

HOME & GARDEN



April 2015
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
THE DAILY HOME

Adaptive gardening

'Gardening is fun, but strenuous'

Joe Washington helps keep baby boomers planting and watering

By **BUDDY ROBERTS**
Special Projects Editor

Gardening is consistently ranked among the three top activities for hobbyists, and it's one enthusiasts don't have to give up as they grow older, according to a master gardener and HGTV personality.

"Gardening is fun and it's great therapy, but it can be a strenuous hobby," said Joe Washington, the original host of *Ground Breakers*, HGTV's longest-running landscape program. "Members of the baby boomer population are now at the stage of their lives when they don't have the mobility they used to. By practicing adaptive gardening, the whole idea is that if you enjoy gardening, you don't have to give it up."

An Emmy-winning broadcast journalist, actor and corporate spokesman, Washington said that gardening has been one of his lifelong interests, and he became interested in the idea of adaptive gardening a few years ago. He now speaks about the subject frequently at home-and-garden shows and on other stages.

His introduction to the subject came when he attended a trade show in Atlanta "for companies that were showing off products like walk-in tubs and motorized chairs. Adaptive mobility has become a huge industry. I wondered why the same principle couldn't apply to hobbies. As people get older, they still like to do the same things they've done all their lives. There are sports for people with disabilities. Why couldn't people in both those situations still be able to garden?"

With more than 41 million Americans now at age 65 or older and millions of younger people dealing with disabilities



Joe Washington

related to health, accidents and military service, Washington believes it's an issue that should be considered.

"If you notice that things are more difficult for you than they were five years ago, you're at the point at which you need to take inventory of your garden and start making some adjustments now," he said. "It can be done. I know a guy who's been in a wheel chair for 40 years and has limited use of his hands, but he's still an avid gardener. He's made ramps and paths in his garden, and he learned to adapt how he does things so that it's second nature to him now."

Making the garden as low-maintenance as possible is the place to start, according to Washington.

"Part of it has to do with the layout of the garden. You'll want to consider raised beds or trellis gardening, as opposed to regular gardens in the ground. Both eliminate the need to bend over and can be done from a seated position. Container gardens using ceramic pots — what we used to just call big flower pots — are good for decks, apartments and condos."

Another option, he said, is straw bale gardening. "You take

a straw bale, put good topsoil in it, let it decompose a bit, then plant vegetables or flowers in it. It's a good option because it retains moisture and conserves water. Just be careful of where you get them. Sometimes they've been sprayed with an herbicide to kill weeds, and it stays in the straw. Be sure you know the source of your straw bales."

Even with raised beds, garden surfaces can often "be too soft for wheelchairs or contain tripping hazards. You can adjust to that by using inexpensive concrete or paths with granite sand or slate dust, which compacts well and provides a nice solid surface for a wheelchair."

Tools are also an important part of adaptive gardening, according to Washington.

"Problems with arthritis can make grabbing things difficult. Tools with big handles are good, as are children's tools designed for light gardening in good soil. Kitchen instruments like forks and table spoons can make good garden objects. For those who have little or no hand movement, there are even tools attached to special cuffs."

The lightweight cuffs are designed for gardeners with limited hand strength to slide their forearms into and grip an upright handle that allows them to manipulate the cultivator, fork, trowel or weeder at the end. Examples of the cuffs may be viewed at www.arthritissupplies.com/peta-easi-grip-arm-support-cuff.

A different style of wheelbarrow can also be helpful, he said.

"A one-wheeled barrow can be hard to balance. Now there are two-wheeled and four-wheeled carts that are easier to handle. There are a lot of things out there on the market that make gardening easier."



Photos by Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

Ceramic pots can be used for container gardens on decks and patios and in apartments and condos. They're a good option for those who can no longer care for a large garden.

For those who like incorporating fountains and waterfalls into their gardens, "just be sure they don't require a lot of maintenance," Washington said. "Some work well in small patio areas, and there are several how-to-build kits that are easy to use and virtually maintenance free. For watering your garden, you might think about converting sprinkler heads to a drip irrigation system. You can find the adapters at any home improvement store. A watering wand can be a good choice as opposed to a nozzle and coiled hose. It's better than trying to move around things with the garden hose, especially if you have a cane."

A number of references are available for those interested in more information about adaptive gardening, he said, recommending the website www.carryongardening.org.uk and the books *The Age-Proof Garden*, *The Illustrated Guide to Gardening for Seniors*, *Straw Bale Gardens* and *The*

Enabling Garden. "Of course, you can always contact your county extension office with any questions."

Noting that horticulture therapy programs have become "very popular" in hospitals, Washington said he has long believed in the therapeutic value of gardening.

"Here in the South, it's part of our tradition and history. As a kid, I had to do it as a chore, but as I got older, I realized it was great therapy and a fun kind of recreation. I don't mind mowing my yard now. People call it yard work, but I call it yard therapy. For a lot of people, they see gardening and landscaping only as an opportunity to make their homes look better, but once they get into it, they realize the benefits of it. It's easy, it's satisfying, and it doesn't have to be expensive."

Southern gardeners have a particular advantage, he added.

"We've got a good part of the year where we can garden, which gives us a lot to work with that a lot of other parts of the country don't have. It stands to reason it is a popular hobby in this part of the country. And who doesn't like a beautiful tree or flower, especially if you can say you put it in the ground and grew it yourself?"



Tools with large handles, such as these on display at Ace Hardware in Talladega, are good for gardeners who may be dealing with advancing age, arthritic conditions, injuries or disabilities.

SALE!

REMNANTS! REMNANTS! REMNANTS!

We received a Truck Load of **CARPET SHORT ROLLS**

All First Quality! from 7 to 21 ft.

From **\$29 to \$199**

Tremendous Selection of **VINYL**

Starting at **\$6.95** per sq. yd.

www.stephenscarpet.com

STEPHENS CARPET CO.

119 Johnson Ave., Talladega • 256-362-2970

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED FOR OVER 45 YEARS!

JACOBS GARDEN CENTER

1102 Brownsville Road, Goodwater

(256)786-0079 **9¢ Sales Tax**

We Deliver To Talladega

10" BASKETS

Boston Ferns (Big).....	\$11.00
Geraniums (Red - 3 Plants in Basket).....	\$11.00
Mixed Baskets	\$8.50
Jew Baskets	\$8.00
Artillery Ferns	\$8.00
Blueberry Bushes (1 Gallon).....	\$6.00

Azaleas (Pink & Red Ruffle) 1 Gallon \$6.00	Snow Ball Bushes \$6.00	Hydrangeas For Yard 1 Gallon \$6.00
---	--	---

Oak Leaf Hydrangeas
3 Gallon - 3' and 4' Tall
These plants are mature and have been in the greenhouse all winter!
\$15.00

Lantana & Gerber Daisy
(Pack and 5" Pot) **\$3.00**

Tomatoes
Better Boy
6 Pack **\$2.50** or Flat (36) **\$10**

Jacobs Flowers has Boston Ferns for sale at "Penny Pinchers" located on Hwy. 21, East (corner of Brecon Access Road), Talladega.

OUR PRICES CAN'T BE BEAT!

Your Home & Garden
HEADQUARTERS

SEE US FIRST FOR BEST SELECTION!

- Bonnie Spring Garden Plants & Bedding Flowers
- Herb Plants
- Package Seeds
- Gardening Tools
- Gloves
- Fertilizers
- Bark
- Much More

We Rent Equipment!
From Bobcats to Mini Excavators, Tools, Ditchwinches, Generators & much more!

