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**Customer  
Appreciation Day**  
*Saturday, July 28*

**Tomato Taste-Off**  
*Saturday, August 25*

## Roses — Albert Behnke's Legacy

— by Helmut Jaehnigen

For many decades, Behnke's has been the source for rose lovers from far and wide — the mid-Atlantic region and way beyond. If you favor roses, you'll certainly want to make a pilgrimage to our store in Beltsville to see the huge selection of over 350 varieties, including hybrid teas, climbers, floribundas, grandifloras, miniatures, shrub roses, and standard-trained tree roses. Behnke roses are displayed in neat rows and organized by class with detailed descriptive signs to help you make your selection. But before they are ever presented to our customers, Behnke roses are selected judiciously, handled carefully and treated royally to produce roses of such quality you would be hard pressed to find their equal anywhere. You can be certain that if it bears a Behnke label you will be pleased with its performance in your garden.

At Behnke's, we start out by buying only the top quality, number 1, bare-root roses from the best growers in the country. After a careful inspection and pruning, each rose is potted into a roomy, 2 gallon container by trained professionals using a special rose potting soil developed by Albert Behnke many years ago. The newly potted roses are tended carefully and fed generously to encourage vigorous new growth and abundant bud formation. In the event of a late-winter frost, we painstakingly cover every plant with a blanket of burlap to prevent damage to tender new growth.

Behnke potted roses are priced competitively with the prepackaged roses sold elsewhere. But you actually get so much more for your money, not the least of which is a pot full of excellent rose soil, tailored especially for the needs of young roses, to help fill the planting hole. In addition, our roses are expertly pruned and potted in late winter, and so get many weeks of growth ahead of bareroot roses. The roots begin to grow almost immediately so that when the warmer weather arrives, the plants are equipped with an established root system, and better prepared to survive the heat and grow quickly. All this translates into earlier growth, healthier plants and best of all, more blooms.

When you come to Behnke's in Beltsville, you will find our knowledgeable staff, including rosarian Joe Ennis of the Potomac Rose Society, eager to help you choose your plants and give you a few tips to ensure your success.

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**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:**

Sonja Behnke Festerling

**MANAGING EDITOR:**

Judith Conway

**HORTICULTURAL ADVISOR:**

Larry Hurley

**LAYOUT\DESIGN\ILLUSTRATION:**

Lori Hicks

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:**

Mike Bader

Randy Best

Judith Conway

James Dronenburg

Lori Hicks

Larry Hurley

Helmut Jaehnigen

Melodie Likel

Steven Mott

Susan O'Hara

Gene Sumi

Chris Upton

**GARDEN CENTER HOURS**

May - June 27:

Open Daily: 8AM to 8PM

After June 29:

Open Daily: 9AM to 6PM

(CALL, HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

**BELTSVILLE GARDEN CENTER**

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**Florist: 301-937-4032**

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**301-249-2492**

**POTOMAC GARDEN CENTER**

9545 River Road

Potomac, MD 20854

(Two miles north of the  
Capital Beltway on River Road)

**301-983-9200**

**Florist 301-983-4400**

*Roses, continued from page 1*

This year Behnke's is pleased to offer well over 30 new varieties, including the three roses chosen by All America Rose Selections (AARS) for 2001. The AARS is a non-profit association dedicated to the development and promotion of exceptional roses. Since 1938 the AARS program has encouraged the rose industry to improve the vitality, strength and beauty of roses for American gardeners.

The AARS winners for 2001 are:

**'Glowing Peace'** - a grandiflora which comes from the House of Meilland in France, the same grower that hybridized the famous 'Peace' rose following World War II. 'Glowing Peace', which is very resistant to disease, has abundant blooms of golden amber to orange.

**'Marmelade Skies'** - also from the House of Meilland. This rose is a floribunda which produces large clusters of tangerine-colored flowers.

**'Sun Sprinkles'** - an exceptional yellow miniature with a spicy fragrance.

For more information on the AARS winners, visit their website: [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org). You'll find lots of photos, helpful advice and links.

