



MARIANNE BINETTI
On Gardening

It's warm-up time for gardeners

The end of April means the start of the warm-season garden.

It may still be too early to set out heat-loving plants such as tomatoes, geraniums and marigolds, but you can continue to seed cool-season carrots, lettuce, kale, radish and cabbage into the vegetable garden. In your flower garden, add flowering vines such as clematis and roses and all types of shrubs, from evergreen conifers to fully blooming rhododendrons, and

from fragrant lilacs to ground-hugging heathers.

If you're planning a new landscape or improving a garden bed, here are the most asked reader questions to help your dreaming and scheming:

Question: I want something in bloom all year long in my garden. I have tried growing perennials but can't seem to keep the weeds out of the beds or the plants staked up properly when they bloom. I think shrubs will be less work. What flowering shrubs do

you suggest for long-lasting color? — K.L., Puyallup

Answer: Start with forsythia for February flowers, then add viburnums, lilacs, rhododendrons and azaleas for years of color.

In the summer, celebrate the easy-care spiraeas and landscape roses, such as the Flower Carpet shrub roses or Knock Out roses as these are the disease-resistant varieties that will never need spraying.

See BINETTI, C4

ALSO INSIDE

Check out our calendar for plant sales and other events near you, **See C4**



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AT HOME

thenewtribune.com/soundlife

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014 • SECTION C



NW GARDEN

Green uprising

The hillside garden of two physicians is an oasis of botanical diversity

BY CRAIG SAILOR
Staff writer

In a shadowy glade near Bremerton, a garden grows. From a small forest of maples and rhododendrons, it rises onto a sunny slope of lavender and citrus trees. From there it climbs through viburnums and rare conifers to surround a gazebo that has a panoramic view of Phinney Bay and the Olympic Mountains.



IF YOU GO

Albers Vista Gardens

Garden only open by reservation or for tours.

Where: 124 E. 31st St., Bremerton.

Upcoming tours: 2-4 p.m. May 4 (rhododendrons in bloom) and noon-4 p.m. May 11 (Mother's Day).

Other tour dates: May 17 and 24, June 8 and 28, Aug. 23, Sept. 14.

RSVP: info@albersvistagardens.org.

Parking: Limited
Information: albersvistagardens.org.

Just when a visitor thinks the garden can't possibly go higher, it does. Farther it climbs, now hundreds of feet from where it began. Finally, it ends in a woodland of madrona trees.

Albers Vista Gardens is the vision of two medical researchers who have created a preserve of rare plants and a model for sustainable horticulture.

"We collect, but we want something aesthetically pleasing. I think we've accomplished both," John Albers said.

Albers and his wife, Santica Marcovina, found the property in 1988 while they were living in Seattle. The pair were both research professors of medicine at the University of Washington. They bought the 2 acres and made it their home.

At first there was little more than lawn and an old fruit orchard. Rock by rock Albers laid out paths of granite steppingstones and rock dust on the southwest facing hillside. Then the couple began to plant.

Today, a mind-boggling variety of conifers provide a backbone for the garden. A dwarf cedar of Lebanon ("Green Prince") looks

Photo by CRAIG SAILOR/Staff writer

A steppingstone staircase climbs past heaths, heathers and Fothergilla shrubs at Albers Vista Gardens in Bremerton.



This year's purple and last year's brown cones both populate a Korean fir tree at Albers Vista Gardens in Bremerton.

like a fairyland tree as it grows on a Japanese styled "island" in a sea of gravel. Nearby, a Korean fir displays young purple colored cones.

On a higher slope, a newly planted section contains dozens of dwarf conifers in colors that range from blue to yellow and forms that cover weeping to upright. The area looks like a dog park for odd little pooches.

After the first conifers were added, broadleaf trees were brought in. A maple with bark that looks like snakeskin and another that looks like a cobblestone street border the only patch of lawn in the garden.

See ALBERS, C4

RECIPES

Eggs never cease to amaze

Go wild and add them to pasta or stay safe and enjoy them skillet-style, **See C2**



INSIDE

MATTHEW MEAD/The Associated Press

Crumbs can be a cook's best friend

BY JUDY HEVRDEJS
Chicago Tribune

Crumbs deserve respect. Those morsels of breads, cookies or crackers can be a cook's best friend - if you master their power to add texture and flavor to foods.

