora in Greenville, Delaware. Perfect one-inch flowers of bright, intense purple cover the two-foot-tall plant from mid-August through September. **'OUR LATEST ONE'** is a beautiful Aster developed by Montrose Nursery in Hillsborough. Its large violet-blue flowers are produced on a two-foot-tall plant. Perhaps my favorite, **'FANNY'S ASTER'** is one of the last to bloom (the best for last!), usually blooming into November, with spectacular powder blue flowers on a compact eighteen-inch plant. It is very easy to grow, with minimal pinching required. Some other good varieties widely sold are **'HELLA LACY'**, discovered in the garden of writer Allen Lacy and named for his wife, it features large royal purple blooms that form on well-branched four-foot-tall plants; **'ALMA POTSCHE'**, an outstanding bright salmon rose on a compact three-foot-tall plant that is an early bloomer; and **'HARRINGTON PINK'**, a three- to four-foot-tall upright plant with loads of light pink flowers in September. **'TREASURER'**, a nice variety that we grow at Reynolda, has huge lilac-purple flowers in September and is three to four feet tall.

Garden varieties of the New York aster can be a little harder to find in this area and may have to be ordered by mail. Some worth seeking out are *A. novi-belgii* **'PATRICIA BALLARD'** with double pink

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

ASTERS for the FALL GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

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flowers, three feet tall; **'HOMESTEAD BLUE'**, an easy and reliable variety with sky blue flowers, four feet tall; **'CRIMSON BROCADE'**, red, semi-double, three feet tall.

The third genus most often seen in American gardens is *A. x frikartii*, a smaller type that has the longest blooming time of all, from June through September. This is a hybrid species from Switzerland, created around 1920. They are not so hardy as many asters and must have well-drained soil in full sun. They are very heavy bloomers and should be pinched only once or twice in early season so as not to delay blooming. Three suggested varieties are: **'WONDER OF STAFFA'**, clear lavender blue flowers two inches across with a yellow center, three-foot-tall plants, and probably the best of the three for the South; **'MONCH'**, violet-blue two-inch flowers with yellow center, more organized petal structure, and a more erect growing habit than 'Wonder of Staffa', two feet tall; **'JUNG FRAU'**, more deeply blue than the other two, and more compact, two feet tall.

There are many other asters that are worthy of a place in our gardens, but my enthusiasm has to be curbed at some point, so I will mention only a few that I especially like. The **TARTARIAN ASTER**, *A. tartaricus*, is a native to Siberia. It is often called the **GIANT ASTER**, and for good reason. This plant has basal leaves in the spring. Then, in late summer, tall flower spikes shoot up to eight feet long, producing beautiful blue flowers in October and November. A bold vertical

accent in the garden, it does not need staking when grown in full sun. For smaller gardens, try *A. tartaricus* **'JIN DAI'**, a shorter version with flower stalks of four to five feet tall.

One of the few asters for the shade is the **WHITE WOOD ASTER**, *A. divaricatus*, a native to eastern North America. Highly prized in Europe, it is useful for brightening shady areas and is very tolerant of dry shade. Loose clumps of black, rather sprawling, twiggy stems contrast well with the one-inch white flowers that appear in September.

For those who like something a little unusual, there is *A. carolinianus*, the **CLIMBING ASTER**. It can climb a trellis or post or be left to mingle in the garden. It has fragrant pink flowers from September through October. Another native is the **SMOOTH ASTER**, *A. laevis*, that looks like anything but an aster.

The basal leaves give rise to near-black stalks that produce numerous blue flower heads in October. It should be staked for best performance. It is very unusual and beautiful.

The well-known English garden designer and writer Gertrude Jekyll was so enamored of Michaelmas daisies that she devoted one whole section of her garden at Munstead Wood to these plants alone. In her book *Wood and Garden* (1897) she writes of her asters, "...the fresh, clear, lively colouring of the lilac, purple, and white daisies is like a sudden change from decrepit age to the brightness of youth, from the gloom of late autumn to the joy of full springtide." The word aster is Greek and means "star," alluding to the form of the flower head. But I feel that this group of plants was so named because they are certainly the "stars" of our fall gardens. 🌼



NEW ENGLAND ASTER
(*ASTER NOVAE-ANGLIAE*)

ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS in the TEST GARDENS

AN ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS display garden and an All-America rose garden are located in the formal gardens. Staff horticulturists receive seeds of winning annuals, perennials, and vegetables and plants of award-winning roses to grow in the garden a year in advance, before seeds and plants are sold to the public through seed companies. The following All-America winners for 1996 were displayed in the garden during the summer of 1995.

ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS

🌸 *Petunia* 'FANTASY PINK MORN' is a small plant of the new class called milliflora, meaning many small blooms. Because plants in this class are naturally small and multibranched, they do not require pinching or pruning, a usual practice with other petunias, but benefit from dead-heading. This will be an excellent plant for pot culture or low border planting. It performed well in the test garden. It began blooming in the greenhouse before planting and continued until frost.

🌸 *Petunia* F1 'HEAVENLY LAVENDER' looked unattractive after rainfall or irrigation, taking a long time to recover. Its beautiful double lavender flower makes up for this fault, however, and the growth habit is not so rank as that of other petunias. It did not require pinching back last summer.

🌸 *Salvia farinacea* 'STRATA' is the first salvia with a blue and white flower. According to previous All-America testing, this salvia can grow to two feet tall, but it grew only to one foot in height in the test garden. The white of the calyx overwhelmed the blue of the corolla, making it difficult to appreciate in a large and colorful garden. It would be lovely in a mixed pot or a small garden, where its delicate character can be appreciated.

ALL-AMERICA ROSE SELECTIONS

🌸 'CAREFREE DELIGHT' was our favorite of the four 1996 AAS winners. Even though this rose has very little fragrance, it bloomed heavily all summer, with light pink blooms. It was truly low



maintenance and will be a good rose for landscaping. There was no mildew or black spot on it all summer.

🌸 'LIVIN' EASY' is a floribunda with bright orange blooms. It was a little slow getting started, but by the end of the summer was producing well, as is the case with many rose plants. We'll know more about this rose next summer, when it's better established. The flowers have a light, fruity fragrance.

🌸 'ST. PATRICK', named for its chartreuse buds, opened to yellow bloom in the summer; in the fall, green tones continued to show when the flower was open. This sweet-scented rose, offspring of Brandy and Gold Medal, was hybridized by Frank Strickland, one of few amateurs to win the AARS award.

🌸 'MT. HOOD', a grandiflora with ivory-white petals, features an old-fashioned rose scent. The bush is multibranched, with deep green glossy foliage, making it an asset in any garden.

All-America Rose Selections, Incorporated is a non-profit organization of rose growers and introducers whose members represent over 90 percent of U. S. rose production. The Reynolda rose garden contains over 1,000 AAS award-winning rose plants.

All-America Selections is a trade association that tests new vegetables and flowers around the country each year and introduces to the trade those the AAS judges believe exhibit qualities that are superior to others on the market.

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ANNUAL FLOWERING VINES

ANNUAL CLIMBING VINES are among the most versatile and rewarding plants that gardeners can grow. With beautiful flowers and intricate foliage, they provide an excellent way of introducing variety into planting designs, since they can be changed every year. A perfect choice for small gardens, all make a vertical flowering display using a minimum of growing space.

The staff at Reynolda has grown annual vines for many years. The following five vines have proved to be outstanding every year. They are undemanding, easy to grow from seed, and bloom in profusion from midsummer until frost. Unlike many perennial vines frequently grown in this area (wisteria certainly comes to mind), all are easy to train and manage. Grow on any strong support—fence, trellis, deck, or arbor. Be sure to keep these vines close to the house for maximum enjoyment.

It's hard to imagine any garden without some type of morning glory; two make our list. They are the cypress vine and the moon vine. The **CYPRESS VINE**, *Ipomea quamoclit*, is a stunning plant, the delicate foliage as wonderful as the flower. A native of South America, cypress vine grows up to twenty feet in a season and has trumpet-shaped red flowers, each about one to two inches long. It is one of the best plants we have found to attract hummingbirds. The foliage is finely dissected and soft to the touch. As with many morning glories, once the vine is grown for one season, there are generally plenty of seedlings the next year to assure an ongoing supply for friends and family.

For people who work during the day, the **MOON VINE**, *I. alba*, is a perfect choice; it begins to bloom in late afternoon and remains open until morning. The flowers are six-inch trumpets of pure white with light green tracings. They have an incredibly sweet fragrance. The buds swell in late afternoon and unfurl very suddenly, so be sure to pay attention! Moon Vine is a native to southern Florida and the American tropics. It is a very robust grower and will quickly cover a fence or trellis. It is perfect for growing up deck supports and training along railings for enjoyment in the evening.

CATHEDRAL BELLS, *Cobaea scandens*, is a native to tropical Central and South America. Its name commemorates a Jesuit naturalist, Father

Bernardo Cobo, who died in 1659. This is a dense vine that can grow up to twenty-five feet long in one season. It is also called **CUP AND SAUCER VINE** because the flowers have a conspicuous calyx (saucer) and a violet corolla (cup). The flower is three inches long and two inches across. The variety *C. scandens alba* has a white corolla, while *C. scandens purpurea* has a deeper purple corolla than the species. Cathedral bells climbs effortlessly by very sensitive hooked tendrils at the ends of its leaf stalks. Movement becomes apparent if one side of a tendril is rubbed and observed for a few minutes. This vine, a favorite during the Victorian era, will bloom from August through frost.