LINCOLN HARDWARE & SUPPLY

Mon.-Fri. 7 am - 5 pm
Sat. 7 am - 2 pm

77 Magnolia St. South
Lincoln

205-763-7660

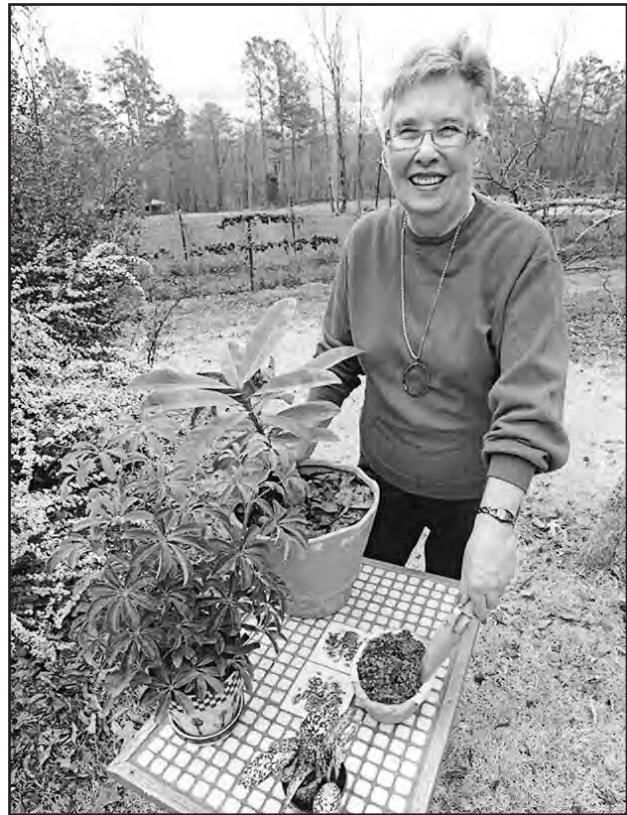
Master gardener: Nola Shiflett



Local master gardener Nola Shiflett has cultivated this small-leaf schefflera, a tropical plant that grows well indoors and outdoors. It has one-to-two-inch leaves that grow in tight clusters. The plant grows best in temperatures above 60 degrees in bright, indirect light and loose, rich potting soil. Weekly watering is recommended during warmer months.



The Florida Beauty dracaena has so much white or yellow on its leaves that little green is visible. Nola Shiflett grew this one for an upcoming plant sale.



Photos by Bob Crisp/The Daily Home
Shiflett prepares for the spring plant sale at the Pell City Civic Center April 10 and 11.

Shiflett looks forward to spring plant sale

By **ELSIE HODNETT**
Home staff writer

The St. Clair County Master Gardeners Association is a resource for those interested in the different types of gardening.

"I was involved in the first class offered in Pell City in 2006," said member Nola Shiflett.

Shiflett began gardening as a child with her parents and continued having a garden most years with her husband.

"I've participated in most of the projects and spoken for several groups," she said.

Shiflett said some of the service projects the association completed include clearing and landscaping at the Cook Springs walking track, trimming 77 peach trees and putting in a large garden at Lifeline Village and doing all the landscaping around Lakeside Hospice in Pell City.

"We have also done several projects around schools in St. Clair County including Williams Intermediate School, Walter M. Kennedy Elementary School and Eden Elementary School," she said. "The educational material we share with individuals and groups is researched and certified by the Alabama Extension Service."

Shiflett has contributed about 1,500 hours of service and is a proud owner of a gold badge.

"I'm heavily involved in preparing for the spring plant sale we will hold at the Pell City Civic Center April 10-11 from 8 a.m.-6

p.m.," she said. "I'm hoping to see many friends from Talladega County, as well as from St. Clair County and the surrounding areas."

Association member Adrienne Bourland also participated in the recent master gardeners' class offered in St. Clair County in quite some time.

"The fall after we finished the class, we organized the association," she said. "I had wanted to take a master gardener class for a long time and was on a long waiting list for Jefferson County. I was so excited about the class in St. Clair County and was afraid we might not have enough people. Several

of us asked everyone we knew who might be interested to ensure we had the minimum number of people, and the extension office was packed."

Bourland said the classes are one day a week for 12 weeks and cover many subjects like soils, fertilizer, landscaping, vegetable and fruit production, turf grass, flowers (both annuals and perennials) and integrated pest management.

"The classes are taught by experts in the subject field and often by Auburn University professors," she said.

St. Clair County Extension Coordinator Lee Ann Clark said St.

Clair and Blount counties alternate hosting master gardeners classes.

"We held ours last fall, and there will be a class in Blount County this year," she said. "You don't have to live in the county where the class is held."

Master gardeners can also be a member of the St. Clair County association even if they do not live in the county. Clark said those interested in the classes can find more information at www.aces.edu.

CUSTOM DOCKS

LAND OR WATER



ALL WORK GUARANTEED!
FREE ESTIMATES!

Building Trust...

One Project At A Time

- Pile Driving
- Decks
- Sea Walls
- Boat Houses
- Lifts
- Construction





Tony Hickman
owner

256-268-8309

WWW.CUSTOMDOCKSLLC.COM

Home improvement...
in a matter of seconds:)





Griffins
JEWELLERS

Since 1950

256-362-5282

www.Facebook.com/GriffinsJewelers

Chris VanCleave

'If you can dig a hole, you can grow a rose'

'Redneck rosarian' shares passion, admiration for flower in the herb family

By **BUDDY ROBERTS**
Special Projects Editor

Chris VanCleave is often asked what a rosarian is.

"Someone who grows roses," he answers. "That's it."

For those who want to take their love for the flower to another level, "the American Rose Society has an educational designation called consulting rosarian," he continued. "It involves a three-year course of study, passing a test and taking part in continuing education. That's what I've done, and I've got the scars on my arms to prove it."

A two-time president of the Birmingham Rose Society and chairman of the Birmingham Rose Show, VanCleave created the weekly Rose Chat podcast and developed the website www.RedneckRosarian.com to share what he's learned from his training and years of experience. The podcast, which he describes as a "20-minute conversation about roses" that has been downloaded more than 350,000 times since its launch in 2012, can be accessed at rosechat.podcast.com.

"Roses have been on the earth since before there were people," he said. "We are drawn to them as things of beauty. They connect us with many of our senses. We're enamored with the shapes, forms and fragrances they produce. Roses have become a symbol of peace, welcome and love. I've rarely gone to an official function where there weren't roses out."

VanCleave considers rose cultivation a good endeavor for beginning gardeners. "If you can dig a hole, you can grow a rose," he said. "I'm a firm believer that there's a rose out there for everybody. It's a matter of what you want and the space you have to work with. Here in Alabama, this is actually a very good area for roses. The only real drawback is the soil. We tend to have a clay soil here. I don't know about your back yard, but mine is a virtual Play-Doh."

To overcome the problem, "I have a very simple recipe that I use in all of my gardens that involves adding some things into what you already have. You take topsoil, composted cow manure and miniature pine bark nuggets and mix all that into your soil. You can go online and Google all kinds of complicated soil recipes that will tell you to drive hundreds of miles to get compost from Arizona or somewhere, but I don't subscribe to that. I'm for keeping it simple, espe-



Submitted photos
Chris VanCleave is an award-winning, internationally-recognized rose gardener who hosts the weekly Rose Chad Podcast.



The Climbing Pinkie rose has a bright flower and few thorns, making it a variety that is easy to work with.



VanCleave's garden includes Golden Celebration and Reine des Violettes roses. The Golden Celebration produces one of the largest flowers among English roses, while the deep purple Reine de Violettes has a well-formed medium-sized bloom.

cially when it works."

This time of year is ideal for planting roses, according to VanCleave.

"In Alabama, the best time to plant is right now. If you get too much into April and it's in the eighties when you plant, it won't take off as well as it will if you get it in the ground earlier. You can also plant in October and November and the plants will do well. Other than the odd snow-pocalypse, we don't get harsh winters here, and we get more rain in the winter, so you only have to water

See *Rose*, Page 5A

DISCOVER WHAT. LANDSCAPE PROS ALREADY KNOW.



For more than three decades, Exmark® has raised the bar on durability, technological innovations, fuel efficiency, environmental friendliness, comfort and ergonomics. All aimed at helping you save time and money. **That's why landscape professionals purchased Exmark 2 to 1 over the next best-selling brand of mowing equipment.**

exmark.com



TALLADEGA TRACTOR COMPANY

**QUEST® RIDERS
AS LOW AS
\$61 PER MO.**

3.99% Monthly Interest for 60 months*
based on QTE708GEM42100

0%
monthly interest for
42 MONTHS*

On all mowers. Limited time offer.
See dealer for complete details.

