

JULY 2013

# **SOUTHERN** **Master** GARDENING

A Monthly Newsletter brought to you by the  
Horticulture Experts from

**JUNGLE TAMING**

# JUNGLE TAMING

WITH BILL KUNZE



My name is Bill Kunze. That's me up there waving my hat! Greetings! I'd like to take a moment to tell you about us ...

At Jungle Taming, we take unattractive grounds and make them beautiful. This involves imagination, vision, and manicuring effort which is far beyond what it would take to simply maintain grounds.

No greater joy exists for us than taking on the challenge of changing what looks impossibly ugly and making it beautiful. That's why we call our business "Jungle Taming."

Most of the people in the lawn maintenance business are geared up for speed (multiple jobs per day) and cannot expend the time and effort required to tackle "jungle" projects. After all, to do this job properly, one must frequently get down on hands and knees and crawl around under large shrubs and trees. How else can a person remove vines and saplings from under a beautiful old azalea or camellia? Most lawn maintenance crews are not trained in horticulture and are not skilled in the care of shrubs and perennials and trees.

May I encourage you to subscribe, because, it is absolutely FREE:

IT IS : all about Columbia, SC

IT IS: about gardening

IT IS: an exercise in experimentation with lots of surprises along the way.

May I also encourage you to forward this magazine to any of your friends who you think might be interested in ways to get more joy out of life.

Our garden writers want you to get more joy from your yard. That can happen for you as you begin to employ the tips in this newsletter. When you decide to join us on our quest for beauty, you will be glad you did because you will have engaged your body, mind and soul in the process. So may I encourage you to just take a few minutes to look over this magazine, pick out a few things you want to try, then begin to try them in your soon-to-be-famous Garden of Eden.

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

It's easy to subscribe to the FREE monthly e-Magazine. **Email** your request to [info@jungletaming.com](mailto:info@jungletaming.com), or simply text JungleTaming to 22828!

**Monthly Horticultural Magazine and Southern Master Gardening** is distributed free of charge each month by Jungle Taming, LLC, an upscale yard restoration landscaping company proudly serving the Columbia, SC area.

Visit [www.JungleTaming.com](http://www.JungleTaming.com) for more information.

This newsletter has been compiled by local experts in horticulture and landscaping, which combines scientific and practical applications of horticultural theory. Suggestions are general, and individual results may vary. Opinions of authors do not always reflect Jungle Taming's opinion.



## Amy's Horticultural Tasks



### July

#### Annuals

If you used a slow release fertilizer in the spring to fertilize your annuals, now is the time to reapply. They have a four month life span, so this application will take you through the remainder of the growing season. Pay close attention to plants in containers as they will dry out faster than will plants in the ground. Many annuals will need to be dead headed to keep them blooming. Pinch back coleus and impatiens to keep them from becoming leggy.

#### Turf

This is not the time to try to establish a new turf area. Watch for damage from mole crickets, beetles, and chinch bugs. Be sure to vary mowing patterns and keep grass cut a little higher now because of the heat. Check irrigation for need of repairs or to make sure heads haven't been misaligned and that you're still getting the coverage needed. Dry spots in a lawn will quickly lead to dead areas.

#### Roses

Do not fertilize roses this month. However, if you have Knockout Roses, they can be cut back 1/3 to encourage new growth and set an intense display of blooms. Japanese beetles can be a nuisance on many plants including roses at this time of year. There's an easy way to take of them. Take a jar of soapy water (dish soap will do) out to the plants that Japanese beetles are feeding on. Hold the jar beneath the beetles and tap gently on the plant. The beetles will react by dropping off the plants and fall into your waiting jar of soapy water where they will die. This can be done a couple of times a day for the short time that Japanese beetles are feeding on your plants.





### Amy's Horticultural Tasks



#### Perennials

Reapply slow release fertilizers to perennial plants now, too. If you have perennials that have already finished blooming, you can often get a second bloom period out of them by dead heading them now. This will cause them to bloom again during the late summer. Keep an eye on aphids, spider mites, and other heat loving insects during this month. Treat with a systemic insecticide for best results.



