

The Bridge

P.O. Box 18, Montgomery Center, VT 05471 ♦ E-mail: CoveredBridgesGardenClub@hotmail.com

Covered Bridges Garden Club Newsletter ♦ January / February 2009

**Marsha Phillips &
Sue Wilson**
Co-Presidents

Marijke Dollois
2nd Vice President
(Membership)

Sharon Perry
Treasurer

Kathy Ross
Corresponding
Secretary

Laurie Ellis
Ways and Means

Mary Carol Mankin
Editor, *The Bridge*

COMMITTEES

Civic Beautification
Barrels
Library Garden
School Garden

Hospitality

Programming

Publicity

Ways & Means

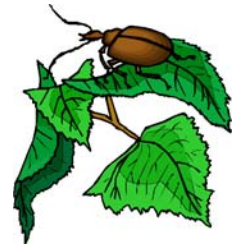
Yearbook

We would love to have you participate in any of these committees! If you wish to help, please email us or contact Marsha Phillips at 326-3111 or Sue Wilson at 326-4189.

Please send items for the newsletter to the editor: mcmankin@comcast.net or call 848-7567.

Next Meeting

PESTS IN YOUR GARDEN



Saturday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Public Safety Building, Montgomery Center

Katrina Trottier, a graduate of Sterling College, will give us a dissertation and Power Point presentation on the control of pests in your garden with emphasis on ecologically sound pest control methods.

Hosts: Sharon Perry
& Sue Wilson



Winter Gardening Tips

by Vern Grubinger



January is a good month for gardening, at least on paper, as you start planning next year's garden and consult seed catalogs for ideas and new varieties. Although you'll want to include many of your family's favorites, why not try something you've never grown before?

How about collards, shallots, popcorn, or even sweet potatoes, if you live in one of the warmer areas of Vermont? Specialty crops such as bok choy (Chinese cabbage), tatsoi (flat cabbage), or any of the fancy lettuces also are nice for a change of pace. To determine how many seeds to order, map out your garden on graph paper, allowing adequate space between rows and ample room for vining crops such as pumpkins

and winter squash. You might want to plan your order with a gardener friend or neighbor, so you can sample more varieties as well as save on shipping costs.

If you received a poinsettia or cyclamen as a holiday gift, keep it blooming by providing proper care. Poinsettias need good drainage, so if the pot is still wrapped in foil, remove the foil or make a hole in the bottom to allow the water to drain out. Keep soil moist, but don't overwater. Place your plant in a cool (60 to 65 degrees F.) location that gets plenty of light. Keep out of warm or cool drafts, and fertilize once a month. (Your other houseplants also will benefit from fertilizer applications once or twice this winter.) The cyclamen with its unique blossoms needs to be kept cool and evenly moist. Too high temperatures, too little water, or too low light may cause leaves to yellow and drop. But with proper care, the plant should continue to bloom for six to eight weeks.

While snow makes a good protective cover for plants, if you use salt to melt ice on driveways or walkways, be careful not to pile snow from these areas on your plants or where melting snow will drain onto them. After the snow melts, flush the area around the roots exposed to salt with fresh water.

Winter is a good time to sign up for gardening classes or seminars offered by many garden centers or town recreation offices. Or gather a group of friends to learn bonsai or compare notes on growing perennials or tropical houseplants, whatever piques your interest. Other activities for January: check houseplants regularly for pests; keep bird feeders filled; spend time browsing the garden section at your library or on the Internet, if you have access to a computer.

Vern Grubinger writes from the University of Vermont Extension System in Burlington, Vermont.

