



Spring/Summer 2017

Can You Dig It?

Welcome to our late spring-early summer edition of CYDI, your Horticulture Newsletter. Before starting off on our "planned" content for this issue, your editor would like to present Christie Hamilton's tribute to the "unsung heroes" of our Garden Club World. So read on. You will surely enjoy this. Be sure to share it with your "hero"!

To the, um, Fabulous Husbands of the TCGC.....Christie Hamilton

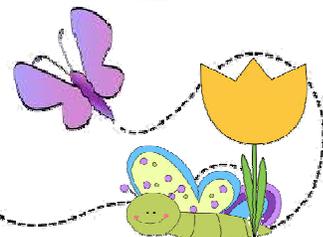
English poet John Milton in the 1600s wrote, "They also serve who only stand and wait." Is not "standing and waiting" a provenance of those who provide some critical supporting role? So, how appropriate on this **Father's Day** to honor those husbands of the TCGC !

Yes, waiting for her to return from the meeting, from the plant shopping, from the civic gardens. It happens. I am also bowing to those of you gentlemen who dutifully and courteously man the home phone to explain that " She's not here," "Don't know where," and "May I have her call you?" SOMEONE must coordinate the affairs of home, family and gardens!

I recently found myself at a garden center excited about an unexpected horticultural "find." I called a TCGC member to ask if she would like me to buy one for her. "Yes," she replied. "Is there anyone else we should ask," I queried. "I'll be here for only 10 minutes." She called me back in 9, having dialed fellow TCGC gardeners' home phones, speaking to nary a member (call out on garden club biz, no doubt?) HOWEVER, each dutiful home-phone answering husband told her, "Buy one for her" (or 2 or 3). NOW, is this sexy or what???

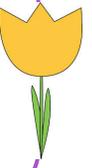
Many of you husbands do even more, by assuming a duty as carpenters, drivers, parking attendants, cartographers, and TCGC (solo) social hosts. (Well done, SW!). Loving support stretches other lifestyle boundaries, like starting dinner (or finishing it), tolerating a refrigerator full of flowers, and an automobile interior rife with soil or mulch.

So to each of you TCGC supportive and inspirational husbands, we say **THANK YOU** for your generous, if inconvenient, contributions to this club and our community. Your beneficence is appreciated and recognized by all of us. Thank you and **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**.



Editor's Introduction: This has been an incredible year, 2017, for TCGC as we celebrate 100 years of friendships, history, volunteerism and beauty in Talbot County and beyond. So in planning for this issue, we decided to take a step back in time to give you a glimpse of what it might have been like when TCGC first started in 1917. Each of our writers chose a topic, did some research and wrote about a subject that we hope you will find both educational and fun!

Please enjoy. Trish Reynolds, CYDI Editor



One Hundred Years of Gardening

* Chloe Pitard

The Talbot County Garden Club was founded one hundred years ago in 1917. Imagine what it was like to garden in the United States one hundred years ago! It was a different world. The changes in one hundred years are overwhelming in number and kind. The plants we grow, the tools and methods we use, our attitudes about plants and the environment, even the reasons we garden have changed and evolved.

“Cultivating America’s Gardens” is a new exhibition at the Smithsonian’s American History Museum that explores the history of gardens and gardening. It explores all aspects of gardening. *Gardening to Impress* looks at the grand gardens of the super rich such as Longwood and the gardens of Newport RI. *Gardening for the Environment* acknowledges to effect of Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*. The increasing use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides for gardening and the subsequent discovery of their harmful effects on the environment are of particular note. The publications of the Rodale Press beginning with *How to have a Green Thumb without an Aching Back* by Ruth Stout changed the way we garden profoundly. *Gardening for the Common Good* notes the encouragement of vegetable garden that has been a factor of American life from the Victory Gardens of the World Wars to the present. Eleanor Roosevelt had one on the front lawn of the White House. Michelle Obama had one on the South lawn. *Gardening as Enterprise* explores the development of seed companies.

