

The Growing Scene Gazette

The Growing Scene, Inc. 17009 Harmony Rd, Marengo, Illinois 60152

Volume 12, Issue 1

April 2007

CELEBRATING OUR 12TH YEAR!

By Kathleen Carr

A new year, a new facility! This year's theme is expansion! We have been planning for a Garden Center expansion for 4 years. This year we will proudly unveil Phase I of our expansion on April 13. We have doubled our greenhouse space. We have also added heat and ventilation to our greenhouses. Our outside display area has been reconfigured and improved. Our bulk materials area will be paved. Our Premium, double processed hardwood mulch, pulverized top soil and premium mushroom compost will all be available for your inspection and purchase. We will also have a much larger selec-

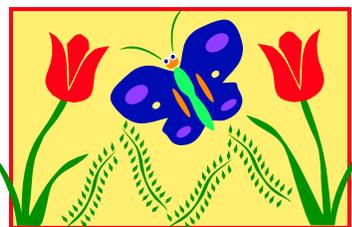
tion of bagged mulch, rock and sand. Melissa, our garden center manager and I have spent many days looking through wholesale gardening gift catalogs looking for a variety of merchandise to stock our store. We hope you like what we have purchased and encourage you to stop and shop. It has also always been a dream of mine to have a store mascot of sorts. 30 years ago on a family vacation to Colorado we stopped in a unique hardware store. They had a cat that acted as a greeter to all customers. I have always wanted to have a cat at our store to serve the same purpose. This Spring we introduce "Petunia" our kitty and

welcoming committee. Just the idea of another kitty in our family makes my children scream with glee and my husband cringe. Please stop by and say "Hi" to us and Petunia. Our Landscaping Staff continues to offer the highest quality services. In this day and age when time is of a premium to all of us, consider placing 1 call to us and let us take care of all of your yard work. From general yard clean up to complete landscape design and installation we do it all! Be sure to check out page 2 for more details.

**Don't Miss Our
Spring Open House
May 5th & 6th**

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WELCOME DELICE! By Delice Clewer

Hi, I am Delice Clewer. I have lived in Roscoe, Illinois for around 14 years now. I have two teenage girls, Justine, who is 17 and graduating this year, and Nicole, who is 15 and loves playing soccer.

I am currently attending Kishwaukee College to get

my associates degree in Landscape Design. I plan on graduating next spring. I have done landscape maintenance for four years, and also worked on the retail end of a nursery. All together, I have 6-7 years of experience in the landscape field.

I don't have too many hobbies, I usually end up work-

ing out in the yard when I am home. I do like to bike ride and go camping and fishing. I recently got engaged and plan on getting married next June.

I look forward to working for The Growing Scene and getting to know everyone.

Dates to Remember:

- April 22-Earth Day
- April 27-Arbor Day
- May 5th & 6th Spring Open House
- May 13th-Mother's Day
- May 28th-Memorial Day

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

By Kathleen Carr

It has become a rite of Spring. The Annual Spring Open House will be held this year on Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6. Please plan on attending. It is a time to catch up on the family news, visit with your neighbors and check out the new plant varieties. We will be open both days from 9:00-5:00. This year we are very excited to be offering Gardening Seminars each afternoon. We are thrilled to be able to host 6 very well respected speakers from some of the top nurseries in Northern Illinois. We will begin with coffee and doughnuts in the morning and move right into chips and pop in the afternoon. Free Drawings will be held both days. We look forward to seeing you there!

"One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides." W. E. Johns



OPEN HOUSE

SEMINAR SCHEDULE:

Saturday, May 5th

- **1pm-B & K Power Equipment**
Speaker: Bob Kellor
Topic: How to maintain and safely operate your power garden and lawn equipment
- **2pm-Beeson's McHenry Nursery**
Speaker: Mary McClelland
Topic: Edible trees and shrubs
- **3pm- Just the Best**
Speaker: Diane Bell
Topic: Adding Pizzazz to your Container Garden

Sunday, May 6th

- **1pm- HOFFIE NURSERY**
Speaker: Marlene Frisbie
Topic: New Perennials for the Garden
- **2pm-Rich's Foxwillow Pines**
Speakers: Rich & Susan Eyre
Topic: Dwarf Conifer Plants & Sun & Soil Requirements
- **3pm-Midwest Groundcovers**
Speaker: Kevin McGowen
Topic: New & Underused Perennials

Dennis Tilicks from Aspen Valley will be on hand both days to answer any questions regarding types of and uses for mulch.

Earth Day Coloring Contest

Earth Day is Sunday, April 22.

This day is set aside to reflect on our planet Mother Earth. It has been a recognized holiday for over twenty-five years.

In honor of Earth Day, the Growing Scene, Inc. is hosting a Children's Coloring Contest. Coloring Packets can be picked up at the Garden Center from April 16-28. All entries must be turned in by 5:00 pm on Saturday, April 28. All entries will be judged on Sunday, April 29, with the winners being called the next day, April 30. Children will be competing in four age categories: 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-13. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each of the categories.

Please stop by and pick up a packet soon!



SPRING LAWN AND GARDEN ACTIVITIES

By Kathleen Carr

As if you didn't have enough to do-just a few suggestions for your Spring gardening list of things to do...