Other noteworthy new roses include the following:

**'Barbara Streisand'** - a rich lavender hybrid tea with perfectly formed flowers and an enchanting fragrance.

**'World War II Memorial Rose'** - will be hard to find this year. Mauve flowers accent deep green leaves.

**'Berries and Cream'** - a fragrant climbing rose with attractive two-toned blossoms.

**'Black Magic'** - a hybrid tea rose with flowers of the deepest rose-red.

**'Veterans' Honor'** - which debuted last year has been our best seller so far this spring. A magnificent deep red hybrid tea that lasts two weeks in the vase!

Besides hybrid teas, which are still the most popular class of roses, the David Austin® roses are catching up fast. These rose bushes are known for their disease resistance and charming, old-fashioned, fully double flowers.

Shrub roses are for those of you who want lots of color all season without the fuss that hybrid teas require. Miniature roses are terrific for containers on a sunny deck or patio.

One specialty at Behnke's is tree roses. With their stunning flowers they are quite a show stopper in the garden. They do need a bit of winter protection, however. Back in Germany, we used to bend them over and cover the tops with soil, but here is an easier method from Joe Ennis: Simply plant them in a container which can be wheeled or dragged into the garage for the winter. There they are protected from the really harsh weather, yet still remain dormant until spring. Make sure they go back into the sunshine in very early spring.

We hope to see all you rose lovers at Behnke's this spring. You'll find an impressive quantity to choose from at all three locations, but for the widest selection, visit us at our Beltsville location soon. □





# Excellent New Perennials for 2001

by Randy Best, Perennial Plant Specialist

**C**autions! Avid perennial collectors should read this article with extreme caution—shortness of breath, palpitations and a severe desire to go out and purchase these newly-introduced plants may result!

I would like to present some of the most unique and outstanding varieties of perennials that Behnke Nurseries is offering this year. These perennials are exclusive offerings of the Gold and Platinum series from Sunny Border Nurseries, a supplier of high quality perennial plants to quality garden centers. Although these plants will be in very limited supply this introductory year, you'll always find something new and exciting at Behnke's.

For the sunny garden...

*Achillea millefolium* 'Red Velvet' is a good plant for those of you with a deer problem. This yarrow is one of the easiest plants to grow. It is drought-tolerant and actually seems to prefer infertile soils. Give it a bright sunny location, and it will bloom for six weeks or more. 'Red Velvet', an outstanding new introduction from the Netherlands, grows to 30 inches tall. The dark, rosy red flowers are the best non-fading red to date.

*Baptisia* 'Purple Smoke' is an exciting selection that was found at the North Carolina Botanical Gardens in Chapel Hill. It is a chance cross between two other baptisia varieties. This exciting selection has charcoal stems and gray-green foliage. The stems are covered with smoky violet flowers that have a purple eye. Numerous flowers open first at the base of the stalk and ascend upwards, topping out at four and one-half feet. Mature plants can bear over fifty blooming stalks in the spring. This great drought-tolerant perennial is easy to grow and long-lived in any sunny location with well-drained soil.

*Echinacea* 'Kim's Mophead' is a sport of 'Kim's Knee High' discovered by Pierre Bennerup of Sunny Border Nurseries. This exciting new cultivar is even shorter, growing just 12 to 15 inches tall and with another exciting twist—the pink flowers of

'Kim's Knee High' have turned into luxurious white. This plant blooms in mid summer and may repeat bloom in late August if cut back after the first flowering. It is the perfect plant for the front of the border or where space is limited.

*Lavandula* 'Coconut Ice' is a new introduction from an international lavender authority, Virginia McNaughton, of Christchurch, New Zealand. This extraordinary new lavender offers individual flowers in a blend of deep pink and white, which are carried on compact spikes. This gives an overall impression of warm rosy pink blooms on stalks that grow 15 to 18 inches with typical gray-green foliage and that much-sought-after lavender fragrance. Showing off other lavenders to their best advantage, 'Coconut Ice' offers a great contrast between it and the other violet-blues. As with all lavenders, it requires very well-drained, alkaline soils.

*Phlox paniculata* 'Lizzy' is a much improved garden phlox with excellent disease resistant foliage. 'Lizzy' carries huge trusses of brilliant pink flowers with creamy white eyes. It adds a spot of dramatic color into the garden in the heat of summer. 'Lizzy' grows just 20 inches tall, and requires no staking. 'Lizzy' prefers full sun and moist to well-drained soil.

