

Use the Difficulty

by Laura Chalus, CEO, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

As a young actor, Michael was desperately trying to squelch his nerves as he listened to the improvised dialogue happening on stage. Preparing to enter the rehearsal scene while gathering up his courage, he heard his queue and went to swing the stage door open, only to have his body jarred by the abrupt blockage of the door.

Sticking his head through the crack afforded by the partially open door, he doggedly looked out at the impatient director. "I can't get in, sir", he said – his inability to enter the scene precipitated by a wayward chair which had unknowingly become wedged against the door.

What happened next, though, was a most unexpected comment from the director; one that would help guide Michael's distinguished career, and even his family life, for decades to come.

In a 2002 interview, Sir Michael Caine describes how his philosophy of life was born from that one reflective experience when "use the difficulty", was the director's response to his problematic scene. Unsure of what the director actually meant, Michael inquired, and was advised that he needed to learn how to incorporate any difficult situation as an advantage.

If the scene was comedic, then trip over that unforeseen chair, or if the tone was dramatic, then pick the chair up and throw it. Ahhh... his proverbial light bulb began to burn brighter as he endeavored to implement this sage advice.

As an avid gardener, that phrase, "use the difficulty", really resonated with me in multiple ways, but especially so given that I'm continuing to work towards a second trial of planting the Three Sisters. All gardeners know that each flower, vegetable, grass, perennial, and shrub come with its own set of challenges and peculiarities, but how do we strive to use those struggles as a positive?



For example, when planting individually grouped crops of corn, beans, and squash, troubles can abound. The bare soil around the nitrogen-hogging corn stalks tends to dry out while weeds flourish, and the stalks can be susceptible to toppling over in strong winds. The pole beans, rich in nitrogen, need a lot of room to climb even though precious garden space is always in short supply. Squash tends to out-compete every other crop with its copious broad leaves, practically taking over the garden.

By using the plants' inherent difficulties in a positive way, however, and planting all three with a symbiotic cohabitation relationship in mind, more sustainable and effective results can be achieved – not to mention quite a lovely garden aesthetic. The beans climb up the corn stalks providing stability, along with nitrogen. The squash provides shade around the corn and prevents abundant weeds. The corn provides a trellis for the beans, and now everyone is happy.

My first Three Sisters plantings some years ago utilized seeds my daughter acquired from the Cherokee Nation Seed Bank, including Cherokee Colored Flour Corn, Kentucky Blue Pole Beans, and Georgia Candy Roaster Squash.

I had great results, and really enjoyed learning how each of the crops blended in a harmonious relationship with one another. This year I'm trying Golden Bantam Sweet Corn, Kentucky Wonder Pole Beans, and Yellow Crookneck



Squash, and praying that the squash bugs don't zero in too quickly.

Not only in my gardening efforts, but more and more in my everyday life, I've been repeating this newfound mantra. I'm not sure yet whether I'll see superior horticultural results, but it does help me to put other life challenges into perspective. Rather than blindly reacting to a tumultuous situation, perhaps we can all take a moment and instead contemplate how to "use the difficulty". I gratefully tip my hat to you, Sir Michael Caine!



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On the Cover: Sunflower Photo by Andy Fusco



TULSA AREA DAYLILY SOCIETY SHOW & SALE

date: June 3, 2023 /

Sale 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Show 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

location: Helmerich Horticulture Center & Barn

https://www.facebook.com/TulsaAreaDaylilySociety/

Monty's Mews: Top Five Shrubs to Hide Under

Number 1

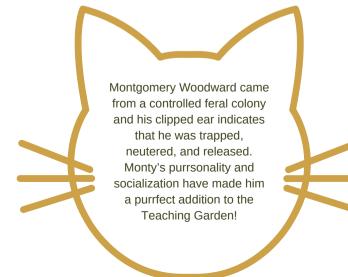
Grey Owl Juniper: (Gold Lace Juniper too but I can't tell the difference, they look the same to me): These are easily the best hiding spots. Their branches are sturdy enough that they don't rustle at all when I am moving around underneath them and they smell great. The foliage makes a dense canopy so I'm not easily seen from outside but the structure is loose enough that I've got a good view out. Great cover if there's a spot of rain and a nice cool place to take a nap on a hot afternoon. Better unpruned or lightly pruned.

