

The Memphis Horticultural Society
PO Box 11665
Memphis, TN 38111
www.memphishorticulture.org

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Clippings

August 2011

MHS Welcomes Buddy Lee, Inventor of the Encore Azalea

Landscapes throughout the MHS area burst into color more than a few weeks a year because of the horticultural genius of our August presenter. Robert (Buddy) Lee, the inventor of Encore Azalea®, will be our speaker.

Buddy will present "Along the Azalea Trail" for the MHS at our 7:00 pm meeting on Tuesday, August 2 at the MBG. He will also provide some background information that he and the Southern Living crew use during plant development process

During the day, Buddy will have a noon program at the MBG on "Urban Plants for Small Spaces".

Lee has more than 30 years of experience in nursery management, breeding, propagation, and new plant development.

Past president of The Azalea Society of America and past president of the Louisiana Nurseryman's Association Region III, Lee's current role is Director of Plant Innovations at PDSI (Plant Development Services Inc.) in Loxley, Ala.

PDSI, specializing in bringing new innovative plants to market, is responsible for both Encore Azalea® and the new Southern Living™ Plant Collection, www.SouthernLivingPlants.com. The Encore Azalea®, is the only azalea to bloom in spring, summer and fall.



Anecdote of the Jar

by Wallace Stevens

I placed a jar in Tennessee
And round, it was, upon a hill.
It made the slovenly wilderness
Surround that hill.

The wilderness rose up to it,
And sprawled around, no longer wild.
The jar was round, upon the ground
And tall and of a port in air.

It took dominion every where.
The jar was gray and bare.
It did not give of bird or bush,
Like nothing else in Tennessee

Moral of the story: A pot, planted or empty, makes the landscape surround it.



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Barry McCalla

Newsletter Submissions:
Mhort.newsletter@gmail.com
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CAROL REESE.....What Else Can I Say?

by Ginny Fletcher

Our July speaker, the infamous Carol Reese, once again exceeded our expectations. Her topic, Creating Memorable Garden Vignettes, was excellent; however, the computer down-time was most likely the best part of the evening. Carol worked her magic around the poem, *Anecdote of the Jar* by Wallace Stevens. (See back cover.)

Thanks to Carol for sharing the following helpful hints:

- Use statuary judiciously and appropriately for your home and lifestyle.
- Paths add line and discipline to your chaotic collections.
- Furniture can be the art form.
- Plant combos – contrast dark and light, fine texture with bold, vertical or formal shapes with sprawling ones.
- Sometimes letting the tree lean is the magical effect.
- Paint something (background or focal point) to compliment or contrast with special plants.
- Frame the view with structure or limbed up arching, leaning or weeping trees.

Thanks to Carol for a most memorable evening



**PRESIDENT'S
LETTER**
-ALLAN WELLS

At our next meeting on August 2, The Southern Living plant guy, Buddy Lee, will give a presentation revolving around his creation, the Encore Azalea®. He will have a program during the day for Memphis Botanic Gardens. Please come out and support the Horticultural Society and the Memphis Botanic Gardens.

PICNIC ALERT

For the September meeting, we will have an indoor picnic in the Goldsmith Room on September 6 at 6:00.

Diane Meucci of Gardens Oy Vey will be our Speaker.

Don Klotwog will be grilling just outside.

Each member is asked to bring a picnic dish of his/her choosing – appetizer, salad, entrée or dessert – to share. Beverages will be provided. Also, please bring at least one plant, but more if you can, to exchange. Please remember that this event will start an hour earlier than usual. Everyone is such a good cook: I can hardly wait for the Picnic.

We look forward to seeing you at 7 p.m. August 2 for Buddy Lee and 6 pm on Tuesday, September 6th for Diane Meucci and our annual picnic.

This past meeting Carol Reese presented “Stunning Vignettes and Killer Combinations.” A beautiful presentation of design for all different types of garden setting. Her program exhibited an excellent view of how to use color combination and creative garden items to get the best effects in different settings. She brought a breath of fresh ideas for all the gardeners to use in their gardens and yards.

Carol is now building her new home and discussed how she is trying to make it environment friendly to all the critters around the home and garden. She provided information and details about the “ Summer Celebration” at the experimental station in Jackson this month.

Zinnia's For The Masses

Zinnias are just about the perfect flower. You don't have to have a green thumb to grow them. You just need a little space, a little fertilizer, some seeds, a lot of sunshine, a little water now and then, and a little faith and patience.