That was just the beginning of the plethora of catalogues and advertisements we receive these days. The lawn and its development as a particularly American institution is very interesting. *Gardening as Science* explores the world of plant collectors and botanists beginning with John Bartram who collected and exported American plants to Europe, especially England. He also established America’s first Botanic



garden at his home in Philadelphia.

Gardening has become science with the explosion of cultivars and hybrid plants that have radically changed our gardens as well as methods such as the test tube propagation of these cultivars.

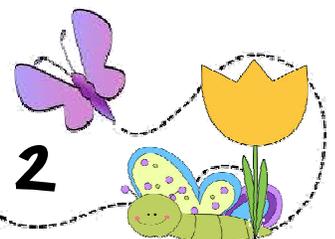
The exhibit demonstrates how profoundly gardening



has been and remains an integral part of the fiber of American life and culture. I am reluctant to say the Smithsonian has prepared this exhibit to coincide with the one hundredth anniversary of TCGC, but it

certainly fits in nicely. The exhibit will be available to see through August 2018. Definitely worth a visit.

Source of Pictures: Smithsonian website "Cultivating America's Gardens" exhibit.



The Good Old Days

* Kim Eckert

For the last decade, there has been a movement to buy local, fresh and often organic produce. It began with Saturday morning outings to the local farmers market, like the one in Easton. Our bustling market is often a social event with farmers, musicians, family and friends. Not everyone could make it to the market on Saturday mornings so, CSA's were created as another way to provide fresh local produce on a weekly basis to other folks and also give farmers a more stable income. The downside of a CSA for some is that you must subscribe for 20 weeks or so and typically, you pick it up at a designated location.

The 'newest' way for a consumer to get fresh local produce is to have specialized companies (like Washington, D.C.'s, From the Farmer) deliver it to your home. Companies like this work with CSA farmers but, they do not require a 20 week subscription. This is so amazing, innovative and convenient! Oh wait, the first farm to door delivery company was established in 1916! Talk about the good old days!

In the *Ladies Home Journal* in May 1916, an article about Edith Loring Fullerton described the farm to doorstep concept:

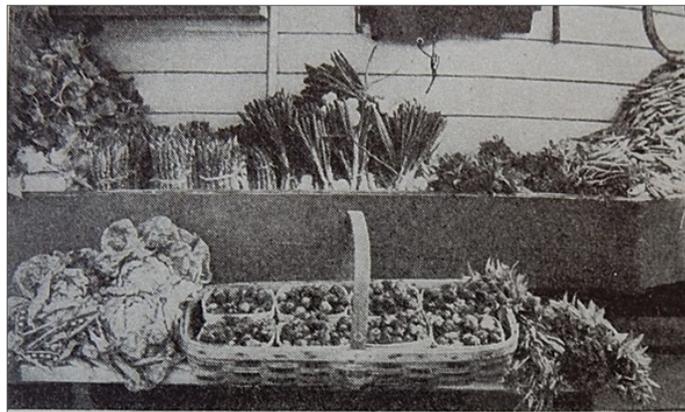
"The farm-to-family-fresh idea is Edith Loring Fullerton's, and a very clever idea it is. Mrs. Fullerton believed that a basket of fruits and vegetables, freshly picked, sent straight from the farm would appeal to the city housewife.

Evidently it did, for the "Home Hamper" is a great success. The hamper itself is an oblong crate twenty-four inches long, fourteen wide and ten deep; it contains six baskets and weights from thirty to thirty-five pounds. In it the housewife finds such staples as potatoes, beans, peas, tomatoes, sweet corn, soup and salad vegetables, and in season strawberries, peaches, cantaloupes, eggplants, etc.

With the parcel post the hamper idea is being rapidly taken up by woman farmers, some of them adding eggs, poultry, butter or flowers to the hamper lists. The housewife finds that not only does the hamper reduce the cost of living, but the difference between freshly picked vegetables and those picked unripe to ripen in transit is greatly appreciated by her family.

Mrs. Fullerton is one of the vice presidents of the new cooperative organization of woman gardeners — the Women's National Agricultural and Horticultural Association, which has for one of its objects to "bring together the producer and consumer."

