



*President's Message.....Olivia Ford*

Well, our new gardening year is off to a busy start. Last Friday, the board members, the new members, and their mentors enjoyed a delightful welcoming and getting acquainted luncheon at the home of Dede Bethke. She did a fabulous job and her seasonal decor was delightful! Many, many thanks to you Dede!

On Sunday we had our fundraiser sale during the plantation Trash and Treasure sale. I want to thank all those that helped with the sale and those that donated the plants, the decorative containers, and the designs.

Sorta ironic, on 10-13, we netted a profit of \$313 dollars!

All of us working together is not only profitable for our club, but also enjoyable companionship with our members. I look forward to many more happy times together. We not only "grow plants" we also "grow friendships".

Keep on Blossoming!!



Next meeting October 18 at 9:30 at Spring Lake Pavilion

The field trip to the Three Sisters Organic Farm has been cancelled. However, the farm will be *brought to us* through a slide show presentation by Mary Connor.

Come hear about the “three sisters — Mary Connor, Beth Lee, and Priscilla Coleman — who created Three Sisters Farm on family land in Beaufort County’s Calhoun Plantation. The entire property is in a conservation easement, so planting a farm seemed like a natural way to use the acreage.

Three Sisters Farm is certified organic, growing a wide variety of vegetables, herbs, and greens like arugula, kale, baby broccoli florets, cabbage, as well as daffodils and other flowers.

They sell to local restaurants and run a small CSA, and have booths at the Port Royal and Bluffton farmers markets. The sisters also sell through the Sea Islands Local Outlet, better known as SILO.”

Hope to see you at Friday’s meeting.

Horticulture, Birding and Jr. Gardeners columns to return next month.

*The following is reprinted from the Clemson University HGIC website.*



***Fothergilla*** species are deciduous, Eastern US natives that are truly spectacular, four-season shrubs. In early April the white, 1½ to 3-inch tall, bottle-brush blooms appear with their delightful, honey-like fragrance. Flowers typically last for 2 to 3 weeks, and then are replaced by beautiful, green to blue-green, quilt-like foliage. *Fothergilla* leaves are extremely similar to those of witchhazels, which are in the same plant family.

*Fothergilla* species and cultivars flower best when sited in full sun and also develop the most brilliant fall color. However, without weekly irrigation in the heat of South Carolina summers, fothergilla may perform better in part-shade, especially morning and early afternoon sun, coupled with late afternoon shade. They thrive in areas that have moist, but well-drained soils. They are reported to be deer resistant. Plants sucker to form colonies. Pruning, if necessary, should be done immediately after flowering in late April.



The fall brings the showiest display for fothergilla, and every year seems to be slightly different. During November, the frost-tolerant foliage takes on golden-yellows, bright oranges or intense reds, or combinations of all. Weather conditions greatly influence the autumn coloration each year, with the amount of sunlight, rainfall and temperatures all playing a role. Once the autumn foliage is gone, the interesting zig-zag branch habit of these upright, small shrubs is seen and adds to winter interest.



Because of the need for acidic soils, acid-forming fertilizers are the best to use. Examples of complete organic fertilizers for acid-requiring plants are Espoma Holly-Tone or Fertrell Holly Care. A soil test can help determine the best fertilizer to choose. *Fothergilla* species are typically slow growing shrubs. To encourage faster growth, fertilize twice during the spring, such as on April 1<sup>st</sup> and again in mid-May to cover the main spring growing period. Apply mulch to landscape beds.

Once established, witch alders are relatively drought tolerant, but will benefit from irrigation during periods of summer drought. They are very cold hardy and the fall is the best time to plant shrubs in order to quickly become well established.

For more information, refer to fact sheet 1093 on the Clemson website: [Clemson.edu/hgic](http://Clemson.edu/hgic)

*Healthy Eating.....Anna Broecker*

TEXAS CAVIAR (Oldie but Goodie!)

- 2 cans Buck's Black eyed peas with Jalapenos -- drained and rinsed
- 1 can Rotel diced tomatoes with green chilis (drain off excess liquid)
- 3/4 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1 red onion, chopped
- 2 avocados diced
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/2 cup Kraft Zesty Italian Dressing



Mix all, chill and serve with Scoops from Tosti-Scoops corn chips (gluten free)

dos or



Photo submitted by Sandy Stern



Coming in November  
The Secret Life of Trees

Sally Krebs  
Certified Arborist

"A perennial is a plant that would have come back  
year after year if it had survived."  
(Unknown)

Save the date  
Tuesday, December 10  
HOLIDAY PARTY

Deadline for submitting articles for this newsletter is the second Sunday of the month.

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