#### Shrubs

Little or nothing should be done to shrubs now. It's a good time to note which shrubs may be needed to be replaced in the fall when planting times comes around again. Many conifer type shrubs are susceptible to spider mites during hot, dry summer months, in particular Dwarf Alberta Spruce.

These can not easily be seen until they've cause irreparable damage. Monitor closely for webbing or discoloration of plants.

#### Trees

Enjoy and appreciate the shade that trees provide during our summers. If you have an area that gets too much sun for your liking, start thinking now about where a tree could strategically planted in the winter to cast





## Amy's Horticultural Tasks



# About Amy



Amy (newly Mrs. Wright), who has a degree in horticulture, is a Certified Nursery Professional, Pesticide Applicator, Environmental Landscaper, Arborist, and Landscape Technician, and has been in the horticultural industry for several years as a garden center employee, lecturer, consultant, and designer. She was the recipient of the 2002 Horticulture Student of the Year award from the SC Nursery and Landscape Association. She is currently the landscape designer for the City of Columbia, and is a member of the SC Nursery and Landscape Association and the Greater Columbia Landscape Association. She has consulted on gardening articles for Columbia Metropolitan magazine and The State newspaper, appeared on ETV's "Making It Grow," and has also been a radio guest on "The Andy Thomas Show" to answer questions on gardening.

International Certified Arborist, and Certified Environmental Landscaper

803.240.2636

Email: [abledsoedesign@msn.com](mailto:abledsoedesign@msn.com)



# Growing Little Green Thumbs

*A frog of green is often seen.  
That frog of brown that you just found,  
Hopping down the road is a toad!  
To a long flicking tongue so quick  
1000s of mosquitoes will stick.  
A garden mosquito machine  
Eats voraciously! " Zip! Zap! Zing!"*



## **Make Toad Frogs at Home in Your Garden**

Make Toad Frogs at Home in Your Garden - NEVER purchase or capture frogs or toads to release into your yard. Chances are good they will die. Follow the tips and build the best habitat you can. Be patient and remember, if you build it, they will come.

- Provide Shelter - To get these cute little amphibians to control your pest problems, build little toad sanctuaries in heavy shade by placing some bricks on the ground to support boards and then covering the boards with plant pots or soil, creating a cool, damp, dark little cave-like structure they can hide in during the heat of the day. If you choose to use those cute little terra-cotta 'toad abodes', be sure to keep them in damp, shaded areas; they become toad microwaves out in the sun!
- Provide Water - Access to clean water is one of their biggest necessities. Place water sources at ground level near plants having pest problems; birdbath saucers sunk flush to the earth work great for this. The toads will naturally migrate to the moisture when they come out at night and then eat the closest bugs.
- Go Organic - . Frogs, toads and salamanders and other beneficial amphibians have porous skin which makes them helpless against toxic herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. Prevent mosquitoes breeding in that water with a monthly application of BTI, a completely non-toxic, natural bacterial organism isolated from soils that kills mosquito larvae.

**Science Questions to Search: How many insects can a single adult toad eat in a summer? How do frogs breathe? What effect does water pollution have on frogs? Where is a frog's tongue attached and how does this location help?**



Ruby has an Ed. D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of South Carolina. After retiring as an educator, she developed her artistic abilities and illustrated her first nonfiction children's science book, *Earth Turns on Its Axis*, and... She has another book called *Growing Little Green Thumbs*.

Ruby DeLoach Author, Retired Educator

Email: [rhdeloach@aol.com](mailto:rhdeloach@aol.com)

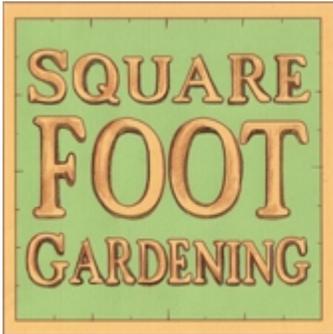
[www.crookedcreekart.org/deloach.htm](http://www.crookedcreekart.org/deloach.htm)

### JOIN RUBY FOR JULY BOOK SIGNINGS

**GREENVILLE** – Fiction Addiction, 1175 Woods Crossing Rd., Saturday, July 6 from 2:00 – 3:00  
and Barnes & Noble, 1125 Woodruff Road Saturday, July 13 from 12:00-4:00