Cooks around the world have. They use crumbs to crisp-coat meats in Austria (Wiener schnitzel), Italy (alla milanese or alla parmigiana) and Japan (tonkatsu). To add body to Spain's gazpacho as well as Greece's

taramasalata and skordalia. And to bring personality to a dish that might otherwise be downright dull.

So think of crumbs as more than annoying leftover

bits scattered across a table. Know their secrets, then let them work for you in savory and sweet dishes.

COATING

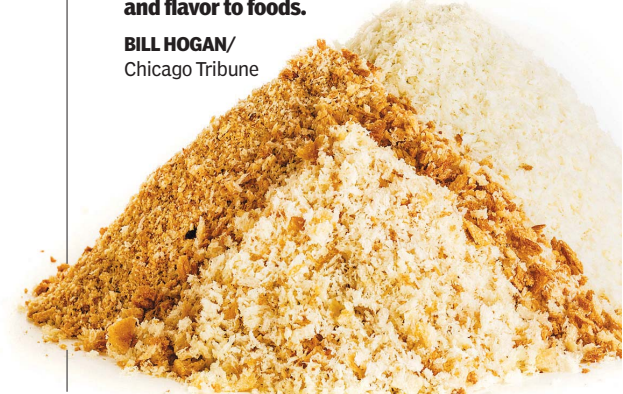
Imagine a plain pork chop, fish or chicken cutlet, cooked sans coating. Could be lovely. Could look and smell delicious. Now imagine it breaded and cooked with a perfectly crisp exterior. The coating seals in juices, and those browned crumbs create another level of flavor, thanks to the Maillard reaction, a complicated process involving heat playing with amino acids and sugars.

There are three key components to breading success. "The Science of Good Cooking" - by the editors at America's Test Kitchen - explains: "flour (or some flourlike substance); an egg wash (or something like it); and breadcrumbs (sometimes toasted, ground cereal, or crushed crackers)." Pat the food dry first, then apply each element with a light hand in the order listed, starting with the flour or cornstarch. Let the coated food rest to set the breading before deep frying or pan frying. If coated correctly, the starches and proteins will, well, glue everything together.

See CRUMBS, C5

Those morsels of breads, cookies or crackers can be a cook's best friend, if you master their power to add texture and flavor to foods.

BILL HOGAN/
Chicago Tribune



ATHOME

HOME & GARDEN CALENDAR

EVENTS

APRIL 24-27. Lincoln High School Plant Sale, noon-5 p.m. April 24; 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. April 25; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. April 26-27, Lincoln High School Greenhouse, 3600 S. G. St., Tacoma, free, 253-571-6741.

APRIL 25-26. Chase Garden Spring Plant Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Chase Garden, 16015 264th St. E., Orting, free admission to garden, 360-893-6739.

APRIL 26. Curran Apple Orchard Pruning Parties, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Curran Apple Orchard Park, 3920 Grandview Drive W, University Place. Free. 253-565-8466, curranappleorchard.com.

APRIL 26. Native Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., State Capital Museum Coach House, 211 21st Ave. SW, Olympia. Free, south-soundchapterwnps.org.

APRIL 26. Growing Orchids, 10 a.m., Windmill Gardens, 5816 162nd Ave. E., Sumner. Free.

APRIL 26. Marine Hills Garden Club Plant Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Marine Hills Garden Club, 29301 Seventh Place S., Federal Way. marinehillsgardenclub.blogspot.com.

MAY 1. Design Your Own Landscape, 6-8 p.m., Tumwater City Hall, 555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater. \$20. 360-754-4160, ci.tumwater.wa.us.

MAY 2. Right Plant for the Right Place Workshop, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S. Tyler St., Tacoma. Cost is \$5 per person. 253-591-6439, metroparkstacoma.org/tacomannaturecenter.

MAY 3. Immanuel Presbyterian Church Free Plant Exchange, 9 a.m.-noon, 901 N. J St., free, 253-582-3615.

MAY 3. Native Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S. Tyler St., Tacoma. Free. 253-591-6439, tacomannaturecenter.org.