According to research by blogger, Sheryl Lazarus, the produce was picked, washed and placed in the hampers (baskets) ready to leave the farm at 6:30 AM. The hampers were delivered to the consumer's doorstep in New York City via USPS a few hours later on Tuesdays and Fridays.



Ladies Home Journal, May 1916

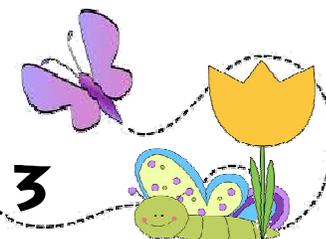
There are now several companies nationwide that offer farm to doorstep delivery. Most of them are located in large urban areas. They gather local produce from the region and deliver it to limited zip codes to make certain that the produce is fresh. So, what do we have available to us? We have nationally run companies that offer farm to doorstep *meals*, like Hello Fresh, Blue Apron and Green Chef. We even have a highly rated local company, *Sprouts*, in Trappe, that delivers *meals* made from locally sourced organic produce, meats and cheeses etc. Unfortunately, our area does not have a local organic *produce* delivery service.

"I would just love to open my front door and see a basket full of delicious farm fresh produce. For now, I'll have to wait."

Gardening before Google: Garden Information in the early 20th Century

* Janet Mackey

Do you enjoy perusing seed and nursery catalogs or reading garden magazines? How about attending the Philadelphia Flower Show? Maybe you are hooked on Googling plants you are interested in for your garden? If these are ways you have gathered information about gardening, you have a lot in common with the original members of the TCGC.



What surprised me when I started looking into sources of garden news in the early 1900s was how little has changed! OK, except for *Google*. That *is* new.

The turn of the century was a big time for gardeners. People started moving to the outskirts of cities, and they wanted to landscape their new properties and create gardens with favorite foods and flowers. Gardeners then, as now, sought out information about plants, growing techniques and design ideas. Luckily for them, a number of market and



technological advances enabled people to access more information than had been available to the general public before. This information came in seed and nursery catalogs, mass circulation magazines, books and exhibitions – many of the same sources we gardeners turn to today.

Seed and nursery catalogs probably provided the most information about plants, ways to grow them and how to care for them. These catalogs were fairly recent innovations and they became widely available because of a change in the role the U.S. Government played in seed distribution. In the 1800s government agencies were charged with seeking out new plants around the world and distributing seeds, plants, and cuttings to farmers for free. As demand for new and improved plants grew, commercial seed companies and nurseries were established. By the 1920s the government was no longer involved in seed distribution, leaving the market to the private sector.

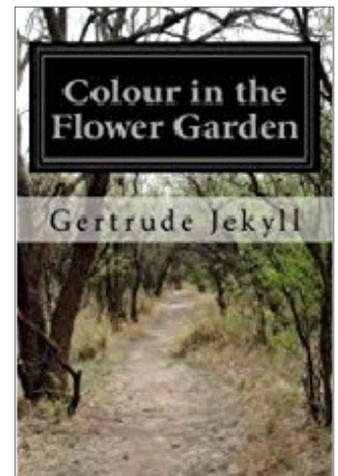
These new seed companies recognized the opportunity to serve the rapidly growing market of residential gardeners, not just farmers. They used their catalogs to compete with each other for customers, promoting their own varieties of popular food crops and flowers. They also used a variety of gimmicks to maintain customer loyalty, including offering volume discounts, free seeds packets, and premiums for large orders. These techniques are still used to lure us in today.

From the start, seed catalogs figured out how to build their customer base by offering assurances that their products would make the buyer's garden the envy of the neighborhood. The A.T. Cook 1905 seed catalog, for instance, advertised Japanese morning glory seeds that were the “earliest, hardiest, largest and handsomest of all.” And it offered the “earliest tomato in the world” – who could pass that one by?

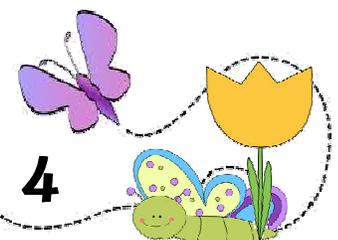
Clearly, the use of superlatives when describing plants is nothing new. The “A.I. Root's Seed and Plants Catalogue for 1887” advertised the recently-invented push lawn mower with his question to readers, “Isn't it true, that a neatly kept lawn is evidence of an intelligent and progressive spirit possessed by the owner?” This sentiment seems a bit more high-minded than current advertising for products to improve our lawns.

