

Old Charlie becomes a Christmas treasure

As a professional horticulturist, I've grown accustomed to referring to plants by their formal Latin or genus-species names.

Crape Myrtle, for instance, is *Lagerstroemia indica*, a mouthful to be sure and not at all pleasant-sounding to the ear. But it's the "professional" thing to do, so *Lagerstroemia* it is.

Over my long career I've strayed from the professional path of proper botanical nomenclature with only one plant. That would be "Charlie," a crusty old Christmas cactus I've lived with for many years.

My enduring relationship with Charlie is such that I can't quite bring myself to coldly refer to him by his genus-species name, *Schlumbergera bridgesii*. We've been friends and roommates far too long for that.

Our relationship wasn't always this tight, however. In the early years he was just one more plant among thousands, nothing special.

Several times I tried to give him away and even succeeded on one occasion. But the new owner gave him back several months later saying that Charlie was just too boring for his apartment. I couldn't disagree.

Months later I unceremoniously dumped Charlie on my compost heap, thinking that was the end of the matter. Several weeks later I was shocked to find Charlie still clinging to life.

What does one do with a plant like that?

Seized with horticultural com-



garden world

passion, I scooped up Charlie's withered remains, tossed them in a pot and watered them. Somehow, I wasn't surprised the next day to find Charlie's leafy carcass revived and perky as ever. We've hung out together ever since.

I'll tell you what I like about Charlie. He's low maintenance. I can go on long trips knowing that when I return, Charlie will be sitting where I left him, a bit saggy perhaps but otherwise just fine.

I'll tell you another thing I like. Charlie is no attention-grabbing prima donna. For 10 to 11 months of the year, his presence is hardly noticeable. He peacefully sits on a table enjoying the morning light streaming through a nearby window and minds his own business.

Also, he doesn't attract bad company. Bugs and diseases need not approach Charlie. He'll have nothing to do with them. He doesn't eat much, either. He can go a year or more without my feeding him. I'm not saying that he appreciates my inattention in the matter, but he



BARRY FUGATT/Tulsa World

This is the time of year when "Charlie," an aging Christmas cactus, really shines.

doesn't complain and somehow continues to grow.

In fact, Charlie has developed quite a girth in his old age. His once youthful 12-inch midriff has slowly ballooned to more than 36 inches. What he's eating and where he's getting it is a mystery to me.

Yes, sir. Charlie is a low key, mind-your-own-business sort of plant for most of the year. But there is that one month each year when Charlie steps up and really toots his own horn. That would be now, the Christmas season.

Old Charlie decks himself out

in splendid floral apparel. It's downright gaudy, really. But who can deny this normally unspectacular plant a moment of spectacular glory?

It is, after all, a time when a great many of us think back several millennia to a spectacular moment when a very special child was born.

Thanks, Charlie, for the reminder.

Barry Fugatt is director of horticulture at the Tulsa Garden Center. He can be reached at 746-5125 or by e-mail at barry@tulsagardencent.com

'Tin Roof' show to help young artists

By JAMES D. WATTS JR.
World Scene Writer

One of Tulsa's venerable neighborhoods, the Brady Heights district just north of downtown Tulsa, is giving up pieces of its history to help future artists.

The neighborhood is sponsoring the second "Tin Roof Art Show," which will be presented Saturday at Living Arts of Tulsa, 308 S. Kenosha Ave.

Local artists were given antique tin tiles that were salvaged from Brady Heights homes to use as their canvases for new, original works of art. Sales of the pieces in the show will benefit the Tulsa Spirit Youth Arts Program, which works with young artists to de-

velop public art works.

The neighborhood hosted a similar event in 2003.

Margee Aycock, artist coordinator for the show, said, "Each show is like Christmas, as we open the boxes and see what the artists have created. Every piece is completely new and original."

Hours for the show are 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Saturday event will also include presentation to the winners of the Tulsa Spirit Youth Art Contest held with students from Emerson Elementary School, along with live music by Scott Aycock and George and Linda Barton.

James D. Watts Jr. 581-8478
james.watts@tulsaworld.com

Tube picks

Don't-miss TV for Saturday

"SVU" encore

Detective Stabler (Christopher Meloni, right) investigates a series of murders tied into a prostitution ring in an encore "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

9 p.m. NBC, channel 2, cable channel 9



Smart TV

Above, groundbreaking moments from the early years of "The Tonight Show" are highlights of the documentary special "Jack Paar: Smart Television."

8 p.m. PBS, channel 11

TV

7 p.m.

9 2 Dateline NBC Profile of a murder case in which a gang of high-school boys kill a teacher and use a crime reporter as part of a revenge scheme. (CC)

10 p.m.

5 23 Mad TV Actor Efron Ramirez participates in comedic sketches. (CC)

10:30 p.m.

9 2 Saturday Night Live Host Matthew Fox; Tenacious D performs.

11 p.m.

5 23 Talkshow With Spike Feresten Comic Jerry Seinfeld.

Changes

7 47 Bananas (6 a.m.)

9 2 News (6 p.m.)

9 2 Wheel of Fortune (6:30 p.m.)

9 2 Dateline (7-9 p.m.)

7 47 Best of Harvest (7 p.m.)

7 47 Basketball Tulsa 66ers vs. Dakota Wizards. (8-10:30 p.m.)