**IRMO**– Learning Express, I-26 Peak Exit 97, 11107 Broad River Road, Saturday, July 20 from 11:00-3:00

**SPARTANBURG** County Headquarters Library, 151 South Church Street, Wednesday, July 24 from 11:00– 1:00



Sally  
Hansley  
Odum

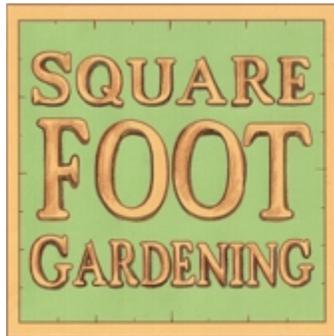


It's that time of year again. Long, lazy, hot days, vacations, high humidity, and lots of for family memories are all a part of summer. Summer is also when the garden kicks into high gear. Harvesting and watering your vegetables will naturally take some of your time. But there are ways to make gardening tasks easier and faster, when you need to be on the go. With these tips, you should be able to save time, enjoy your summer, and still have a healthy, productive garden too.

#### Summer Watering made Easy

If you have a Square Foot Garden, you know that Mel Bartholomew (the inventor of the method) recommends putting one cup of sun-warmed water to each plant daily. Ideally, you would capture this water in a rain barrel for optimum sustainability. However, we all know sometimes there just isn't enough time to do this. The easiest solution is to install a self-drip hose that delivers water to the roots of your plants. Drip irrigation systems can be elaborate or simple – the choice is yours. It's a good compromise to save time and keep your garden happy.





### **Sneaking Away for Vacation**

I have found that my plants do fine for a few days without any attention. If you use the Mel's Mix growing formula (1/3 peat moss, 1/3 coarse vermiculite and 1/3 blended composts), your garden will retain moisture far better than a garden planted in natural dirt or other growing mediums. Add a layer of mulch to the top of the garden bed and it will retain even more moisture, protecting plants for longer periods of time. Set your drip irrigation system on an automatic timer to periodically water your plants while you're away, and your garden will be in great shape when you return at the end of your vacation! Alternatively, you might ask a neighbor to water while you're away and reward them with fresh vegetables.

### **Conquering Extreme Heat & Rain**

Mulching not only helps retain moisture in the garden, but also protects tender plants from extreme heat. Shading the garden may be desirable if temperatures soar too high. Use shade cloths attached to T-posts and PVC pipe (or high garden fences) to create an overhead cover for your garden. Make sure that plenty of airflow gets through beneath it and that sunlight will filter in too. If you have a 4X4 Square Foot Garden, it's easy to attach a garden umbrella to shield your plants from torrential rains.



Every garden should be a harmonious marriage of nature with a blend of beneficial bacteria and insects that hopefully will outweigh the detrimental pests. When that balance is disrupted, usually just a little oversight on your part will prevent the problem from escalating and restore harmony!

Come by and see us at 9005 Two Notch Road #2 Columbia SC  
Call us at 803-397-2816

The Square Foot Gardening Foundation has moved the national headquarters from Eden, Utah to Columbia SC to help promote our mission of healthy eating and self reliance through gardening. We are a 501c3 non-profit and we strive to donate every dollar we can back into community gardens and school programs.

If you are interested in hosting an event or lecture please call our office or email us at [thestore@squarefootgardening.com](mailto:thestore@squarefootgardening.com). Place in subject line I want to host an event.



Sally Hansley Odum is a communications writer with Square Foot Gardening Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to ending world hunger, increasing health, self-sufficiency and vitality in families in the USA and abroad. It is headed by President and Founder, Mel Bartholomew, and CEO, Victoria Boudman. Square Foot Gardening Foundation is currently involved in projects to place SFGs in schools, teach SFG, install community gardens to help the poor and homeless, and to prevent childhood obesity and diabetes. To learn more, visit [www.squarefootgardening.org](http://www.squarefootgardening.org).



