



Letter from the Editor

"Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders."

Henry David Thoreau

The beginning of the new year is the traditional time to consider change, personal growth, metamorphosis. Cleaning out the deadwood of the old year, we feel hopeful for the possibilities of the new. So often, our longing for change and improvement is couched in garden and nature metaphors: a new leaf, sowing new seeds, breaking new ground. For gardeners especially, observing changes in nature give us hope for our own change. Our imagination of great things can be stirred by just a little packet of seeds.

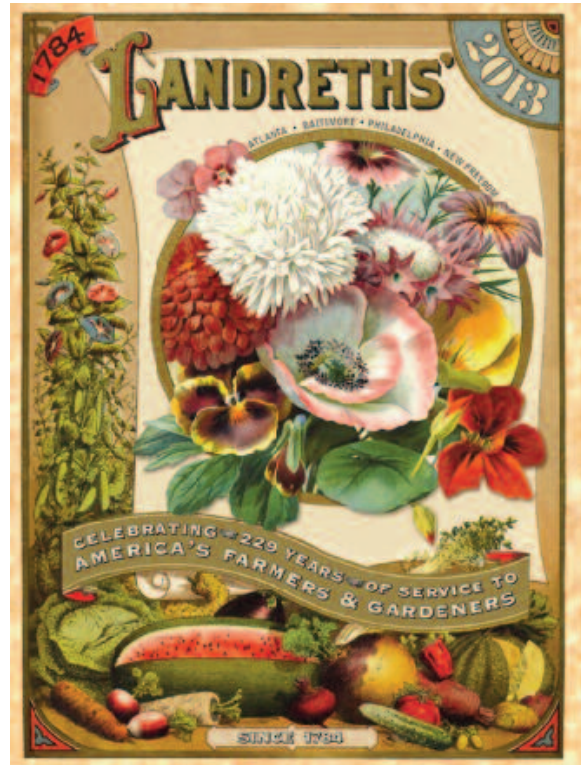
Watching seeds sprout and become plants gives us a sense of possibilities. Can anything possess more real potential than seeds or bulbs, which already contain the embryo of what they will become within them? We sow seeds. A metaphor for starting afresh. As seeds sprout into plants, we feel something positive happening. Tangible results arising from our own hands. As the plant grows, so does our sense of optimism, our faith in transformation. We innately find encouragement in the analogies between gardening and our selves, our personal growth.

We don't need to over think or worry about New Year's resolutions or how we will accomplish our goals. We need only go into the garden, plant seeds and see their daily growth to absorb the object lessons in nature. Potential inspires us, as does observation of its fulfillment. Change is possible. Transformation comes in stages. This is what the seed and the garden teaches us.

— Melody Girard, editor

What's in this issue...

- RENEWAL TIME: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW
- SUPPORT AMERICA'S OLDEST SEED HOUSE
- RECOGNIZING & DISPOSING OF NOXIOUS WEEDS
- APRIL TOMATO-BRATION HEIRLOOM SALE



Support Your Local Seed House

"Seedsmen reckon that their stock in trade is not seeds at all...it's optimism."

Geoff Hamilton, BBC News Garden Expert

It's catalog season, a time to savor your favorite wish books. Over a cup of hot tea or a hot toddy. One of my favorites is the exquisite D. Landreth Seed Company's Catalog, which I love for its botanical illustrations and historical descriptions selected from archives that date as far back as 175 years ago. The catalog offers a variety of non-GMO seeds. I marveled that a small, independent seed company could produce these high quality catalogs, which are essentially pieces of art. I was further astonished to discover that an existing American company had roots so deep in America's history. Kelley's business directory lists D. Landreth Seed Co. as the oldest continuously operating seed house in America.

In 1784, three years before the U.S. Constitution was drafted and before the loose confederation of 13 states had officially become the United States, Scottish born nurseryman David Landreth arrived in Philadelphia and set up America's first garden and seed business. The Landreths started by supplying artichokes to French emigres. Soon, their greenhouses were growing flowering shrubs and hothouse exotics for their

Garden Master's Report

TIES THAT BIND JAM UP THE MACHINERY! String, tape, plastic “ribbon-like” tie tape or other tying material left in the compost or shredding pile will end up in the shredder and bind up the cutting hammers. Please remove all string, tape, wires or anything used as ties before putting plant material and wood in the shredding pile.

DON'T DUMP YOUR SOIL On several occasions, we have found huge amounts of soil (wheelbarrows full, sometimes) in the shredding area. Soil cannot be used in compost, so please don't leave it there. And never throw out soil!

EARN COMMUNITY WORK HOURS The shredding and compost crews are recruiting volunteers. Now is your chance to throw in with the work crews.



The Compost Crew meets at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays. The Shredding Crew starts work at 7 a.m. on Tuesdays. Both jobs move quickly. The coffee and pastries get-together following the shredding detail will give you a chance to get to know other members and discover what's going on in the garden. Bring gloves and a dust mask as they make for a more comfortable experience.