Number 2

Oakleaf Hydrangea: The foliage isn't as dense on this shrub, but the big leaves cast mottled shadows that match the stripes on my coat the best. The big leaves also catch the wind more, disguising my movements making this an excellent shrub from which to ambush the gardeners. They would get a nine out of ten, but they only have leaves half the year. 8/10

Number 3

Boxwoods: The foliage is very dense, unfortunately they have so many branches that it's impossible to move in them without making some noise, so great hiding, but not great for ambushing. Don't like the smell either. 7/10





Number 4

Blue Globe Spruce: This one's quite good. Really good hiding as there's almost no view in, but this doesn't mean it's not a good view out. The one in the garden is situated over an ant's nest, which is not appreciated. 7/10

Number 5

Ninebark: This one is a little different than the others. As it grows in a vase shape there's not very many places to hide until the branches droop to the ground and make a perfect little tunnel. This is also the prettiest one on the list. 6/10

Honorable Mention

Yew: Good cover but prickly. 5/10







TULSA HERB SOCIETY'S JUNE 2023 MEETING PROGRAM HOW TO GRILL WITH GARDEN VEGETABLES & HERBS

Jim Sposato has been a Master Gardener since 2013 and now mainly volunteers at the Lincoln Community Garden (Arkansas) where he is Project Chairperson. In 2016, the garden won the Project of the Year award, and Jim won Mentor of the Year in 2021.

Jim was a high school Football, Track, Basketball, and Baseball coach in Oklahoma and Arkansas for forty-six years. During that time he entered many Prize-Winning BBQ competitions, which led to his Coach Sposato's Bar-B-Q Sauce. He has since received many ribbons and trophies for his BBQ Ribs and BBQ Chicken.

The Sauce was first entered into the Kansas City BBQ Society Contest where it was awarded the Blue-Ribbon. Jim started making and canning it at home, then selling it to the high school faculty where he worked. It is now bottled at Ozark Mountain Packing.

Jim has done "How to Grill" programs for the Washington County & Benton County Master Gardeners, St. Thomas Catholic Church, and Ozark Natural Foods in Fayetteville, Arkansas. This will be Jim's second time to present at a Tulsa Herb Society meeting.

Tulsa Herb Society member and Jim's sister, Betty, will have Coach Sposato's Bar-B-Q Sauce available to purchase during the June 13th meeting at 10 a.m.

This meeting is open to the public. For more information, visit https://www.facebook.com/TulsaHerb.

"Why Do You Garden?"

by Andy Fusco, Director of Horticulture, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

"Why do you garden?"

This question was asked by a young student in the Teaching Garden last fall. A group of 5th graders were in the park from Burroughs Elementary for a day of learning through our Outdoor Classroom program. On this particular day, volunteers were busy planting roughly 2,500 new perennial bulbs in the garden, so we invited the students to help us plant a patch of Allium bulbs in the butterfly garden. For these students, this project was more than a break from the classroom; it was, of course, a lesson in horticulture.

Alliums are a drought-tolerant, perennial, ornamental bulb closely related to onions in the amaryllis family (Amaryllidaceae). They put on a dazzling display in the late spring—tall spikes give way to round flower heads composed of dozens of star-shaped flowers.

These eye-catching flowers are a favorite of bees and butterflies and therefore were a great lesson in how gardening can bolster our own food chain by supporting declining pollinator populations.

As Outdoor Classroom Program
Director Brian Bovaird explained,
however, the lesson that day was, at
its core, a lesson on patience and
delayed gratification. Allium bulbs
have a dormancy period that is
required for them to flower, so the
bulbs they planted that day would
not feed any pollinators for another
six months. These young scholars
would have to wait to see the "fruits"
of their labor.