Victoria Boudman has been with the Square Foot Gardening Foundation since 2008. She is a mother of 5 and being mentored by Mel Bartholomew, the originator and founder of the Square Foot Gardening Foundation to continue what he started back in 1976. Victoria travels to speak on behalf of the mission statement to promote healthy lifestyles and eating habits - teaching self sustainability and reliance through gardening.



# GARDENING for EVERYONE

by Donald McInnes

## Preparing the Landscape For Your Vacation

What happens to the garden while you are gone?

The bags are packed, Fido's been dropped off at canine camp, Aunt Martha has agreed to watch the budgie, and you're ready to head off to the beach or the mountains. But what about your landscape and garden? How does one prepare them for vacation?

If you can find a competent and trusted friend or neighbor to care for your property while you're away, that will be easier and more effective than trying to compensate for your absence in other ways. If you can return the favor while your friend or neighbor is away, so much the better.

Weeding can be put off, as can pruning and most other plant maintenance chores, but lawn mowing shouldn't wait for your return. If you'll be gone for a couple of weeks or more, you should arrange to have someone mow your lawn. The trimming and edging can wait for your return, but letting your grass grow long and then cutting it drastically can stress the lawn and stunt its root system. For the health of the lawn, when you mow, you shouldn't cut off more than a third of the grass's height. For example, if your grass is best maintained at 2" (see [www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/lands](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/lands)



[cape/lawns/hgic1205.html](http://cape/lawns/hgic1205.html)), then cut it before it grows taller than 3". If your grass has grown taller than 3", you should lower the height gradually over more than one mowing, not removing more than one-third of the height at each cutting and waiting two or three days between mowings.

All links can be found at our website.

Come see us - [www.JungleTaming.com](http://www.JungleTaming.com)!

If you'd like help with your landscape, Don can be reached at [seenvdes@aol.com](mailto:seenvdes@aol.com).



# GARDENING for EVERYONE

by Donald McInnes

## Preparing the Landscape for Your Vacation

What happens to your garden while you are gone?

When you're on vacation or away from home for more than a few days should be the only time you've got your irrigation system on its timer (unless your system has a moisture sensing override). We've had frequent enough rains this year that I've only needed to run my irrigation system three or four times. One of those times was on a rainy day—because I'd forgotten to turn off the system's timer after being out of town. That's the problem with leaving the irrigation system on its timer—it will likely run on days you don't need it, wasting water and increasing the probability of fungal diseases infecting your lawn. When you're home, keep the timer off and turn on the system only when it's needed. When you're on vacation, consult the long-term forecast, and then set the system to water your lawn once every three to four days when rain is not expected. For those of you

without an irrigation system, battery powered programmable timers for your hose (or a drip system) are available for \$25 and up.

This time of year potted plants and container gardens might need watering once a day, or even more. Prior to your departure, move them into a shady location, preferably one that will be covered by the sprinkler system. You can find adapters that screw onto soda bottles that allow them to act as a water reservoir for pots (I don't see any reason you could use these on plants in the ground as well). It might be worthwhile investing in a small drip irrigation system and a timer to deliver water to your plants. Basic drip systems for containers can be purchased in all-in-one kits for less than \$10. Mulch can also help containers (and the ground) retain moisture.



A friend or neighbor is going to be the best way to care for a vegetable garden in your absence. Weeding can be put off for a couple of weeks, or even longer, but produce left on the plant without being harvested will rot and may lead to disease. An offer of free produce may be all the incentive a neighbor needs to harvest your garden. Before heading out of town, harvest any produce close to being ripe and do a thorough clean-up, removing dead leaves, etc. If you can find an experienced gardener to care for things, your garden will be better off, but a few minutes of instruction will enable a novice to water your garden and properly pluck your produce.

All links can be found at our website.

Come see us -  
[www.JungleTaming.com!](http://www.JungleTaming.com)



# **GARDENING** for **EVERYONE**

by Donald McInnes

Donald McInnes, Ph.D., has degrees in biology from Duke, Northwestern and Florida State. He has worked for Clemson Extension in Richland County for more than a decade, assisting thousands of consumers with landscape, garden, wildlife and pest control questions. He is also the owner of Southeastern Environmental Design, a landscape coaching, consulting and design service, and chairs the City of Columbia's Tree and Appearance Commission.