7 47 Reza Safa (10:30 p.m.)

7 47 Les Feldick (11 p.m.)

Fragrance Week at Saks ends with engraving event

By JASON ASHLEY WRIGHT
World Scene Writer

Merry Christmas, Darling. Happy birthday, Honey. You stink, Sunshine.

These and countless other silly or serious phrases can be etched on a fragrance bottle by artist Connie Deen, who'll be engraving customers' purchases of perfumes and colognes at Saks Fifth Avenue in Utica Square from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

It's the climax of the department store's Fragrance Week, during which time shoppers could come in and test various scents, ranging from Alien by Thierry Mugler to Yves Saint Laurent's Cinema.

Whatever fragrance you buy, Deen will carefully engrave names or phrases on glass bottles, free of charge. And with a purchase of \$85 or more, shoppers will receive a free atomizer — while supplies last, of course.

One of the newest fragrances you can have personalized is Juicy Couture Eau de Parfum (above, \$65-\$85) for women. The scent's notes include watermelon, mandarin, pink passion fruit, marigold, green apple, water hyacinth, tuberose, wild rose, princess lily, creamy



tuberose, caramel creme brulee, vanilla, precious woods and patchouli. And the 1.7-ounce spray bottle with the brand's signature "J" and crown charms.

For more information, call Saks at 744-0200 and ask for the fragrances counter.

Jason Ashley Wright 581-8483
jason.wright@tulsaworld.com

Looking for love

If you can provide a good home for Luna, please call Owasso Feline Rescue at 272-4059; for Jim, call Henryetta Animal Aid and Rescue at 918-652-9904 or see below.



Luna

Luna was saved at a local animal shelter where she was a good mom for her four kittens. Her maternity days are over and she is looking to become an affectionate family pet. Luna is about 1 year old.



Jim

Jim is an American bulldog-German shepherd mix and he is about 1 year old. He is gentle, OK with cats and he loves belly rubs. Henryetta Animal Aid visits the PetsMart at 10117 E. 71st St. every other Saturday - next on Dec. 9.

More adoption agencies: Animal Aid, 744-8280; A.R.F., 622-5962; Cat Adoption Center, 486-7727; Friends of Felines, 299-1116; Home At Last, 496-3117; Pet Adoption League, 365-8725; StreetCats, 298-0104; Tulsa City Animal Shelter, 669-6299; Tulsa S.P.C.A., 428-2529; Tulsa Humane Society site, www.tulsapets.com

It's holiday cookie time

It's time to share your best recipes for Christmas cookies and candies. Let us know about your holiday traditions and the treats that make Christmas sweet. Please send to Natalie Mikles, Tulsa World food writer, P.O. Box 1770, Tulsa, OK 74102,

or to natalie.mikles@tulsaworld.com. The deadline is Dec. 11.

Photo display tips

When hanging and arranging a collection of photos, interior decorator Terri Collins has several suggestions for unifying the arrangement.

► Go through photos and decide which are the most important and would look best displayed in the home. Try to select good prints and, especially for a large family, select an assortment that equally represents family and friends.

► Group things so that they tell a story or share a theme, such as wedding photos from different generations or a collection of photos of grandparents or grandchildren.

► For wall arrangements, put small photo groupings on the floor and try fitting them into basic figures (triangles, squares, rectangles) and see what works best before hanging.

► On shelves, it's nice to have a variety of sizes of photos. Start with the largest placed in the back and the smaller ones in front. Smaller photos, however, can be raised on books and placed in the back to make them more visible.

► Add points of interest in arrangements by accenting photos of individuals with a memento associated with that person.

► The remainder of the photos can be displayed in albums with acid-free sleeves and be set out all year for everyone to enjoy. Photos also can be switched out through the months if you have a difficult time choosing.

PHOTOS:

Displays give everyone a feeling of family.

FROM D-1

eas instead of confining arrangements to a single corner or wall.

A large cabinet in the front room displays several individually framed pictures, including their parents' wedding photos, wedding photos of their children and candid photos of grandchildren.

That cabinet is also where they display a silver tea service set, which belonged to his mother; delaware Linda collected when she was a teenager living with her parents in Belgium; old books; and small tapestry and art of European architecture, also collected by Linda as a teen.

Another display in an upstairs bedroom shows off the Woods family's athletic prowess, complete with kids' baseball team pictures, trophies, old baseballs and even the mitt-shaped flower vase carried into the hospital the day one of their sons was born.

"It's just enjoyable to be able to see the things that you remember from the past and remember certain activities that happened. I like it that everybody has a feeling of family,"

Tommy Wood said. "I enjoy it, and it gives me a good feeling."

Other photos and objects with memories are displayed throughout the house on table tops, walls and even in baskets.

Having these items around the house do more to warm the home than any hue of paint.

"We have five children and, right now, five grandchildren — one more on the way. They are not as part of our day-to-day life as it used to be," Linda Woods said. "It's always nice to have their pictures close. I just feel that it lends an air of warmth and contentment. I feel that's very important."

And when a family's past, present and future are found throughout the house in images and objects, a story about who they are and where they are going becomes more apparent.

"It just gives them a certain pride in their family," Tommy Woods said.

Karen Shade 581-8334
karen.shade@tulsaworld.com

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