

Time to start enjoying spring's garden party

This article was written in memory of my dear friend Bea O'Rand who taught me so much about enjoying the small details of life.

By Ginny Gregory

I live large. Just one more plant in an already stuffed container. Layer upon layers with dripping edging. One would think that when it comes to gardening I would only want to work the huge gardens with vast vistas with intensely planted surround sound foundation plantings. Well, I certainly have done those gardens in my work and have a bigger than average garden at Blue Moon, my home, but each corner of real estate in a garden has infinite importance. I cherish detail.

I was leaving home the other day and in the corner of my step that is connected with my driveway was a tiny delicate mini violet. It is one that I really struggle to have in the garden. It has blushed purple leaves and a purple twinkling colored blossom. There it sat squeezed in the corner

hunkered down to make the best of a less than perfect situation. Every morning when I come out the door in a tear, I see that violet and just have to smile. It is the perfect detail to start the garden wake up party. Spring is a party. The garden yawns, stretches and then starts to slowly unfurl. The garden party is beginning.

That first green leaf that I often talk about in my writings ... that first green leaf is the moment of hope for me. I see it; I breathe deeply in drawing the garden deep into my lungs and slowly exhale knowing that all will be right in the world because spring has arrived with no help from any of us. I know that the garden party is starting and we had better hold on to our hats because it is going to be a southern hoe down. The sweet breath of spring is out along with the early spiraea.

The edgeworthia with its architectural form and nodding flowers that smell just like honey have been out for quite a long time.

There are birds just delirious to

shout out the news ... they are spreading the word. The frogs have been joining in with passionate croaks that I love so in spring. As the sun goes down I hear a hawk calling to his love and a pileated woodpecker reminding me of my childhood cartoon days. That bird really cracks me up!



The squirrels are just doing summersaults, which make the dogs crazy. I suspect they are "the" topic of conversation when the neighborhood dogs tune up at night.

It is coming. It is on the horizon. Spring.

With all of the enjoyment my fire

gives me during the chilly months, I am yearning for my screen porch time to roll around. I am wrapped up on the porch now as I write because getting close to the sounds, smells and energy of the garden is so vital to my existence. I am ready for the garden party we call spring. It has been a terribly long winter this year in so many ways. It is time!

You know, I had a friend who is moving e-mail me about needing a container for her porch to sort of set the mood for the sale of her house. Her house is yellow with green shutters and as we chatted back and forth via the computer I remembered that I had a yellow crackle glazed pot that would be just perfect for her stoop. The serendipity of it all just made me chuckle.

I gathered plants with such a warm feeling ... the perfect pot for the special spot that would catch people's eye as they entered into my friends' house. That tiny bit of real estate would surely make someone smile just as that precious violet makes me smile each morning.

Ah! We are all getting ready for spring in our own way. Remember it doesn't have to be a huge event in the garden to make you smile. There is always a diamond the rough to be found. Keep a careful look out and don't miss the garden party called spring.

Ginny Gregory is the owner and creative energy behind "Beyond The Pail...Creating Gardens and Beyond". She is also starting an organizing, decluttering, down sizing business. For info, see www.beyondthepail.net

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