Source: http://www.ruralvermont.com/vermontweathervane/issues/winter/97012/winter_tips.shtml

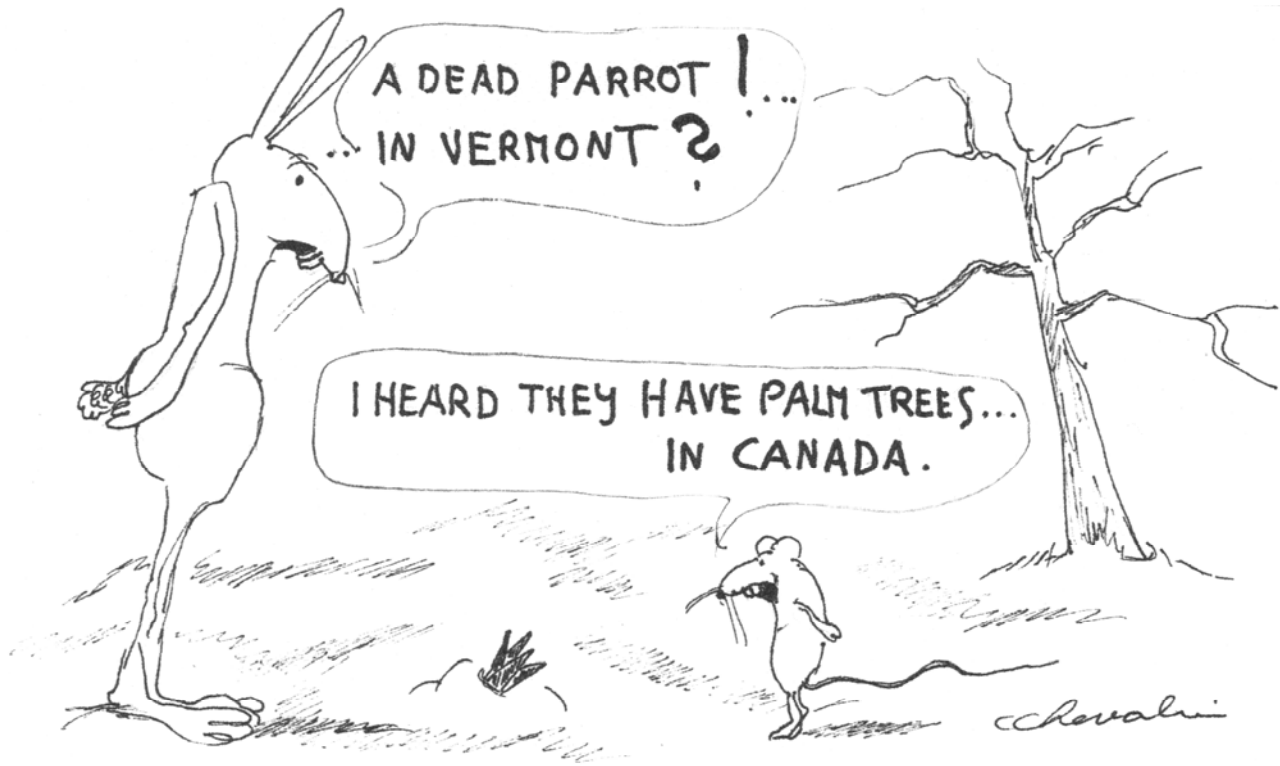


What structure do plant cells have that animal cells don't have?



Find the answer on page 7.

❁ ❁ CHRISTA'S CORNER ❁ ❁



It was four days after Christmas, the temperature had gone from 15° below to 50° above within 24 hours and the lawn had been white then green then white and green and white again, with just enough slush left to talk me into skiing in circles around the front yard. So, feeling already a bit seasonally disoriented, I couldn't believe it when Frankie snuffled around something that looked like the tail feathers of a frozen stiff green bird, but turned out to be four inch high new sprouts of a Bearded Iris. I have been a gardener for over forty years, but I have never ever seen anything like *that* before at the end of December in northern Vermont. Sad part about the whole thing is that I don't have to look too far for the answer as to why.

Fortunately we do have some control over what's happening to plants inside our homes. Now is the time not to over-water and regularly fertilize active and blooming plants. Especially those that are exposed to the sun. Sun will deplete nutrition quickly. Any problems with aphids, white flies and other winged or crawling nuisances can be dealt with by spraying a mixture of one tablespoon of Murphy Oil Soap and one gallon of water.