And what better way to summarize, what for me, could be a whole dissertation of an answer on the "Whys" of gardening. For me, gardening is a continual lesson in patience.



We can learn a lot just by slowing down and taking a closer look at our own gardens.

For example, as I concluded my tour of the Arboretum on Arbor Day, the Tanyosho Pine (Pinus densiflora 'Umbraculifera') jumped out at me. Bright purple cones were just beginning to form on the tree's new candles, the elongated growth points at the end of stems. The color will fade to brown as the cones mature, but the dense, vibrant color they put off in their early growth is unlike anything we commonly see in the world of conifers. I often miss these intricacies when I'm rushing to my next appointment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9





SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023 | 1:30 PM
TULSA GARDEN CENTER, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

"Why Do You Garden?" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

I'm making it a resolution to slow down a bit and I invite you to join me. Take extra care to look closely the next time you are in the Teaching Garden. The Koi Pond is filling back in with our wonderful collection of hardy pond plants. Can you tell the difference between the Water Lilies (Nymphaea spp.) and Lotus Flower (Nelumbo nucifera)? We have both, and they are commonly confused. The best way to tell them apart during the summer is by their flower position. Water Lily flowers sit on top of the water, almost floating, whereas the Lotus flowers will stand up well above the pond surface. As the Lotus flowers mature, they give way to their distinctive seed heads that slowly turn downward, releasing seed back into the pond.

If you would like to learn more about these fascinating pond plants or the work that goes into maintaining our beautiful pond, be sure to come out for our Pond Plant Sale, Saturday, July 15th, 9 am - 3pm or while supplies last. We will have various divisions from almost all our plants as well as staff

on hand to answer any questions you may have.

This day will also be a great opportunity to see our living koi sculptures in all their glory. Garden Manager, Leigh Taylor, along with Teaching Garden Volunteers, built and planted living sculptures this spring as part of the All American Selections® Garden Display Contest. Nothing like this has ever been attempted in Woodward Park, so you will not want to miss this whimsical twist on what plants can do in the garden.

As you stroll through the gardens here in Woodward Park and toil away in your own yard this season, I invite you to ask yourself, "Why do you garden?". You might learn something new about yourself, or at the very least, about that favorite plant you thought you knew everything about. If you find that your answer is one of curiosity and service, I invite you to apply for our next Teaching Garden Training this fall. Over several weeks we will dive into all things gardening and



prepare you for the front lines of all these exciting projects. Please join me at an orientation and information session, Saturday, August 12th at 10am to learn more.

Until then, happy planting.









The Tulsa Garden Center invites <u>you</u> to join us for Wine & Roses, an elegant garden party in the Arboretum at Woodward Park.

Discover fresh upscale cuisine, lavish wines, fine craft beer, and imaginative cocktails, all inspired by the gardens of Woodward Park.

This event benefits Woodward Park educational programming and beautification, including restoration of the Tulsa Arboretum.

Wine & Roses, Friday, September 29th, 2023, 7:00-9:30pm

Tulsa Garden Center members may purchase discounted tickets. Guests must be 21 or older to attend. Grandmas and Ubers encouraged.



Purchase your tickets today! www.tulsagardencenter.org/wine-and-roses







SPRINGFEST at Woodward Park











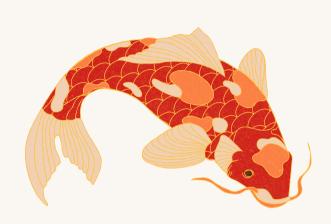
With sixty artists, plant vendors, community partners, and small businesses set up on the Event Lawn during two perfect April spring days, our 68th Annual SpringFest was undoubtedly a success and pleasure for all! Thank you for continuing to support this long-standing event and thus Woodward Park!