Donald McInnes, Ph.D.

Agricultural Assistant, Clemson Extension

Owner, Southeastern Environmental Design

Email: [seenvdes@aol.com](mailto:seenvdes@aol.com)



## About Don

## Independence Day

The significant aspect of the Declaration of Independence is that it changed the American "rebellion" against Great Britain into a "revolution." From April 19, 1775 until July 2, 1776 the war was being fought so the colonists could regain their rights as Englishmen that had been taken away by the British from 1763-1775. On July 2, 1776 the Second Continental Congress approved the resolution by Richard Henry Lee from Virginia that "these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved ....." This was truly a revolutionary statement. John Adams felt that July 2 would be the day that



would be "solemnized with Pomp and Parade with shows, games, sports, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this Continent to the other ....."



July 4 is the day that has been chosen as our "independence" day. That was the day that the Second Continental Congress approved but did not sign the Declaration of Independence mostly written by Thomas Jefferson. History has had a lot to do with the sanctity of July 4. It was on that day that the news of the Louisiana Purchase arrived in Washington, Henry David Thoreau arrived at Walden Pond and President Abraham Lincoln

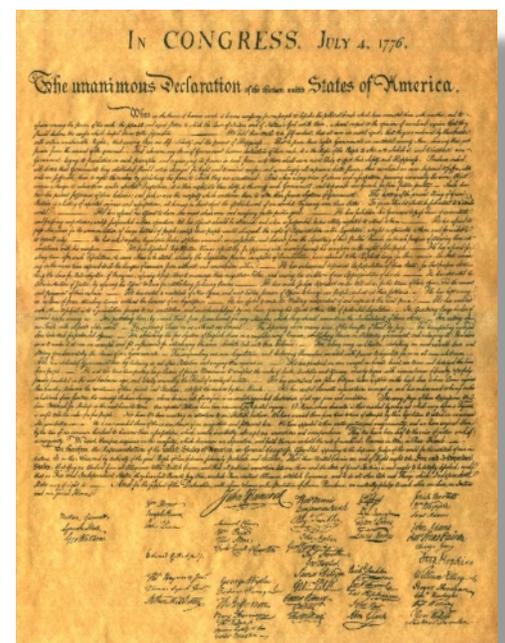
learned of the Union victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg. However, the one incredible event that happened to ordain July 4 as something significant were the deaths of both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826 only hours apart from each other.

### Fascinating Founding Father Facts!

George Washington gave the shortest inauguration speech in American history on March 4, 1793. It was only 133 words long. William Henry Harrison gave the longest at 8,443 words on March 4, 1841 on a cold and blustery day in Washington, D.C.. He died one month later of a severe cold.

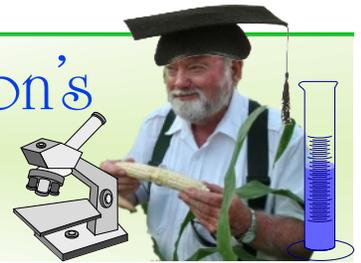
When Jefferson died, he left "my gold mounted walking staff of animal horn as a token of cordial and affectionate friendship" to James Madison. Jefferson's epitaph read: "Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, of the statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and the father of the University of Virginia." It didn't include "President of the United States"!

All of us from Southern Master Gardeners and Jungle Taming are proud to be in America!



# Timely Tips

Professor Ron's



## Pathways Through the Garden

*“Tranquility and More”*

### *Poem for Ron Cowart*

*Walk into My Garden  
Walk into my garden and meander  
round the path;  
Hang your worries on the bottle tree.  
Carolina wren songs provide the  
symphony,  
As you wander along with me.  
We'll lose our words in the trickling  
waters,  
While sitting upon a boulder beside the  
koi pond.  
Sweet perfume of roses invites us to travel round a bend,  
Touch only the velvet petals; the thorns are not fun!  
Nature's blessings unfold before our eyes;  
These blooms are for a season.  
Each life is like one flower that never blooms again;  
Walk upon life's paths with wise reason.  
When our stroll has ended at the same spot we began,  
Wave good-bye to pink poppies swaying in the breeze.  
We are the same but different somehow,  
By sharing memories of paths like these.*

