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GARDENING

OHIO 

GARDENER

OHIO'S OWN GUIDE TO GREAT GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

Color & Texture from
Conifers

Deck the Halls!
Holiday Container Ideas

Best Books
to Give as Gifts (or
Keep for Yourself)

**Growing
Microgreens**

November/December 2013 \$4.95



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Steve Giddings

Associate Publisher

Jennifer Estes

Editor

Michelle Byrne Walsh

Art Director

Suzanne Ray

Copy Editor

Holly Cope

Webmaster/Graphic Artist

Christopher Kilpatrick

Graphic Artist

Doug Futch, Lesley Joi Rocque

Contributing Writers

Ed Lyon, Denise Schreiber, Carol Chernega, Ilene Sternberg, Bobbie Schwartz, Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, Doug Spilker, Charlotte Kidd, Pam Bennett, Kylee Baumle, Tim Malinich, Lori Swihart, Scott Beuerlein, Sue Trusty, Teresa Woodard, Bill Ripley, Chris Baker, Ann McCulloh, Virginia Terry, Dawn Seymour

Advertising Sales

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Cheryl Lindsey

Office/Accounting Manager

Maria Lucca

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Call us at (318) 255-3149 or toll-free at 1-888-265-3600 Fax us at (318) 251-8882 or email contact@statebystategardening.com

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A colorful conifer garden in Rossford

PHOTO: RONALD J. ELARDO, PH.D.

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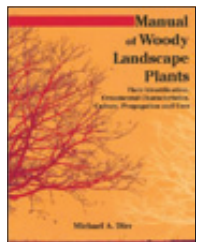
Books for Gifts (and for Yourself)

Buy yourself and your loved ones several gardening books to help while away the winter days.

By Maria Zampini

It's "the most wonderful time of the year," when it is fun to receive but even better to give. While I never mind giving my one woman opinion, I've called upon a few of my cohorts to share their favorite gardening gift books as well.

Fellow hort-head Denise Schreiber and I agree that for the hardcore plant nerd who wants to know intricate plant details Dr. Michael Dirr's *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses* is a top choice. It is a bible in the nursery industry and a text for university plant ID classes.



We also concur that if perennials are your passion then look no further than any book by Dr. Allan Armitage including *Herbaceous Perennial Plants: A Treatise on Their Identification, Culture and Garden Attributes*. Like Dr. Dirr's book, it contains comprehensive information.

My friend Dawn Hummel reminds me the *American Horticultural Society A to Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants* is another source of abundant plant particulars.

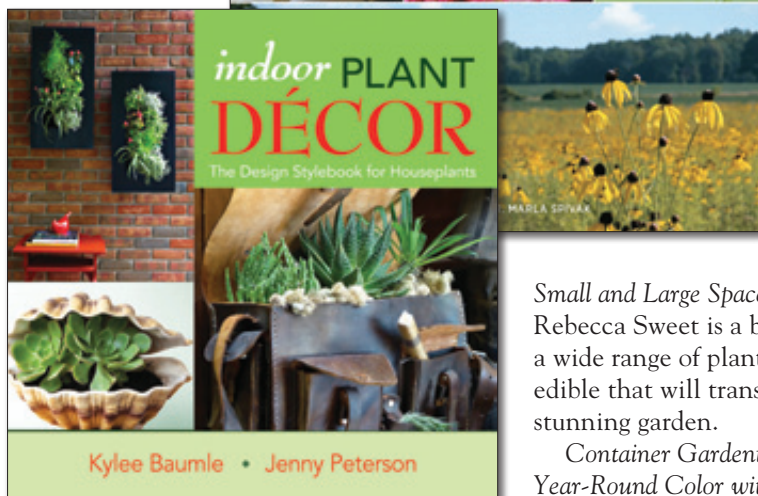
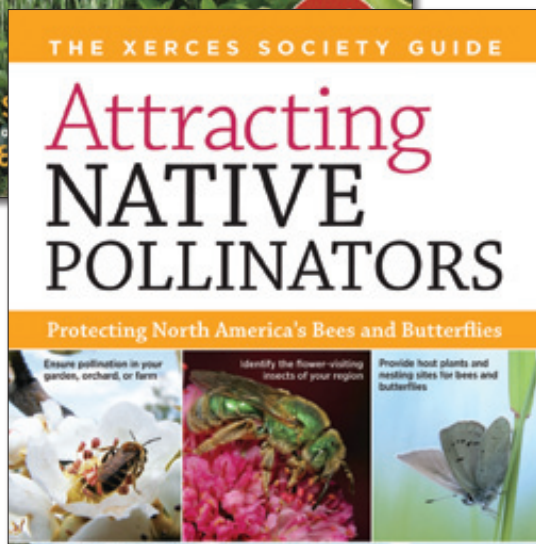
Now it just so happens that Denise Schreiber is the author of a fun little book titled *Eat Your Roses...Pansies, Lavender and 49 Other Delicious Edible Flowers*. It consists of plant specifics, history and uses of edible flowers and best of all recipes for each! I've gifted this book on many occasions. I've often paired it with hand blended culinary organic lavender and dried edible flowers or edible flower herbal teas from The Village Herb Shop in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