69th Annual SpringFest April 12th & 13th, 2024



LIVING SCULPTURES IN THE TEACHING GARDEN





Tulsa Garden Center's own Teaching Garden Manager, Leigh Taylor, is sharing their talents with us yet again, this time with Living Sculptures depicting Koi Fish. Volunteers recently aided in planting in the sculptures after their structure was built and filled with hay. Peak viewing is set for mid-July in conjunction with our

pond sale.



Mother Earth a work presented by Mosaicultures Internationales de Montreal. Photo Credit - Guy Boily





Atlanta Botanical Garden . Photo Credit - Architecture and Design Magazine

A living sculpture is any type of sculpture that is created with living, growing grasses, vines, plants or trees. It can be functional and/or ornamental.



Pond Plant Sale

Proceeds benefit the Teaching Garden at Woodward Park

Saturday, July 15th 9am-3pm

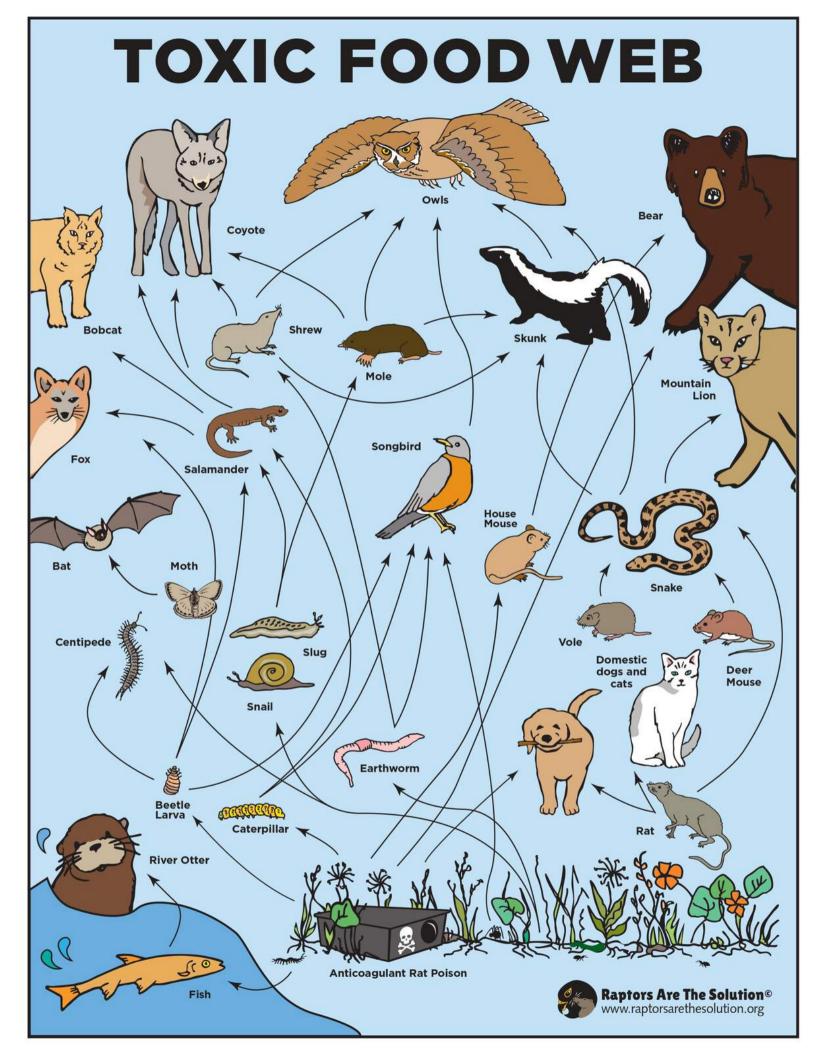
while supplies last

Teaching Garden Barn

Come see our living Koi sculptures! Kids' activity by Tulsa Garden Club. Staff will be on hand to answer your pond maintenance questions as well.



