



Bear Creek Press

'Wanting the waning warmth of summer'

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September's Songs

September is coming and in an attempt to stretch the glory of summer, there is a regional effort to see how many fall festivals can fit on the head of a pin. (What ever happened to the idea of holding a fall festival during the fall?)

This year is no exception, with six events (including a family wedding) in four weekends. You are invited to all of these events except the wedding. Two of the festivals deserve special mention.

The Japanese Fall Festival (September 10, 11, 12) at Nathaniel Greene Park in Springfield, Missouri, is a unique celebration of cultural exchange. Each year, the Sister Cities Association of Springfield sponsors this event to highlight their alliance with the city of Isesaki, Japan.

The three day festival promotes interaction with visitors from Isesaki, ceremony and music exchange, presentations by artists and activities for children. All of this takes place at the Japanese Stroll Garden, a serene landscape created with the help of Japanese gardeners. A tea house and several ponds are surrounded by well-groomed grounds featuring a variety of trees, shrubs and (sigh) plenty of bamboo. For more information

about this special event, call Cindy Jobe at the Springfield Greene County Park Board, (417) 864-1049.

The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks is steadily being developed in Fayetteville, Arkansas. A grass roots effort for ten years, the Garden is now receiving the recognition and funding it deserves. Large strides have been made in the last year with the addition of the timber frame Carl Totemeier Horticulture Center and with substantial contributions from the City of Fayetteville and other local supporters.

Next year holds even more promise with the completion of the Center and initial development of the gardens and infrastructure. This is an exciting time for those involved in the project — the fruition of many years of effort and the ability to show how much progress has been made.

Keep your ears and eyes open — you will be hearing more about this fine Botanical Garden in the future. Their Fall Festival is scheduled for September 18 and 19 and will be a showcase for many positive garden ideas to come. For more information about the garden or how you can help, call Maryetta at (479) 443-6638.

Adolescent Trees and Shrubs

It's time to introduce a new batch of young-uns to you, our dear readers and gardeners. Loren has been watering and fertilizing. Sally has been nurturing. And Alisa has been talking to these new friends, so they are happy, healthy and ready to go.

Yes, we are talking about flowering trees and shrubs. If we seem to talk about them as if they are children, it is only because we have become so attached to the little buggers. Some are teenagers and some are pre-teens, but all are mature enough to be in your garden.

There are too many to mention, but here are a few: Red and Pink Dogwood, Red Leaf Red Bud (the famous 'Forest Pansy'), Dwarf Burning Bush, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Saucer Magnolia (along with her saucy sister, Jane), Pin Oak, Red Maple (Autumn Blaze, too), and Flowering Pear.

Some of the early bloomers have set flower buds so are certain to flower next spring. All the others will be dressed in their best fall colors and are guaranteed to please. Do your landscape a favor with a new, true teen tree.

Last Day of Summer School

There is one last class in this year's Summer School. (All the persons who attended so far have reached spiritual and garden enlightenment bordering on nirvana.) On August 28th, at 10 am, we will explore "The Other Fall Bloomers: Perennials for the Fall Garden". Sure, everyone loves chrysanthemums in the garden, but what about all those other fall perennials?

Aster, goldenrod, sedum, salvia, plumbago, ornamental grass — need we go on? — all add interest to the garden long after others have faded.

Learn more about these fall bloomers, meet them in person, and see how they can brighten up any fall display.

Crib Sheets

No, we are not talking about what you put on the bed before the baby sleeps. Our crib sheets are the notes provided during the seminars and demonstrations at the Nursery. Packed with facts, plants lists and more plant lists, these information sheets are outlines of our various presentations. "Hypertufo", "Butterfly Gardening", "Native Plants", "Fall Bloomers", and "Nooks and Crannies" are some of the available subjects. If any of these timely topics are of interest, stop by and pick up a free gardener's crib sheet.

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Ornamental Grass in the Late Summer Garden

We have been boasting about ornamental grasses for so long that they are starting to get a little big for their britches. (They recently hired a consultant and have been lobbying for their own newsletter.) So, at long last, here is a column solely devoted to their many charms.

It's true that these plants don't display the showy colors and flashy flowers that so many Americans insist upon in their gardens. But the ornamental grasses that looked *good* all summer, look *terrific* in the fall and winter. As the annuals wane and many perennials poop out, the grasses really start to stand on their own.

Ornamental grasses have much to offer the modern landscape. The savvy gardener is aware of just how much they

contribute. How's this, for starters? Structure and texture, summer and fall flowers, heat and drought tolerance, a range of heights and shapes, deer resistance, frost tolerance and winter interest, boldness of form, subtlety of color and a mellow personality — whew, and you thought they were boring.

There are many groups of grasses that will work overtime in the landscape.

The native grasses were here before we were, so are well adapted to this region. Indian Grass, Blue Stems and the many Switch Grasses are a few examples.

Maiden Grasses are fall show-stoppers; the many available sizes and forms start to flower in late summer and never quit. They come in small,

medium, large and extra large sizes, in stripes and banded patterns.

Sedges are smaller members of the family, boasting bright colors, shade tolerance and a diminutive size that fits any garden.

Fountain Grasses start blooming in mid-summer and create a graceful mound of foliage that lasts into winter.

There are a few very special grasses, too. Be sure to check out the Dwarf Pampas Grass in the front mound at the Nursery. With such versatility, there is a grass to fit every garden situation.

Stay tuned for a fall seminar featuring the Ornamental Grasses. Their consultant has been lobbying for one.

Fall Hours: Monday to Saturday (9-5). Sunday (10-4).

SPECIAL EVENTS		<p>Fall Customer Appreciation Weekend</p> <p><i>Jump Start Your Fall Projects.</i></p> <p>Everything 20% OFF</p> <p><i>September 4 and 5</i></p>
August 28	Summer School: The Other Fall Bloomers Bear Creek Nursery, 10 am	
September 4, 5	Fall Customer Appreciation Weekend Bear Creek Nursery	
September 10-12	Japanese Fall Festival Nathaniel Greene Park, Springfield, MO	
September 17, 18	Holiday Island Fall Festival Holiday Island, AR	
September 18, 19	Fall Festival Botanical Garden of the Ozarks Fayetteville, AR	
<p><i>Call (479) 253-7466 for more details.</i></p>		



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