## **GARDENS Four Seasons**

## **GARDENDESIGN - September 2016**

"It has been said that we are "God's Helpers" when we work in our gardens......

It is humbling to truly observe the indomitable ways of nature."

– Darryl Fehr LITTLE TREE NURSERY Martensville, SK

(well articulated amazing thought on gardening,Darryl ! Read the full quotation I have the pleasure of presenting under DESIGN BRILLIANCE)

#### **NEST TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

Every August there is a phenomenal event that occurs. Known as the NEST Secret Garden Tour – it is a fundraiser to assist in support of Refugees, particularly women & children – some of whom are in attendance on the tour.

In addition to being a very worthwhile cause it has apparently become an August highlight, for not only me, but many others since it was sold out! Yards on the tour are not usually award winning (tho' they could be!)but rather a superb opportunity to see some of the many ways people in Saskatoon & area love to garden.

I am pleased to share a glimpse of what I experienced on the 2016 tour!



- great visual composition with a privacy screen doing double duty as a backdrop for a recirculating fountain nestled amongst a rocky slope with nice foliage contrasts.



- a rightfully proud homeowner shows off his 3-bin recycling system (one bin is freshly added vegetative matter, the second is in the process of composting while the third is ready for use!)



*– a 'Prairie Take' on the popular Fairy Garden. Love the miniature cows, house porch & windmill....* 



- an out-of control-in the nicest-way Pine – brings to mind a billow of green clouds, yes?



- so you see – this is the problem I have– when I witness ideas like this for a front entry – I want to create a space just like it in my own yard! The clever use of patches of brick paving, the touches of greenery & crushed rock naturalizing the space – oh my! (not to mention the massive boulder to the left!



- what can I say to describe this vista except 'Butchart Gardens in Saskatoon'. Lovely use of contrast with colour, size, shape & texture!



- just LOOK at the view! This homeowner has obviously identified the incredible park scene as something to take advantage of.... even with the deck railing being an "objet d'art" in itself.



- Guerilla Gardening at it's best – an artistic use of the adjoining boulevard to enhance the landscape & grow some veggies too!

#### My LANDSCAPE DESIGN CLASS Schedule is now set for FALL !

#### **DESIGN your own DREAM YARD**

In just 5 fun & lively classes you will create a plan for your own EDEN at the only class of its kind in Saskatoon. (INCLUDES 2 personalized one-on-one sessions!)

NEW & EXISTING YARDS - start datesTues.Sept. 27 - 10am-noon or 6:30-8:30pmThurs.Sept. 29 - 10am-noon or 6:30-8:30pmSat.Oct. 1 - 10am-noon

Avoid disappointment - BOOK EARLY ! \$299 plus GST

(as of Sept. 23, I still have spaces in all classes tho' the evening ones are almost full)

click here to go to my website for details -

http://www.gardensfourseasons.com/classes/

## **PLANT OF THE MONTH**

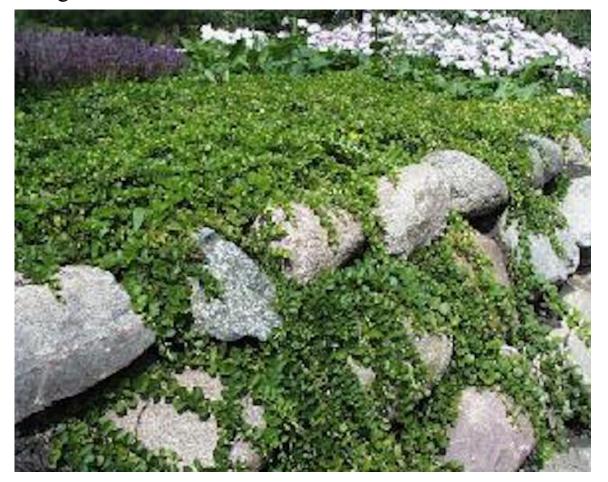
### **Creeping Jenny** – Lysimachia nummularia

The solid green leaf variety has been happily taking up residence & spreading slowly in my shady rock garden since - well - forever! I value the way it comes back consistently year after year with virtually no care. It offers a nice naturalized look. But this Spring – it was suggested to me to try growing it as a trailer in annual pots.



