

This Week: Gardens

Book Suggestions - Non-Fiction:

The Bird Garden by Stephen W. Kress

Here are ideas for creating a habitat that meets all of the needs of birds--food, water, cover, and nesting sites. Kress, an ornithologist and author of two other books on birding, gives advice on selecting and planting the best vegetation to attract birds, building nesting structures and feeders, and ways to provide water throughout the year. Kress offers a guide to common birds and recommended plants. The guide is divided into five geographic regions: northeast, southeast, prairies and plains, mountains and deserts, and the Pacific Coast. For each region, there is a landscape design for the ideal bird garden.

The Resilient Gardener by Carol Deppe

Scientist/gardener Carol Deppe combines her passion for organic gardening with newly emerging scientific information from many fields -- resilience science, climatology, climate change, ecology, anthropology, paleontology, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, health, and medicine. In the last half of *The Resilient Gardener*, Deppe extends and illustrates these principles with detailed information about growing and using five key crops: potatoes, corn, beans, squash, and eggs. *The Resilient Gardener* is both a conceptual and a hands-on organic gardening book, and is suitable for vegetable gardeners at all levels of experience. It is a supremely optimistic as well as realistic book about how resilient gardeners and their vegetable gardens can flourish even in challenging times.

The New Hampshire Gardener's Companion: An Insider's Guide to Gardening in the Granite State by Henry Homeyer

The New Hampshire Gardener's Companion is the only guide focused on the challenges of cultivating a successful garden in the Granite State. Whether you are an experienced green thumb or an inquiring novice, whether you live in the White Mountains, the Connecticut or Merrimac River valleys, or along the seacoast, this easy-to-understand guide will help you grow bountiful vegetables, abundant flowers, and lush lawns.

Grow Great Grub by Gayla Trail

Your patio, balcony, rooftop, front stoop, boulevard, windowsill, planter box, or fire escape is a potential fresh food garden waiting to happen. Gayla Trail, the founder of YouGrowGirl.com, shows you how to grow your own delicious,

affordable, organic edibles virtually anywhere. Whether you're looking to eat on a budget or simply experience the pleasure of picking tonight's meal from right outside your door, this is the must-have book for small-space gardeners - no backyard required.

The Drunken Botanist: The Plants That Create the World's Great Drinks by Amy Stewart

Sake began with a grain of rice. Scotch emerged from barley, tequila from agave, rum from sugarcane, bourbon from corn. Thirsty yet? In *The Drunken Botanist*, Amy Stewart explores the dizzying array of herbs, flowers, trees, fruits, and fungi that humans have, through ingenuity, inspiration, and sheer desperation, contrived to transform into alcohol over the centuries. This fascinating concoction of biology, chemistry, history, etymology, and mixology--with more than fifty drink recipes and growing tips for gardeners--will make you the most popular guest at any cocktail party.

Book Suggestions - Fiction:

The Victory Garden by Rhys Bowen

As the Great War continues to take its toll, headstrong twenty-one-year-old Emily Bryce is determined to contribute to the war effort. When her Australian fiancé is sent back to the front, Emily volunteers as a "land girl," tending to the neglected grounds of a large Devonshire estate. It's here that Emily discovers the long-forgotten journals of a medicine woman who devoted her life to her herbal garden. The journals inspire Emily, and in the wake of devastating news. As Emily learns more about the volatile power of healing with herbs, the found journals will bring her to the brink of disaster, but may open a path to her destiny. A beautiful and heart-rending novel of a woman's love and sacrifice during the First World War.

The Forbidden Garden by Ellen Herrick

Every garden is a story, waiting to be told... At the nursery she runs with her sisters on the New England coast, Sorrel Sparrow has honed her rare gift for nurturing plants and flowers. Now that reputation, and a stroke of good timing, lands Sorrel an unexpected opportunity: reviving a long-dormant Shakespearean garden on an English country estate. Generations have tried--and failed--to bring it back to glory. Sorrel senses heartbreak and betrayal here, perhaps even enchantment. Intrigued by the house's history--especially the haunting tapestries that grace its walls--and increasingly drawn to Stella's enigmatic brother, Sorrel sets to work. And though she knows her true home is across the sea with her sisters, instinct tells her that the English garden's destiny is entwined with her own, if she can only unravel its secrets...

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

If you've never read this children's classic, you must - Laura

First published in 1909, *The Secret Garden* has entranced readers with the courage and strength of two unhappy and withered children who become determined to make their lives and the lives of others around them more joyful. In this remarkable edition, Inga Moore's beautifully observed illustrations capture the wonder of the secret garden springing to life under the tender care of Mary Lennox; her spoiled invalid cousin, Colin; and Dickon, a Yorkshire boy.

The Darling Dahlias and the unlucky clover by Susan Wittig Albert

Depression-era Darling, Alabama, where the ladies of the Dahlias, the local garden club, are happy to dig a little dirt! In the seventh book of this popular series, it looks like the music has ended for Darling's favorite barbershop quartet, the Lucky Four Clovers--just days before the Dixie Regional Barbershop Competition. Another unlucky break: a serious foul-up in Darling's telephone system--and not a penny for repairs. And while liquor is legal again, moonshine isn't. Sheriff Buddy Norris needs a little luck when he goes into Briar Swamp to confront Cypress County's most notorious bootlegger. What he finds upends his sense of justice. Albert reminds us that friends offer the best of themselves to each other, community is what holds us together, and luck is what you make it.

Video Suggestions:

A little princess & The secret garden - double feature!

Gnomeo & Juliet