



Sowing Seeds of Knowledge Reaps Conservation with Beauty

Environmental Edition, Mary Lovings, Editor
Landscape Design Edition, Dr. John Barnett, Editor
Horticulture Edition, Gail Berthe, Editor

Volume III, Number 9

Landscape Design Edition

January, 2017

**The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
Beautification ... Conservation ... Education**

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

It's a bit daunting to write 2017! Where does time go—It is the beginning of a New Year and a new year in gardening. Just a few years ago, 2017 seemed to be an 'eternity' for us. But here we are! This editor is always excited to begin a new year and a new season. So, we are in winter now but there is no time to stop what we are doing in our gardens and preparing for the spring that is just ahead..

The editors of our new 2017 Expressions calendar did an awesome job (don't you think?). There are so many homes and gardens highlighted in each district with recipes and other information. As I sat for sometime reading through the whole calendar, I decided for this issue of 'Sowing Seeds of Knowledge' I would put forth an effort in landscape plans instead of taking a "trip" to other Homes and Gardens. This editor is always ready to learn more about landscape design, flowers to plant, where a new garden is to go and placement of plants. With that in mind, if you have a garden (and/or mansion) that you would like to show off in the Landscape Design Edition, send that information to DrB9565@aol.com and put Landscape Newsletter in the subject line. And I say again, 'the more the merrier' and showing off your own gardens throughout our state is surely an honor. So why don't you, right now before you forget, send in your photos and a brief (or long) explanation of plants, designs and yards that you are proud of.

We only have one more issue this term for Landscape Design: Sowing Seeds of Knowledge Reaps Conservation with Beauty. It is this editor's hope that our next President of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. will continue these newsletters in Horticulture, Environment and Landscape Design. I, for one, enjoy reading these newsletters and I am sure you do too. It has been a pleasure and joy to work with Mary Lovings (Environmental) and Gail Berthe (Horticulture). Gail, "Bob" sends his love! (For the rest of you, private joke - you just had to be there!)

This editor sends to each of you blessings, prayers and joy during the 2017 New Year. May you always be jovial in gardening.

Dr. John Barnett, Landscape Design Editor



*Now is the time to begin planning for your
spring and summer gardens. Get your tools ready
to draw your tentative plans.*



Have you already forgotten where you planted those tulip bulbs last autumn? And how exactly are you planning to locate that clump of wilted foxglove you cut back without accidentally digging it up? Keep track of your plants—and your schemes for spring—by drawing a garden plan: **Keep it Simple:** All you need is a piece of white paper (on which to plot the existing elements of your garden); a piece of tracing paper and tape (to add a layer for planned additions); a pencil (colored pencils optional); an eraser (you know why), and a measuring tape. Bonus points for gathering inspirational garden photos to spark ideas. I have an area in my front yard

that is my gladiola garden. I do not want this garden disturbed. Instead of placing the glads in a planned scheme, my grandson and I just tossed the bulbs around and where they landed is where we planted. We did not worry about color. However, I do know where the garden is located; so, that part of my front yard landscape is ready for early spring for the bulbs to begin growth again.

Need to Know: To draw your plan to scale, you will need to measure distances in the garden: the perimeter, the size of existing garden beds, the size and shape of your trees and shrubs.

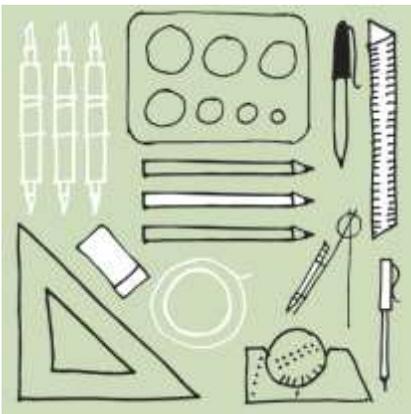
Step 1: Jot down measurements on scrap paper.

Step 2: For an average size backyard garden (18 feet wide), a scale of 3 feet=1 inch works great.. I have used 2 feet = 1 inch and also 1 foot = 1 inch. It's really your choice.

Step 3: Outline the perimeter of the space on a sheet of white paper (you can use graph paper if you prefer, I do) and sketch in existing plants and other permanent features (such as fences, grass, sidewalks and paths).