UNATTENDED WATERING IS PROHIBITED Leaving water running when you are not in your plot is a citable offense. Recently, hose bibs (faucets) were left running all night on four occasions. This is a flagrant waste of water. Turn off any hose bib you see running when no one is monitoring it. Also, make sure that you have turned the faucet off completely before leaving the garden.

“GOOD CONDUCT AND CIVIL INTERACTION SHALL PREVAIL AT ALL TIMES” (OVF Rules and Regulations II, 1) The garden can be a peaceful retreat, but an angry outburst from another member can spoil the mood for anyone who hears it. We all must suppress any urge to voice our annoyance with another OVF member. Scolding volunteers who are just trying to complete their assigned work is not civil. Before lashing out, take a deep breath, look around at the green oasis you are in and be thankful that you are privileged to be part of this beautiful garden. It must be a special place because there are 600 people on the waiting list that would like to have a plot at OVF.

— Ed Mosman, Garden Master

RENEW YOUR OVF MEMBERSHIP NOW

RENEW ONLINE

If you opted for the convenience of online payment, look for an email notice on January 9, and post your payment via PayPal™ by February 3. To sign up to receive your renewal notice via email: www.ebill.oceanviewfarms.net.

RENEW BY MAIL

If you are paying via USPO, your renewal letter will be mailed to you on January 10, and your payment must be postmarked no later than February 2. Do NOT put any renewal fees in the mail slots at OVF in the wheelbarrow shed. They will NOT be accepted.

IS YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT?

Please make sure that your address and email are correctly entered in OVF's database or you will not receive your renewal letter. Review your contact information online: <http://myaccount.oceanviewfarms.net>

Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 6, 1 pm
How To Prune Roses

LECTURE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Nina Rumely of OVF

Saturday & Sunday, April 6-7
6th Annual Tomato-Bration

2-DAY HEIRLOOM TOMATO SALE & WORKSHOP
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Both days: Presale at 9 am. Workshop at 10 am.
Followed by sale until 4 pm or until sold out.

Saturday, May 11, 2 pm
Compost | Worm composting

LECTURE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Christy Wilhelmi of OVF

Sunday, July 14, 1 pm
Saving Summer's Bounty

CERTIFIED FOOD PRESERVER TELLS ALL
LECTURE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Rachel Narins on Food Dehydration

Sunday, August 18, 1 pm
9th ANNUAL TOMATO TASTING
INVITED GUESTS & MEMBERS

Important Rules for Discarding Plants

All of us at OVF need to become informed and vigilant about how we discard our dead or diseased plants and noxious weeds. Please read the following carefully and adhere to these guidelines for proper disposal. What you do---or don't do---affects every other gardener at OVF.

ALL DISEASED PLANTS BELONG IN THE DUMPSTER

Some noxious weeds and disease organisms (including late blight) are too hardy and *will not die* in our compost pile. It's best to *put all diseased plant material* and parts of noxious weeds in a bag and toss them in the dumpster rather than the shredding or compost pile.

Pathogens, including late blight and diseases on roses and their relatives, such as cane berries, can live on small bits of un-rotted plant debris. Bag tomato and other diseased clippings and put them in the dumpster. Roses and berries are prone to diseases, and their canes can take years to completely decompose, so they should be bagged and put in the dumpster even if you're not sure about what disease they may have.

BINDWEED: THE WEED TOO TOUGH TO DIE

Like false garlic and nutgrass, bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) is a noxious plant that is too resilient to die in a compost pile. This morning glory relative can propagate itself from a mere fragment of a root or stem.

Bindweed's extensive root system rapidly crosses under pathways and barriers and strangles other plants from both above and below the soil's surface. Roots can penetrate four feet deep in the first year, 20 feet in the third year, and ultimately develop a 30-foot taproot with many long, lateral roots. The many white buds on the root system can each produce a new shoot.

One plant produces up to 500 seeds, which can remain dormant in the soil for many years. The Fort Hayes Branch Experiment Station in Kansas documented seed that germinated after twenty-eight years! The only way to control bindweed is to dig down to the deepest root and bag and discard all parts of the plant and roots in the dumpster. Only regular, deep weeding will keep this pest from taking over.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE BINDWEED

Identification from leaf shapes can be challenging due to a wide variability in leaf appearance, even on the same plant. Bindweed can be hard to distinguish from morning glory or other convolvulus. When disposing of weeds, make no distinction between all species of convolvulus. They are highly invasive. Bag all parts of these plants and discard them in the dumpster.



Bindweed, Convolvulus arvensis, a morning glory relative that chokes out other plants, can only be managed by digging out and destroying all of its extensive root system. Dispose of it in the dumpster.

OLEANDER CUTTINGS ARE ALSO POISONOUS

Cuttings from oleander, a highly poisonous plant, belong in the parking lot dumpster. NEVER put cuttings from oleander or other toxic plants in the shredding or compost pile!