Visit our website for more information tulsagardencenter.org/teaching-garden



The Many Faces of Coreopsis

Article and Photos by Rebecca Carlberg



What do you call this plant? Plains coreopsis, garden coreopsis, golden tickseed or Calliopsis? The seeds do look like ticks, which are rather plentiful this year. Calliopsis is just another name for a flower in the genus *Coreopsis*. The floral beauties are native west of the Mississippi but have spread or been planted in other areas.

Coreopsis tinctoria soaks up the summer sun, but can tolerate a bit of shade. The long delicate stems (up to four feet in height) from which issue thin branches also have



single to double-pinnate narrow green leaves usually growing along the bottom half of the plant. Coreopsis is not found in forests but along the outer perimeters, beside roads, in fields or living dangerously next to railroad tracks. Coreopsis bend and

blow with the wind as their little flowers bounce on the tops. These guys are not too picky about their soils, and survive and thrive in rocky, sandy, or decent earth. Somewhat drought tolerant, they do like heat.

Up to the point before their flowers open up from small tightly wrapped green balls, the plants are nearly invisible, mixing with the other green life. They choose not to draw any attention to themselves until the right moment. Then their flowers begin to bloom and boom, Coreopsis takes center stage. As with others in the Asteraceae family, each blossom looks like a small daisy, but is actually a composite of two types of flowerlets. A gigantic one to two inches across, the reddish-brown center of disk flowers is surrounded by 7 to 9 ray flowers. The outer edges of the eye-catching yellow rays may be toothed or wavy with varying amounts of burgundy color nearest the disk. One reason the Zuni people liked *Coreopsis tinctoria* blooms. The rendered flowers made a mahogany red dye for yarn.





Every Coreopsis plant is unique and each produces flowers a bit different from its neighbors. I loved walking down Garrett's Lake Road (before it was paved and constantly mowed) while the Coreopsis flowered on both sides of the road. Pollinators and I checked out the floral

faces. A magical experience on days when the winds were subdued.

Coreopsis stands have a rather lengthy flowering period beginning in late spring. They may still be producing blooms in early autumn, depending on weather conditions. Some Oklahoma summers can be more brutal than others. Coreopsis is proficient in self-

seeding, but if you want to bring Coreopsis into your gardens, collect the seeds. Either sow after the last frost date directly into the soil or in pots about 5-6 weeks before the last spring frost date. You won't find a better native to carry you through the heat of the summer.



Benefits of Membership

WHY IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER:

- Subscription to the quarterly Tulsa Garden Center E-Newsletter, In The Garden.
- Complimentary oneyear subscription to Better Homes & Gardens magazine.
- Special privileges and discounts at more than 345 participating gardens through our reciprocal admissions program at American Horticultural Society.
- Invitations and discounts to fundraising events and free preferred parking at SpringFest.
- Tuition waiver or up to 50% discount for classes, seminars, and workshops.







BECOME A MEMBER OR GIFT ONE TO A FRIEND AT: WWW.TULSAGARDENCENTER.ORG/JOIN



Woodward Park serves as headquarters for numerous horticultural and environmental organizations, and most meet on a monthly basis.

African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa

https://www.facebook.com/AVSGT.ORG

Meets: Third Monday at 7pm

Audubon Society

www.tulsaaudubon.org

https://www.facebook.com/tulsaaudubon

Meets: Third Tuesday at 7pm

(does not meet in June, July, and Aug)

Tulsa Cacti and Succulent Society

https://www.facebook.com/tulsacactiandsucculentsociety/

Meets: First Thursday at 7pm (does not meet in Jan and Feb)

Green Country Bonsai Society

https://www.facebook.com/GCBonsai

Meets: First Monday at 7pm

Green Country Sierra Club

https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubGreenCountryGroup

Meets: Last Thursday at 7pm

Green Country Water Garden Society

https://www.facebook.com/greencountrywatergardensociety2

Meets: Second Tuesday at 7pm

Hosta Connection

https://www.facebook.com/HostaConnection

Meets: Second Tuesday at 6:30pm (does not meet in Jan, Feb, and Dec)