And new for the shade garden.....

*Athyrium* 'Ghost' is an introduction from the garden of Virginia's Nancy Swell. This new fern is a cross between *Athyrium filix-femina* (lady fern) and *Athyrium nipponicum pictum* (Japanese painted fern). A clump-forming fern, it is rigidly upright to 2-3 feet tall with ghostly silver-gray foliage. 'Ghost' is best used in a shade garden to lighten up its surroundings. It is sure to make a haunting impression.

*Athyrium* 'Branford Rambler', with the same parents as *Athyrium* 'Ghost', has the variegation, the smoky silvers and grays, of the Japanese painted fern but with the stature and robust nature of the lady fern. As the name implies, it will spread and form a nice groundcover. It grows about 2 feet tall



and will spread to three feet across.

*Cimicifuga ramosa* 'Hillside Black Beauty' is a new dark coppery-purple foliaged cimicifuga introduction. In autumn, stout 5-6 foot stems bear 12-inch creamy white bottle brushes. And if that's not enough, it also has a luscious fragrance, best described as ripe, purple grapes. In the Washington metropolitan area, plant in a partially shady spot with moist but well-drained soil.

*Trillium chloropetalum* 'Volcano' is native to the western United States. This woodland plant grows 12-15 inches tall. In May it blooms with bright red flowers which are two to three inches long and set without a stalk on top of three large, six-inch-long mottled leaves. This plant prefers a shady, rich woody soil and should never be allowed to completely dry out. This trillium, like our own native varieties, will go dormant by late summer. □

*Editor's Note:* It is Behnke policy to sell only plants that are nursery-propagated. This policy preserves native populations of endangered or threatened varieties of plants. Our *Trillium* 'Volcano' is produced by tissue culture propagation and never collected from native stands.



# The Basics of



Our gardens reward us in many ways. Starting a new garden or maintaining an established one is an enjoyable task, providing gardeners with a healthy outdoor activity that beautifies our surroundings and enriches our souls.

Gardening is not as complex as a novice might think. Like any worthwhile pursuit, it requires learning the rules of the game and a commitment to apply those rules appropriately, at the appropriate time.

## **Basic Plant Groups**

Gardening starts with plants. Outdoor plants are sold in three broad categories: annuals, perennials and woody plants.

Annuals are plants that can live outdoors for only one growing season. Although short-lived, annuals provide continuous color with the most consistent flower production. Most vegetables are annuals, and often tropical houseplants may be grown as annuals.

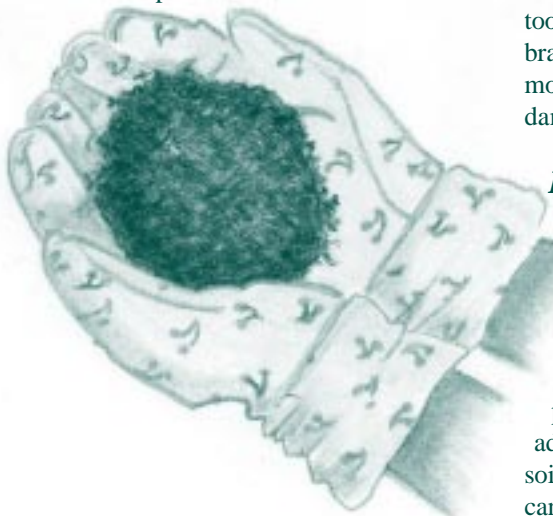
Perennials are plants that have the potential to live two or more growing seasons in the garden. They are herbaceous (soft-tissued) or very tender woody plants, that are “root hardy.” Frequently the above-ground portions die off at the end of the growing season, leaving the below-ground portion to over-winter in a dormant state, with new growth emerging in spring.

Woody plants are shrubs and trees, plants that are both root and top hardy and make wood every year. Deciduous woody plants lose their leaves at the end of the growing season and go into a dormant state. There are also evergreen woody plants, which retain leaves all year round. There are two types of evergreens, needle-bearing (pines, firs, spruces, etc.) and broadleaf (rhododendron, hollies, etc.).