The early 1900s was the heyday not just for seed and nursery catalogs, but also for garden magazines. Many broad circulation magazines, such as the *Atlantic Monthly* and the *Ladies Home Journal* (the most widely circulated magazine in America in 1909 with more than one million readers), included features on gardens and horticulture. The garden writers of the time had a high level of expertise in horticulture and design and were intent on providing information and encouragement to an increasingly broad base of Americans who did their own garden work – **real dirt gardeners**.

Along with magazines, gardening books undoubtedly found their way to bookshelves in Talbot County. Gertrude Jekyll's *Colour in the Flower Garden* (1908) is still known today.



A major driver behind the popularity of print publications was a large drop in postal rates in the late 1800s, which made mailing catalogs and magazines quite inexpensive. The arrival of the railroad to Talbot County in 1869 made delivery of the mail and of plants from across the country both timely and more affordable. Advances in printing and photography at the end of the 1800s meant publications could include pictures of actual gardens or plants, not just botanical illustrations. As the print material attracted larger and larger audiences, advertisers increased their



interest in the magazines, and advertising dollars dropped the costs of some popular magazines to 5 or 10 cents, making them widely accessible. 7,500 new magazines were introduced in the U.S. between 1885 and 1905, attesting to the popularity of magazines. (This historical information comes from Virginia Tattle Clayton's book, *The Once and Future Gardener: Garden Writing from the Golden Age of Magazines 1910-1940*. I highly recommend it to anybody interested in the roots of many of today's gardening trends.)

TCGC members in 1917 did not need to limit their search for garden information to reading print materials. Some may have journeyed to see the very popular horticultural halls at one of the World's Fairs. Philadelphia hosted the first official World's Fair in the U.S. in 1876. The Centennial Exposition had 10 million visitors! In 1915, San Francisco hosted the Panama-Pacific International Exposition which attracted 20 million visitors. Kurume hybrid azaleas from Japan were introduced to the west, and Henry duPont was so impressed with them, he contacted the nursery on the west coast that imported them and had their entire inventory shipped to his Winterthur Estate where they continue to enchant visitors today.

In addition to these major national events, the first TCGC members, like today's members, had the Philadelphia Flower Show to look forward to each year. Begun in 1829, it was the first public flower show in America. From the 1890s through 1920, gardeners formed special flower societies focused on carnation, dahlia, sweet pea, gladiolus, peony, iris, and



chrysanthemum, and each of these had annual shows as well. In 1916, the 4th National Flower Show was held in Philadelphia in cooperation with the Philadelphia Horticultural Society and many of these societies.

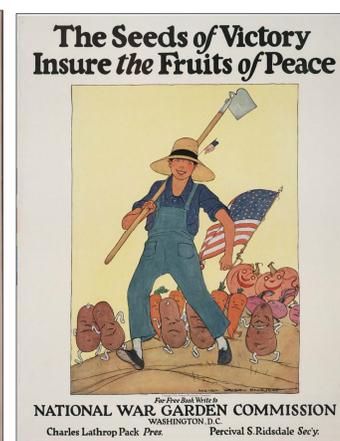
An advantage Talbot County gardeners of the time had was the added convenience of catching a train to Philly right from Easton.

Although the world in 2017 is so very different from the world of 1917, it is interesting to see so many similarities in the world of gardening. We still love to curl up with seed catalogs on dreary winter evenings. We love gardening magazines and books – even if some of us may prefer electronic versions of them rather than paper. And we look forward to the Philadelphia Flower Show. Times change, but it seems gardeners will always seek out information that will make our gardens the best they can be.