MAY 3-4. Pierce Co. Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Allmendinger Conference Center at the WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center, 2606 W. Pioneer, Puyallup. Free.

MAY 3. Salvation Army Neighborhood Garden - Plots Available, 10 a.m., Salvation Army Neighborhood Garden, 3545 S. 12th St., Tacoma. \$25.

MAY 5. Military Monday and 2 for 1 admission, 7 p.m., Lakewold Gardens, 12317 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Tacoma. 253-584-4106, lakewoldgardens.org.

MAY 10. Free Home Buyer Workshop, 10 a.m., Great Floors - Lacey, 7800 Martin Way E, Lacey.

MAY 15. Creative Container Workshop, 6-8 p.m., Plantasia Design Center & Botanical Gardens, 3938 88th Ave. SW, Tumwater. \$20. 360-754-4160, ci.tumwater.wa.us.

MAY 17. Plant Sale by Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Dirt Works Garden in Yaeger Park, Alta Avenue Northwest, Olympia. Free. mgftc.org.

MAY 22. Spring into Gardening: From Planter to Plate, 7-8:30 p.m., Parkland Spanaway Pierce County Library, 13718 Pacific Ave. S, Tacoma. Free.

CLUBS

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL NO. 147 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 2-4, Lakewold Gardens, 12317 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Tacoma. \$6-\$9. 253-584-4106, lakewoldgardens.org.

OLYMPIA BONSAI CLUB 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 2-4, Lakewold Gardens, 12317 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Tacoma. \$6-\$9. 253-584-4106, lakewoldgardens.org.

COUNTRY GARDENER GARDEN CLUB 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. May 5, Midland Community Center, 1614 E. 99th St., Midland. Free. 253-389-2609. June 2, July 7.

PUYALLUP ROSE SOCIETY 7 p.m. May 6, Puyallup Activity Center, Puyallup. June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2.

TACOMA ROSE SOCIETY MEETING 7 p.m. May 15, Grace Lutheran Church, 6202 S. Tyler St., Tacoma. Free. 253-537-2564. June 19.

ONGOING

MASTER GARDENER CLINICS 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays through Sept. 17, Sehmle Homestead Park Demonstration Garden, 10123 78th Ave. NW; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 29, Ace Hardware, 4816 Point Fosdick Dr. NW; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays through Aug. 30, Gig Harbor Farmers' Market, 5503 Wollochet Drive NW; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays through Aug. 30, Home Depot, 5120 Borgen Blvd. NW, Gig Harbor. All in Gig Harbor and free.

SOUTH SOUND FRUIT SOCIETY Meets at 7 p.m. May 6, Organic Farmhouse at The Evergreen State College, 2712 Lewis Road, Olympia. Go to wcsf.org. First Tuesday of every month: June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, 2014.

Want to publicize your gardening event? Go to calendar.thenewtribune.com and follow the directions for submitting your event.



A view of Albers Vista Gardens in Bremerton.

NW GARDEN

Photo courtesy of DAVID PERRY



Darmera peltata, or umbrella plant —native to Oregon and California — is in bloom at the garden.

CRAIG SAILOR/Staff writer



Cedrus libani 'Green Prince' grows on an island called "serenity" at the Bremerton garden.

CRAIG SAILOR/Staff writer

“We depend on plants to give back clean water and clean air which we take for granted.”



JOHN ALBERS, created Albers Vista Gardens with his wife.

ALBERS

From C1

On a higher, intermediate slope Albers has planted citrus trees, including tangerine and Meyer lemon.

“We’re experimenting. We’ll see if it makes it,” he said looking at the tangerine. The garden also has persimmon trees but they have to ripen the fruit indoors.

After the couple had completed their garden with shrubs and perennials, they bought 2 more adjacent acres filled with highly invasive Himalayan blackberries and Scotch broom. The couple removed the invaders and planted natives and ornamentals that require no extra water or pest control.

It’s all part of the couple’s sustainable horticultural philosophy. They plant only drought-tolerant plants (no supplemental water is used in the garden), species that are resistant to pests and plants that require no fertilizer.

Albers believes that even urban dwellers on standard city plots can greatly increase the botanical diversity of their plants. A thriving patch of trees, shrubs and perennials demand less and give back more than an unused but over maintained section of lawn.