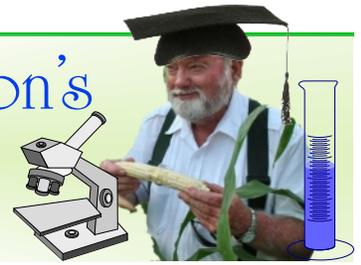


**This poem and  
article appeared in  
the June issue of  
South Carolina  
Midlands Master  
Gardener's  
magazine:  
*And Sow Forth***

**Ruby Haydock DeLoach**

# Timely Tips

Professor Ron's



A well planned walkway through the backyard garden should produce one of the greatest influences on the visitor's experience. As we know, walkways are a ground plane landscape element. Strolling on a walkway through the garden should be a pleasant experience, like savoring a scrumptious meal, a little bite here and a little bite there. Nobody should be in a hurry. As the saying goes, "Take time to smell the roses".

There are three categories of walkways. The use of the walkway determines the ground plane material, soft or hard. Soft materials include thick layers of bark, pine straw and aggregate gravel. These materials should be contained with an edge restraint. Hard materials include concrete, Brick pavers, concrete pavers, flagstone and wood for boardwalks.

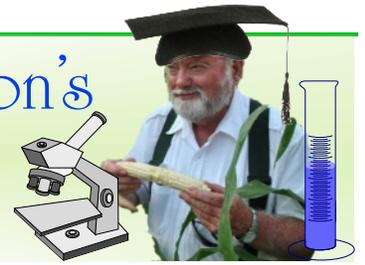


The three categories are primary, secondary and tertiary. Primary walkways are those walkways that are used for moderate to heavy pedestrian traffic linking to major landscape elements; swimming pool, tool building, parking pad to back residual entrance etc. Primary walkways are constructed of cement, brick pavers, concrete pavers and flagstone. They should be 54 inches (four and a half feet) wide to allow 2 people to walk side by side. Primary walkways may border flower and shrub beds, however, they are not constructed primarily for this purpose.

Secondary sidewalks are usually constructed with pea size to ¾ inch angular granite with fines. It is not recommended to use round river stone, because of the ball bearing effect, this stone will not pack, and is easily scattered. An edge restraint such as black plastic with a roll on the top edge, treated 1 inch by 6 inch boards or steel bed divider should be used to keep the gravel in place. Concrete stepping stones or 24 to 28 inch diameter flagstone stepping stones may be nestled into the granite gravel. A bark mulch material can be substituted for the gravel.

# Timely Tips

Professor Ron's



Secondary walkways is the second category, and is the main emphasis of this article. Secondary walkways can be constructed in full sunlight or passing shade. I have observed that there is more maintenance in full light because of the weed pressure. There are several reasons for this walkway (1) relative inexpensive construction materials, (2) easy to install, (3) rainfall and supplement irrigation is allowed to wet the underlying soil, and (4) may be used to link and border landscape elements such as koi ponds, annual and perennial flower beds and secluded resting areas. These walkways are known as the “side streets of the garden.”

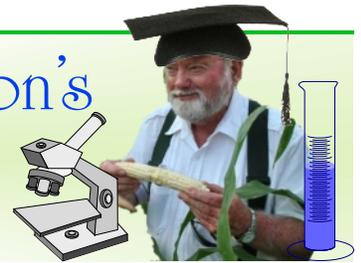
Tertiary walkways are natural paths that enable the gardener to access shrub and flower beds for maintenance. These walkways should be unnoticed by the visitor. These are the “back alley roads” of the garden.

A secondary gravel walkway may begin at a deck or patio and lead to a nearby koi pond located to one side of the backyard. Most koi ponds are kidney shaped, therefore the walkway should border the concave side of the pond and widen at this point to slow the visitor’s pace and enjoy the scene. The back convex side should be a part of the mulched perimeter area of the back yard. This prevents the koi pond from being over powering. Remember, koi ponds should be located relatively close to a deck or patio for one to see and hear the waterfall sounds, and located away from beneath trees with heavy leaf fall.