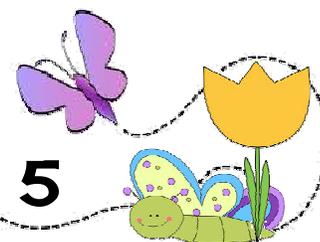
Victory Gardens: 1917-Present

* Jane Anderson

Victory Gardens represent a tenacious and patriotic resolution to survive and prosper even in the worst of times. The active, assertive program the United States instituted late in the World War I was begun by Charles Lathrop Pack in March, 1917. The concept was initiated in Great Britain and other European countries earlier in WWI when food production had dropped dramatically, mostly due to the loss of agricultural workers recruited into the military as well as devastation to the land itself. Home production of food and recruiting women to fill the labor gap in farm production became a critical effort in Britain. **“Digging For Victory”** was the theme. Not only were women and older men pulled in to work the farms but food production was greatly increased by housewives and



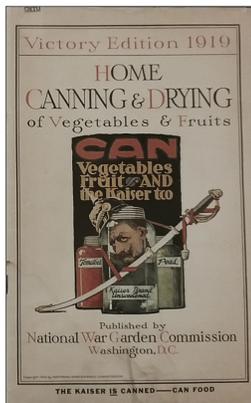
families growing their own food, preserving it and sharing it. Every available open space was used, ornamental gardens, public garden, railway edges and



sports fields either grew crops or grazed animals. Gardening classes were taught in schools and churches. Gardening columns appeared in newspapers and magazines.

Victory gardens continued in Britain through WWI, WWII and into the mid 1950's as food shortages for the island nation continued until transport and war damaged land were restored both in Britain and devastated Europe.

The United States followed the European model. After initial criticism from the Department of Agriculture, Eleanor Roosevelt had vegetable gardens planted on the lawn of the White House, and Victory Gardens began appearing in public spaces all over the country. In New York City, the lawns around the vacant "Riverside" were turned into gardens. Portions of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco became Victory Gardens as well. **"Grow Your Own, Can Your Own" posters** appeared everywhere. The ideal American pioneer image of self-sufficiency and strength was reawakened. Producing and sharing food locally lowered the price of vegetables and fruits for the troops, diminished transport cost, conserved fuel, and improved the budget available for other parts of the war effort.



Even herbs, such as *Digitalis* from foxgloves, were harvested to

supplement pharmaceuticals in demand for the soldiers. "A Victory Garden is like a share in an airplane factory. It helps win the War and it pays dividends too." said Claude Wickard, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Over 5 million gardens were growing fruits and vegetables in the United States by the end of WWI and over 18 million by May 1943 in WWII. Many people, women in particular, found gardening fulfilling and preserving food by canning and, later, freezing was part of the "good housewife's" family duties well into the 1960s.

Since the beginning of this new century, interest in victory gardens has surged again. Community gardens in urban areas and the **"farm to table" movement** in fine dining continues to grow. Websites and blogs along with a swelling crop of gardening books and commercial garden suppliers are indicative of a renewed push. As part of her healthy eating-healthy children initiative, First Lady, Michelle



Source: Amazon.com

Obama planted a 1100 square foot garden at the White House and many of the best restaurants grow their own greens and herbs if not more.

For anyone interested in maximizing their victory garden efforts, public television stations have carried programming like *"The Victory Garden"* to encourage composting and recycling along with square-foot gardening and healthy eating. Information abounds. **All you'll need to do is dig in!**

Flower Arranging 100 Years Ago

* Samantha McCall

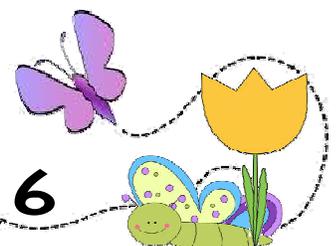
As we celebrate the 100th birthday of our garden club, I find myself longing for a magic looking glass so we can look back in time to see, among other things, what our flower sisters before us were doing with the art of floral design.

During this time, flower arranging was undergoing a transformation as history shows us this vibrant art form is wont to do. Dating back to ancient Egypt, floral design styles seem to build on one another, all the time being influenced and shaped by different cultures and periods, the mystique of Asia, new plant materials and fresh interpretations of old and new styles alike.

Two important things started to happen in the early 20th century in the world of floral design, both of which made flower arranging more accessible to more people.