They come in all sizes, shapes, heights, and colors and are profuse and prolific bloomers. They are hardy and need little care other than watering. They do not need weeding as weeds do not grow under them if planted close enough together, just like squash in your garden. <http://www.uvm.edu/pss/ppp/articles/zinnias.htm>

As soon as the ground warms up around the first of May, cover the soil with a few inches of organic material and till that in to a depth of about three to four inches. Hand scatter the seeds, then walk them for good seed-to-soil contact, and keep them damp until they sprout and have the first set of true leaves.

My favorites are White Wedding, Green Envy, and any of the Dahlia or Pompon cultivars. Truth is I like them all, like Julio Iglesias sang in *To All The Girls I've Loved Before*. Wikipedia says there are twenty species in the Zinnia genus and over a hundred cultivars. You gotta find something you like in all that. <http://www.crosmansseed.com/zinnia.htm>

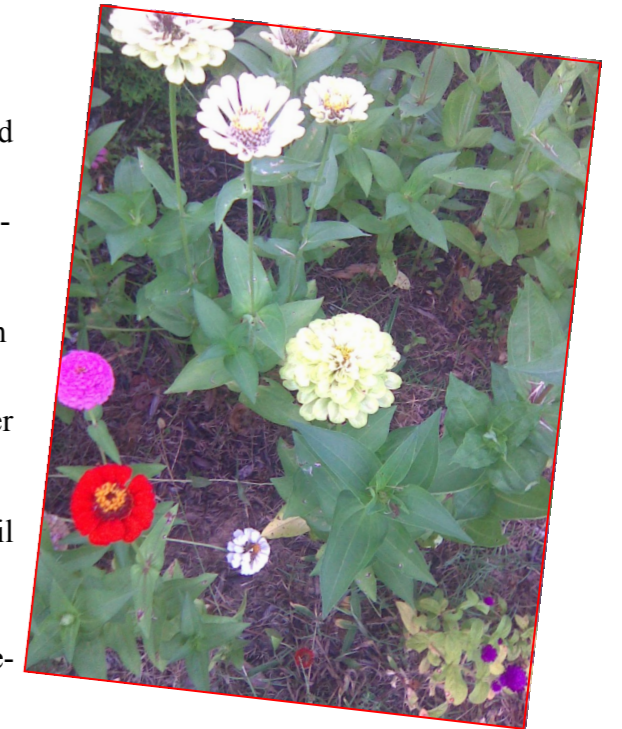
My in-laws in the Hurricane community of northwest Pontotoc county MS, Ralph and Opal Graham, planted the most beautiful beds of zinnias I have ever seen. That is what got me interested. Folks driving by would sometimes stop and admire them – the zinnias and my in-laws.

As beautiful as the flowers are, they also attract bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, bluebirds, and goldfinches for yet more color and interest.

This year the Director of Parks and Recreation here in Dragonville let me conduct a demonstration and experiment. His workers prepared a hundred foot bed in the middle of a median at the north end of Peterson Lake Rd, and I agreed to plant and tend the zinnias if they would water them whenever they watered the grass in the median.

So far it has been a huge success. Just hope no one wrecks while admiring the flowers which are now in full bloom and covered in bees and other pollinators. I have put in very little money and effort, and have shown what could be done in grassy medians both to add more beauty and interest and to save money by not having to mow. Now to convince them to plant an entire median.

Just me dreaming again, but I wish we had a local Zinnia Enthusiast and Sharing Team (ZEST). We could share knowledge, seeds, and transplants, and we could save money by buying seeds in bulk and sharing. But Mimi says I don't need yet another nonpaying job. Any volunteers to organize this?



Thanks To Our Members, MHS Meetings Are Events!

A big MHS salute for the people who brought food to July's meeting: Pat Allen, Betty Blaylock, Barbara Bounds, Dinny Costen, June Davidson, Judy Dean, Vicki Duggins, Hugh Durden, Josie Elousua, Carolyn Evans, Ginny Fletcher, Betty Griffin, Marylane Johnson, Joan Knight, Gerlene Lifer, Paul Little, Fern Mann, Mary Clyde McKnight, Tina McWhorter, Jeannine Melkent, Linda Milbradt, Donna Stringer, Cornelia Swain, Barbara Warren, Rosa Woody. The book was won by Linda Milbradt.

Centerpiece was done by Donna Olswing with material provided by Dixon Gallery and Gardens.

The plant material used in the centerpiece:

- Millet 'Baron'
- Coneflower 'Pink Double Delight'
- Hydrangea 'Lime Light' and 'Roman'
- Lavender,
- Boston fern 'Rita's Gold'.

The centerpiece was won by Jeannine Melkent



Ain't God good!
Carl Wayne Hardeman