I'd seen how it looked on Pinterest but was skeptical as to how well it would grow in my little 6" deep window boxes located in mostly shade. I needn't have been concerned – it performed gangbusters! I used the golden leaf variety & as you can tell, it not only grew but flourished & created a bushy, trail of foliage that even in Sept. looks amazing. My next experiment will be to leave it in the container & see if it overwinters without being planted in the ground. (I am in the process of composing a list of plants that will survive in pots in our SK winters)

Being a boggy type of plant, Creeping Jenny prefers moist shady areas but will tolerate about half a day's sunlight as long it gets adequate moisture. In fact, when I first started with it, my son wanted some for around his pond. I picked a nice bunch & went over to deliver it to him. He wasn't home at the time so I threw it into his pond, thinking it would be ok until got home in a few hours. Weeks later, when I asked him if he planted it, he told me he'd forgotten about it but it was still floating in his pond - growing roots & flowering to beat the band!



# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## GARDENDESIGN's

### **1st Annual Container Parade**

A REMINDER – now is the time when you are most welcome to send me pictures of containers you have grown this year. I will compile the photos & share them in a Spring edition of GARDENDESIGN. That way we can all benefit from each other's ideas & experiences. Please indicate the variety of plant(s) you grew along with any other pertinent info - it'll be fun to read about each other's 'Container Adventures!'

### **Pumpkin Festival**

Takes place at Black Fox Distillers at 245 Valley Road. A great family fun time !

Sat., Sept. 24th & Sun., Sept. 25th & Sat., Oct. 1st & Sun., Oct. 2nd

10:00 am to 5:00 pm Admission: \$10 per vehicle

#### Activities you can expect to enjoy:

- Straw bale mazes, climbing structures to suit all ages of children
- Pumpkin rolling
- Horse & tractor drawn wagon rides
- Skill games such as golf, tosses & t-ball with a twist!
- Select your pumpkin right from the field
- Delicious foods including pumpkin soup & mini pumpkin donuts Photo opportunities & a beautiful setting !

### **DESIGN BRILLIANCE**

"My mother, both of my grandmothers, and one of my uncles were excellent gardeners. Their house plants and their vegetable and small fruit gardens were the envy of the neighbourhood. I think their plant lore was largely passed down to them by word of mouth and example. They were not avid readers. Although they had very little formal education, they had a certain oneness with and feeling for their plants which is hard to describe. They felt a certain calm in their gardens which allowed them to sense what their plants were needing. In today's world, this calm is often destroyed by text books, pesticide and fertilizer manuals, "quick fix" advice, and noisy machines such as rotor-tillers. When is the last time you let a "weed" grow just to see what it would be like?

Gardens are a refuge. The plants are our friends. If they suffer and die, we feel a certain sadness which is healthy and wholesome. Only "nice" people come to our gardens. They can't help themselves--gardens are "nice" places. Is my garden neat and perfectly tended all the time? No. I live in a world that is real and out of my control most of the time. However, this does not prevent me from striving for and achieving calmness and unity much of the time. It has been said that we are "God's helpers" when we work in our gardens. This has great meaning for me. Success in our gardens depends mainly on simulating the conditions that our plants would enjoy in their natural settings. Because we have been messing with the "natural setting" for so many generations we have little feeling for our plants or their natural requirements. We expect our plants to spring out of the soiled earth and thrive only to be disappointed because we are so blind to and so unappreciative of nature which continues to abound all around us.

Don't misunderstand me. I have no objection to artificial irrigation, chemical fertilizer, or even the judicious use of pesticides. It is our paradigm that must change. We are HELPERS, not MASTERS. I was delighted to find "Nurture a Plant" in a list of remedies for emotional depression. I can relate to this. There is something very satisfying about watching a plant develop and thrive under one's care. It is awesome to watch majestic trees and hardy shrubs which stand naked during the harsh winter come alive in the spring. It is humbling to truly observe the indomitable ways of nature."

> Darryl Fehr LITTLE TREE NURSERY Martensville, SK

Once again Mother Nature trumps Man in the Design Department – incredible how she puts her own stamp on anything affected by man!



#### NEED INSPIRATION? PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR'S GARDEN?

Visit my PINTEREST site to lose yourself in all kinds of GardenDesign ideas. (no membership in either Pinterest or HOUZZ required to enjoy!)

Simply click the following links:

https://www.pinterest.com/gardens4seasons/boards/

http://www.houzz.com/pro/neeeceee2/gardens-four-seasons



# **GARDENDESIGN** in OCTOBER

SECRET GARDENS- ways to make a private space just for you!

Did you miss out on the issue on FALL PRUNING? Drop me a line & you can get a start on your Pruning for the year!

#### **Feel free to forward GARDENDESIGN to any friends!** (or they can email me to request their own copy!)

DID YOU KNOW? - I never, Ever, EVER share my email list - EVER! :)

- to UNSUBSCRIBE from GARDENDESIGN pleasse reply to this email with NO THANKS!