A book I recently acquired was one Denise also mentioned to me, *The Non-Stop Garden: A Step-by-Step Guide to Smart Plant Choices and Four-Season Designs* by Stephanie Cohen and Jennifer Benner. Denise said, "These ladies offer garden templates that provide seamless transitions of color and texture from season to season which you can duplicate in your own yard."

Christina Salwitz is co-author of *Fine Foliage: Elegant Plant Combinations for Garden and Container*. For gardeners who have a sense of humor, Christina recommends *A Starter Garden: A Guide to the Horticulturally Hapless* by Cheryl Merser. She said it is relatable and full of funny tidbits. One of her favorite stories in the book is Cheryl's reference to gardening near Three Mile Island where the radioactivity turned the Tradescantia pink and so from now on she'll use them as nuclear incident detectors.

A good friend of mine is "Our Little Acre" garden blogger Kylee Bauble. This spring Kylee published her first book with co-author Jenny Nybro Peterson called *Indoor Plant Décor: The Design Style Book for Houseplants*. When I asked Kylee what her favorite go-to gardening gift books were she had two suggestions.

First Lady Michelle Obama's *American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens across America* isn't singular in its focus, and is not just for gardeners, which is why



Kylee thinks it is perfect for anyone. She finds it to be part history and part motivational, drawing on America's past and how it pertains to our future. Kylee went on to say, "It presents a convincing case for growing at least some of our own food, and there are plenty of suggestions for what to grow and what to do with it after the harvest."

If she had to pick just one book about gardening to take with her to a deserted island, Kylee says it would be Margaret Roach's *The Backyard Parables: Lessons on Gardening, and Life*. She said, "It's always a joy to read the thoughts and experiences of a kindred spirit and gardeners will feel this through Margaret's words. I related to so much of what she tells here and I learned new things too, as she includes not just tales of her adventures, but helps us all out with some great gardening tips and advice. This is a book that I could read several times and still glean valuable insights each and every time."

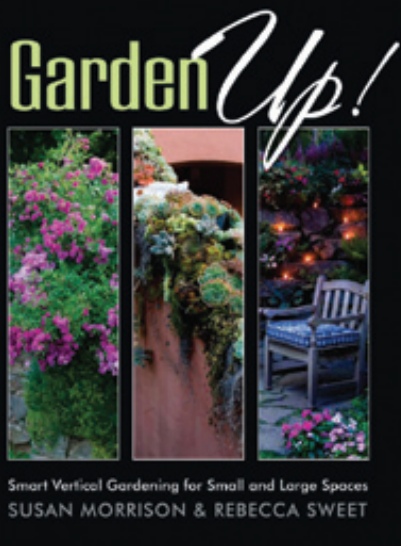
What's on my gardening gift book wish list? *Attracting Native Pollinators: The Xerces Society Guide, Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies* by the Xerces Society. I recently attended a talk at the Ohio State University on this topic and the speaker passed around this book. It is photo rich, educational on the topic yet in an easy to read format.

Annie Haven owner of Authentic Haven Brand Natural Brew and I share a fondness for both of these two options:

Garden Up! Smart Vertical Gardening for

Small and Large Spaces by Susan Morrison and Rebecca Sweet is a brilliant collaboration sharing a wide range of plant material from ornamental to edible that will transform any sized space into a stunning garden.