## **Soils**

To grow healthy plants, garden soils should be the right tilth (consistency), containing a certain proportion of clay, sand and organic materials and the appropriate soil acidity (pH) for the type of plants to be grown there. If the soils have been tended to with soil amendments, then they are more likely to support good, healthy plant growth.

Start out by having the soil tested. You can purchase a soil tester or soil test kit at Behnke’s and do the testing yourself. Or, you can send a sample to the state Extension Service for an accurate soil test done by a soil laboratory. Testing will give you a base line of what your soil has or does not have, and will tell you what you need to do to correct any problems noted. Soil tests analyze the nutrient levels in your test sample (phosphorus and potassium) and measure the pH.



To adjust the pH, the recommendation is to add lime to correct soil that is too acid or to add sulfur or iron sulfate to lower the pH if the soil is not acid enough.

Gypsum can be added to heavy clay soils to aid in breaking up the heaviness and making it more friable.

Organic soil amendments (fine to medium-fine material derived from plant and animal sources) decay to enrich the soil’s humus component. Organic matter, whether it is leaf compost, garden compost, fine pine bark, peat moss, or cow manure, is essential for keeping the soil loose, retaining water and nutrients, aiding drainage and encouraging beneficial soil microorganisms.

## **Mulching**

Mulches are materials used to cover the surface of the garden beds. Most mulches are made of shredded or ground tree bark, nut shells, fibrous roots or composted materials. Mulches provide insulation from extreme cold or heat, maintain soil moisture at suitable levels and help to suppress weeds.

Try to maintain a two-inch layer of mulch on top of the soil. Do not pile mulch too close to trunks, main stems or lower branches of trees or shrubs. This will cause moisture to build up, leading to rot or insect damage.

## **Fertilizing**

Should you fertilize? Yes and no. Plants need fertilizer to grow and will take what they need from the soil. If the soil is naturally fertile, no added fertilizer is necessary. If the soil lacks one or more of the essential plant nutrients, then fertilizer should be added. To determine this, one can have the soil tested (see “Soil Amendments”). You can choose from a wide variety of fertilizer types. Behnke Nurseries recommends organic fertilizers because they are derived from natural sources, slow-acting over an extended period of time and safe to use (will not burn). Chemical fertilizers are manufactured from petrochemicals, fast-acting and less expensive than organic



# of Gardening

fertilizers. Most dry chemical fertilizers, especially those high in nitrogen, may burn plants if used in excess or not watered in properly. However, some chemical fertilizers are time-release in action. These products are more expensive, but will fertilize over a long period of time and will not burn as readily.

The timing of fertilizing depends largely on the type of plant. Fertilizers are not applied during the summer for most woody plants and lawns. (Two exceptions are roses and zoysia lawn grass which are fertilized in summer.) The best time to fertilize trees and shrubs is after the leaves have dropped in fall until early in the spring, before active growth commences. Fertilizing trees and shrubs too early in the fall may interfere with the plant's ability to adequately prepare for winter dormancy. Perennials should be fertilized in spring and early fall. However, perennials, as a rule, do not like to be over-fertilized. Use low concentrations of fertilizer on perennials, such as organics or diluted water-soluble chemical fertilizers.

## Pruning

Pruning is an option, not necessarily a requirement. Pruning a plant is a decision made when the gardener has a specific objective in mind. Pruning may alter the form of a plant in a desired way, such as a topiary or hedge. It may limit the growth pattern the plant would assume naturally without pruning. Pruning may encourage better flower or fruit production. Lastly, pruning helps to maintain the health of the plant by removing dead, damaged and diseased branches.

## Tools

Whether you are a novice or an experienced gardener, you'll need certain tools to accomplish specific tasks.

**Shovel** - Essential for digging. A good general-purpose shovel will do for most tasks.

Choose from long-handled or "D-handled" models.

**Garden Rake** - Also called the "hard rake." The rake has a row of short, steel teeth to clear and level a bed.

**Leaf Rake** - For raking leaves and maintaining the appearance of the garden. It is essential to have this when pruning or shearing to collect the plant materials removed from your trees and shrubs.

**Forked Spade** - For turning over soil and mixing in soil amendments. This is also important when dividing perennials or harvesting bulbs or potatoes.

