



M & M Landscape and Lawn, Inc.

Newsletter

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UNUSUAL SIGHTS IN IZARD COUNTY



These 5 majestic Trumpeter Swans have made themselves at home on the lake situated on our property. The swans settled in around the first of December and have hung out on the lake since.

Trumpeter Swans rarely venture as far South as Arkansas. They are normally found in the Midwest. However, a few years ago three Trumpeter Swans found their way to Magness Lake east of Heber Springs, the first recorded in over a century, and have returned every year since increasing in numbers each year.



Camellia japonica 'Governor Mouton' in full bloom on January 31, 2006 in Izard County, Arkansas.

The two most popular types of camellias grown in Arkansas are *Camellia japonica*, commonly called japonica, and *Camellia sasanqua*. The japonica varieties are not as winter hardy as the sasanquas. Japonicas are considered a zone 8 plant with a preferred low temperature between 10 and 20 degrees. Sasanquas can tolerate temperatures between 0 and 10 degrees with no damage.

Being typical plant "nuts" we had to try a japonica at our house. Izard County cold hardiness zone falls between zones 6 and 7. So it is pushing the envelope to try to grow this *camellia japonica* here. This plant is approximately 6 years old, and while it has lived and grown, we have coaxed very few blooms out of it until this year. Typically, it

will bud out with 3 to 4 buds and then a cold blast will come through and the buds will get frozen and not bloom out. As you can see, this japonica variety likes the warmish weather we've experienced in Arkansas this year. Our patience was rewarded with a bright display of blooms in January.

Camellia Japonica, Hardiness Zones 7-9; Habit: Evergreen; Height: 8-15 ft.; Width: 5-10 ft.; Site Requirement: Partial shade. Acidic, well-drained soil high in organic matter.

PRUNING ROSES

There are almost as many pruning techniques as there are types of roses--and the All-American Rose Selections organization lists 35 types! Here are some specific tips for the most common kinds of roses.

Shrub Roses: Cut out dead canes from the center of the plant. Remove dead or dying wood to healthy wood. Remove hips and winter-damaged tips to an outward facing bud. Take off no more than 1/3 of the canes. Remove suckers and crossing or rubbing branches. See illustration.

Miniature Roses: Pruned like shrub roses, opening the center by removing a third of the old wood.

Hybrid Tea Roses: Canes may be cut back to 10-12" high in early Spring, while still dormant (we like to time this chore around President's Day), to an outward-facing bud on each cane. This will get rid of winter damage and promote new growth and bigger flowers. Remove any cane emerging from the rootstock, below the graft. These canes are considered suckers and often the foliage is a different color or size. Cut them back as close as possible. You may need to dig the dirt away to get close enough.

Grandiflora & Floribunda Roses: Can be pruned lightly which will result in more but smaller flowers or prune them hard, like Hybrid Teas, for larger flowers.

Climbing Roses: Vary by cultivar. Some varieties only bloom once per year and will bear their flowers on year-old wood. These would need to be pruned lightly right after they bloom or you'll be cutting off most of next years flower buds.

Some cultivars bloom on new or old wood so prune lightly in early spring to remove winter-damaged wood.

Below are some illustrations that should help guide you.



ON SITE WITH THE LANDSCAPE CREW

The landscape crew is feeling a little slighted that they haven't been featured in the Newsletter yet so I thought I would dedicate

some of this issue to let you know what they've been up to.

Jeff and the crew have been working on a job locally which has involved a tremendous amount of block work. Pictured are before and after shots of the retaining walls and steps leading from the home down to the river on this property.



Jeff has taken the project from a blank slate, envisioning and creating retaining walls, shrub beds, and steps that are in proportion to the home's dimensions and in harmony with the home's character and the surrounding scenery. The addition of the retaining walls terraced down the hillside have effectively created usable space out of virtually unusable property. The project is still in work and before completion will include lighted pathway lights and unique, personalized lights at the top and bottom of the steps.

FEBRUARY TASKS

- * Apply pre-emergent herbicide to lawn areas. Weed & feed products are a convenient strategy for weed control if you have a fescue lawn. However, warm-season lawns such as Bermuda and Zoysia would be better handled by applying a pre-emergent herbicide in February or early March, try to time your application before the Forsythias bloom. Delay fertilizer application until May. This avoids feeding the winter weeds and times your fertilizer application where the lawn can best utilize it. Available pre-emergent herbicides are benefin (Balan 2.5 Granule, pendimethalin (Halts Crabgrass Preventer, Pendulum 60 DG), and bensulide (Betasam, Presan, Betamec 4EC). Remember the "label is the law", and be sure and apply as accurately as possible to prevent unwanted injury to your landscape or lack of weed control. Most of the products on the market will not give full season control so repeat application will be required in eight to 12 weeks. Preen (trifluralin) is available as a pre-emergent weed control for your shrub or ornamental landscape beds.
- * Weed beds, deadhead perennials, and prune fruit trees.
- * Prune Roses.
- * Plant trees and shrubs.
- * Analyze your landscape and make note of any changes or improvements you wish to accomplish in the following year.
- * It's not too late to relocate plants to a different part of your landscape. Most plants will still be semi-dormant throughout most of February.

GREENHOUSE HAPPENINGS

The Greenhouse staff is gearing up for another busy year. This will be our tentative schedule for the next year.

January	Closed
February	Closed for retail
March	Open for retail Mon-Fri 9-3 Weekends 9-3
April	Open for retail Mon-Fri 9-6 Weekends 9-3
May	Open for retail Mon-Fri 9-6 Weekends 9-3
June	Open for retail Mon-Fri 9-6 Weekends 9-3
July	Open for retail Mon-Fri 8-1 Weekends 9-12
August	Open for retail Mon-Fri 8-1 Weekends 9-12
September	Open for retail Mon-Fri 9-3 Weekends 9-12
October	Open for retail Mon-Fri 9-3 Weekends 9-12
November	Closed
December	Closed

References:

www.ces.ncsu.edu

www.arhomeandgarden.org

The Melbourne Times, A Rarity Arrives in Izard County, Nanette Holt, Wednesday, January 25, 2006.

Garden Gate, No Fear Rose Pruning,
www.GardenGateMagazine.com

Thought for the day:

THE EASIEST WAY TO FIND A LOST GARDEN TOOL
IS TO BUY A REPLACEMENT.