Step 4: Tape a piece of tracing paper on top. On the tracing paper, sketch the plants you plan to add to fill in holes in the garden.

This is just the basics. The more you play with your design the more fun it gets. And don't forget to have a good eraser. Get one that does not leave a mark on your paper nor leave a lot of residue.

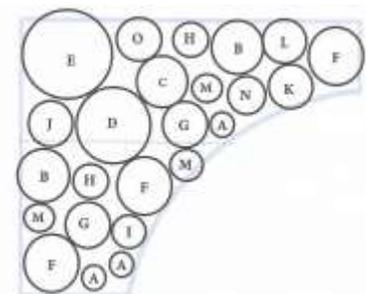


Are you an artist? Neither am I. I use the 'bubble scheme' that will be discussed later. But these essential tools will get you started. Don't worry about trying to draw a perfect sketch of your yard/garden. Label what you draw. A selection of tools that are very helpful include: color pencils (optional), white eraser (you know why), different sizes of triangles (Dollar Tree), fine point sharpie, color markers, hard lead pencil, vellum paper, drafting compass (if you don't have one, Dollar Tree does. If you have a penny, nickle, dime, quarter and half dollar, that will work great too. Patience is virtue!), circle template (Walmart in either Crafts or Sewing), and you can also use an Ames Lettering Guide if you wish (Staples and quite pricey. Optional).

That is a quick lesson (sort of) on how to draw a sketch of your existing gardens and/or gardens that you want to add to your landscape. The main thing that I have learned is just have fun. That is why you want to use a pencil and an eraser so you can change something that you thought you wanted in a certain place, but looking over your sketch, you decide to move, add and/or delete something. So just have fun!

I like to use the 'bubble' method of drawing a sketch. I can draw circles where I can't (yet) draw all the landscape symbols. The 'bubble' method is much easier for me. Annual or perennnial flower gardens, herb gardens or vegetable gardens drawn to scale are easy to follow once you get out in the garden space itself and begin to play in the dirt.

(Graphics used by permission)





BUTTERFLY GARDEN: Butterflies are delicate garden visitors that flutter and mesmerize on fragile painted wings. Everybody loves a Butterfly Garden. Butterflies add another dimension to your flower border. Why not invite them to stay awhile? Select a sunny site with good drainage. These perennials are all easy to grow and will provide color throughout the growing season. This Butterfly Garden contains 15 varieties and 24 plants. It is really a beautiful sight to see when it is in full bloom and has numerous butterflies ‘flitting’ around and then landing to take a rest, sun themselves and gather pollen to carry to another plant. Hummingbirds love this garden as well.

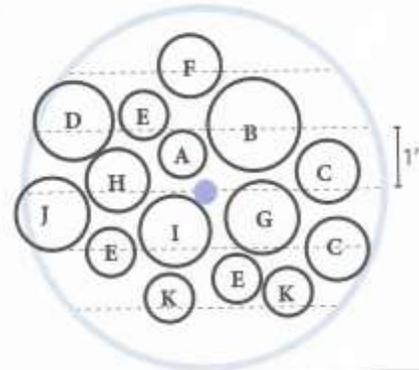


Plants that are included in this garden include: **A** Phlox Sherwood Purple (3); **B** Achillea Coronation Gold (2); **C** Agastache Honey Bee Blue (1); **D** Buddleia Blue Chip (1); **E** Caryopteris Longwood Blue (1); **F** Aster Aroma (3); **G** Coreopsis Early Sunrise (2); **H** Echinacea Rubinstern (2); **I** Achillea Paprika (1); **J** Monarda Raspberry Wine (1); **K** Origanum Rosenkuppel (1); **L** Rudbeckia Goldsturm (1); **M** Sedum Brilliant (3); **N** Gaillardia Burgundy (1); **O** Phlox David (1). Once we got the area ready for planting, we then found this sample of plants and decided that was exactly what we wanted. This particular garden fits well in the 9’ x 11’ corner area (Graphics used by permission)

around my mailbox is so dull during the early spring through early fall. This is one area that I have neglected year after year. But not this year! A garden surrounding a lamp post transforms the functional to sensational. And a garden surrounding a usually unsightly area brings life to the mailbox. Investigating areas around a mailbox (or lamp post, if you have one), begin with a beautiful climbing clematis and then add numerous perennials in a variety of heights and textures. The illumination allows this garden design to be appreciated even after dusk! A 5' circle or oval layout will bring that life to the mailbox and your neighbors will surely be envious. For my mailbox area I will use 11 varieties, 15 plants, 5'x 5' square or a 5' circle OR a 5' oval. I

have not decided yet; but, I am going to keep ‘playing’ with the ideas until I finally make a decision.