April

- Thoroughly clean up yard. Remove winter debris from planting areas and lawn.
- Evaluate perennial flowers. Divide and move as necessary.
- Rake and cultivate your lawn. Consider core-aeration if you have a thick layer of thatch.

- Re-seed areas as necessary
- Apply lawn fertilizer as needed
- Consider putting down Preen, a pre-emergent herbicide in your mulch areas.
- Apply crabgrass preventer if necessary

May

- Plant Trees and Shrubs
- After about Mother's Day it should be safe to plant Annual flowers outside
- Prune Spring flowering shrubs and trees after they are done

flowering.

- Cultivate and mulch around flowers, shrubs and trees
- **Enjoy your yard!**



CICADA EMERGENCE 2007 **VOLE CONTROL**

By Kathleen Carr

By Kathleen Carr

This Summer thousands of Cicadas will emerge from their 17 years below ground. Although, the noise from the male Cicada can be annoying, they do not sting or bite. They are benign to humans.

They live as adult Cicadas for about 2 months. Adult Cicadas are usually 1-2" long and can only fly up to 1/2 of a mile. After the Cicadas emerge they will mate and lay eggs. After the eggs hatch, the nymphs feed on tree roots. When the nymph is fully grown(17 years later) the Cicada emerges from the ground and starts the life cycle over again.

Due to the nature of their life cycle, the Cicadas presence will be more in older subdivisions. The removal of top soil prior to new home construction should result in a decreased presence of Cicadas in new home subdivisions.

Cicadas are not considered a pest and no insecticide is necessary when they are present. On the contrary, many people around the world regularly eat Cicadas. Some say they taste not like chicken, but almonds.

I have the privilege to walk around hundreds of homes and yards each summer. As much as I try desperately to treat each home and yard as a separate entity I start to see a lot of similarities. This past week I visited with 15 homeowners(it was a slow week, Spring Break for my children), Next week I will visit at least 23 homes.

The similarities this time of the year are Vole and Rabbit damage. Unfortunately, Rabbits and Voles are responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage to our yards. I will write more about Rabbit damage in our June newsletter.

The Prairie Vole is the particular type of Vole that is common in the Midwest. It is 5-7" long with coarse grayish brown hair. It has short legs and a short tail.

Evidence of Vole damage usually appears in the form of dead

grass in the lawn. Prairie Voles develop well defined "runways" above and below ground. If you look carefully it looks like something has been tunneling under your lawn. Voles can also gnaw on trees, but I rarely see evidence of this.

Voles reproduce rapidly. A fully grown mole develops only 2 months after birth. The average life of a vole is 3-6 months.

There are commercially available Vole Bait products. We will have them available at our garden center.

If you do have Vole damage in your lawn, it usually repairs itself pretty quickly in the Spring. If the damage is extensive, you may want to rake away the dead grass, fill the ruts in with top soil and spread grass seed over the area.

GRANDMA' RECIPE BOOK

From Grandpa's Garden to Grandma's Kitchen

By Jean Britton

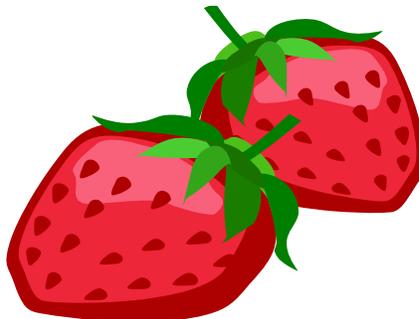
STRAWBERRY AND PRETZEL CRUST

Ingredients:

1(9oz) bag pretzels, crushed
3 T. sugar
3/4 c. margarine
1(8oz) pkg. Cream cheese
1 c. sugar
1(8oz) carton Cool Whip
1(6 oz) pkg. Strawberry Jell-O
2 c. fresh Strawberries, sliced

Cream margarine and 3 T. sugar. Add pretzels and pat into a 9x13 inch pan. Bake 10 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool. Cream 1 cup sugar and cream

cheese. Blend in Cool Whip. Pour over pretzel crust and refrigerate. Dissolve Jell-O in 2 cups boiling water. Add berries, cool until slightly thickened and pour over cream cheese layer. Refrigerate until firm.



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND HOURS

Memorial Day weekend is usually a great weekend to spend gardening! We will be open on Saturday, May 26 from 9-6, Sunday May 27 from 10-5 and Monday, May 28 from 10-4. Please celebrate and remember those who have fought and died for our country. Remember-we are open on Memorial Day!



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Hours:
Monday-Saturday 9-6
Sunday 10-5



***A Garden Center and
Landscaping Company***

**JOIN US FOR OUR SPRING OPEN HOUSE, SATURDAY, MAY 5th
AND SUNDAY, MAY 6th FROM 9:00AM-6:00PM
REFRESHMENTS, SPECIAL SALES AND GIVE-AWAYS!**

The Growing Scene Gazette, is a publication of **The Growing Scene, Inc.** **The Growing Scene** is a garden center and landscaping company located at 17009 Harmony Road, Marengo. The phone number is 815-923-7322.

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