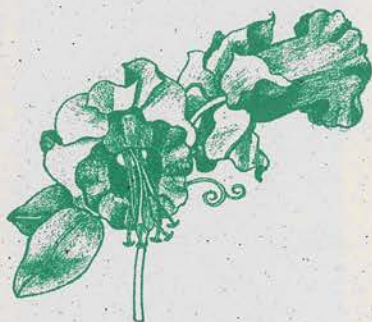
The **HYACINTH BEAN**, *Lablab purpureus* (previously listed as *Dolichos lablab*), is one of the most asked-about plants at Reynolda. Native to Egypt, it was at one time a popular vegetable on the Indian subcontinent and widely used as fodder for cattle. Today it is valued as an ornamental vine for its fragrant pea flowers and maroon pods. A member of the legume family, it is a twining vine and will grow six to ten feet in one season. Two interesting varieties are 'DAYLIGHT', which has white flowers and white seed and 'DARKNESS' which has purple-violet flowers and black seed. Because hyacinth beans are able to create their own nitrogen, moderately fertile soil suits them best.

We could not possibly leave out **EXOTIC LOVE**, *Mina lobata*, an interesting vine with an even better name. Native to Mexico, this is a twining vine that grows fifteen to twenty feet long and has heart-shaped, three-lobed leaves. The flowers are one-sided, curving spikes on branched stalks. The corolla, at first scarlet red, soon fades to pale yellow or cream. There is always a combination of all colors on each stalk. One plant can easily produce several hundred stems of flowers in a spectacular color combination.

All of these vines are easy to grow and start easily from seed. Be sure to start seeds or set out plants in May when the soil has begun to warm. All like well-drained soils of moderate fertility and need full sun to bloom well. Be sure to give ample room to grow and plenty of water during dry periods and you will have months of blooming enjoyment. 🌱



EXOTIC LOVE
(MINA LOBATA)



CATHEDRAL BELLS
(COBAEA SCANDENS)



HYACINTH BEAN
(LABLAB PURPUREUS)

by Kim Tilley, assistant superintendent. He is responsible for the design and care of the two-acre vegetable garden area. A small group of volunteers assists with weekly maintenance.

THE SUMMER OF 1995 was wet at times, dry at times, and hot all the time. Many plants matured early and faded fast, but some flourished in the extreme conditions. In the vegetable garden, tomatoes, melons, winter squash, and pumpkins were almost impossible to grow. I planted tomatoes three different times, with no luck. Tobacco wilt, brought in by thrips that came through the area in early season, also affected the tomato plants. And, because last winter was so mild, the insect problem was incredible, with worms, beetles, grubs, aphids, white flies, mosquitoes, etc., making gardening a challenge. Even so, the following vegetables and flowers were outstanding performers during the summer of 1995.

VEGETABLES

NAME	HABIT OR TYPE	PERFORMANCE
BEAN 'PURPLE TEEPEE'	bush bean, 8-10" tall, top setting; easy to harvest; 6" purple or burgundy pods; turns green after cooking.	a single set harvest convenient for canning or freezing. stays tender and fresh for long periods.
BROCCOLI 'MERCEDES'	early; 7-8" flat heads with fine beaded blue-green florets.	mild, delicate flavor with tender flesh; heads up uniformly; can grow fall and spring crops; very reliable.
CUCUMBER 'BUSH PICKLER'	early pickler; 4-5" dark green fruit; compact space saver.	produces more than we can give away; great for pickling and to eat fresh.
EGGPLANT 'DOURGA'	an attractive ornamental with shiny white fruit; 6" long; vigorous plant, so give plenty of room.	bears profusely through the growing season; excellent table-quality fruit. Once you try this one, you'll never go back to purple; my favorite.
LETTUCE 'IBIS'	crinkly leaves, keeps flavor longer in hot weather than other varieties; more vigorous than other red leaf types.	produces more leaves than most lettuces on attractive flat-headed plants; looks stunning in a salad; color is deep red to almost black; one of the best-tasting, rich and sweet; produces until extreme hot weather.
SWEET PEPPER 'LILAC'	plants are vigorous, loaded with medium-size fruit; may need staking to support heavy fruiting. foliage provides good cover against sunscald.	blocky 3"-5" fruits in lovely shades of lavender; fine flavor, crispness; interiors are ivory. turns red with maturity.

