



# Word of Mouth

## Going Green:

- **Wrap it Up! Give a gift that keeps on living...a present in pretty packaging:**
- **When this handmade bag has seen its day, tear it up and bury it: it's embedded with 15 types of wildflower seeds. \$3 FlowerSeed-Paper.com**
- **Stick this sumptuous paper in soil. It's studded with seeds for blooms. Gift tags \$2, Wrap, \$1 per sheet PlantablePapers.com**



- **Grow some herbs! The herb garden seed mat measures 8in x 24 in and has a variety of herbs: Thyme, Marjoram, Rosemary & Oregano. You can plant the mat at once so all the assorted herbs grow together, or if you wish, you can also cut the mat into different sections and plant each herb separately - the choice is yours! \$16 Cleanairgardening.com**

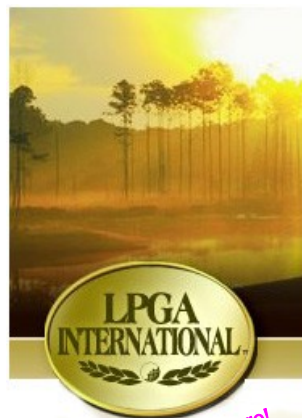
## May Luncheon: LPGA Clubhouse

Our end of the year luncheon will include the installation of our officers for 2009-2010 will be held on May 13 at the LPGA Clubhouse's Banquet room. The meeting followed by the luncheon will begin at 9:30 AM .

**Details**—There will be a choice of Grilled Salmon or Grilled chicken on a California salad, hot breads and dessert. The cost of the Luncheon is \$21.00.

Marlene Upp asks everyone to please mail checks before April 28th to Nannette Baker and let Marlene know your choice, either Grilled Salmon or Grilled chicken. Coffee and tea will also be served. There will be a cash bar available.

We have to have an exact count of members attending. If you sign up and do not attend, the club is still responsible for the number we turn in. ✕



See you there!

## Reporting from our members

**Maria Clifton** reports "We have a candidate for Camp Wekiva--Christain Smith--grandson of Regina Cumbie and nephew of Nanette Baker. He will be attending the June 21-27 Session."

**Andrea Finn** attended the FFGC convention and discovered that Cherry Laurel won the State Award 13-B for our Newsletter at the FFGC Convention! The certificate and check will be awarded at the District VI meeting on April 30, at the New Smyrna Beach Garden Club.

**Pat Walter** and her husband, Bill, held their 12th Annual Rays Awareness 5K Run/Walk & 1 mile Fun Run/walk on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

The Race is a memorial for their son, Bill Walter III, and raises money for Melanoma Research. Participating were Cherry Laurel mem-

bers Susan Gummey, Carol Hall and Maria Clifton. Susan won the race for her (our) age group!

**Our Recycling Program.** Thank you CLGD Members for supporting the recycling of Ink jet cartridges, etc. Recycling First has sent a check to Cherry Laurel Garden Club for \$8.60. This check will be presented to the club at the lunch on May 13.

Bring any ink jet cartridges, laser cartridges, laptops, PDAs, iPods, DVDs, Video Games, digital cameras, and cell phones to the LPGA lunch and I shall have a box in which to put them. And it is the last chance this year to bring "Labels for Education" from Campbell Soup and Swanson Broths and others. (Maria Clifton)

**Claire Rakestraw** mentioned next time any of us

visit the Lightner Museum be sure to look out for two large ceramic wine jugs David and she donated. They are quite possibly on display in the American section, circa 1830 - 1870. They were used for shipping wine or whiskey.

**Lura Willhite** wants to remind everyone to update any information in the Yearbook for next year! Also, remember to send in a picture you like of yourself or we'll use a snapshot from one of our meetings or events. Either email the picture or give it to her for scanning. It will be returned.

Our President, **Joanne Shuttlesworth**, hopes everyone had a blessed and happy Easter. She was happy to have daughter and grandson here for the week of Easter. She looks forward to seeing everyone at our May luncheon. ✕

## Cherry Laurel Garden Club

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# How to Grow Wildflowers

by Michael J. McGroarty

In the past few years I've read about, and have seen more interest in wildflowers, so I figure it's about time I jump in and add my two cents.

I have watched in despair as some of my friends have created a wildflower bed in their yard, and have ended with the biggest, ugliest patch of weeds I have ever seen. **Why did they get weeds instead of wildflowers?**

**Two reasons:** One, they were armed with a lack of good information, and two, they were led to believe that planting a beautiful bed of wildflowers is so easy that a child could do it. Actually, a child could do it, and with great success. But only if that child were extremely lucky, or had a basic understanding of exactly how to plant a bed of wildflowers and achieve incredible success.

In the next few minutes I intend to arm you with enough good information so you can successfully plant a beautiful bed of wildflowers, and have your neighbors hanging over the fence asking you how ya did it.