**Claw Cultivator** - Indispensable for lightly cultivating around annuals and perennials to break up the soil crust and remove weed seedlings. It is also the perfect tool for

If you have large branches to cut, you move up to a lopper (pruner with long handles). For very large branches, use a pruning saw.

**Fertilizer Spreader** - For putting down any dry chemicals on lawns, a fertilizer spreader is a good investment. Whether you use a broadcast or drop type, the spreader puts down the right amount evenly over the lawn area.

**Hose-end Sprayer** - A must for applying water-soluble fertilizers or pesticides around the lawn, garden and trees.

**Water Wand** - When you hand-water your plants, this tool puts water where you want it with a spray that is gentle enough not to damage your plants.

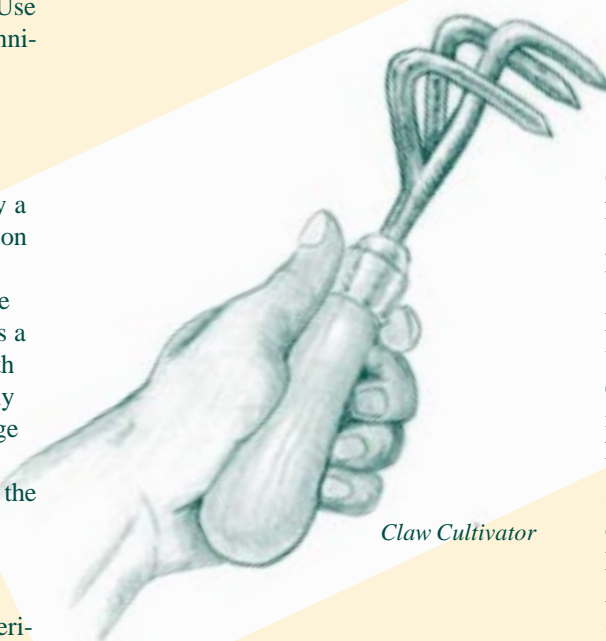
**Watering Can** - An old garden tool that never loses its usefulness. Use it to water specific plants without dragging out the hose. Use it to mix small amounts of fertilizer and pesticide chemicals.

**Gloves** - Gardening can be hard on the hands. Always put on a good pair of garden gloves to protect your hands and to make gardening a pleasurable activity.

**Hat** - If you are out in the sun, please wear a hat. The negative effects of extended sun exposure on the skin is an important health concern and wearing a hat is more than just for comfort.

**Computer** - When you need an expert opinion, ask the professionals at Behnke Nurseries via e-mail. ([behnkes@ari.net](mailto:behnkes@ari.net)) And visit the Behnke Nurseries website ([www.behnkes.com](http://www.behnkes.com)) for a cornucopia of horticultural information and weekly tips. We are always happy to help you garden more successfully! □

—Gene Sumi, Horticulturist



freeing the roots of a rootbound potted plant before placing it in the planting hole.

**Pruning Shears** - For cutting branches, limbs or twigs. Hand pruners are primary.





# Arts in the Garden

DURING THE MONTHS OF MAY, JUNE AND JULY 2001, BEHNKE NURSERIES AT BELTSVILLE IS HOSTING A SERIES OF SUMMER **ARTS IN THE GARDEN** WORKSHOPS, DISPLAYS, AND DEMONSTRATIONS FOR GARDENERS, DESIGNERS AND ARTISTS ALIKE. WE ARE PROUD TO DISPLAY A SELECTION OF GARDEN/LANDSCAPE SCULPTURES CREATED BY A TALENTED GROUP OF SCULPTORS. THESE BEAUTIFUL WORKS ARE SURE TO INSPIRE AND DELIGHT YOU — AND ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IF YOU CANNOT RESIST.

## SCULPTURE WALK

*Saturday, June 2, 2001 10 am  
Free*

Sam Noto, sculptor and sculpture professor at Maryland College of Art and Design, will begin by discussing the elements of sculpture in the garden, and will lead an informal walking tour of the newly-installed Beltsville garden sculptures. These sculptures were designed with residential garden spaces in mind, and are available for purchase. You'll also see a stone carving demonstration as we debut our Sculptor in Residence program.