35450 Alabama Hwy. 21 North
256-362-6113
www.talladegainternational.com

*3.99% Monthly Interest for 60 Months. Revolving Program offered by Synchrony Financial. On qualifying purchases of \$1000 or more with your Exmark credit card. A \$125 Promotion Fee will be charged. 60 Fixed Monthly Payments Required. 0% Monthly Interest for 42 Months. Revolving Program offered by Synchrony Financial On Purchases of \$1500 or more on Exmark Equipment with your Exmark credit card. A \$125 Promotion Fee will be charged. 42 Equal Monthly Payments Required.

Presbyterian Oaks

Apartments I, II & III



Talladega's Premier Senior Living

Where communities are built, apartments become homes and residents are like family.

Seniors 62 years and older.

Social Activities ~ Outings ~ Community Gardens
~ Onsite Benefits & Services Coordinator ~

Non-Smoking Property ~ Rent based on income
~ Generous Utility Allowance ~

408 S. 5th St., 21 & 23 Ironaton Rd. • Talladega

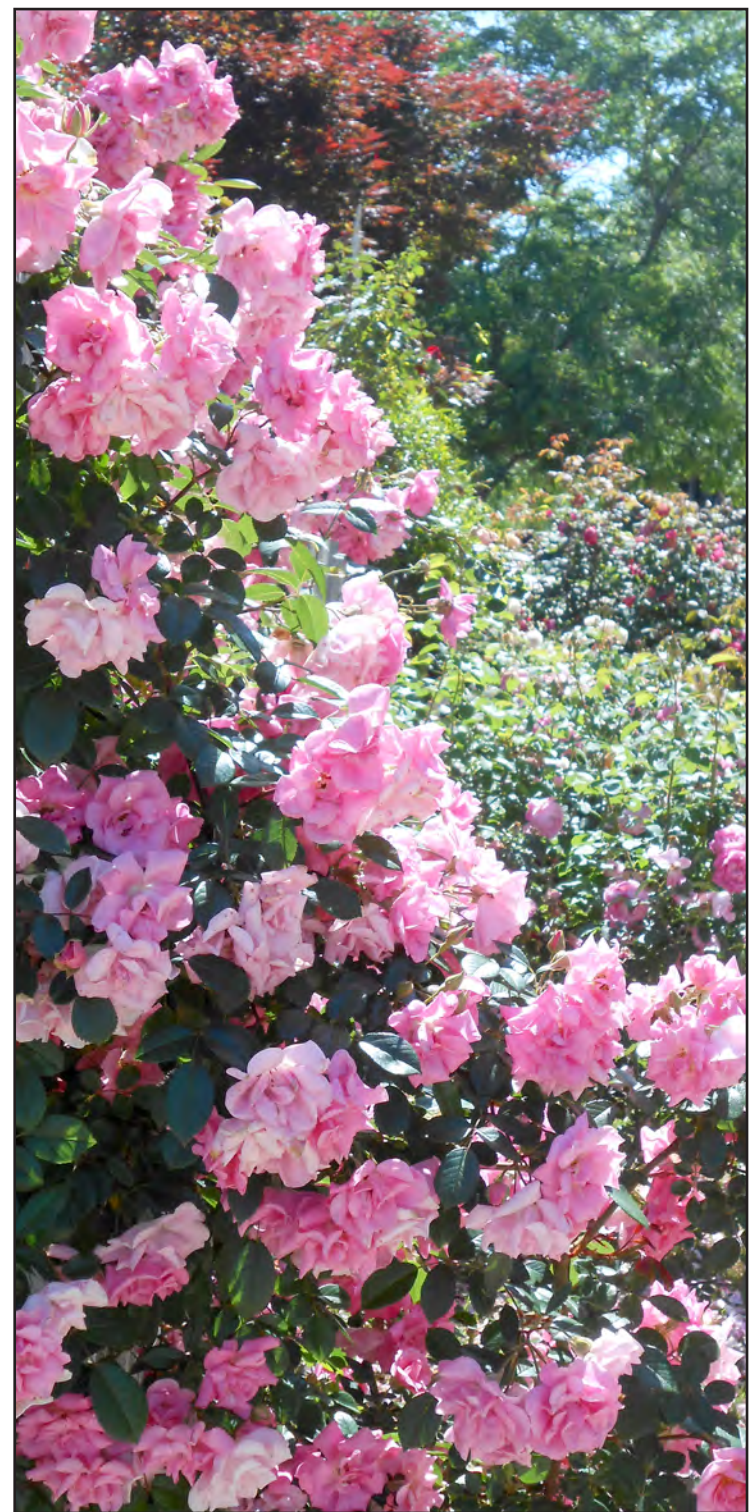
Presbyterian Oaks I - 256/362-5218

Presbyterian Oaks II - 256/761-2469

Presbyterian Oaks III - 256/362-2202

View Apartment Info @ spm.net

Chris VanCleave



Submitted photos

A certified consulting rosarian, VanCleave maintains a garden containing more than 150 roses, including the Climbing Pinkie bush in the right photo. It is difficult to find the graceful, cascading shrub out of bloom once the plant is established.

Rose

From Page 4A

about once a month.”

During spring and summer, he suggests watering “about an inch a week. If it rains, you get a break from watering, so you might want to get a gauge to help you keep track of it. Roses require only five or six hours of sun a day in well-draining soil. They like to be watered. They just don’t like to stand in it.”

For beginning rosarians, VanCleave recommends buying a pair of bypass pruners and “a very thick pair of gloves, preferably gauntlet style that reach up to the elbow. I grew roses for years without any, and I have the scars to show for it. With elbow gloves, you can reach in as far as you need to without the thorns getting you. You can get the gloves and the pruners at any home and garden center.”

Earth Kind roses are a good choice for beginners, he said. Developed by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, they are known for demonstrating superior tolerance to pests, heat and drought. “They’re a landscape variety, so you don’t want to grow them in a small space, but they’re very easy to care for and require no spraying,” VanCleave said. “My favorite Earth Kind rose is the Mutabilis. It changes color on the shrub. When it first blooms, it’s yellow. It changes to pink in a day or so and eventually

becomes red.”

For gardeners working in small spaces, he recommends the Drift variety. “It came out a couple of years ago. They grow to be about two feet wide and three feet tall, so they do well in a container on the patio or if you have limited space in your garden. The Oso Easy and Oso Happy roses are also great for small spaces and containers.”

VanCleave is partial to the Julia Child rose, which is deep yellow and has a lemon-citrus scent.

“I like yellow roses,” he said. “They are symbolic of friendship and hospitality, and their color stands out in the garden. You can drive by any house and see red and pink roses, but when

you see yellow or white, you stop and take a look. It gives you a little ‘wow’ in the garden or landscape.”

Roses can also provide “a little ‘wow’” in the kitchen, something new rosarians may not realize

“A rose is technically part of the herb family, like mint, thyme or sage,” VanCleave said. “Most

produce a hip, which is edible if you don’t spray the shrub. You can boil it down and make a tea out of it or candy it once it turns red. There are a lot of things you can do to cook with roses, and there are some rose recipe books out there.”

Among books related to cultivating roses, he

suggests *Everyday Roses* by Paul Zimmerman. “It’s an excellent resource filled with charts and illustrations that’s good for both beginners and folks interested in including roses into their home garden and landscape plans.”

Beginners, he added, may find that “it gets in your blood. I know I’ve

been scratched enough for it to be in mine. If you’ve never done it, get out and grow a rose. It became our national flower in 1986 when Ronald Reagan was president, so that puts the rose up there with the flag as a national symbol. You could say it’s your patriotic duty to have a rose in your garden.”

ECHO
SRM 225
Straight Shaft
Trimmer

INSTANT REBATE \$20

Original Price \$219.99

\$199.99 SALE PRICE

JR AIR COOLED ENGINES

244 W. Battle St. • Talladega
256/761-1714
000210769r1

Mortgage Rates LOWERED!