Until next time, ... keep your shorts and long johns within reach, ...and don't forget to curl up with a good spring gardening catalog. As for me, I'm going to keep my eyes on those green bird feathers in my flower bed.

— Christa Chevalier

Tracking Winter Wildlife

By Heather Behrens



When looking at animals in a field or the deep forest, we often miss the secrets of their private lives, since the animals have invariably seen us first and are reacting to our presence. But the trail records the animal when it was alone in nature and brings us closer than ever to its normal habits and perceptions of the world.

The tracks and traces that animals leave behind tell us a story — both a record of the past and a connection to the present. Interpreting these traces for ourselves brings us into their world, one where sound, smell, and sight give important cues to where the food is hiding, a predator is lurking or a mate is waiting. It is a hidden world to most of us. We see only the obvious, the necessary, or the lovely.

But besides the track itself, other signs that give evidence of animal life in the vicinity are stray feathers, drops of blood, urine, or scat markings, twigs chewed, bark gnawed, lodges or dens, holes in the ice or stream banks, diggings in the ground, and countless others.

These traces tell us who may have been here recently and what their intentions were. Anything unusual in nature was affected by something or someone. What did it and why?

Beyond looking at habitat, size of the track, and footprint being examined, for most trackers the single most important clue is the track pattern. Although any animal may speed up or slow down, which can alter its track pattern, most animals typically fit into one of four distinct ways of moving: walking/trotting, galloping, bounding, or waddling.

The simplest type of movement is the walk or trot. In a walk, four-footed animals move hind left leg and front right leg, then hind right leg and front left leg. This diagonal way of walking is quite balanced, since there is always support on both sides of the body. A child who has learned to crawl uses the diagonal walk of a quadruped. Typical examples include members of the cat and dog family, deer and moose.

In waddling, animals move both limbs on the right side, then both limbs on the left. Waddling makes the whole animal sway from side to side in a gait typical of short, squat animals such as raccoon, porcupine, opossum, and beaver.

— continued on next page —



— continued from previous page —

In the third type of movement, bounding, the front feet reach out together and the hind feet follow as a pair, landing just behind the front feet or almost in the front prints. This movement is typical of members of the weasel family.

Finally, the fourth common type of movement is galloping. It is similar to bounding except that here the hind feet land to either side or ahead of the front feet. This gait is typical of rabbits and squirrels, and also long-legged animals when they are trying to move fast.

As you will discover on the trail, these four types are oversimplified, but are valuable as a framework for interpreting tracks.

Good tracking conditions depend on the quality of snow as it falls, the weather conditions after it fell, and the ways in which these two effect the movements of animals.

Tracks can be found anywhere, but they are often most common at the edges of habitats, such as where a forest and field meet, and particularly near water. To discover the presence and lives of animals, you need only to be like a detective involved in solving a marvelous mystery.

Heather Behrens writes from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Woodstock, Vermont.

Source: http://www.ruralvermont.com/vermontweathervane/issues/winter/97012/vins97012_tracking.shtml



Which are evergreen trees or shrubs?

- Eastern white pine
- Sycamore maple
- White ash
- American holly
- Saucer magnolia
- Blueberry
- Japanese holly
- American elm
- Boxwood

Find the answer on page 7.



2009 Vermont Flower Show



“Child’s Play”

The 14th Annual Vermont Flower Show, “Child’s Play,” will be held March 6, 7, and 8, 2009 at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, Vermont. The show is expected to attract over 8,000 people and is open to the public Friday, March 6th from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 7th from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, March 8th from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The daily cost of admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors (60+), and \$3 for children (ages 3–12). A three day pass is available for \$30 per adult.

New this year:

- ❖ Cooking demonstrations – Cook from the Vermont Garden in March! Featuring the following local celebrity chefs:
 - ♦ Sean Buchanan, Stow Mountain Lodge, Stowe at 12:30 p.m. on Friday
 - ♦ Charlie Menard, The Round Barn Inn, Waitsfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday
 - ♦ Aaron Millon, 11:00 a.m. Saturday
 - ♦ Jeff Egan, The Bee’s Knees, Morrisville at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday
 - ♦ Michael Kloeti, Michaels on the Hill, Waterbury Center at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday
 - ♦ Doug Mack, Mary’s Restaurant at the Inn at Baldwin Creek, Briston at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday
- ❖ The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont is presenting a “National Garden Club Standard Flower Show” with two components – the design division, open only to garden club members, and the horticulture division, open to the public.
- ❖ Expanded Show Hours on Friday night until 8:00 p.m.