## FRAMES & FORMS FOR THE GARDEN

*1 session Tuition \$25  
Saturday, June 2, 2001 10 am - 1pm*

Ed Raduazo, who has taught for the American Horticultural Society and Brookside Gardens, will lead this hands-on workshop. Through lecture and demonstration students will learn how to use natural bamboo to create forms and frames for the garden and landscape.

Ed will demonstrate the use of a Japanese bamboo splitter to divide the bamboo into strips that can then be formed into tomato cages, trellises, or garden structure. Students can expect to complete a tomato cage or bean tower in the workshop. Tuition covers the use of all tools and materials needed. Bamboo splitters and other Japanese specialty tools will be available for purchase.

## PAINTING IN THE GARDEN

*4 sessions Tuition \$80  
Tuesdays 10 am to noon, starting June 5, 2001  
Penny Kritt, artist and instructor*

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced painter, you're invited to join us to paint in our gardens. Penny will provide instruction each week. From the beauty of a single plant to the joyous bustle of a garden, this is the place to paint. *Bring a painting kit or ask for a supply list when you enroll.*

## THE CONTEMPLATIVE GARDEN

*Saturday, June 9, 10 am Free*  
Join us for a Panel Discussion lead by sculptor Sam Noto on ways of creating a contemplative area in the garden. Discover how plantings, pathways and sculpture can create a quiet place for contemplation in your garden spaces.

## ONE-DAY PAINTING WORKSHOP

*1 session Tuition \$40  
Sunday, June 10 or July 22, 1-5 pm either day  
Penny Kritt, artist and instructor*

Spend an afternoon learning to paint! If you've always admired artists you see in local gardens, this is your chance to become one. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced painter in need of some help, you'll love this class. *Bring a painting kit or ask for a supply list when you enroll.*

## SCULPTOR IN RESIDENCE

*Throughout June in Beltsville Free*  
landSculpture Studio, a cooperative landscape sculpture studio, will lecture and demonstrate their methods of turning stone and metal into art during the month of June 2001.

Sculptor Matt Scholnick will work on a stone sculpture every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm during June. All are welcome to come and watch the progress. See a masterpiece emerging from the rough stone.



## Art in the Garden, *continued*

### THE BOTANICAL SKETCHBOOK

*This workshop meets for 2 full days Tuition \$85*

*Saturdays, June 23 & 30, 10 am - 4 pm*

*Merri Nelson, Smithsonian Assocs. Studio Arts Instructor*

Students observe the beauty and diversity of plants and flowers as they draw from the living collection of plants at Behnke Nurseries. The first session focuses on plants, the second on flowers. This intensive two-day workshop includes individual instruction, group critique, and discussion. Beginners are welcome! Wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

*A list of supplies to be purchased by the student will be mailed prior to the first class.*

### GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY

*Saturday, July 7, 8 am-3 pm Tuition \$25*

*Bill Yowell, Garden Photography Instructor*

*for Green Springs Park in Alexandria, Va*

This workshop is designed for beginners as well as more advanced photographers who want to learn techniques to enhance their photos of plants and wildflowers. The workshop will begin with a presentation on photography techniques, then participants will take photos under Bill's expert guidance. Class members will break for lunch and have time to have their photographs professionally developed. Participants will reconvene and critique each other's photographs.

*Each participant must bring his own 35 mm camera and appropriate film to the workshop.*

### HERBAL SOAPS

*1 session*

*Tuition \$25*

*Sat, July 14, 10 am-noon, or second session from 1-3 pm*

*Leslie Plant, herbal instructor and owner of Leslie's Soaps*

Discover the pleasure of making old-fashioned soaps from vegetable oils and fragrant herbs. You'll create marvelously fragrant soaps from an assortment of natural ingredients—perfect to keep or to give as gifts. Leslie will also have a generous supply of her unique hand-made soaps available for purchase.

