



# The Express

VOLUME III ISSUE I

Winter 2006

## Our Mission

The mission of the Olympus Garden Club is to promote and support the love of gardening, floral arranging, landscape design, horticulture, plant research and environmental improvement by providing education, resources, networking and leadership opportunities to our members and the community.

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## Garden Catalogs and Literacy

No matter what chore I did when my daughter was smaller, my every action seemed to fire her curiosity. "Mommy, what are you doing? Can I do it? Can I help?" She often crawled into my lap or grabbed a hold of my legs, to get my attention. I used the opportunities to teach her to read.

Late fall into early spring is a time when gardeners thumb through the pages of gardening catalogs that seem to exist just to tempt the cash out of our wallets. Many catalogs are very informative with

We attended a beekeeping workshop last fall and got a brief lesson on the structure and life in the society of bees, on beehive construction, and the safety precautions necessary in the steps before during and after approaching the hive to remove honey. Robert Florin, our president and workshop participant, got the opportunity to don the protective garb required for working with bees and was able to get really up close and personal with the hive after they waited until dusk and used the smoker to pacify them. It was fascinating!

How many times as gardeners, we announce in disgust that some much-favored vegetable did not do well?

One of the many answers to that question is bees, because, they are the number one economic insect and pollinator in the world. They are absolutely necessary to our existence and we need to create and maintain an environment that will make them feel at home. The reward is that they reduce our workload



by pollinating our plants, resulting, in an abundant harvest.

I know many gardeners who would do a streak if a bee came close to them and they have good reason. A bee sting, especially if you are allergic, is no picnic on the beach. However, I have learned a few things, one of them is not to wear bright colored clothing while gardening. This allows me to peacefully share their space. So! Bees and beekeeping, that is what is new and exciting.

**S. Stephens**

clear descriptions, beautiful pictures, and garden tips.

Garden catalogs can serve as a fun way to teach or to learn for the beginning reader. Consider that the pictures are usually pretty, bright, and eye-catching. The child/ren can sit beside you, (while you ponder on how to spend your money) and help you decide what and where in the garden to plant. While you're at it, you can help improve their literacy skills.

For a pre-reader, ask them if they see any letters or words that they know. No matter what they say, answer, "Of course you do.

What is this letter/word?" Pointing out the letters of the alphabet as you spell out the words, in or under the pictures, can be a fun way to show them that they know some things that the big people know.

As the child names the letters or sounds, you, the adult can read the entire word and slowly pronounce the letter exactly as it sounds in the word. You can say combined letters as in phonics, the same way. If they recognize a rose, say as you point to each letter, "Yes. R-o-s-e. Rose. You got it!!"

For example, Rrr-oh-sss-

eeh - rose; or sss-nnn-aaa-ppp-ddd-rr- aa-gg-o uh-nnn = snapdragon or sn-ap-dr-ag-on.

For a beginning reader, finding the small words contained in larger words can be exciting. Saying the phonetic sounds or combination of sounds, while pointing out the words and letters, is helpful in getting across the concept of phonics and sounding out words.

You can make the lesson into a game when you ask the child to use the pointing finger to point out the little words found in a larger word. Watch the pride in

*(Cont'd on page 4)*

## President's Message

The rather long and dry summer gave way to a pleasant but all-too-short autumn, followed by a premature blast of winter. Just a few weeks ago it seemed as if the growing season would never end. Changing foliage and a gradual decline in temperature was the only reminder that things were progressing as usual. As much as we would wish to control this cycle and let it go on without interruption, we were made clearly aware of inevitable change—the seasonal cycle.

A gardener dreams and plans for the gardening season to come. In winter we pour through catalogues, perhaps fantasizing about a new world, a microcosm of green over which we are

the sole purveyors. In this world we are in complete control, or so we believe. In our little world of borders, raised beds and tree pits all would be perfect and serene, nicely controlled for the benefit of all.

The reality of gardening forces us to realize that there are many variables that must be dealt with. Weather and weeds, squirrels, insects, disease, and many more unforeseen events and processes will affect our vision, changing or even ruining it. In gardening, as in the rest of life, we have the power to replace the old with the new, the unwanted with something more desirable, however, other natural forces have the power to replace it all.

In our own lives we are constantly reminded of the changes over which there is no control. We, each of us, as living beings, make our very brief appearance. As humans, at least, we can marvel at this creation, awaiting the new season and the first signs of spring.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HAPPY GARDENING TO ALL!

**Robert Florin, President**



We received two Club Recognition awards at the District II, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State fall meeting and luncheon for the work we did in 2005. **NEWS**

We are members of the local, state, and national federation of garden clubs. These awards were from our district and the New York State federation.

