

Elizabeth Ludlow Bowman: Tips for the Compleat Gardener

The infinite present of a garden

Turkeys are behind us (unless they are outside scratching in your yard) and pine trees rise like new moons in our future. For many, the landscape is in the background resting for winter.

I say, even at this time in the gardening season, there are features to catch one's eye and delight the senses. Most of them are relatively carefree such as this Viburnum (pictured) that stands unprotected in deer country, remaining un-munched, turning this beautiful maroon and pushing out an early flower to tease of the late winter display to come.

Many varieties of viburnum are excellent non-deciduous specimens with interesting winter leaf shades and early, possibly fragrant, flowers. Most do grow fairly large if not controlled by pruning and many native varieties are available at local nurseries. At this point I would wait

until spring to plant shrubbery.

I have been noticing the spectacular foliage of the Kousa dogwoods this year, glowing in vibrant fire colors against the late autumn sky. Truth be known I find myself uncertain if this particular year has elicited the display or if it has always been a feature of fall and I was unaware, distracted.

Our climate shifts as the earth turns slowly on her axis, gently rocking, filled with life. As she sways slightly closer to the sun we are warmer, our season's change and less hardy specimens can be added to our garden environment.

Crape Myrtle, Lagerstroemia [lay-ger-STREEM-ia] once a denizen of zone 8 and up, lush along the promenades of New Orleans, trees laden with blossoms for months, have become versatile all-season shrubs and small trees are available to zone 6

gardeners. They are attractive in leaf, bud, flower and even seed pod with all that ceding to the beautifully patterned bark and graceful stem in winter. They can be easily contained by radical pruning in March, pruned anytime as needed or left to grow to the size of small trees with lower branches trimmed away to create a tree-like appearance.

The startling scarlet berries along the stem of ilex verticillata, [EYE-lex ver-tiss-ill-AY-ta] a native deciduous member of the holly family, can't help but catch the eye of the passer-by.

Winterberry grows anywhere but really enjoys the damper, possibly undeveloped areas of the yard, edges of woods and fields. The berries persist into midwinter and cloudy, changing days really bring them out. The females are the berry carriers but

they need a male around to achieve the feat so don't leave him out of the show even though he will be barely noticeable. Perhaps hide him amid the ladies and they all will be happy.

Speaking of hollies, if you are going to plant one because you have been inspired by its stunning beauty this time of year, take the time to research how large the tree will be both tall and wide. An American Holly, for instance, may become 50 feet tall and 30 feet across with a graceful pyramiding shape if given adequate space. Many landscapers plant them near walks and entrances due to lack of forethought or perhaps knowledge, requiring inappropriate pruning. Put it at a distance so it can be fully enjoyed.

Have you seen Callicarpa [kal-i-KARP-a] stretching her dancer's stems to show off the sparkling purple jewels that bedeck every woody inch of her leafless autumn persona.

Commonly known as 'Beautyberry' this small (but not tiny) shrub isn't much to see any other time of the season, the flowers of spring being barely noticeable, and the tiny leaves drop away early in the autumn to reveal another great feature for the year-end garden.

I was noticing the varieties of azaleas at a gardener's house the other day, shrubs planted years ago that have gained some stature and have mingled together at the edge of the forest behind the driveway, noticing the beautiful mosaic patterns of leaf color, bright greens dancing with purples touched by sunglow, all to be present through the winter, greening



Viburnum pushes out a flower to tease the late winter display to come.

up as chlorophyll reports for duty in early spring. It is all very organized in the plant realm.

Holding down the perennial border is the dark leaf of Hellebore claiming space, preparing to affirm its common name of Christmas Rose for some varieties and Lenten Rose for others, the former blooming around Christmas and the latter near Easter.

As these plants get ready for the floral show the leaves kind of get out of the way of copious bells, the color dependent on the cultivar with the variety called 'foetidus' blooming in upright bells of green through the snow.

There are certainly more stars of the late season landscape to consider so look around and see what you notice in the surrounding environments that you may like to have in your garden space.

Winter is a time of planning, visioning what could be, preparing to make it happen.

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Christkindlmarkt returns to the Eagle

Elizabeth Bowman

Back by popular demand Christkindlmarkt, sponsored by St Philips Church in New Hope, will be celebrating the season at the Eagle Firehouse Dec. 7-9.

There will be 34 vendors offering a choice variety of local wares, delicious food available from Jamie Hollander, music spilling into the ambience and an amazing selection of silent auction items, available as

Buy Now on Friday night at the opening fete.

The Dec. 7 opportunity is 7-9 p.m., during which wine and tantalizing snacks will be passed about by folks from St Philips while you have a first shot at the vendors and silent auction.

There are some really great things awaiting your bid such as: One week stay in St. Croix in a private home on a golf resort. The package includes access to the resort's pools,

golf courses and amenities; hot air balloon rides for a party of two and a party of four; a one-night stay in the Hargrave House B&B in Doylestown; a palm reading party for 10; a full day New Jersey Shore fishing trip for four; more than 70 amazing things to win while supporting the life of St Philips, a place where all are welcome.

Saturday's hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday's are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Kringle Christmas Shoppe benefits Haycock Historical Society

Kringle Christmas Shoppe benefiting Haycock Historical Society is open 1 to 8 p.m. Dec. 7; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 8; and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at Latvian Baptist Church, 1142 Apple Road,

Applebachsville.

Featured is ceramic artist Loretta Belac plus more than 40 of the area's finest artisans, including painters, photographers, authors, jewelers, home accent creators,

culinary specialists and a Latvian culture display.

A new book by Lee Betz on U.S. Marine John Rivers will be for sale. There will be live music, cocoa and cookies and a prize raffle baskets.

Violinist featured in "Joy to the World"

The Riverside Symphonia opens the holidays with its Joy to the World concerts at 8 p.m. Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Lambertville, N.J.

The Riverside Symphonia will celebrate the sounds and spirit of Christmas with special performances by young violinist Piotr Filochowski, the winner of the symphonia's 2012 regional Caprio Young Artists Competition, sponsored in part by Fox Rothschild, and the Hunterdon Youth Choir, Concert Choir.

Filochowski is the winner of more than 30 national and international violin competitions.

The program features a wide range of classical and popular holiday favorites including selections from Wieniawski, Saint-Saens, and popular composer John Williams.

All ticket holders are invited to a post-concert holiday reception.

Tickets range in price from \$20 to \$55. Student tickets are \$15.

Tickets are available by calling 609-397-7300 or online at the symphonia's web site.

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It's time to reevaluate everything.

So far, so good. You've created wealth over the years and accumulated a collection of investments. Early on you may have invested with one of the large banks or brokerage houses. But now you're at a point where the size of your wealth requires an unbiased, professional viewpoint.

Our independence is extremely important to us, and to you. It allows us to make recommendations that fit perfectly with your goals—not sales targets. You see, as fee-only advisors, we insist on a fully transparent process with no hidden conflicts of interest and no corporate biases. We only work for you. Intelligent wealth management is your expectation—so why not work with credentialed, independent professionals willing to put your interests ahead of their own?



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