

Children's Garden Club
Volume #7, Sheet # 2
February 4, 2006
Topiary
Sappington Garden Center
11530 Gravois
Horticultural Craft for Home & Garden Flower show

Welcome to the February meeting. We thank our New Sponsor and Introduce Annie Stanley & Mark LaBarge and there staff for hosting this month's meeting. Please also Join us here again July 8, 2006 for another meeting. As you can see Sappington is committed to Educating their Customers and the General public with there Spring Seminars Please takes home a Schedule.

How many of you were here last month for Flowering Arranging? Concerning those of you that were not here last month to learn about the Flower show entries we have extra hand out for you. Today you can entry this Topiary – Horticultural Craft you make Today at the Builders Home and Garden Show at the America's Center Down Town. I would also like to Introduce Sue Reed who is the chairperson for Children's Entries. Sue will explain and make it easy on you and your parents on how to enter. Sue has prepared a hand out for you . Sue will also explain how you are members of the Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri ECD.

Today we will see another horticulture art or hobby "Topiary". Topiary is one of the oldest most conceived means of creating firm, decorative elements in the garden.

Topiary is the art of molding, trimming growing plants into geometric shapes to create strong landscape design.

With the social chaos and instability that followed the fall of the Roman Empire. The art of Topiary was almost lost, along with a great deal of gardening knowledge. During the middle ages, Topiary art survived due to the gardens of monasteries, convents and castles.

The lure of topiary has been around since ancient times. Trees, shrubs and vines have been trained for useful purposes and enjoyment.

It dates back to the time of the Persians and the ancient Greeks. This style of gardening has endured the test of times. Topiary art is fashionable in historical

gardens and is still enjoyed today. Generally, today, we find the influences in Spirals and other geometric shapes at homes or in the landscape, or if you need a special location for a topiary animal as you see outside.

As we go through history and learn that according to Cicero in 54BC, topiary was the art of making Ivy, boxwood, cypress, holly, and laurel, Myrtle, Rosemary to climb on walls, columns and cutting trees and shrubs into different shapes. The person that is attributed as the true inventor of this art was Cains Mattius, a nobleman and contemporary of Augustus.

Topiary first arrived in the new World in Williamsburg, Virginia, around 1690 as geometric forms and diamond shaped knot gardens. George Washington is known for his youthful attack on a cherry tree, but he channeled this into a fascination with pruning and grafting in later years. A splendid example of his artistry with Pear and Cherries has been preserved at Mount Vernon, from his garden landscape records. His gardens have now been reconstructed at Mount Vernon.

Topiary art is well suited to the new modern garden or well established formal gardens. Hedges, borders, espaliers, arcades and green sculptures are all elements that produce strong architectural decorative impact.

Today, once again, there is a strong revival of the art and it is no exaggeration to say that topiary in its wildest sense is becoming as successful in the United States as it ever has been in Europe.

If you can grow plants you can make topiary shapes of all sizes. If you have no garden, then you can create small tabletop size features, birds, monkeys, seasonal items and geometric shapes or sculptures for your home enjoyment.

One needs to be aware and notice that the simplest private hedge can be an example of topiary if it is trimmed in a geometric, interesting or special creation. Topiary hedge is particularly successful as an architectural feature for an example. The use of boxwood in a traditional formal herb or rose garden. The use of fruit or ornamental trees with espaliers or a garden or building wall or as a screen or a divider in the garden is also an architectural effect.

The success of your topiary or espalier in the garden or landscape depends on choosing the right plant/plants for the specific use location, climate soil and exposure. The summer, winter condition along with location and strong winds.

All topiary and espalier do best in the sun. However, some will tolerate some shade such as your holly, boxwood and yew if the shade is light and with good intermittent sun, their foliage will keep the good rich green and fullness for your design.

You can also train topiary to grow in pots or containers. Their decorative value can be enjoyed throughout the year as the shape of spirals, balls, etc., to provide an old traditional feel or an architectural statement.

If you can grow plants you can grow topiary or espaliers. The care and feeding in providing a good environment with good light, moderate temperature and good air circulation. The skill required is the same basic care. The pruning or training (weaving, twining or typing) is where the extra care and time is involved. How often you water depends on the location of the figure, the kind of plant you are training and the location. The location of being in the ground or in a container. Misting is an added bit of attention that your sculptures will appreciate, but misting isn't enough to keep plants adequately watered. Once a month feeding apply a balanced water-soluble fertilizer with organic material or time-released granular fertilizer.

General grooming is a part of the natural growth process for pruning generating new leaves and eliminating of old and yellow leaves. In the process of grooming you will notice if there is any insect or disease concerns to control. The safest course of action when controlling insects is to begin by spraying with soapy water, insecticidal soap or an organic preparation such as Rotenone, Pyrethrum or Resmethrun. If problem persists, you can use a stronger chemical solution.

As you can see there are topiaries designs and espaliers which can be adapted to virtually any occasion, for all seasons and holidays. Enjoy and Happy Gardening.

Now that you have completed your personal Topiary, enjoy. Good job! Now you have a option give it as a great Valentine gift and ask if you could enter it into the The Flower Show and hope to also bring home a ribbon to go with it. Or keep for yourself and enjoy.

Join us at the next Children's Garden Club

2006 Calendar

All meetings are at 9:00 a.m. – on the first Saturday of each month (except July and September) – at different locations throughout St. Louis City and County. All are Free. No RSVP's are required, everyone welcome. The Children's Garden Club is designed to educate, as well as bring delight in gardening and horticulture with projects they start themselves and take home to continue to grow and enjoy.

March 4, 2006	Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center, 2651 Barrett Station Rd. "Little Ones" from Monrovia Growers
March 16-19, 2006	Builders Home & Garden Show, America's Center Children's Garden Club Section #1790; Flower Show Section #1791
April 1, 2006	For the Garden at Haefner's, 6703 Telegraph Road Easter Centerpiece
May 6, 2006	Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center, 2651 Barrett Station Rd. Hanging Gardens
June 3, 2006	Gilberg's Perennial Farms, 2906 Ossenfort Tasting Herbs & Herb Vinegar
July 8, 2006	Sappington Gardem Center. 11530 Gravois Summer Flowering Shrubs Horticultural Therapy- Gary Wanger-St. Louis Childrens Hospital
August 5, 2006	Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center, 2651 Barrett Station Rd. Pressed Flower Placemats
September 9, 2006	Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center, 2651 Barrett Station Rd. Fall Dish Garden
October 7, 2006	For the Garden at Haefner's, 6703 Telegraph Road Spring Miracle's now – Plant bulbs
November 4, 2006	Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center, 2651 Barrett Station Rd. Natural Fall Deco & Pressed Leaf Placemats
December 2, 2006	Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center, 2651 Barrett Station Rd. Natural Holiday Deco