FLOWERS

NAME, TYPE, SEASON	PROFILE	PERFORMANCE
<i>Ageratum</i> 'BLUE HORIZON' Annual: blooms through summer and fall, until frost	midblue blossoms with sturdy 18" stems. free-flowering, branching habit. excellent cut flower.	heat- and drought-tolerant.
<i>Calendula</i> 'TOUCH OF RED' Annual: blooms best in cool temperatures.	dwarf free-flowering and bushy. outstanding fall colors of orange and yellow with flashes of red.	above average heat- and weather-tolerant.
<i>Celosia</i> 'FLAMINGO PURPLE' Annual: blooms in late summer.	feathery purple plumes with dark red stems and leaves. could be used as a backdrop foliage plant. also used for drying.	starts out slow, but takes off in the hot days of summer.

RECOMMENDATIONS for NORTH CAROLINA PIEDMONT GARDENERS

THE EARLY part of this century, the Reynolda farm and gardens were often the site of educational presentations for the public. The philosophy of the founders of Reynolda Gardens continues today as the staff demonstrates productive and environmentally-responsible horticultural practices, educating visitors on reliable and interesting plants they can grow in their own gardens.

Forsyth County is in Zone 7 but, because of the geography of the county, there are locations where plants from other zones can be grown. While geography creates an area that is interesting for gardeners, wide variations in microclimates and seasonable variables create challenges even for experienced gardeners.

The formal gardens are the site of the test and display gardens. There, staff horticulturists provide the best possible conditions for the cultivation of plants, then determine which plants perform well in our area and which grow poorly. Plants are grown in the garden so that visitors can observe plants in all stages of growth, gaining a true picture of each plant's growth. By contrast, many public gardens grow plants in holding areas and transport them to the garden at the peak of bloom. At Reynolda, horticulturists sometimes leave a few poorly performing plants in the garden for educational purposes or to give them time to become established. Horticulturists often leave selected plants in the garden past traditional harvest time in order to demonstrate plant life cycles for student visitors. 🌱

Recommendations on plants and varieties are made on the basis of the staff horticulturists' experience in growing plants at Reynolda and other locations in Forsyth County.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY BY
REYNOLDA GARDENS OF
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Communications about Gardens development should be addressed to Preston Stockton. Correspondence concerning *The Gardener's Journal* should be addressed to Camilla Wilcox, editor.

Early photographs and letters courtesy of Reynolda House Archives. Other photographs by Lee Runion and Preston Stockton.

A calendar of events is published separately in January and September.

Designed by Catherine M. Horne

For a list of sources for plants mentioned in *The Gardener's Journal*, please send a SASE to Reynolda Gardens, 100 Reynolda Village, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.



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NAME, TYPE, SEASON

PROFILE

PERFORMANCE

LANTANA 'PURPLE TRAILING'
Tender perennial: blooms late spring until frost. blooms heaviest after trimming.

treat as an annual in the Piedmont. cascade habit with loads of small purple blooms. use in containers, hanging baskets, or rock garden.

heat- and drought-tolerant. full sun.

LAURENTIA AXILLARIS (BLUE STARS)
Annual: blooms late summer until frost

fine foliage, sky blue star-shaped blooms; excellent for the front of the border.

seems to be heat-tolerant. had some pest problems, but I liked it well enough to try again.

LEONURUS (LION'S EAR)
Tender perennial: blooms late summer until frost.

decorative middle or back of border plant with tall spikes of fluorescent orange-lipped flowers in whorls. wonderful fall color; good cut flower; dries well.

heat-tolerant, slow-growing until hot summer days begin.

NICOTIANA GLAUCA
Perennial: seems to bloom in the garden late summer or fall. planted in the garden late, so the sooner planted the better.

decorative blue-green foliage plant for back of the border; 6-8 feet tall; distinctive cultivar with branching stems; mustard yellow blooms.

tolerant of heat and happy in dappled shade.

PANSY 'ULTIMA SILHOUETTE MIX'
Biennial: blooms best in cooler temperatures.

soft pastels in delicate shades and clear tones of white, pink, and lavender. Everyone who saw this at Reynolda fell in love with it.

performed well both fall and spring, a lot of bang for the buck.

Salvia NYMPH SERIES 'CORAL AND SNOW'
Annual: begins in midsummer, recovers quickly after dead-heading, blooms until frost.

prolific bloomer 2-3 feet tall (semi-dwarf). striking new colors in salvia: brilliant salmon coral and a pure white.

performs well in sun or part shade; mildew-resistant; needs dead-heading throughout the season.

SALVIA VAN HOUTTEI
Tender perennial: begins in midsummer but bursts into bloom in early fall.

4-5 feet tall. outstanding fluorescent color of red with hues of orange and burgundy. No fall garden should be without this plant, one of my favorites.

grows best in full sun; becomes leggy in too much shade. Plant in late spring for an outstanding show of color.

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