2.990%**
Rate

3.385%
APR

NOW is the best time to **REFINANCE** or **BUY A HOME!**

Contact Our Mortgage Team
Shonnie McNeill • Anna Tyler • Mark Haynes

5/1 Adjustable Rate Mortgage

Months	Rate	APR	Payment*
First 60	2.990%**	3.385%	\$631.60
Next 300	3.375%***	3.555%	\$663.14

*For a 5/1 adjustable rate mortgage based on a loan amount of \$150,000.00 for a term of 30 years. **Rate is variable and can increase or decrease by no more than 2 percentage points after the initial five year period and at each subsequent annual rate adjustment, with a lifetime maximum adjustment of 6% (8.990%). ***Since the index in the future is unknown, the First Adjusted Payments displayed are based on the current index plus margin (fully indexed rate) as of June 26, 2014. The monthly payment reflects principal and interest only and does not include taxes and mortgage or hazard insurance. Your monthly payment maybe higher. Actual interest rate will vary depending upon loan-to-value and credit score. Terms and conditions of this rate are as follows: credit score of at least 700; a maximum loan to value ratio of 80%; and the loan must be for a single family primary residence. Terms, conditions and fees of accounts, programs, products and services are subject to change. All loans are subject to credit and property approval. Certain restrictions may apply on all programs. Offer cannot be combined with any other mortgage offer. Offer available on refinance and purchase transactions only. Rates displayed are available on conforming rate/term refinance/purchase transactions only. SouthFirst Bank rates may change without notice subject to market conditions. This is not a commitment to lend.

SouthFirst
Bank

Call for Details
256-245-4365
OR
1-800-239-1492

Visit us at www.southfirst.com

Member FDIC

WAITES
Construction & Concrete
A Solid Foundation For Your Future

- Ready Mix Concrete
- Sand
- Gravel
- Fiber
- Pea Gravel
- RiverRock
- Concrete Construction Material
- Grading •Excavating •Site Clearing

210 Stephen J. White Memorial Blvd.
Talladega, Alabama 35160
Phone: (256) 362-2318

The 20-30 Something Gardening Guide

'There is magic in growing things'

Award-winning gardener encourages Generation X and Millennials to get their hands dirty

By **BUDDY ROBERTS**
Special Projects Editor

Gardening, Dee Nash believes, is all about failure. And learning from one's mistakes.

"We've all made the common mistakes," she said. "We've all forgotten to start small, bitten off more than we can chew, bought too many seeds and been disappointed. You make the mistakes, you learn from them and you move on."

That's why Nash, an award-winning gardener, blogger and speaker, has written *The 20-30 Something Gardening Guide: A No-Fuss, Down and Dirty Gardening 101 for Anyone Who Wants to Grow Stuff*, to help beginning gardeners, especially millennials and members of Generation X, avoid the discouragement that comes with early mistakes.

"Very few young people are taught how to garden anymore," said the mother of four. "Used to be, people were taught to garden from the time they were little. My four children all learned how to garden, but their friends didn't. That's just how it's been the last couple of generations. For the average person, their mother went back to work, they got involved with sports or other things, and they got no gardening experience beyond trying to grow a sunflower seed in a Dixie cup at school or day care."

Such an endeavor isn't likely to be successful. "Sunflower seeds don't like to be transplanted," Nash said.

"Experiences like that are



Dee Nash, and her dog, Maddie

why most people's first attempt at gardening is a failure, and failure convinces people they can't do something. Still, if you look at a study by the National Gardening Association, over the past five years, people in their twenties and thirties are the fastest growing group of gardeners. Younger generations are concerned about the food supply, and they want to learn to grow their own food, so it was a good time to write the book."

Fully-illustrated with step-

by-step directions for gardening projects, the book is divided into sections covering types and sizes of gardens, starting with "Farming Your Patio, Balcony or Deck" and offering incremental goals for a gardener's first three years.

"It's a basic roadmap that lets new gardeners be as creative and out-of-the-box as they want," Nash said. "This is not a super-scientific book. I'm not a scientific writer, but I have been gardening since I was a

very young person. In writing the book, I saw my role as that of a coach or an aunt talking to the reader over the garden gate. I wanted it to be fun and non-intimidating."

While she doesn't consider herself a scientific writer, she holds a degree in professional writing with an emphasis in botany from the University of Oklahoma, is a member of the Garden Writers Association and the Oklahoma Horticultural Society and contributes to several gardening magazines. Her vegetable, rose and perennials gardens take up about an acre, and she blogs about them at www.reddirtrablings.com.

"My favorite garden that I write about in the book is the sensory garden," she said. "It's one that involves all five senses. First is smell. Olfactory is one of the most keen senses humans have, and scented plants like roses are great in any garden. I believe every garden should have flowers. And who can resist touching plants as you walk through the garden? Tassels of corn and different leaves have wonderful textures. The swaying of certain plants – corn and sunflowers – appeal to the sight, and they make rustling noises that are pleasant to hear. Finally, there's the taste of the food you grow in the garden."

Nash describes gardening as an endeavor that is "not hard, but it is work. Nobody has a brown thumb, but gardening can be intimidating, especially for first-time gardeners trying to grow their own food. They shouldn't feel that they have

to grow everything they eat. It's nice to be able to walk out the back door and grab a tomato off the vine or snip some herbs, but just remember to start small."

While she

believes "there is magic in the garden, there are no magic formulas. I don't buy that. Gardening is a craft to be learned, like sewing or cooking."

In her book, Nash tailors the lessons to both 20-and-30-something age groups. "They're at different stages of their lives. People in their twenties are just out of school, in their first place, and they're interested in simple container gardening on their apartment balcony or patio. Thirtysomethings are starting families and buying homes and interested in larger gardens and landscapes. In either case, all it takes is a few successes, and you're thinking about the next tomato you're going to grow."

The book also addresses urban gardening, she said. "People who live in cities see no reason that they can't grow food, and there's been a slow move away from just having a front lawn to having raised garden beds and edible landscaping as part of the lawn. I love the idea of it. If you want to plant a beautiful-looking tree, why not make it a fruit tree?"

Certain vegetables, she added, incorporate well into flower gardens and landscapes.

"Bulls Blood beets are a good example. They're good in salads, and they have a deep red and purple foliage that looks attractive in a garden. Butterhead lettuces and Hill Country Red okra are also beautiful plants."

Nash said her hope is to instill in readers of her book and blog that same love for gardening that she developed years ago.

"There is magic in growing things, in creating an environment that all works together. That's the joy of getting out there in the garden. There's no place I'd rather be. There's always something to do. The garden is eternal. It goes on and on. It's just the seasons that change."



Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

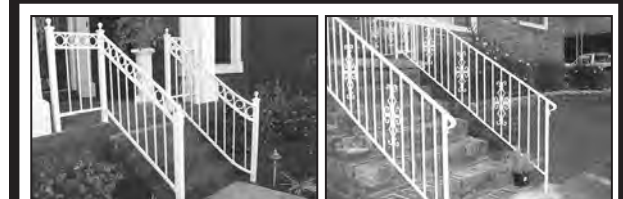
"It's nice to be able to walk out the back door and grab a tomato off the vine or snip some herbs," Nash said. "There is magic in the garden."



Nash's book, published last year, provides "a fun, non-intimidating introduction to the basics of gardening."

"STAY PROTECTED" From Falls, Rain & Hot Sun

ORNAMENTAL IRON HANDRAILS



ALUMINUM & CANVAS PATIO COVERS



ALUMINUM & CANVAS DOOR AWNINGS



All Custom Made For Your Home or Business

Eugene L. Evans Mfg. Co., Inc.

401 South Noble St. • Anniston, AL

"Serving Talladega County Since 1950"

Free Estimates – Easy Terms

1-800-321-4414

Visit Our Website

www.awningsbyeans.com

FULL SERVICE
ONE STOP HEATING & AIR
WE HANDLE IT ALL,
ONE CALL
Dial 855-GET ENGLE
7 DAY FAST SERVICE

SPRING
MAINTENANCE
CHECK
\$75

Engle Services
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
HEATING & COOLING

AL00145

855-GET-ENGLE
256-369-1450

Join Us For

Cinco de Mayo

FREE T-Shirt For Every \$20 Spent

L'Acosta
Mexican Restaurant

Check Out Our Full Bar!