Container Gardening For All Seasons; Enjoy Year-Round Color with 101 Designs from Barbara



Wise is a recipe book for container planting that will inspire both the novice and professional gardener to create beautiful accents for their home.

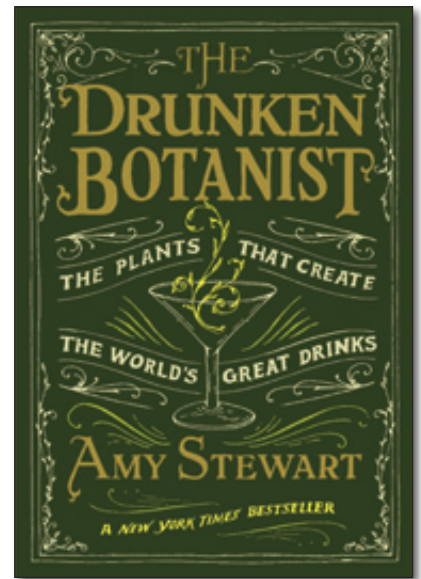
Heather Wheatley of Kurt Bluemel, Inc., believes author Amy Stewart crafts great books that make gardening look cool. Heather says of Amy's newest book, *The Drunken Botanist: The Plants That Create the World's Great Drinks*, shows the role of plants in history and in delicious

cocktails. If the person receiving your gift is not a drinker, you have alternatives such as Amy's *Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother and Other Botanical Atrocities* or *Wicked Bugs: The Louse That Conquered Napoleon's Army and Other Diabolical Insects*.

I received multiple suggestions for vegetable gardening including:

- *The Garden Primer: Second Edition* by Barbara Damrosch
- *Step by Step Organic Vegetable Gardening: The Gardening Classic Revised and Updated* by Shepherd Odgen
- *American Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Gardening*

- *Vertical Vegetable Gardening* by Chris McLaughlin
- *Cooking Light Pick Fresh Cookbook: Creating Irresistible Dishes from the Best Seasonal Produce* by the editors of Cooking Light and Mary Beth Burner Shaddix.
- Last but not least consider *Garden Hearts* by Felder Rushing. It is a compilation of pictures of the symbol of love, the heart, taken in gardens across five continents. I can't think of a better way to say "I love you."



So, as you contemplate what to bestow upon friend or family, I'll simply mention the words of Garrison Keillor, who created "A Prairie Home Companion," who said, "A book is a gift you can open again and again." 🐦

Maria Zampini is the owner of UpShoot™ LLC, which markets and licenses new plant introductions including LCN Selections. She is a featured writer and columnist in consumer magazines and horticultural trade journals as well as a nationally known speaker on plant patents, trademarks and new plant introductions. Visit her website at upshoothort.com.

Ohio Books Available Online at State-by-State Gardening

www.statebystategardening.com/bookstore

- *Gardening Month by Month in Ohio* by Debra Knapke and Alison Beck provides you a solid base for gardening in The Buckeye State. It is part perpetual calendar, part month by month guide for what to do when. It provides tips and tricks and has space for you to journal your gardening successes (and failures) to assist you the following year. It also offers dozens of resources for more detailed information.
- If you want to find your inner "birder," consider *Birds of Ohio* by James S. McCormac, a guide for the novice or expert bird watcher. No matter the size of your property you can create a landscape which provides food, water and shelter for wildlife. To learn how you can design a landscape to attract birds (which you can identify with *Birds of Ohio*) and build your own Certified Wildlife Habitat visit The National Wildlife Federation at www.nwf.org.
- *Wildflowers of Ohio: Second Edition* by Robert L. Henn is a pocket field guide utilized by wildflower enthusiasts and students alike. It describes over 300 different wildflowers in a sturdy format designed to out in, well, the wild.
- State-by-State Gardening (www.statebystategardening.com/bookstore) also sells: *Annuals for Ohio* and *Perennials for Ohio* both by Debra Knapke and Alison Beck, *Gardening Book for Ohio* and *Month-by-Month Gardening in Ohio* both by Denney McKeown, and *Guide to Ohio Vegetable Gardening* by Jim Fizzell.