Oklahoma Native Plant Society

www.oknativeplants.org

https://www.facebook.com/groups/259814325499

Meets: First Monday in March, May, September, and

December at 6:30pm

Oklahoma Mycological Society

www.okfungi.org

https://www.facebook.com/okfungi

Meets: Third Monday at 7pm

Tulsa Area Azalea Society

https://www.facebook.com/TulsaAreaAzaleaSociety

Meets: Third Monday at 5:30pm (does not meet in Jan and Feb)

Tulsa Area Daylily Society

www.tulsadaylily.org

https://www.facebook.com/TulsaAreaDaylilySociety

Meets: First Thursday at 6:30pm (does not meet in Jan, Feb, and July)

Tulsa Area Iris Society

www.tulsairis.org

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077404783647

Meets: Third Thursday at 7pm (does not meet in Jan, Feb, and July)

Tulsa Garden Club

www.tulsagardenclub.org

https://www.facebook.com/TulsaGardenClub

Meets: First Monday at 11am

(does not meet in Jan, July, Aug, and Sept)

Tulsa Rose Society

www.tulsarosesociety.org

https://www.facebook.com/TulsaRoseSociety1

Meets: Second Sunday at 2pm (does not meet in July and Aug)

Tulsa Herb Society

https://www.facebook.com/TulsaHerb/

Meets: Second Tuesday at 10am Crafting every Tuesday at 9am

Tulsa Orchid Society

https://www.facebook.com/TulsaOrchid

Meets: Second Sunday at 1:30pm (does not meet in July)

Tulsa Perennial Club

www.tulsaperennialclub.org

https://www.facebook.com/TulsaPerennialClub

Meets: Third Thursday at 7pm (does not meet in Dec)



FALL CLASS ORIENTATION

AT WOODWARD PARK

CALLING ALL GARDENERS!



Want to enhance your horticulture and gardening knowledge, while immersing vourself into the heart of Woodward Park?

The Teaching Garden at Woodward Park is recruiting its next class of volunteers!

This orientation will outline the volunteer program and upcoming fall horticulture training required to become a teaching garden volunteer.

CLASSES AND EVENTS

> Weekly Recurring Events

Every Tuesday - Tulsa Herb Society member activities. 9am -11:30 am (except 2nd week of month) Every Thursday - Let's Talk Gardening! 12-1:30 pm

> Thursday, June 1

Tulsa Area Daylily Society meeting. 7pm Tulsa Cacti & Succulent Society meeting. 7pm

> Saturday, June 3

Tulsa Area Daylily Society show. 12-4 and sale 8-4

> Monday, June 5

Tulsa Garden Club meeting. Offsite location. https://tulsagardenclub.org/ Green Country Bonsai Society meeting. 7

> Tuesday, June 6

Tulsa Garden Club youth activity. 10 am

> Sunday, June 11

Tulsa Area Orchid Society meeting. 1:30 pm

Tulsa Rose Society meeting. 2 pm

> Monday, June 12

OK Mozart Music Concert. 5:30 pm https://okmmusic.org/2023-festival/





> Tuesday, June 13

Tulsa Herb Society meeting. 10 am **Green Country Water Society meeting.** 6:30 pm

Hosta Connection meeting. 7 pm

> Wednesday, June 14

Composting Workshop. Helmerich Horticulture Center. 6:00-8:00 pm

> Thursday, June 15

Tulsa Perennial Club meeting. 7 pm Tulsa Area Iris Society meeting. 7 pm

> Monday, June 19

Mycology Society meeting. 7 pm African Violet Society meeting 7 pm

> Tuesday, June 20

Tulsa Herb Society meeting. 9 am Tulsa Area Azalea Society meeting. 5:30 pm

> Thursday, June 29

Sierra Club meeting. 6:30 pm

> Monday, July 3

Green Country Bonsai meeting. 7 pm

> Thursday, July 6

Cacti & Succulent Society of Tulsa meeting. 7 pm



> Monday, July 10 **Tulsa Herb Society community**

speaker. 5 pm

> Tuesday, July 11

Tulsa Herb Society meeting. 10 am **Green Country Water Garden Society** meeting. 6:30 pm