215 N. Broadway Ave.
Sylacauga, AL
256-249-3360

VISA

MasterCard

Master gardener: Adrienne Bourland

Horticulture is Bourland's life-long passion

By **ELSIE HODNETT**
Home staff writer

For Cook Springs resident Adrienne Bourland, flowers and horticulture have been a life-long passion.

"I have always been interested in flowers and horticulture, working with my mother, my grandmother and later with my mother-in-law," she said.

Bourland and her husband reside on 25 wooded acres, and she is a member of the St. Clair County Master Gardeners Association.

"Dennis and my father-in-law built a pond on the property in the early 1970s," she said. "The dam serves as part of our drive to the house. We had planned to build our dream home there, but the recession stopped us."

Bourland said the family first began landscaping work on the property because the entire family used the area near the pond for recreation.

"We planted grass on the sides of the dam and spillway, and I started my first rock garden and planted some trees," she said.

Bourland and her husband both retired from telephone contracting jobs in 2001 and built the house they live in.

"We enjoy working outside and have done a lot of landscaping to create areas for flowers and shrubs, a vegetable garden and created paths around the pond," she said. "I joke that I can't plant anything until I make a place for it by cutting some trees — but it's true. We are careful about what we cut and keep what will enhance our surroundings. We have a lot more ideas than we have time or money."

Bourland said the couple uses a lot of native plants.

"We are blessed with many native varieties on the property that I have moved into my garden beds," she said.

"We have also brought rhododendron and mountain laurel from our property in North Carolina. We used to bring hemlock but have not done so since the trees there have begun to die from disease and we don't want to spread it."

Bourland said most of the landscaping was done gradually until the spring and summer of 2010.

"Our son Ken was killed in the earthquake in Haiti (in January, 2010)," she said.

"Our entire family helped clear land that spring and summer. We did it as a family to keep busy. It was good therapy for all of us. We were able to take out some of our frustrations with hard work."

Bourland said this was the first time they've had an open area on the property. "That area enhances the drive to the house, and was the first time I had that much space to create a garden with paths and plantings on a larger scale," she said. "It is near the vegetable garden, and we work and play in that area quite often."

Bourland said landscaping in the country is different, because there are things such as huge rocks and hills that must be worked around.

"We are lucky that we have pretty rocks on the property," she said.

"When we are clearing, we save the rocks. I plan to do a creek bed with those rocks to make it look better."



Adrienne Bourland enjoys gardening and landscaping on her 25-acre property in Cook Springs. She is eager for the return of spring colors, as evidenced by her floral Easter decoration in the right photo. Photos by Buddy Roberts/The Daily Home

Spring Savings

for the LAWN & GARDEN



ACE
Weed & Feed
14 lb., covers 5,000 sq. ft.
#7134117

Limit 2 **\$14⁹⁹**



ACE Green Turf
Lawn Fertilizer
15 lb., covers 5,000 sq. ft.
#7134133

Limit 2 **\$11⁹⁹**



ACE
Weed & Grass Killer
Gal., kills the root
#7105141

\$5⁹⁹



Spectracide
Fire Ant Killer Granules
3.5 lb., kills queen & colony
in 24 hours. #70867

Reg. \$4.99 **\$2⁹⁹**



ACE Tank Sprayer
2 gallon,
#7215031

Reg. \$15.99 **\$9⁹⁹**



Annual Ryegrass
Seed
50 lb. bag

\$20⁰⁰



Arnold
Premixed
Gas & Oil

32 oz.
#7196140

\$5⁹⁹

YOUR CHOICE **\$99⁹⁹** red hot buy

25cc Straight Shaft Gas Trimmer
#7307341

25cc Gas Blower/Vac
#7387079

38cc 16" Gas Chain Saw
#7387087




GARDEN Center

Best quality fruit trees, shrubs, bedding plants, vegetables, herbs and garden seeds. Hurry for best selection.



TALLADEGA ACE HOME CENTER

1104 Ashland Highway

256-362-2208

Mon.-Fri. 7-5, Sat. 7-3; Closed Sun.

002704352

Home organization



These before-and-after photos show how organization can improve the appearance and usefulness of such home spaces as the garage. "Having a designated place for everything saves time and money," the owners of Tidy Spaces said.

Submitted photos

Spring cleaning makes Tidy Spaces

By **BUDDY ROBERTS**
Special Projects Editor

Kathy Turrentine and Barbi Brown see spring cleaning as a good time to make sure a home stays orderly throughout the year.

"Spring is a time for new life," Brown said. "Things feel lighter. People are tired of the heaviness of winter. They want things to be fresh and clean again."

"For me," Turrentine said, "the less time spent cleaning and straightening up my house, the more I can be outside enjoying the warm weather."

As the owners of Tidy Spaces, the professional organizers believe the key to making that happen is making sure everything in the home has a proper place and is returned there after its use.

"Home organization is a lot like time management," Brown said.

"It actually helps you with time management. Once things get organized, it doesn't take as much time to, say, get ready in the morning and take the kids to school. As hectic as mornings can be, that's something you can't put a price on."

The primary challenge to home organization, Turrentine said, is that people don't have time for it.

"Or more accurately, they think they don't have time for it. The real problem is that they do not have a definite place for things. You throw it in the closet or cabinet or drawer, and once you do that three, four and five times, it becomes a habit. Then when you start to organize, you don't know where to start."

Brown said they often see evidence of that when working to organize clients' pantries. "They want the pantry to be

organized, but they look at it and say, 'I can't do this.' It looks overwhelming. They don't know where to start, so they close the door, go buy more groceries and pile them on top of what's already there."

That leads, Turrentine said, to buying more products than one actually needs.

"We completely organized a garage for somebody who could never find his power drill," she recalled. "Every time he'd need it and couldn't find it, he bought a new one. We found seven drills in his garage. Having a designated place for everything saves time and money."

With an organization plan, Brown said, "if something doesn't have a place or isn't in its place, it stands out. You'll see it immediately and know it needs to be taken back and put where it goes."

"That doesn't mean you have to put it up right away," Turrentine added. "You can wait until whatever project you're working on is finished and then put it right where it goes. Even if somebody comes in and uses some stuff and doesn't put it back, when everything has its place, you know exactly where to take it and put it back where it belongs."

While working in their clients' pantries, garages, basements and children's rooms, "we often find things people haven't seen in years," Brown said. "Once we've organized, they realize they have more room than they thought they did."

That realization could be behind a common misconception about home organization, she added. "People will sometimes say to us, 'I don't want you coming into my house. You'll just throw everything away.' It is a huge



Kathy Turrentine and Barbi Brown

misconception that you have to get rid of everything to be organized. It's just a matter of having a place for everything."

Still, Turrentine said, determining what you can live without is worth considering.

"Do you really need 28

sets of salt and pepper shakers? Do you really think you can't live without the three crock pots, one or all of which may not even work but you want to hold onto because you remember where you bought it or who gave it to you?"

"Perhaps somebody else could make use of what you have too many of. You could think about donating it to a thrift store, taking it to a consignment shop or selling it on eBay."

"We all have our sentimental things we don't want to get rid of," Brown said.

"We can even start to think sentimentally about things we don't feel sentimental about in that we don't want to regret getting rid of it later on."

Some things should be held onto, Turrentine said.

"We're not talking about getting rid of things like the clothes your baby came home from the hospital in. But if they're just sitting in a box under the bed or at the bottom of the closet, why not take it out and put it in a shadow box? If it's something that has value to you, put it in safekeeping or try to find

a way to repurpose it and make it useful, even if it's as décor."

The meaning of 'repurposing' is another common misconception, she added.

"People think it means making something into a completely different item, like turning a desk into a cabinet. It can be as simple as taking a fruit bowl that isn't working in the kitchen and putting it in the foyer as a place to put your keys. Repurposing can be as simple as taking something from one room to another."

Organization in general, Brown said, "can be as simple or as difficult as you want it to be. Organizing will make your home look beautiful, but you still have to make it work. If you don't practice the plan you put into place, you'll be right back where you were in three months."

AARDWOLF
TERMITE & PEST CONTROL
SERVICES, INC.