## Olympus' Harry Potter Word Scramble

Albus	A	S	C	X	Q	U	I	X	T	T	T	X	P	I	N	N	M	N	V	C
Beater 	C	C	S	A	V	V	S	L	Y	T	H	E	R	I	N	R	W	R	V	E
Broom	C	C	C	X	X	Y	S	W	S	T	L	L	L	C	S	R	W	R	N	T
Dursley	Z	H	A	R	R	Y	P	O	T	T	E	R	R	R	S	S	R	R	J	J
Ghost	H	O	H	F	G	K	K	J	R	V	G	V	O	S	S	N	R	T	M	C
Goblin	W	G	V	V	H	H	G	W	O	Q	K	V	O	N	N	V	E	G	S	Z
Golden snitch	Z	W	A	N	D	V	H	J	L	K	J	J	A	G	N	V	K	S	S	U
Hagrid	V	A	Q	W	Q	Q	K	J	L	T	X	P	M	G	G	G	E	J	Z	Q
Harry potter	B	R	O	O	M	X	H	D	H	H	E	R	M	I	O	N	E	Z	D	J
Hermione	B	T	Q	Z	A	X	C	D	J	J	X	D	D	D	L	X	S	T	O	K
Hogwarts	B	S	G	G	L	L	T	D	R	R	D	N	X	D	D	C	D	D	R	R
Malfoy	B	V	V	V	F	V	I	D	B	B	U	N	X	N	E	V	I	L	L	E
Muggle	G	G	G	V	O	L	D	E	M	O	R	T	H	H	N	K	X	L	X	T
Neville	H	G	Q	Z	Y	Q	D	E	X	K	S	G	Q	K	S	K	Q	L	Z	A
Owl 	L	L	Q	H	Q	Q	I	Z	J	K	L	L	Q	K	N	G	G	P	Q	E
Potion	L	V	E	L	G	G	U	M	K	X	E	L	N	O	I	T	O	P	G	B
Quidditch	J	J	V	J	H	L	Q	M	R	T	Y	S	S	S	T	T	B	P	J	K
Ron	J	L	M	Q	O	Q	M	M	L	P	G	J	G	X	C	J	L	X	L	H
Seeker	A	L	B	U	S	Q	Q	H	U	D	I	R	G	A	H	V	I	P	G	H
Slytherin	Q	Z	Z	Z	T	K	J	H	H	H	P	J	J	Z	H	N	N	V	R	R
Snake																				
Snape																				
Troll																				
Voldemort																				
Wand																				
<b>R. Murray</b>																				

Whether the thread is protecting our forests, our water supply or acknowledging the role plants play in our health and wellbeing, it continues to be woven throughout the fantasy novels that we have become fans of in recent years.

In the here and now, this thread reminds us that we need to maintain our focus on preservation, waste reduction, food security, hunger, pollution and all the other issues that affect our lives on a daily basis.

As you continue to enjoy the many privileges we have available to us, please remember this thread. Keep it unbroken.

**S. Stephens**

Click **Our Newsletter** link at <http://www.olympusgardenclub.org> for the answer to the scramble.



(Catalogs cont'd from page 1) their eyes when you say, "Oh. Look, you're reading!"

Say, "Look at this word and see if you can find a word you know or if you see something you can read." For example:

Butterfly makes them chuckle. It sounds naughty. For example, butterfly = but or butt, butter, fly. Snapdragon gives you - snap, a, nap, drag, rag, go, on.

Tomato has - to, tom, ma, mat, at, to.

Even eggplant gives up - egg, plan, an, plant, ant.

Don't forget watermelon - water, at, ate, term, me, on, melon.

There are several catalogs from which to choose. Some of my favorite catalogs include the Cook's Catalog and Growing Native Plants (Australia)

Make it a good day.

C. L. Charles-King

### Over-Wintering Geraniums

#### Three Methods

##### Indoors in containers

If you still have some unfrozen geraniums around (having taken them indoors), you can still use them next season. First cut them back to about half of their original size. Move them into containers using potting mix instead of garden soil. Place in a cool location with direct sunlight. Water well after potting and as needed when soil begins to dry. Pinch back shoot tips as needed to prevent weak growth. Before bringing plants outside in May, fertilize lightly.

##### Taking cuttings from outdoor plants

These plants root easily from cuttings. Remove a 3 to 4-inch section of the stem tip with a sharp

knife. Pinch off leaves from the lower half of the cutting and dip the cut ends into rooting hormone. (Rooting hormones are available at garden centers).

Place cuttings in a moist, porous, well-drained rooting medium such as coarse sand or perlite. Make sure your pot or container has holes for drainage.

To maximize the ideal humid environment, place a clear plastic bag over the cuttings and container using some wire from coat hangers to keep the plastic from touching the cuttings.

Place covered cuttings in bright indirect light. Check the container or pot to insure that it remains evenly moist. Rooting should occur in 6 to 8 weeks. After roots are about one inch long, transplant into 3 to 4-inch containers with a standard potting soil and place in a sunny window. Water as needed.

Pinch shoot tips back to force branching and prevent spindly growth.

##### Dormant storage

Plants may also be stored in the dormant stage. To do this, remove plants from soil before frost and shake soil from roots. Place plants in open paper bags in a cool dark location. The ideal temperature should be 45-50°

Two or three times during winter take plants out of bags and soak roots in water for 1-2 hours. Inspect plants and discard shriveled stems.

Pot up healthy looking geraniums in containers in late March or early April. It takes several weeks for new growth to emerge.

R. Florin

### Our Monthly Meeting Schedule

January 12, 2006

Time to Plan

February 9, 2006

Time to Plan: Continued

March 9, 2006

Propagation: Starting from Seed

April 13, 2006

Spring Gardening

Please check our website for last minute changes or cancellations.

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### Word Scramble Answer

S	Q	Q	T	D	G	H	Q	S	Q
U	T	J	L	T	A	T	J	Y	J
G	C	M	V	B	V	Y	Q	M	J
S	G	J	V	D	W	S	Q	M	J
U	N	S	N	O	L	S	H	M	J
G	H	L	Z	B	A	H	F	M	J
U	N	W	B	L	N	N	K	M	J
L	H	Q	O	A	N	Q	Q	M	J
L	A	A	O	N	Z	X	O	M	J
K	H	U	T	C	T	J	D	M	J
S	L	I	S	T	E	J	O	M	J
D	O	N	B	J	U	V	T	M	J
S	W	Q	W	S	P	H	F	M	J
S	O	A	O	L	C	A	A	M	J
S	W	U	S	L	M	E	I	M	J
S	R	I	B	F	V	B	A	M	J
S	R	N	W	Q	V	H	R	M	J
S	R	W	X	Q	V	A	C	M	J
S	R	N	X	Q	K	E	Y	M	J
S	R	N	B	Q	K	C	K	M	J