Plants that I intend to use are: **A** Clematis Kilian Donahue (1); **B** Phlox Scarlet Flame (1); **C** Dianthus Raspberry Surprise (2); **D** Aster Purple Dome (1); **E** Aquilegia Melba Higgins (3); **F** Thymus Coccineum (1); **G** Chrysanthemum Becky (1); **H** Coreopsis Domino (1); **I** Salvia Lubeca (1); **J** Campanula Birch Hybrid (1); **K** Armeria Ballerina Red (2). You may ask yourself why I would choose these plants (and I may change my mind, however ---) these plants do attract Butterflies, attract Hummingbirds, are beneficial for pollinators, and will bring color from early spring until frost.



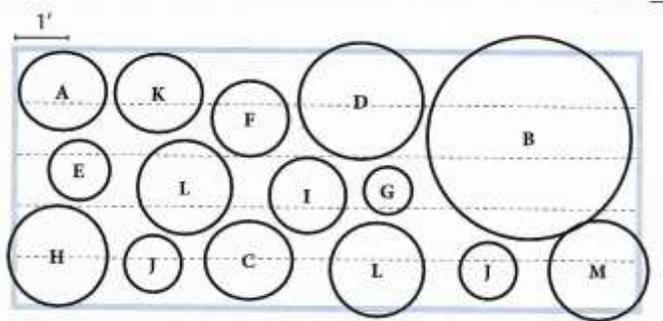
Notice the color of these beautiful plants. I believe this scheme is truly awesome and is going to bring not only color but life to my mailbox area. You may have already landscaped your mailbox area. What about a lamp post? Or, just do an oval, round, or square area in your yard for hummingbirds, butterflies, and pollinators?

(Graphics used by permission)



And speaking of pollinators and a pollinator garden.

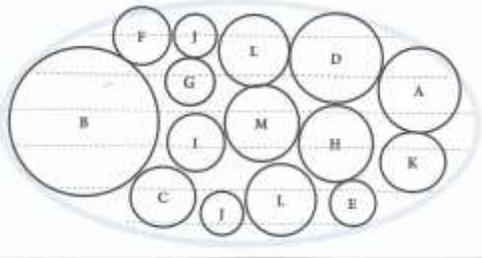
POLLINATOR GARDEN: Pollination occurs when pollen is moved within flowers or carried from flower to flower by birds, small animals and also insects like butterflies, bees, beetles, ants, wasps, and moths. The transfer of pollen in and between flowers of the same species leads to fertilization and successful seed and fruit production for plants. The perennials (with the exception of the Perovskia) can be cut down in the fall to 6" or so, leaving any fresh foliage at the base of the plant if present. Spring clean-up is also acceptable, removing any dead material while being careful of new growth. The Perovskia can be trimmed in spring if needed or wanted. The above design is a 5' x 12' layout. I like this, however, I really like the following layout better. I like the oval for me and my yard.



As you can see, I have used the same plants in a different design. The plants I chose are:

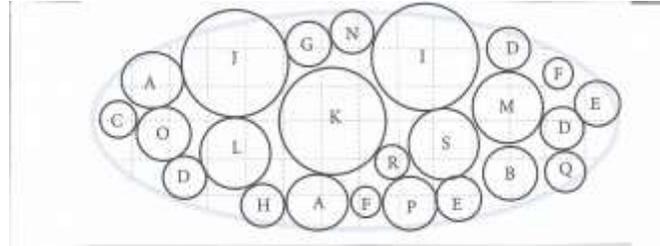
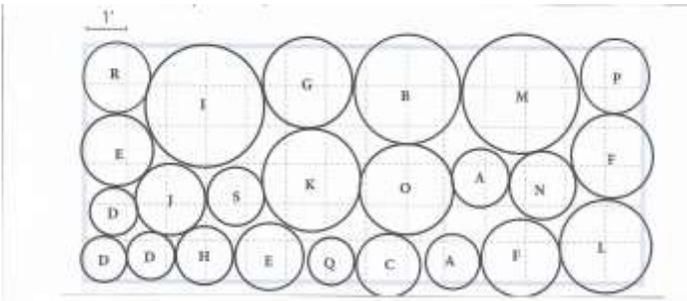
As you can see, I have used the same plants in a different design. The plants I chose are:

- A** Anemone Robustissima (1); **B** Baptisia Purple Smoke (1);
- C** Saponaria Ocymoides (1); **D** Perovskia Atriplicifolia (1);
- E** Penstemon Rubycunda (1); **F** Rudbeckia Fulgida (1);
- G** Agastache Raspberry Daiquiri (1); **H** Nepeta Purrsian Blue (1);
- I** Physostegia Miss Manners (1); **J** Calamintha Nepetoides (2);
- K** Gaura Whirling Butterflies (1); **L** Prunella Frelander Blue (2);
- M** Helianthus Table Mountain (1).



Remember, you are the gardener; you are the one that needs to choose the plants in your gardens. Mine are mine. Yours are yours. During my investigation of gardens I want in my landscape, these are the plants I have decided to use. And to use them in either the square or oval garden gives just what we need.





Did you say **SHADE GARDEN**? This garden loves shade. This Shade Garden is designed as an introduction to the rewards of brightening that dark corner of your border. Detailed planting instructions make it easy. A 6' x 14' layout is shown with both rectangular and island options. Also plant options for this Shade Garden include: **A** Aquilegia Dragonfly Hybrids (2); **B** Astilbe Ostrich Plume (1); **C** Brunnera Jack Frost (1); **D** Carex Ice Dance (3); **E** Lamium Pink Pewter (2); **F** Phlox Home Fires (2); **G** Filipendula Flore Plena (1); **H** Pulmonaria Samourai (1); **I** Hosta Great Expectations (1); **J** Hosta Remember Me (1); **K** Hosta Blue Angel (1); **L** Hosta Ivory Queen (1); **M** Hosta Guacamole (1); **N** Polemonium Purple Rain (1); **O** Tricyrtis Dark Beauty (1); **P** Astilbe Montgomery (1); **Q** Alchemilla Thriller (1); **R** Lobelia Cardinalis (1); **S** Digitalis Mertonensis (1). This is a great combination of plants designed to provide easy success and color all season. The bed can be cut down in the fall to 6" or so, leaving any fresh foliage at the base of the plant if present. Spring clean-up is also acceptable, removing any dead material while being careful of new growth. There are 19 varieties in this design using 24 total plants.

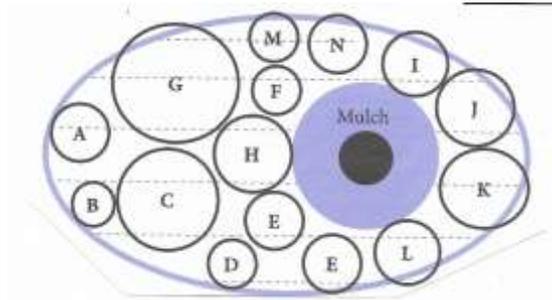


One thing to remember about Landscape Designs is that the ultimate design is your design and what you like best. Also, the varieties of plants and their placement is up to your taste as well.

Before I forget to say this, cut a cardboard or, better yet, plywood in a 1 sq. ft. piece. This way you can measure your gardens and plant according to most landscape design plans. You can see how easy it will be to plant your specimens by using that template. It works for me; I hope it will work as well for you.

And one more design for this issue. What about a lovely garden **UNDER A TREE**: Why have just a ring of mulch around your ornamental tree when you can have a lush perennial garden? Dappled shade will perfectly suit these plant varieties, selected for a lower profile, beautiful island bed. Don't have the tree? Perfect around a Dogwood, Weeping Cherry, small Crabapple or Magnolia. There are 14 varieties, 15 plants. 9'x5' oval layout shown. Even if you have an old, mature hardwood tree, like I do, that is somewhat unsightly, we can make that area the talk of the neighborhood. Features to note about these suggested plants are they attract Butterflies, attract Hummingbirds and are Deer resistant. Also, again, this is a great combination of plants designed to provide easy success and color all season. The bed can be

cut down in the fall to 6" or so, leaving any fresh foliage at the base of the plant if present. Spring clean-up is also acceptable, removing any dead material while being careful of new growth. Have you heard that before?