Highlights of the 2009 Vermont Flower Show

- ❖ Grand Central Landscaped Display filled with the sights and smells of Spring!
- ❖ Faerie Forest by Sally J. Smith
- ❖ Stargazing tent, tree house, poetry garden, waterfall, and much more
- ❖ Over 40 seminars and workshops from which to choose
- ❖ Family entertainment from Robert Resnik and Gigi Weisman, No Strings Marionettes, and Jon Gailmor
- ❖ Build you own faerie house in the Children’s Room with many other crafts
- ❖ Keynote Presentation by Joe Eck & Wayne Winterrowd from North Hill Garden – authors of *Living Seasonally*
- ❖ Over 70 vendors including Garden Centers, Landscapers, Artists, Jewelry, Composting Supplies, Garden Accessories, Tools, and Educational Exhibits
- ❖ Vermont Garden Railway Society landscaped garden with moving trains
- ❖ Professional Floral Competition
- ❖ Silent auction Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with all proceeds donated to **Green Up Vermont**; live auction on Saturday only
- ❖ Plant Sale on Sunday at the close of the show

SAVE THE DATE!!!

April's Meeting

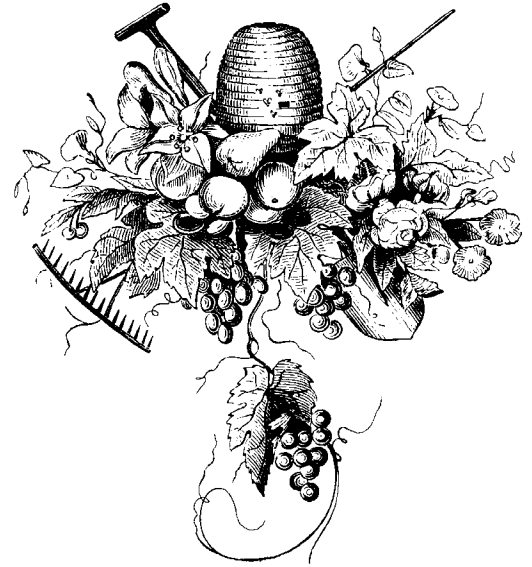
Saturday, April 25th, 1:30 pm

Public Safety Building, Montgomery Center

Waddle garden supports, fencing, and ornamentation.

Presented by: Kevin Scheffler

Hosts: Kay Henderson & Wendy Howard



A Thank You from Carol Kremer



Hi you wonderful garden club members,

What a delightful surprise and so appropriate — a little garden from the garden club! It's a yellow and white bouquet in a lovely bowl.

I am beginning to feel much better and getting stronger every day. You'll see me by April at the latest.

Thanks again. I REALLY appreciate it!

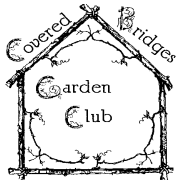
Love, Carol

Answers to questions:

From page 2: Plant cells have rigid cell walls containing cellulose, but animal cells don't have cell walls. Both animals and plants have membranes containing the cell contents. Plant cell walls give structural support, but don't allow the degree of movement that most animals have. As plant cell walls mature, they thicken and a hardening substance called lignin is produced. Hardwood trees like oak have highly lignified cell walls, which make them rigid.

From page 5: Eastern white pine (Pinus strobus); American holly (Ilex opaca); Japanese holly (Ilex crenata); Boxwood (Buxus species).

Questions and answers come from: "Gardener's Quiz Book" by Norman Pellett, Outskirts Press, Inc. 2009



Covered Bridges Garden Club
P.O. Box 18
Montgomery Center, VT 05471