“We depend on plants to give back clean water and clean air which we take for granted,” Albers said.

Though the couple actively searches out new plants that fit their philosophy, they don’t ignore the beauty that a garden can provide. Marcovina has integrated art throughout the garden, which has 14 themed areas and a view of Mount



Photo courtesy of DAVID PERRY

Spring brings a bounty of colorful flowers in bloom.

Rainier.

Albers, 72, and Marcovina, 75, both still conduct medical research. Albers likes to point out that they’re following in the footsteps of early botanists who were also physicians.

Albers took classes from Northwest botanist C. Leo Hitchcock after Albers arrived at the University of Washington in 1971. Gardening helps him to unwind from the pressures and detail-focused world of medicine.

In 2007, the couple established the nonprofit Albers Vista Gardens Foundation to preserve the garden for generations. They will soon erect a building to house a library and hold workshops. They believe in education and sharing their garden with the public. To that end they have several open garden events during the year. The next two are scheduled for May 4 and 11.

Albers Vista Garden is bringing its namesake a second career of sorts.

“In many ways my life is just getting started,” he said.

Craig Sailor: 253-597-8541
craig.sailor@thenewtribune.com

BINETTI

From C1

As fall approaches enjoy the big, bold blooms of hydrangeas, including the cream and peach flowers of the sun-loving pee gee hydrangea and the fiery fall foliage of the Oakleaf hydrangea.

Winter color from Beauty Berry and cotoneaster will offer eye candy during the darkest days. There is an easy way to make sure something is in flower every day of the year in your garden — just visit a nursery once a month and invest in the shrubs that happen to be looking their best. One year and a dozen shrubs later you’ll have yearlong color in the landscape.

Q: We just moved into a new home. There is a rocky slope with giant boulders and it is in a sunny spot. I would like to turn this into a rock garden but I am not very good at weeding. What plants are easy to grow on a sunny slope and could keep down the weeds?

A: You can enjoy the bright blooms of creeping phlox on a sunny slope and this low-growing evergreen will help to crowd out weeds as it flows over the ground.

For tiny crevices, poke bits of sedum Angelina into cracks and openings before weed seeds can get a start.

The pure white blooms of Iberis candytuft are drought-resistant as are most plants with gray foliage, such as the creeping thymes, artemisia, lamb’s ear and basket-of-gold alyssum montanum with fragrant yellow flowers.

Don’t stop with just perennial plants. Low-growing rock garden tulips will return year after year and if you amend the soil with peat moss, then water well the first year after planting and you may be able to grow heathers on a sunny slope. The best way to control weeds in any rock garden is to hand pull young weeds in early spring before they can set seed.

Q: I have a problem area in a shaded bed. There are also tree roots that make this a very dry shade situa-

tion. So far I have already watched azaleas, pieris, fuchsias and rhododendrons die in this area. I am done wasting money and want to know what plants will survive. — R.M., Auburn

A: Dry shade can be the happy home of native plants such as sword ferns and huckleberries or you can loosen the soil, add some compost and introduce some aggressive groundcovers such as vinca minor, crane’s bill geranium or lamium.

You will need to water the first summer after planting in dry shade to establish the root system of your new plants.

If you’re after colorful blooms, consider placing large pots under the trees or hang baskets of flowers suspended from the overhanging tree branches. Depending on how much shade and how much compost you are willing to add to the soil you can also grow tough perennials such as euphorbias, peonies, hellebores, lady’s mantle and hosta.

A mulch such as bark chips on top of the soil will help to seal in moisture and keep out weeds. Dry shade is not a death sentence, but it is a prison where only the very tough will survive. Just don’t let these aggressive survivors escape from

confinement — some are thugs that will overpower your less assertive plants.

Marianne Binetti has a degree in horticulture from Washington State University and is the author of several books. Reach her at binettigarden.com.

Wine & Chocolate Affair
FRIDAY, APRIL 25
SATURDAY, APRIL 26
Hours: 4:00pm - 9:00pm
Admission: \$20 pre-sale, \$25 at-door (2-day pass includes 5 drink tokens)
To learn more, visit www.lemaymarymount.org

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