The plants I like for this design include: **A** Campanula Poscharskyana (1); **B** Phlox Blue Ridge (1); **C** Hosta Old Glory (1); **D** Dianthus Firewitch (1); **E** Bergenia Winterglow (2); **F** Heucherella X Rosalie (1); **G** Dianthus Greystone (1); **H** Prunella Summer Daze (1); **I** Phlox Blue Moon (1); **J** Geranium Biokovo Karmina (1); **K** Hosta Color Festival (1); **L** Lamium Golden Anniversary (1); **M** Astilbe Pumila (1); **N** Heuchera Rio (1). All plants can be found at your local nurseries and, if a nursery does not have the variety suggested, they may be able to order it for you, get it shipped to you from an online nursery (quite pricey), or check with PIKES if there is one in your area. (All graphics have been computer generated and are used by permission. Always get permission to use computer generated graphics of any kind unless you have bought the program to do so. Better safe than sorry, and most of the time you will get a YES answer; most companies are happy to allow you to ‘borrow’ their graphics.)



Winter Gardening Tips and Chores



Winter may not seem like the time to think about your garden. But take advantage of this break from the growing season to catch up on tasks that were put off during the rest of the year. Whether it's protecting plants from severe cold, decorating the yard for the holidays, or planning for next year, there's plenty to keep you busy while you dream of spring.

Winterize the Garden

To protect plants from cold winter temperatures, water the gardens thoroughly before the first hard frost. Once the ground has begun to freeze, mulch around the base of more tender plants with several inches of shredded leaves, ground bark or evergreen boughs. Newly planted trees or shrubs can be wrapped with a layer of burlap stuffed with insulating material such as straw or dried leaves. Pruning is one of those chores that seems to intimidate the gardener. The question is will pruning kill the shrub or rose. Not likely, if one doesn't get all Edward Scissorhands about it! Mainly, pruning is making judicious cuts on branches that may be too long, or that are rubbing an adjacent branch. Taking no more than 1/3 of a shrub is recommended to prevent the plant from stress. Pruning dormant trees including fruit trees and summer or fall flowering shrubs at this time is preferred. On the warmer days of winter, go outside and see what your existing plants may need. Take care of your plants and gardens periodically during the cold months of winter. Some people ‘swear’ by pruning their roses during the early spring. I ‘swear’ by pruning my roses soon after the first hard frost and freeze. I have never been dissatisfied with having early buds and roses. Whatever you decide to do, enjoy preparing your gardens during the winter so you can enjoy them during the months to come.

What about a Garden Inside?



You can bring your herb garden indoors for the winter, or all year, by planting a windowsill herb garden. It's not as easy growing herbs indoors as outside in a garden, but many herb plants grow quite well in containers and require only minimal care. However there are a couple of extra considerations when growing them indoors. The first is ensuring they get enough sun to grow lush and healthy. Secondly, to have enough to really enjoy in your cooking, you'll need large plants and pots, so make sure you have enough space to keep them. If you do,

you'll be snipping fresh herbs in your kitchen throughout the winter.

Steps to Successfully Grow a Windowsill Herb Garden:

1. Make sure you have a sunny windowsill, where your herbs will survive. A south or southwest window would be perfect if it gets at least 6 hours of sun per day and is away from drafts. If you don't have a reliably sunny window, you will need to provide some type of plant lighting. Lack of enough sunshine will leave you with spindly, stressed plants, with little flavor.
2. Purchase some of your favorite small herb plants or seed packets. Starting from seed is a less expensive alternative, but they'll require more attention and it will be several months before you can start using them.
3. If you are starting with plants, get a container that is at least 6-12 inches deep. You can plant multiple herbs in a wide or long container or use at least a 6 inch pot for individual plants. Seeds won't require a large pot. You can start them in any small container and move them into their final pot, when they are 2 - 4 inches tall. Just like outdoor container gardening, make sure your pots have plenty of drainage holes. Unlike outdoor plants, also make sure you have a saucer under them, so you don't ruin your windowsill or furniture.
4. Use a soilless potting mix to avoid soil born diseases. Be sure the mix is light and will be well draining. Don't try to use soil from the garden. Regular soil compresses over time, making it difficult for water to pass through.
5. For herb plants, start by putting a 2-3 inch layer of potting mix into the bottom of your container. If you are worried about soil coming out of the bottom holes, you can cover them with a piece of screen or small coffee filter. Don't use anything that could block the holes entirely.
6. Carefully remove the herb plant from it's original pot and gently loosen the roots. Place your herb plants in the new container, with the roots flared out.
7. Finish filling in with the potting mix, firming gently around the plants. Leave about an inch at the top of the container for watering. Water immediately after planting, to help the plants settle.
8. To start herb seeds, fill each container with dampened potting mix, to about 1 inch from the rim. Sprinkle 3 - 5 seeds on top of the soil. Cover the seeds with a dusting of potting mix and pat down gently. Cover with a plastic bag, to retain moisture.
9. Keep the soil moist, until you see the seedlings poking through. At that point, remove the plastic and continue watering whenever the soil feels dry. Be sure the seedlings are receiving plenty of sun and rotate the container daily, so they grow straight.
10. Water herb plants sparingly. Herbs don't like to sit in wet soil. Drain the saucers, when excess water accumulates. Test to see if the containers need water by poking your finger into the soil. If it feels dry an inch or two below the surface, it's time to water. If not, let them be. Although outdoor plants tend to need more water in the summer, indoor plants can dry out quickly when the heat is on in the winter. Always try and water until the excess drains out of the bottom of the container. If you repeatedly give your indoor plants just a splash of water, the salts in the water can build-up in



the soil. When this happens, you'll start to see a white film on the outside of the pot. Thoroughly flushing water through the container, until it drains out the bottom, will prevent salt build-up

11. Feed your herbs every other month with a fertilizer labeled for use on edibles. Start by using it at only about 1/2 the recommended strength. Herbs have more concentrated flavor if they are grown without a lot of fertilizer. If you are seeing a lot of wispy, delicate growth, lessen the amount or frequency of fertilizer. If your plants look like they are struggling, give them a bit more. You will need to adjust your fertilizer schedule with the seasons. In general, they will grow slower in winter than in summer and will need less food then.
12. Allow the plants some time to acclimate to their new home. Once you start seeing new growth, you can start using your herbs. With most herbs, you can snip 2 - 3 inches of the tips off, to encourage more branching. For bushy herbs, like parsley and cilantro, you can cut entire stems from the outside of the plants. New growth will fill in.



Tips:

1. Choose herbs that don't grow too wide or tall. Chives, basil, lavender, parsley, mint, rosemary and thyme are good choices.
2. Fluorescent lights can be used if you don't have a sunny window. They will need to be placed close to the plants (within 18 inches) and kept on for about 10 hours/day, to make up for their lack of intensity.
3. Snip and use your plants often to encourage them to grow full and bushy. Once the plants are at least 6 inches tall, don't be afraid to use your herbs. The more you snip, the bushier they'll become.
4. Never trim more than 1/3 of the plants foliage. Pruning more than that can stress the plant and cause it to start to decline.
5. Start seeds of new plants to replace the ones you are using. No plant lives forever and many herbs, like basil and dill, are actually annual plants that will try to go to seed within 4 - 6 months. Don't fight it, just replace them with new, vigorous plants, the way you would in an outdoor garden.

Objectives of the Landscape Design Study Program

(There are no Landscape Design Studies Schools scheduled in Georgia at this time.)

1. Develop a greater sense of appreciation, pride, and knowledge about our private and public gardens.
2. Become better educated to make changes in our surroundings so that they will be more beautiful, useful, and convenient, ecologically sound, and easily maintained.
3. Stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including community planning that will affect all of our lives.
4. Develop a contingent of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in such decision-making areas of public life as providing leadership, educational programs, scholarships, awards, and promoting better landscape design.

Sowing Seeds of Knowledge Reaps Conservation with Beauty is a monthly publication of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Each edition focuses on one of three themes: Environmental Studies, Landscape Design Studies, and Horticulture Studies.

Environmental Editor: Mary Lovings, marmgl@bellsouth.com

Landscape Design Editor: John Barnett, DrB9565@aol.com

Horticulture Editor: Gail Berthe, gail.berthe@gmail.com