FREE ESTIMATES

ALL TYPES TERMITE & PEST CONTROL SERVICES, FLOOR SUPPORTS & MOISTURE CONTROL

www.aardwolfpestcontrol.net
205-338-6615

FIG
FRANKLIN
INSURANCE GROUP

Gary D. Franklin
President

8135 Parkway Drive | Leeds, AL 35094
205.699.1644
garyfranklin@franklininsurancegroup.com

We have everything you need to get your lawn Ready For Spring!
Come see us at

Eden **NEW OWNERS**
Outdoor Power Equipment

114B Cogswell Ave., Pell City, AL 35125
(205) 338-6816 • Fax (205) 338-6815
edenoutdoor1@yahoo.com
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Want Your Smile Back!

Need DENTURES or PARTIALS?
SAME DAY SERVICE
(In Most Cases)

Need EXTRACTIONS?
We can remove your teeth & place a denture the same day!
Out With The Old - In with The NEW!

FRIENDLY STAFF • AFFORDABLE PRICES

280
Dental
Care

Dr. Thomas A. Douyard, D.M.D.

33044 Hwy. 280
Childersburg, AL

Call For Appointment
256-378-3322

Floor Fashions & Decorating

•Carpet •Vinyl •Ceramic Tile
•Hardwood •Laminate
•Engineered Wood

Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. Fri. 9-5;
Wed. & Sat. 9-12
Serving St. Clair Co. &
Surrounding Areas
Since 1986 - Lynn Mulvehill, owner

(205) 884-4748
205-812-5254 Cell

DIY advice

Q&A with Bath Crashers host Matt Muenster

By **ABBY HATHORN**
Special to The Daily Home

Licensed contractor and television personality Matt Muenster sees every house project, whether he's ripping apart dated bathrooms using the latest construction technology or completely gutting his own kitchen, as a chance to achieve a great design while integrating earth-friendly elements.

The host of *Bath Crashers* and *BATHtastic!* on the DIY Network, Muenster earned a degree in interior design from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He initially designed restaurants and casinos and volunteered with humanitarian efforts. Eventually,

his interest for design shifted to the residential sector. His professional experience includes high-end interior design, and he says he gets an adrenaline rush every time he transforms "a boring bathroom into a fantastic one."

He recently offered some insights into the production of the show and advice to those who may be planning a bathroom makeover.

Q: What is your favorite power tool?

A: There's a German company called Festool, and they make amazing things. One of their tools I use religiously is called the Domino.

Q: What does the Domino do?



Matt Muenster

A: Well, the Domino is kind of like a biscuit joiner, which is a tool that allows you to plunge a hole in one board and another

board then stick a little dowel rod in between the two boards. Biscuit joiners are great, but in my personal opinion, Festool's Domino does it better than anyone else. I literally use it as often as I can because it makes getting the job done so much easier.

Q: What advice can you give to people who are looking to start a bathroom renovation?

A: Definitely watch and take notes from the television shows.

Q: How did you get involved with bathroom renovations as a designer?

A: The TV show happened. I did not seek the show out. They found me. To be honest, I wasn't even really that interested in doing such a specialized job because I was really happy with the diversity of doing restaurants, casinos and special commercial design. My design work kept things interesting, and I thought that if I specialized I would get bored, but the TV part keeps me from getting bored. So, now, I can just focus in on bathroom renovations and try to make it interesting and entertaining.

Q: What is your favorite part about being the host of Bath Crashers?

A: I don't know. It's definitely interesting. I really like the idea of being someone to go to for this information – that's kind of empowering, but it's also a lot of responsibility because I want and need to make sure I get it right. I also really like the opportunity to get it right because I used to watch shows like Bath Crashers all the time growing up, and they were not often hosted by real designers. And I would watch these programs as a designer and get frustrated because the renovations and such were being portrayed in a way that I did not feel did the design community a favor and kind of worked against us a little. So I think it's really cool to have the opportunity when on camera to use the correct terminology and show people the

correct way to do things while making it an entertaining show.

Q: Is there a specific aspect of the area of the bathroom that is your favorite to renovate?

A: Every episode is its own thing. Demo is fun because I get to smash and grab stuff, which if I'm having a bad day is a great way to blow off steam. Other times, my favorite part is the reveal, or it's a specific project that turned out way better than I thought it would. As I drive away after day three, the things that stand out to me are not necessarily the things I thought would be great going into it. It's really cool and really fun because my favorite part is always different every time, every episode.

Q: Do some homeowners tend to shy away from bathroom renovations?

A: Oh, yeah. Bathrooms are hard and scary because there is so much that can go wrong. That's one reason I really love bathroom renovations. I like the challenge. The challenge is the difficult part, but it's also the opportunity. The hard part is getting the job done, but the bathroom offers so many awesome possibilities that it's unlike any other room.

Q: Does it complicate things when you incorporate design aspects?

A: The adding of cool designs really adds a challenge, but it's so awesome figuring it all out and making it happen. The hard work definitely pays off. We always love to add in the unexpected.

Q: Is it also a challenge to avoid getting into a rut with the show?

A: It would make life much easier to do the same thing in-and-out on every show, but that's not what we are about.

It's hard coming up with new ideas all of the time and sometimes we take really big risks, but that part is really fun for me. I look forward to bringing something new to the table for everyone to see.



Submitted photo

Bathroom renovations are often viewed as "hard and scary," according to television personality Matt Muenster, but "the hard work definitely pays off."

Fill Your Wheelbarrow

It's time to stock up on everything for spring planting!





Greener. Smarter. Easy.

Garden Seeds & Plants



PRO-MIX
Soil

3.8 cu. ft. bale
\$29



BACCTO
where growing begins.™

Potting Soil

50 lb. bag
\$6⁹⁹



PREMIER
PEAT MOSS

Premier Peat Moss

3.8 cu. ft. bale
\$16⁵⁰

Lawn & Garden Fertilizers



BONIDE Chemicals



Talladega County EXCHANGE



35052 AL Hwy. 21, Talladega
256-362-2716
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Sat. 7:30 am - 12:00 pm
Email: talladega@mailafc.com

Personalizing your space

Teens shouldn't shy away from DIY projects

By **BUDDY ROBERTS**
Special Projects Editor

Home improvement projects are often not as difficult or costly as prospective do-it-yourselfers may think, according to lifestyles blogger Abby Hathorn.

The 19-year-old has several DIY projects to her credit and has shared the process of each at www.vintageinspiredpassionista.com, where she encourages teenagers to personalize their spaces.

"With the popularity of Pinterest, a lot of people are getting into it," Hathorn said. "I have friends who enjoy doing it, and I think it's good for people my age to be hands-on about. On my blog, I hope someone may be inspired by a DIY I've done and decide they want to go after it and do it and make it their own."

What often holds young and even older do-it-yourself enthusiasts from starting some projects are concerns about costs or their ability to do the work.

"People see these ideas they think are very cute and fun, but they think it's too hard or too expensive. Usually, it's neither. Most projects are a lot easier and more affordable than people think. Some projects are more labor-intensive than others, but it all depends on the project. If you're painting walls or doing a small DIY for your bathroom, there won't be as much heavy lifting involved as with, say, if you're redoing a piece of furniture, which takes a lot more effort."

For Hathorn, doing things herself "seems like something I've done since I was little. My mom taught me to personalize my rooms and spaces. Personalizing your space makes it reflect your personality and separates you from others. Whether you've invited people over or you're by yourself, you can be your complete self in that space."

It's also, she said, a satisfying effort. "Making something that's ugly or not very attractive to look at pretty and personal is fun. Then it's more fun when people say, 'That's a cute idea,' or they ask you, 'How did you do that?'"

One of Hathorn's favorite projects was installing a small patio space outside her apartment, a process she documented at her blog.

"It was something I'd never done before, and it was a lot more work than painting my bathroom was," she said. "Would it



Abby Hathorn

have been easier to ask my dad to do it? Absolutely. Would it have been easier to hire someone to do it? Absolutely, but I wanted to do it myself. I wanted to pull off the project like a girl."

Approaching projects "like a girl" has become one of Hathorn's hallmarks. "I was overtaken with that phrase when I first saw it. It carries a fantastic message. Throwing, hitting, running and working like a girl is and should be a good thing. It should not be used as an insult."