*Please bring an apron, rubber gloves and safely glasses.*

*All materials provided.*

### HERBAL BALMS & CREAMS

*1 session*

*Tuition \$25*

*Sat, July 21, 10 -12 or second session from 1-3pm*

*Leslie Plant, owner of Leslie's Soaps*

Learn to make luscious creams and balms that rival expensive, commercial preparations using quality vegetable oils, essential oils and emulsifying waxes. Sample a variety of oils and essential oils, make your skin oil and watch while Leslie prepares lip balm and face cream. Take home a booklet and samples of lip balm, face cream and skin oil. All materials provided. *Student should bring an apron and a small hand towel.*

*Please note: Enrollment is limited in each of these workshops, and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call 301-937-1100 to register or for more information.*

## Delightful Garden Tours

Behnke's has teamed up with Delightful Garden Tours ([www.delightfulgardentours.com](http://www.delightfulgardentours.com)) to provide these wonderful opportunities for gardeners. Call 301-937-1100 to register. Bus tours meet at Behnke's in Beltsville, and lunch is included in the tour fee. Please note that buses will leave promptly at 9am.

### Day of Gardening

You'll tour five fabulous private gardens on the eastern shore, stopping at Easton, St. Michaels and Oxford. These gardens offer wonderful vistas and views, with plants that are well-adapted to the local conditions. And enjoy an unexpected and fabulous treat — lunch at the Inn at Easton, served by chef Andrew Evans. The newly-opened Inn at Easton has recently been highly rated by *Chesapeake Life*, *Food and Wine* and the *Washingtonian*.

*Wednesday, June 13, 2001, 9 am to 4:30 pm*

*\$70 per person\* (maximum 40 guests).*

### Gardening by Design

This workshop, lead by experienced landscape design professionals, offers a new approach to understanding the essentials of good garden design. You'll visit 2 residential gardens and meet and talk with the designers. One garden has emphasis on water, and the other uses both the front and back yards as designed garden spaces. We also plan to visit Meridian Hill to look at some of the elements of design exhibited there. A delicious box lunch is included.

*Wednesday, July 18, 2001, 9 am to 4:30 pm*

*\$85 per person\* (maximum 40 guests).*





# New! Farmer's Market at Beltsville Now Open

**W**e are excited to announce that Behnke Nurseries in Beltsville will host a Farmers' Market every Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm, starting May 16th, 2001. The market will be held in the open area by the North Entrance, next to the House-plant Greenhouse.

The Market will offer vegetables, fruits and berries grown by local farmers. A nearby bakery will supply breads, pastries and other freshly baked goods. Drop by and pick up a wonderful combination of nutritious, aromatic home style breads and pastries with the fresh fruits and vegetables. (Try a fresh tomato sandwich made with Dill Cottage Cheese Bread!)

The participants are:

**Wheatland Vegetable Farms** is located in Loudoun County Virginia. Chip and Susan founded the farm more than 20 years ago as a way to work at home, outside, and with their three children. Chip, a one-time political science professor, grew up in Arlington. Their 45 acres of vegetables, melons, small fruits, herbs, and flowers are grown without herbicides, insecticides, or fungicides. Since 1980 they have used ground limestone, compost, cover crops, mulches, and a non-toxic seawater-based foliar fertilizer as their only sources of plant nutrition. Chip and Susan hire 18-20 college students to work with them each season. All of their vegetables are sold directly to the consumer at retail producer-only farmers' markets in the DC metropolitan area, usually within 24 hours of being picked.

**Twin Springs Fruit Farm** is owned and operated by four partners. They bought the 75-acre farm 22 years ago and have been selling the fruit and vegetables from the farm in the metropolitan DC area for the past 21 years. Their fruit crop includes apples, peaches, pears, nectarines, plums, apricots

and cherries. Their berry crop includes strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries. Their vegetable crop includes tomatoes, snap peas, baby salad greens, eggplant, arugula, potatoes and colored peppers. They also offer apple cider, apple butter, apple sauce and canned peaches made from their fruit.

**Takoma Kitchens**, a participant in farmers' markets since 1984, will be supplying a range of fresh breads, pies, pastries and cookies to our market. Products include Honey Oatmeal Whole Wheat and Dill Cottage Cheese breads, fruit and nut pies and tarts, handmade cinnamon rolls and Danish, and a mouth watering array of cookies. All baked goods are made from scratch, by hand, and contain no preservatives. Baking is done in the company's facility in Hyattsville, where fresh breads and pies are baked daily. □



**Beltsville, MD**

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Florist 301-937-4032

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## Customer Appreciation Day

*Saturday, July 28, 2001, at All Locations*

## Behnke's Annual Tomato Taste Off

*Saturday, August 25, 2001, at Beltsville*