



The Vine Line

Although the calendar says summer arrives on June 21st, all southerners know that hot weather arrives long before that date. That being said, our late winter and early spring weather lasted longer than usual, so most trees, shrubs, bulbs, and perennials that bloom in the spring were later than expected. This has been nice, because the spring show of color has also been prolonged. The fact that it has rained on a regular basis has been both a blessing and a problem, because, while everything is lush and green, it has made it difficult to get gardening work accomplished when it should be done.

Our Rose Garden is getting closer to being a reality. Ninety percent of the hardscape is now finished. We still need to do a lot of soil work and install new irrigation. The roses have been growing quietly in their pots behind the horticulture building, waiting patiently to be planted in their new permanent location. Because we are planting late, don't expect a lot this year, but spring of 2016 should be spectacular!



The Red Drum Bridge in the Japanese Garden was recently completed and painted. It looks wonderful and feels so sound when you walk over it. I'm sure we will be good for another 50 years. Thanks to the Bamboo chapter of Ikebana International for making that happen!

If you have plants that you have purchased this spring and haven't planted them yet, do yourself and the plants a favor and get them in the ground. This moderate, rainy weather will end sooner or later and you will be watering them less in the ground than if they were in pots. This is also a good time to finish mulching any beds that need it before dry weather. Finally make yourself a promise to cut spent blooms from all your spring flowering perennials before they go to seed.

If you have flowering shrubs such as Forsythia, spiraea or deutzia which have finished blooming you can renovate the plants by removing about 20 to 30 percent of the oldest stems right at ground level. This will allow more light to get to the base of the plant and give the younger canes space to grow and mature. You can shape the remaining branches some, but don't shear. If you get this done over the next three or four weeks they will look better and should bloom better next spring.>



Richard Webb, Self-employed horticulturist, Bugwood.org

This is probably the last chance for the year to find old clumps of daffodils that have become too thick, before their foliage disappears . If you dig them now you can divide and replant immediately. If the bulbs are small it may take more than one growing season for them to reach flowering size.

We will soon be celebrating Memorial Day. Let's all take a moment to honor all who have served our country past and present. We owe them a debt of gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy every day!



Rick Pudwell, Director of Horticulture at the Memphis Botanic Garden, is now heading up The Vine Line. Be on the lookout for more issues!



Kapoor Tulsi seedlings are appearing in the Herb Garden now which means the ground is now nice and warm! This is much later than most people want-I know quite a few gardeners who used Good Friday as the "go" date for planting warm ground annuals such as basil and tomatoes. Plant the same annuals now and they will leap to catch up with the earlier plantings!

Come to the **Herbal Celebration** May 22 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and get your herb plants, education, and edibles and you can see what's been going on with the Herbs since last Vine Line. Oh, and watch out! I am seeing the horrid mulberry weed now in the Herb Garden, too. This weed is not 2 inches tall and already seeding. Yuk. Spurge, purslane, knotweed, sourgrass are all in full force - weed-wise - now. Don't know these weeds? Come to the Herbal Celebration and I will show them to you! See you, Friday.

By Sherri McCalla, Herb Garden Curator

Have Plants – Will Travel

Over the past month and a half, I have racked up many miles in my car, just a touch over 5,000 of them. Sundry reasons led me North, South, East, and West, traveling thru places such as Louisville, KY, Columbus, OH, Scranton, PA, Hartford, CT, Chattanooga, TN, New Orleans, LA,

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Social media is the voice of the world these days, and a variety of platforms are available for sharing photos, videos, thoughts, and items of interest instantaneously.

Instagram, an online photo-sharing, video-sharing social networking

and Orange Beach, AL. When traveling, I am very observant of and fascinated by the changing elements. Whether it's the weather, cars, skylines, or people, my unoccupied mind is sieged and overwhelmed with the redefining details of the road. One particular detail I take notice of, which should be no surprise, is the plants and the environments in which they reside.

Spring is an especially great time to hit the road, as you can observe several seasons all in one trip. One of my all-time favorite roadway companions is the Eastern Redbud *Cercis canadensis*. Its impressive range, North into Canada, South down to Florida, and West into Northern Mexico, makes for a constant flux in its character. When I left Memphis for Columbus, the Redbud was in full bloom, with strokes of fluffy lilac pink across an emerald greenway.



Margaret Pooler, Bugwood.org

By the time I hit the Kentucky/Ohio border, blooms were more compact and all but gone. As Columbus came and went, few leaves were on the trees, much less flowers, my eye instead meeting slender silhouettes of trees and ephemeral springs, flush with winter's melt.

In many ways, the road and the garden are one and the same. Both have paths changing before us with color, direction, texture, and rhythm. Both need constant care and attention, and many are far better than others. But

service, is one of my personal favorites. Less text-heavy than Facebook, Instagram allows users to post photos, videos, and comments for all the world to see and enjoy. It's a great way to share special moments with friends, family, other institutions, and professional networks. In addition, it offers an excellent photo-editing suite, allowing users to adjust images in a variety of ways to create stunning, artful photographs using your mobile phone.&

Many horticultural institutions in the States and elsewhere are now using Instagram as a way to reach out and share their work with the broader public. Seeing the necessity of keeping pace with the modern world, and the ease of sharing those special vignettes and fleeting garden moments, The Memphis Botanic Garden signed on to Instagram earlier this year, posting photos of plants, landscapes, and events of interest daily. Since we joined, our following has grown to more five-hundred gardeners, photographers, landscape designers, artists, and horticultural institutions around the world, including the world-famous Kew Gardens, who started following just a few days ago.

Instagram allows us to share our work and love of gardens with a much broader audience than standard advertising and networking channels, putting the Memphis Botanic Garden on the world map with very little input of vital resources and not a small amount of pleasure.

To join, simply download the Instagram app to your mobile phone, set up an account (fast and easy), and search users for memphisbotanic. Check out our list of Followers and who we're Following to explore our network and get a feel for the kinds of folks interested in what we do here at

one similarity, which I like, is that they are both leading us somewhere. Sometimes we don't know where they lead, and that's ok, as long as we are making the most of them from what they have to offer. Seasons come and go, and we experience them all on the garden road.

By Nick Esthus, Japanese Garden curator

the garden.

Feel free to take photos here at MBG and insert @memphisbotanic into the text to tag us and share your images with us.

By Chris Cosby, Senior Manager of Gardens