The patio project involved more work than her previous do-it-yourself endeavors.

"First, I had to figure out where I wanted the patio and kill the grass before adding sand and concrete stepping stones. Carrying the bags of sand was definitely not-so-fun, but it was a great workout. Then came the long process of opening the bags of sand, dumping the bags of sand and spreading the sand. And I learned that before adding the pavers, you should always double check to see how level your surface is."

The next part of the process was as rigorous as carrying the sandbags, she said. "Toting concrete pavers all the way from my parking pad, up several steep stairs and around my green space was definitely not any fun, but it was a great arm-toning workout. Once the pavers were easily accessible, it was time to start setting each one in place. You want to be very strategic and keep your lines as straight as possible so that your patio space does not look cattywampus."

The next step, was "jazzing up the patio" by choosing the colors to add "a punch of personality to the boring concrete pavers," Hathorn said.

"I remember watching my dad and my Aunt Karen doing concrete staining at my childhood home in Mississippi. It was a messy and tricky project, not to mention expensive. So I expected that concrete staining even



Hathorn checks the levelness of the area for her do-it-yourself patio project. "Making something look pretty and personal is fun," the teen-age blogger and home improvement enthusiast said.



Using paint samples to decorate concrete pavers can be "a simple and inexpensive way to add a pop of color to small outdoor spaces," according to Hathorn.

my tiny patio would be hard and expensive, until my artist mom showed me how we could do it with paint samples like you get at Lowe's and Home Depot. You just pick out the colors you want and get samples of them. You also need some cheap paint brushes and a cup for each different color paint."

She chose Pantone Universe's Pool Green, Nectarine, Tender Shoots and Camellia Rose as her

colors and watered down the paint to create a modified stain.

"The water makes the paint less dense, which allows the concrete to absorb the color better. Be patient with the process because as the concrete absorbs the color, it will look a bit patchy, but don't fret. Give the pavers a day to fully dry, then decide if a second or third coat is needed. Keep in mind that you will have to do touch-

ups because the paint samples are not outdoor or weathering paints. This is just a simple and inexpensive way to add a pop of color to concrete pavers. It's not intended to last five or 10 years."

Color staining with paint samples is not recommended for large patio projects, according to Hathorn.

"If you want to add punches of color to a large patio, call in the profes-

sionals for advice or call a professional at a home improvement store to recommend products and ideas. I just wanted something bright, fun, easy and inexpensive, so this project was perfect for my temporary space."

Hathorn's current project is back indoors. "I'm trying to make a place to put all my shoes. I have around 50 - that's heels, tennis shoes, flip-flops, every pair I own."



And soon after Spring comes the HOT days of Summer!

Is your cooling system ready for the hot days to come?

Let us come out and give your system an inspection so you won't have any worries of facing the heat with no air.

Affordable
HEATING & AIR, LLC

369 James Payton Blvd. • Sylacauga, AL 35150

256-245-2870

#AL 00119



SIMPLY BRILLIANT

Introducing the new Kommander zero-turn mower from Kubota.



TALLADEGA
TRACTOR COMPANY

35450 Alabama Hwy. 21 North

256-362-6113

www.talladegainternational.com

Kubota

www.kubota.com

Optional equipment may be shown.
©Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2012



Master gardener: Tom Terry



Photos by Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

Master gardener Tom Terry's garden is frequented by honey bees and bumblebees, both of which help pollinate flowers, such as these plum tree blooms, and are key to fruit production.



Terry prunes one of his blueberry bushes to ensure it will produce a larger yield.



An avid lifelong gardener, Terry said much of growing fruits and vegetables is trial and error.

Spring is a busy time in the garden

By ELSIE HODNETT
Home staff writer

For Tom Terry, gardening is something he has done all his life. "I've had a garden every year, except maybe a couple years in college," he said. Terry, who resides in Lincoln, is president of the St. Clair County Master Gardeners Association. "You don't have to live in St. Clair County to be a member of the Master Gardeners," he said. "Although most of our members do live there, we have members from Jefferson and Shelby counties as well."

Terry said his specialty is fruits and vegetables. "I live on three acres, and about a half-acre is vegetables and the rest is fruit," he said. Terry said early spring is a busy time for fruits and vegetables. "This year, the timing was pushed back due to the rain and cold weather," he said. "I wasn't able to plant the cold-weather crops in February. I'm in the midst of that now, weather permitting."

Terry said cold-weather crops include collards, cauliflower, turnip greens,

broccoli, potatoes, English peas and radishes. "I do the early planting, and then when the danger of frost has passed, I do warm-weather crops such as corn, tomatoes, green beans, lima beans and peppers," he said. Terry said his two-and-a-half acres of fruit includes blackberries, blueberries, muscadines, apples, plums, pears, peaches and figs. "February to March is the time to prune the fruit trees and bushes, and you fertilize them in late March to April," he said. "I also plan to put strawberries back in this year." Terry said he makes pre-

serves, jellies and jams for home use. "I grow the fruit and vegetables for personal use and give some to friends and family," he said. Terry said for those interested in starting their own gardens, the local extension office is a great starting place. "The extension offices have access to literature on about anything you want to grow here," he said. "You can also find information at www.aces.edu." Terry said figuring out what you want to grow

See Spring, Page 12A

MULCH \$125 dump truck load 9 yards

9-10 Tons GRAVEL \$200 per load

FILL DIRT \$110 per load

Delivered within 10 miles of Childersburg

256-208-1410

GOT MOWERS? WE GOT THE PARTS!

- BELTS •SPINDLES
- BLADES •FILTERS
- TUNEUPS

We Also Make Hydraulic Hoses and Battery Cables

PRUITT AUTO PARTS

110 N. Anniston Ave. • Sylacauga, AL 35150
(256)245-5296

The Future of Banking? We've Got A 167 Year Head Start.



It Pays to Shop... From Both Sides of the Register.

Allow your customers to pay by using Debit, Credit and other Payment Cards, in-store and online, and watch your revenue grow with our **Merchant and Cash Management Services**. Our local setup, training and support will get you up and running in no time. We also make it easy to take care of your back-office work. From **Payroll to Accounts Payable**, we can assist you with moving your business to Electronic Remittance via **ACH** – a faster and more secure way to pay your employees and vendors.



Shop till you drop! Rack up points by using your FNB Platinum or Business Credit Card and earn points with every purchase; PLUS, you can earn additional points when you shop at retailers participating in **UChoose Rewards**. Cash in your Credit Card points for that new TV you've been wanting – or choose from millions of other items. When you bank with First National, it pays to shop.

Shop Local? We have that covered too! Are you a local vendor seeking to reward your customers with loyalty points? We can enroll you in the **UChoose Partner** program to thank your customers by rewarding them for shopping with you.

For more information on any of these services, as well as our full line of traditional banking services, visit one of our three convenient locations today!

The Future? More choices from YOUR Community Bank...

1ST First National Bank
TALLADEGA • 1848

(256) 362-2334 | www.fnbtalladega.com

Member FDIC



"This is the time to prune the fruit trees and bushes," master gardener Tom Terry said.



Terry said his peach tree is usually frequented by honey bees, while bumblebees seem to prefer his blueberry bushes.



Plum tree flowers in the warm spring sun.



Photos by Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

Terry enjoys making jellies and jams from the fruit of his trees, such as this plum tree, noted for its white flowers and green buds.

Spring

From Page 11A

and then seeing if it will grow well in this area is important.

"It is good to plan the year before, so if you need to prepare the soil, you will have time to do that," he said. "You can do a soil test in the fall, then prepare the

soil if needed and be ready to plant in the spring."

Terry said fall is also a good time to plant fruit trees.

"If you plant the fruit trees in the fall, then they have the whole winter to establish roots and don't have to face the harsh summer weather," he said.

Terry said selecting a proper site is also very important.

"Most vegetables and fruit need full sun, and you need a site that drains properly," he said. "Raised beds are also very popular for vegetable gardens."

Terry said there is a

Master Gardeners hotline to an office in Gadsden with master gardeners there to answer questions during business hours. The number is 1-877-252-4769 (1-877-252-GROW).