Hosta Connection meeting. 7 pm

> Saturday, July 15

Pond Plant Sale. Teaching Garden Barn. 9 am - 3 pm



> Monday, July 17

Mycology Society meeting. 7 pm African Violet Society meeting. 7 pm











www.facebook.com/TulsaGardenCenter/

www.instagram.com/TulsaGardenCenter



Celebrating Eastern Oklahoma's vital role in the amazing Monarch butterfly migration!

Festival and Plant Sale

SAVE THE

SAT, SEP 23RD

9am - 1pm, Chandler Park Monarch education, activities, food trucks & more!

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CLASSES AND EVENTS

> Tuesday, July 18

Tulsa Area Azalea Society meeting. 5:30 pm

Summer Tree Pests Class. Helmerich Horticulture Center. 6:00-8:00 pm

> Thursday, July 20

Tulsa Perennial Club meeting. 7 pm

> Thursday, July 27 Sierra Club meeting. 6:30 pm

> Thursday, August 3 Cacti & Succulent Society of Tulsa meeting. 7 pm



> Monday, August 7
Green Country Bonsai meeting. 7 pm

> Tuesday, August 8

Tulsa Herb Society meeting. 10 am Green Country Water Garden Society meeting. 6:30 pm Hosta Connection meeting. 7 pm

> Saturday, August 12
Teaching Garden Fall Class Volunteer
Orientation. 10 am



> Sunday, August 13
Tulsa Orchid Society Annual Orchid
Auction, 1:30



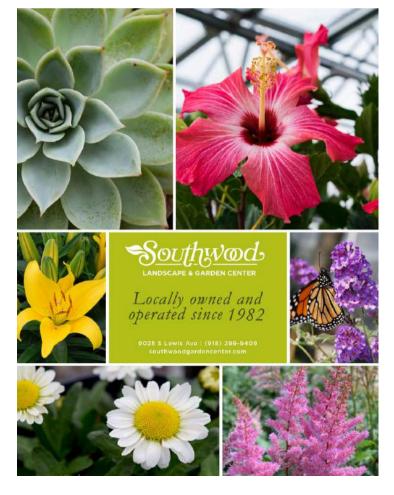
> Tuesday, August 15 Tulsa Area Azalea Society meeting. 5:30

> Thursday, August 17
Tulsa Perennial Club meeting. 7:00 pm
Tulsa Area Iris Society meeting. 7 pm

> Thursday, August 31 Sierra Club meeting. 6:30 pm

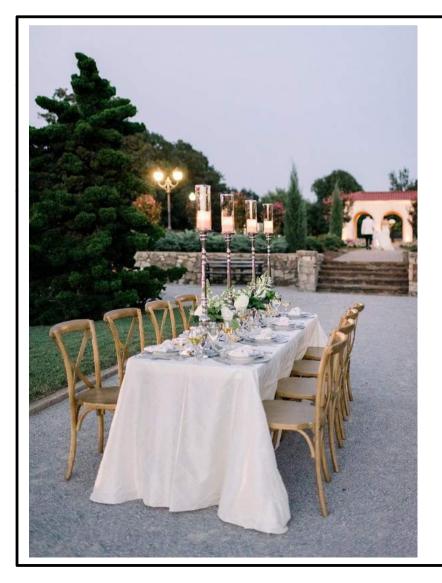








Our mission is to serve as horticultural headquarters with diverse educational opportunities for our community, and to provide exceptional and unique guest experiences in Woodward Park.



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