First, the use of flowers for decoration was no longer the sole domain of the nobility and the wealthy. For centuries, fresh flowers were used for stately occasions, grand balls and banquets, fashionable weddings, galas, festivals and personal adornment. Fresh flowers in the home for these purposes and others were often done by the head gardeners and servants.

Ordinary citizens living in the town and country started to have access to simple garden and field



flowers. It is said most homes would have a vase or an arrangement of fresh flowers in at least one room of the house often put together by the women of the household.

Also of particular note during this time was the rise of the garden club movement and you can just imagine Talbot County being right in the middle of it. Flower shows were being held and the judging of arrangements began around the United States, a trend that was soon to catch on in England. Remember Maggie Smith as Countess Violet in *Downtown Abbey* and her flower show? Or remember a rose being named for Mrs. Miniver (Greer Garson) at the local flower show in the 1942 wartime movie of the same name?



Art Nouveau Design:
Samantha McCall

The style is best characterized by asymmetry and has been described as “sudden violent curves generated by the crack of a whip.” In floral design, the focus was on a downward waterfall-like cascade with rhythmic, flowing lines that were best suited for asymmetrical curving containers. Plant material originates in the center of the design out and over the edges, alternating layers flowers and foliage to create depth and texture.

Art Nouveau was a relatively short lived period and next came *Art Deco*, influenced greatly but not limited to the Jazz Age and the era of opulence and the Great Gatsby. This elegant style of decorative art characterized by angular, symmetrical geometric forms, first appeared in France and took its name from the Exposition Internationale des Art Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes in 1925.



Art Nouveau Design -
Jane Godshalk,
Longwood Gardens.
Source, unknown

Like Art Nouveau, *Art Deco's* application was evidenced in many areas of art and decorative arts and observed in both the U.S. and Europe in the 1920s and 1930s. Art Deco is a blend of several influences, ranging from primitive - ancient Egypt and Aztec designs - to modern, high-lighting the Jazz Age and Industrial Age.



Art Deco

Translated into flower design, the focus was on mathematical, geometric motifs and bold lines. The style was characterized by bold lines, forms and patterns like zigzags, pyramids and sunburst symbols.

Trends in today's floral design are clearly influenced by these iconic periods and you can still see glimpses of their influence and application today. Flower

arranging continues to grow and it will be fascinating to see what our fellow designers will be doing in 2117.

“Wouldn't it be fun if we could use that same magic looking glass to project it into the future to see what our club will be doing 100 years from now?”

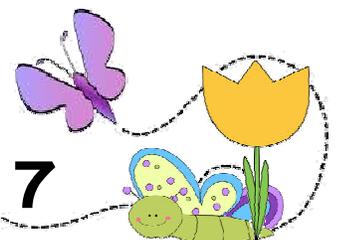
Garden Shed – Bits and Pieces

* Trish Reynolds

In today's modern world we have electric almost-everything for working in our yards and gardens – electric mowers, electric shears, electric trimmers. We have every imaginable shape for watering our gardens: irrigation systems, sprayers, timers to set things to go off and on, rain sensitive gauges. It goes on and on.....

But what did we have back in the early 20th century? Well here is a glimpse of some of those tools. This information was taken from a 2016 article in *Country Living* magazine.

Most of the tools back then were simple blacksmith-made tools, nothing terribly elaborate....but the big difference from today is, of course, a PERSON had to use it....dig with it, cut it, water with it, measure with it. Today these “old tools” are considered antiques or “vintage” tools....and frequently go for high prices on e-Bay or in antique shops. Take a look at them on the following charts.