# Timely Tips

Professor Ron's



The walkway may leave the koi pond and lead the visitor deeper into the backyard, following a curvilinear line separating the turf area from the rear landscape bed. This area is suited for a walkway as a result of occasional turf grass thinning-out caused by shade and tree root competition. Annual and perennial colors may be located on both sides of the walkway on this line with the addition of soil amendments. This color can be viewed from the deck and/or patio and be enjoyed by the visitor while walking through this area with shorter flowering plants on the turf grass side and taller flowering plants on the landscape bed side. The walkway edge restraints will serve as a border for these flowering annuals and perennials.



The gravel walkway may turn inward into the rear landscape bed and in a curvilinear stroke lead to a turn in the walkway to a widened area with a comfortable bench, inviting the visitor to rest and “abide awhile” The ends and back of the setting area should be partially enclosed with screening type shrubs to insure privacy for restful thoughts and meditation.

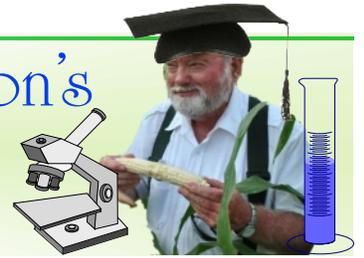
The rest of the visitor’s stroll is filled with things of interest along the way at every turn, and at last the journey ends where it began, ----- the koi pond.

***We begin where we end, and all between is where we’ve been.***

This article was written by Ron Cowart, Cowart Landscape Consulting. Ron specializes in solving turfgrass problems. All turf samples are sent to Clemson University for analysis. A complete summarized report is written based upon the cause of the disease or disorder and the recommended treatment is included.  
please contact Ron Cowart, [cowartconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:cowartconsulting@gmail.com)  
(803) 513-4242.

# Timely Tips

Professor Ron's



Ron has 40 years of landscaping experience. Since 1975, he has owned and operated Tookeedoo Farms, a landscaping and nursery business. With two degrees from Clemson University, he is also a horticulture and landscape teacher at Midlands Tech, and was honored as the Adjunct Professor of the Year in Continuing Education in 2006. As owner of Cowart Landscaping Consulting, LLC, Ron's goal is to "arm the homeowner with knowledge."

Ron Cowart

Owner, Cowart Landscaping Consulting, LLC

803.513.4242

Email: [cowartconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:cowartconsulting@gmail.com)

[www.cowartconsulting.com](http://www.cowartconsulting.com)

# About Ron

# JUNGLE TAMING

WITH BILL KUNZE

## Miss Patsy's Secret Weapon Recipes



### Green Beans and Red Potatoes

This is a traditional dish that my family has enjoyed for years. It takes 5 minutes to cook in a pressure pot and, and makes 6 large servings.

Serve with cornbread.



#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs. Green Snap Beans
- 1 lb. Quartered Red Potatoes
- ½ tsp. Salt
- ½ tsp. Black Pepper
- Dash of Garlic
- 2 Tablespoon Veg. Oil
- 1 Tablespoon Sugar
- 2 Cubes Beef Bouillon
- 2 Inches water for steaming

Patsy Cowart, "Miss Patsy," is the eldest of four children, all born in a country house built before 1900. She was taught to cook at an early age by her mother, Miss Mildred Ross. It was and still is a sign of respect in certain pockets of Kershaw county to refer to locals by their name with Miss or Mr. preceding the first name. Simple home cooking was the rule of the day, and nothing was thrown away. A cook book was hardly followed and recipes were shared using terms like "use a pinch of this, pinch of that," and "add to taste." Miss Patsy is a pretty darn good cook—so Professor Ron married her 41 years ago.

Miss Patsy



# Homeschool Gardening

These articles are chronicling the newly planted garden and subsequent gardens of a Home-schooler. The garden is for hands-on learning of science, plant life, cycles, minerals, food-chain, and nutrition. All too often, digging in the dirt is vanishing from today's sanitized society; however, homeschoolers get this luxury. Simply go into the backyard and dig.



Once the garden was established, our home-schooler begins to notice seed fruition when a sprout comes up. After simply putting a seed into the ground, amazing things start to happen.