GET READY FOR SPRING...

Need It? Rent It!

- Tillers • Pressure Washers
- Airless Paint Spayer
- Carpet Cleaners
- Floor Sanders

TAYLOR RENTAL
RENT THE EQUIPMENT. KEEP THE ADVICE.®

206 S. Tinney St.
Talladega
256-362-2433

Monday - Friday 7 am - 5 pm



"I've had a garden every year, except maybe a couple years in college," Terry said.

PROTECT YOUR WORLD

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • RETIREMENT



Preston Rhodes
205-338-0502
2107 Martin St. S., Ste. 102
Pell City



Insurance and discounts subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Co., Northbrook Indemnity Co., Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Co., Life insurance and annuities issued by Lincoln Benefit Life Company, Lincoln, NE, Allstate Life Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL. In New York, Allstate Life Insurance Company of New York, Hauppauge, NY, Northbrook, IL. © 2010 Allstate Insurance Co. 000210773r1

METAL WORKS

FULL SERVICE IRONSHOP

Over 30 Years Experience

- RAILS • DOORS
- SECURITY BARS
- FENCING

1050 Blair Farms Road, Odenville, AL 35120

Robert

205-563-4212

HAND CRAFTED LOCALLY
WOODEN SWINGS
&
LAWN FURNITURE

Swings & Things

U.S. Hwy. 280 - T'ween Childersbug & Oak Grove
256-378-1299

High-tech furniture



File photo
Bonbon Compact Living Solutions offers the Lollidesk, a twin-sized loft bed that drops down above a desk. The company specializes in innovative space-saving furniture.

‘Smart furniture’ making a splash

By CATHERINE FOOTE
 Home staff writer

Popular on social media, “smart furniture,” “covert furniture” and “compact living solutions” are making a splash. By searching for “amazing furniture” on Youtube, a video will pop up that showcases multi-use furniture: A desk that turns into a bed, a shelf that can be used as a chair and hidden furniture that only appears when needed. There are several online sites that sell these types of furniture, but a few of the most interesting are explained here.

Bonbon Compact Living Solutions (bonbon.co.uk)

Based out of London, England, Bonbon has been in operation since 1997. Their mission is to “provide architects, designers and the public with high quality, unique and innovative space saving furniture solutions.” The website is broken down into several categories. The Lollidesk, located in the wall beds section, is a twin-sized loft bed that lives above a desk and drops down when needed. The bed even features an easy tilt design that, according to Bonbon, makes it easier to change the bedsheets. Though Bonbon has many choices with interesting, space-saving ideas, a customer has to call or email for a price quote.

TVLiftCabinet.com

TvLiftCabinet.com boasts well-crafted wooden furniture that houses televisions. These products display the television while in use, and hides it when not in use to make more space. The coolest product the site offers is the Highland Park Complete

King Bed, which houses a television in the footboard. Made from “solid maple wood boards,” the bed has “batten detailing and [is] dressed in a rich espresso finish.” For \$4,999, this deluxe, television hiding bed can be yours in 7-10 business days. For those of us with a smaller budget, TvLiftCabinet.com does offer price matching and free in-home delivery.

Hidden Vision (hvtvmounts.com)

Still on the subject of hideaway televisions, Hidden Vision provides smarter space saving while keeping your TV out of sight. Hidden Vision’s product stashes a television behind an innocent-looking work of art (or mirror) on the wall. When the television is needed, the “work of art” is pulled away from the wall to reveal a television. Hidden Vision offers two options: the flip-around and the flip-out (in motorized or non-motorized versions). The standard, non-motorized flip-out option starts at \$599, and Hidden Vision offers many customization options.

StealthFurniture.com

For those who enjoy “smart furniture” but need to hide more than just televisions, stealthfurniture.com provides “affordable secret compartment furniture.” Guns, credit cards or important documents are just a few things that can be hidden in this secret compartment furniture. The basic secret compartment coffee table costs \$625, and stealthfurniture.com suggests that it is “built with longer items in mind.”

Bookniture

Bookniture is a

Kickstarter project that offers furniture hidden inside a book. A \$60 donation will buy a “field brown edition Bookniture with a light grey felt top.” The video provided on Bookniture’s page shows that this simple tool can be used as a footstool, night stand or chair. The Bookniture is stackable to “make a table and chair

set.” The website also says that “a wood board on top of two Booknitures makes a bench.”

A \$390 donation will buy eight Booknitures to be used in any number of combinations. “Impress your guests with the power of Bookniture,” the website says.

Though most of these products may not

fit in your budget, other sites, like HGTV, offer do-it-yourself options of these same products.

Eventually, as the interest in “smart furniture” grows, the prices may drop and become more affordable.



So-called smart furniture is functional and offers hidden storage in hidden compartments, such as this coffee table.



The Highland Park Complete King Bed houses a television in its footboard.

Oakridge Outdoor Power Equipment, Inc.
SNAPPER, FERRIS, COUNTRY CLIPPER, SHINDAIWA, ECHO
 Mowers, Trimmers, Saws, Blowers, Service E-Z-Go Carts
205-629-2270
 John, Rick, Angie Joyner
14303 Hwy. 411 - Odenville, AL

Let your garden burst with Spring Color from us...

Flowering Trees, Colorful Ceramic Pots, Pine Straw, Annuals, Widest Selection of Spring Color, Mulch, Shrubs, Roses

Hazelwood's GREENHOUSES & NURSERY
 See Us First For All Your Landscape Materials!
 925 23rd St. N. • Pell City **205.338.3952**

A&E Metal Roofing Supply
 ELEGANT & ENERGY SAVING
 Same Day Service
 Buy Direct & Save \$\$\$
 NOW'S THE TIME TO GET THE ROOF YOU BEEN WAITING FOR!

•Manufacturer & Distributor
 •Residential & Commercial Roofing Panels
 •18 Colors in Stock
 •Trim & Accessories

Call **256-329-0034**
 Open Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
 www.aemetalroofing.com
 239 McClellan Industrial Drive, Kellyton, AL 35089

Let us help you with your Real Estate Needs!

Whether you're looking to sell or buy - we're here to offer you the best service possible! Come see us today!

BILL PHARR
 OWNER/BROKER

AREA REAL ESTATE Inc.
 Real Estate - Appraisals - Mortgage Services
Phone (256) 249-3727
 www.arearealestateinc.com

Spring Sale!

Financing Available To Qualified Customers.
Credit Approval Is Required.

Call 1-800-237-7210

Extention 236 or 222 for More Information

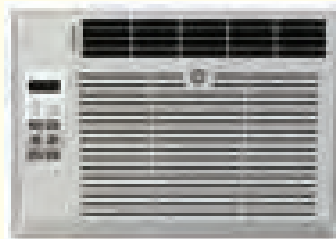
FREEZER



GE
5 Cu. Ft.
Chest Freezer
Many other sizes to choose from.

\$199

GE AIR CONDITIONERS



18,000 BTU - \$549
24,000 BTU - \$659
Other sizes available

5,000 BTU
Model #AEQ05LS



**Remote
Controlled**

starting at

\$129

WASHERS & DRYERS



Hotpoint Washer
3.5 Cu. Ft.,
8 cycles,
3 wash/rinse
settings

Model #HSWP1000MWW

\$449



Hotpoint
Extra Large
Heavy Duty
Dryer

(White Only)
Model #HTDX100EMWW

\$449



Heavy Duty Washer
& Dryer Pair

• Washer - 3.9 cu. ft., stainless steel tub, energy star, HydroWave Quiet Agitator Wash System, 16 wash cycles, PreciseFill, 5 water level selections
• Dryer - 6.8 cu. ft. capacity DuraDrum, 4 heat selections, end of cycle signal, AutoDry.

\$999

REFRIGERATORS



GE
18 Cu. Ft.
Deluxe
Refrigerator
With Icemaker

\$599



GE
25 Cu. Ft.
Side by Side
Refrigerator
Front Ice & Water Dispenser
Black or White
Stainless also available for \$1049

\$999



CoosaValleysm
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

69220 Hwy. 77 N. • Talladega, AL 35161

www.coosavalleyec.com e-mail - info@coosavalleyec.com

000210436R1