1. Garden Syringe – used for insecticides
2. Lawn Sprinkler circa 1940s
3. Hose bibb – early 20th century
4. Watering funnel – used to deliver water to trays of delicate seedlings - mostly used in greenhouses
5. Watering can – the “original” handheld watering cans as we know them weren’t introduced until 1886 when John Hawes invented a smaller, more user-friendly alternative to large “watering Pots”
6. Sprayer nozzle – attached to a hose – very “inventive” for its time (late 19th century)
7. Plant mister – used on delicate indoor plants

(Welch, 2016-Country Living Magazine)



1. Potato scoop – to unearth potatoes missed during the initial harvest
2. Apple picker – minus its handle
3. Women’s shears- for clipping plants and branches – small handbag-friendly shears were a must for any lady out on a garden stroll
4. Dusting bellows
5. Berry picker – thanks to its comb-like teeth this tool made speedy work of harvesting berries right off the bush.
6. Spring shears – these go back to around 1815
7. Digging spade- perfect for cultivating, furrowing and weeding

(Welch, 2016-Country Living Magazine)

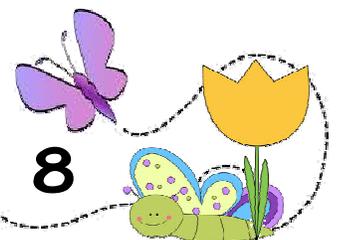
An Old-Fashioned and Much Loved Flower - The Peony

* Dede Hoopes

The Peony with its beautiful blooms and alluring scents that return spring after spring give it a spiritual quality for both horticulturalists and floral designers alike. There is an old saying “*The first year they sleep, the second year they creep, and the third year they leap.*” Once established though, the Peony can survive a century or more making it one of our most historic plants in the landscape.

The first peonies to be grown in North American gardens were originally *Paeonia officinalis*, originating

in Europe. Colonists valued them for their medicinal properties and Thomas Jefferson grew them at Monticello. ‘*Rubra Plena*,’ a double red, was one of the most popular of the time; but the demand quickly grew for new varieties given their aesthetic in the landscape. By the mid 1800s, *Paeonia lactiflora* was brought over from China, encouraging a new period for breeding. Some of the earliest introduced varieties in America were “*Grover Cleveland*,” “*Bunker Hill*” and “*Cherry Hill*.” European breeding was also progressing and a well-known variety from the end of the 19th century is ‘*Festiva Maxima*,’ a double white with specks of crimson in the center. For our centennial, I researched varieties that were introduced around 1917 and found two:





Picture-Trish Reynolds,
species unknown



Picture-Trish Reynolds
P. "Coral & Gold"

heirloom peonies, that they are becoming more and more scarce. In order to ensure quality and service, it is important to purchase bare-root stock from a reputable grower who knows peonies, rather than from a local nursery center or mass-market chain. There are a lot of sources online for assistance on planting bare root peonies. Just remember **not** to plant it too deep. The crown should be no more than 2 inches below the soil. The roots also need space to develop.

Peonies are by far one of my favorite flowers. I love the variation in form, scent and volume that you get with each plant. But the season seems to come and go before my eyes.



P. "Red Charm"

Mine are just about gone for this year but I am already scouring some of the online grower sources for available heirloom root - stock for fall planting!

'Louella Shaylor' and
'Luetta Pfeiffer'.

Around this time, our breeding in the US began to overtake the European breeding with a heavy focus on cut flower market. Many of the varieties you see today have attributes that make them wonderful cut flowers for this reason.

You will find when researching and purchasing

Editor's Note: Special Thanks goes to all these ladies for their most excellent work.....research and writing!

We welcome to our team of writers two new gals....Dede Hoopes and Janet Mackey.....such exciting and dynamic gals. We will learn a lot from both of them, as well as our continuing group: Jane, Kim, Chloe, Samantha, Bobbie and, of course, our fantastic producer, Rebecca. And we say a goodbye to Sherry, our "Garden Shed" writer who, we hope, is just taking a brief break.

I will try and assume that role with "bits-and-pieces".....

We hope you have enjoyed this peek back in time, and we look forward to seeing you again in the fall. Enjoy the summer in your gardens!

Trish Reynolds, Editor

One of the most popular fonts released in 1917 was **New Century Schoolbook Italic**, designed by Morris Fuller Benton. **Century Schoolbook**, also developed in the same year, has been used throughout this newsletter in keeping with our 100th Anniversary.

Rebecca

See you again...late summer, early fall. Happy Gardening!

TALBOT COUNTY GARDEN CLUB

P.O. Box 1524, Easton, MD 21601

Member of

Garden Club of America

National Garden Clubs, Inc., Central Atlantic Region

The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, District I