We have had some bad luck with the rains. Some torrential storms have seriously hurt some of the plants.

This is truly going to be written by the Homeschooler – Jonna Lil. She is massively excited and hopes that she inspires other homeschoolers to plant their garden.

Our Garden Continues!



I like rain. Rain helps the flowers grow. We watered our garden with a sprinkler. We did not have to water our garden with a sprinkler when it rains.

It has rained a lot.

Some of our plants did not like this rain. Daddy thinks the corn will not make it. I wanted corn.

We can't be mad at the rain. It did not mean to hurt the plants. Thunder and lightning did not mean to hurt the plants.



# Homeschool Gardening

What do you think the rain did to the plants?

Rain gives water to the plants. Sometimes the rain made puddles in the garden. It made the ground soft. Mommy kept saying a lot of tomatoes fell over. I liked the mud but the plants do not like the mud. I think the water made them fall over.



Are you sad you lost some plants in your garden?

I am sad we lost plants in our garden. Daddy says that too much water hurts some plants. Daddy says not enough water hurts our plants. Rain does not know how much water it has.

I was going to eat the corn on the cob after Daddy cooked it. I like corn. We will have to buy some from the grocery store now.



Did any plants like a lot of rain?

I think the okra has grown. It stayed small for so long, like me! I can't wait to eat the okra.

Have you eaten anything out of the garden yet?



We have had green peppers in our food. We have had onions. We have had a tomato. Daddy uses lots of basil all the time. It smells great. We have had several salads and lettuce on our burgers on July 4<sup>th</sup>!  
I love our garden and I hope we can get more plants.



*Jonna Lil*



# Homeschool Gardening

## About Jonna Lil

Jonna Lil started, shall we say, small. Her tiny 1 lb body told the world she was here and ready!

She is now almost 9 years old! She is homeschooled and tends to her garden daily.

It all starts with watering the garden every morning. Bare feet run through the wet grass as she goes to turn on the set sprinkler. She times the watering while she gets ready for school.

She keeps tabs on the progress of the garden and she can't wait til she enjoys her first meal made from her hard work!

What a day that will be!

For more reading on Jonna's Amazing story, visit

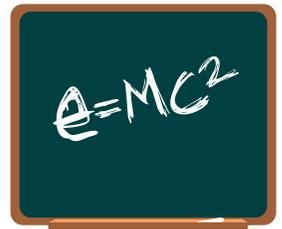
[www.JonnasJourney.com](http://www.JonnasJourney.com) or visit Amazon and search for

*Blessed with Tragedy - A Father's Journey with his PreeMiracle!*

*Natural Success Principles - What She Taught The World!*



# Classes to Further Learn



Want to learn more about how to take care of your property & possibly convert that knowledge into your own lawn care, landscaping, or nursery business, then you may want to enroll in the Adult Evening educational courses offered through the Continuing Education Program of Midlands Tech.

Most courses are taught @ the N.E. Campus, located in the Research Park, near the intersection of Farrow Rd & I77. For more info click on:

<http://mtconline.midlandstech.edu/CeClassCatalog/scheduleopen?v=SCEHOR&pr=cehor> for course description & dates, location, registration. Note: if not enough people enroll to justify paying the professor, then the course will not be taught @ that time & your money will be refunded.

8.13 starts  
Irrigation  
(taught off campus @ local irrigation equipment supplier WP Law, located near the intersection of I26 & Hwy 378)

8.15 starts  
Woody Plants & Shrubs

9.4 starts  
Pests in the Landscape

9.9 starts  
Plant Growth & Development

10.8  
Landscape Design

10.10 starts  
Landscape Management

11.4 starts  
Landscape Construction



On July 13<sup>th</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be in the Soda City Farmer's Market. It takes place downtown on Main St. Between Hampton St and Taylor St.

8.6, 8.7 & 8.9

Palmetto Health System Employee Discount Advantage Vendor Fair (open to employees only), Baptist & Richland Memorial Hospitals, downtown Columbia

9.27 to 9.29

Midlands Fall Plant Festival, State Farmer's Market, near intersection of I77 & I26.

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