OUR COMPOST PILE IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Maintaining a healthy compost pile and managing plant pathogens and weeds is an OVF community responsibility. By taking care to bag and throw the offending plant materials in the dumpster, rather than the compost pile, we can curtail the spread of pathogens, weeds and toxins at OVF.

*The morning glory also
turns out
not to be my friend.
Matsuo Bashō*

Bashō (?1644–November 28, 1694) was the most famous poet of the Edo period in Japan. He is recognized as the greatest master of haiku.

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early clients, who included Presidents Washington, Adams, Monroe and Jefferson.

Landreth Seed's participation in America's historical milestones is pretty impressive. In the early 1800s, they received and propagated seeds from the Lewis and Clark expedition, which introduced native plants into commercial trade. When Commodore Perry sailed to Japan in 1853, the cargo included Landreth seeds as gifts to the emperor. Landreth cultivated some of the first plants that the expedition imported from Japan to the U.S.



When she took over the company in 2003, Melera found the dust-covered oil painting above, inspired by a photograph taken by Rudolph Eikemeyer between 1884 and 1900 entitled "Aunt Chloe Preparing Dinner," published in Eikemeyer's book of photos documenting the daily life of post-slavery African Americans.

appealed to her passion for history and gardening. "I was thinking 'we can't lose this important piece of American horticultural history.'"

NOW IN ITS 229TH YEAR, LANDRETH NEEDS OUR SUPPORT TO KEEP ITS DOORS OPEN

Barbara and her husband purchased Landreth with their savings and Barbara set out to "do what this company was founded to do," restoring the company to its home gardening seed roots and establishing the African American Heritage Seed Collection, curated by African American food historian Michael Twitty. But loans had to be taken out to replace broken down equipment. Now, these short-term debts are due and the funds to retire them aren't there.

To raise money to repay these loans and to support the cost of printing the catalog in America and mailing first class, Landreth's 2013 catalog will sell for \$7.50. You can order by calling 800-654-2407 or log on to www.landrethseeds.com.

How does she see the company's longterm outlook? Barbara says, "I'm an optimist. And a fighter. I can't believe that America will lose this valuable historical asset."

Many of the plants that Landreth Seed developed and introduced are still grown today. They imported the Zinnia from Mexico in 1798. The company bred the first truly white potato in 1811. Landreth was the first to make tomato seeds commercially available in 1820. This was followed by the development and introduction of Landreth Early Peas (1822), Bloomsdale Spinach (1826), Tom Thumb Lettuce, Tom Thumb Pea (1850s), Landreth Stringless Beans (1885), Jackson Wonder Lima Beans (1888).

Once in the forefront of the American seed industry, Landreth had been in decline for decades when Barbara Melera bought the company in 2003. A dusty collection of catalogs dating back to 1839

MANY WAYS TO FULFILL YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

There are many opportunities to earn Community Service credit by performing a variety of tasks.

Review "Volunteer Opportunities" in the OVF News and online for job listings. Some jobs allow you to set your own hours, or to work at home, so scheduling conflicts need not keep anyone from performing Community Service.

Do you have a medical condition or physical challenges that may prevent you from doing especially strenuous work? If so, you may go the OVF Web site: www.oceanviewfarms.net and email us in advance about work assignments that may be more suitable to your current abilities.

WORKDAYS & EVENTS

JANUARY

- 6 Sun 1 pm ROSE PRUNING
- 12 Sat 9-12 Workday
- 9 Sat 9:30 Board Mtg.
- 13 Sun 3-5 OVF Donates
- 27 Sun 1-4 Workday
- 27 Sun 3-5 OVF Donates

FEBRUARY

- 2 Sat Mailed renewals due
- 3 Sat Online renewals due
- 9 Sat 9-12 Workday
12 Potluck
1 General Mtg.
- 10 Sun 3-5 OVF Donates
- 24 Sun 1-4 Workday
- 24 Sun 3-5 OVF Donates

1:30 Seedling Sale

MARCH

- 9 Sat 9-12 Workday
- 10 Sun 3-5 OVF Donates
- 16 Sat 9:30 Board Mtg
- 31 Sun 1-4 Workday
- 31 Sun 3-5 OVF Donates

APRIL

- 6 Saturday & Sunday TOMATO-BRATION
9am Pre-sale
10 am Lecture / Q&A
11:30 Tomato sale
- 13 Sat 9-12 Workday
12 Potluck
1 General Mtg.
- 14 Sun 3-5 OVF Donates
- 28 Sun 1-4 Workday
- 28 Sun 3-5 OVF Donates

1:30 Seedling Sale

Complete 2013 calendar:
www.oceanviewfarms.net



improvisedlife.com turned us onto Leaf Cutter Designs' clever Seed Money, little letterpress-printed pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Filled with seeds, tuck the paper coins in soil to grow colorful flowers and delicious vegetables. It's "tender for tending"! About \$15 per roll at leafcutterdesigns.com.