First of all, you've got to understand what kind of a neighborhood wildflowers like to live in. They tend to prefer wide open spaces with at least 8 hours of sunshine each day. It's true, they are sun worshipers. They also like the soil to be rich in nutrients, and well drained. They don't like hard packed soil, and they don't like to get their sneakers wet, only for short periods of time.

If you have an area that tends to be wet, wildflowers are not the answer.

Wildflowers can be used for weed control, and with a great deal of success. But you have to give the wildflowers a running start, or the weeds will keep the area "Wildflower Free". Weeds and wildflowers are both sun worshipers, so who ever reaches the top first wins. Neither will grow well without adequate sunlight. If you use this to your advantage you can have a beautiful bed of wildflowers that requires little maintenance.

**The secret is proper bed preparation.** You must create a bed that is as weed free as possible. You can do this by removing all the vegetation from the area you intend to plant in, and then prepare the soil for planting by tilling or raking to a depth of just one inch or less. Do not disturb the soil any deeper than that, or you will just disturb dormant weed seeds that are just waiting to be brought back to the surface so they can grow. You should consider spraying the existing vegetation with Roundup before you remove it. This will kill all the roots that might still be in the soil.

Keep in mind that you need to spray the weeds or grass with Roundup at least three days before you disturb them. If you feel that the area you have chosen has a significant amount of weed seed near the surface, you might consider letting the soil sit for about six days after you work it, then work it again. Do this over and over, but don't work the soil more than one inch deep. The longer you continue this process the more apt you are to get the bed as weed free as possible.

Most weed seeds germinate rather quickly, so when you bring them to the surface through your cultivation efforts, you are giving them a chance to germinate. But then when you work the soil again in six days, you will actually interrupt the germination process and the seed will be spent. The longer you continue the process, the fewer viable weed seeds you will have to contend with. Of course additional seeds are blowing in all the time, so it's unrealistic to think that you can create a planting bed that is free of weed seed.

The most important aspect of this process is to have your bed as ready as possible, at the ideal time for planting



Misplaced your newsletter and need to get some information? The newsletter is available online on our website. You can re-read or print!

We are on the web:  
[www.CherryLaurelGardenClub.com](http://www.CherryLaurelGardenClub.com)

wildflower seeds. The secret of success is to plant the wildflower seeds at the ideal time so they take off growing immediately, and beat the weeds at their own game. The ideal time for zones seven through 11, you should probably plant in the fall.

Wildflower seeds like warm soil. They will germinate best with a soil temperature of 68 to 70 degrees F. So if you live in a cooler region, you should wait until later in the spring to plant. There's no point planting when the soil temperature is 45 degrees and have the seeds just lay there while some of the weeds seeds germinate. You'd be much better off to continue working the soil as described above until the soil temperature is up to 68 degrees.

I'll say it again, just in case you missed it earlier. Don't work the soil any deeper than one inch.

**Now for planting the wildflower seeds.** The best way to plant your wildflower seeds is to distribute them with a small hand held broadcast spreader, or to apply them in a manner that mimics that technique. In order to get the best coverage you should thoroughly mix the seeds with dry sand, vermiculite, or potting soil to increase the volume before you spread them. It's a lot easier to evenly distribute five pounds of granular material over an area than it is 8 ounces.

As you spread the seeds walk in straight lines from one end of the bed to the other. Then do the same thing from the side of the bed in a crisscross pattern to the first set of footsteps you made. This will give you thorough and even distribution. This is why you should mix the seeds with some sort of filler material before you start, so you have plenty of volume to work with, and will be able to cover the area completely and evenly.

I urge you to visit [www.wildseedfarms.com](http://www.wildseedfarms.com) and ask for a catalog, or call their toll free number. 1-800-848-0078 This company publishes one of the most complete and informative catalogs I've ever seen. They have a color photo of each variety, along with a good description. They even tell you what percentage of seeds you can expect to germinate, and this varies from variety to variety, so they list this information for each variety.

They also tell you how long each variety takes to germinate, and what the ideal soil temperature is. They also tell you how many seeds are in each pack, how many seeds in a pound, and how much seed you need to cover a given area. Wildflower seeds have germination periods of 6 to 28 days, so you have to keep this in mind as you plan your garden. If you select a variety that has a 28 day germination period, you should select a second variety with a much quicker germination period and mix them together before sowing.

If you were to sow only seeds with a 28 day germination period the weeds would get a jump on the wildflowers, and you would likely end up with a weed garden. When you mix seeds with different germination periods, the faster germinating seeds will come up very quickly, and act as a nurse crop for the seeds that need more time, keeping the weeds and birds at bay until all the seeds can germinate.

**Good luck with your wildflower garden! Have fun, and enjoy. ✕**