

EDUCATION REVIEW

Charles Anfield, CGCS, *Heritage Bluffs Golf Course*

Adding Color to Your Course



The MAGCS Members gathered in Lockport, at Prairie Bluff Golf Club for the June Meeting. Hosting for the day was past MAGCS President Luke Strojny. He had the golf course (and flowers) in fabulous condition to honor Ken Shepard's retirement.

Jim Kerwin of Terrona Farms made an "animated" power point presentation of the benefits and beauty of ornamental annual plantings for golf courses to the Members attending.

Jim started off with the fact most golf courses have an abundance of the color green (we hope). Annual flower plantings can be used to attract new members and players to the course. He stated that women spend over 80% of the family income and bright, attractive annual plantings of color are a great way to get their attention. People love flowers. They make comments about them and remember the places with plantings that they liked.

Jim showed some exciting ways to combine colors and textures of flowers for enhanced plantings. For those who are Members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, flowers can help attract additional species of birds, insects and butterflies. Match complimentary colors for an improved look. A color wheel can be referenced for proper color coordination.


There were some great slides of various container plantings. He recommends container plantings as the easiest and cheapest way to display annuals. Jim really likes the versatility of being able to move containers around and the creative opportunities that containers can provide. You can put unusual plant materials and

combine different colors, heights and textures. Jim likes containers that are deep. They hold more soil and provide more opportunity for deeper rooting. "People want the perennial look with color. Annuals are great because they flower all summer long." Be sure to use specific sun or shade flower species for specific sites.

Hanging baskets are another great way to display annuals in a small area. Trellises are fun and European "hay racks" are another opportunity to cover up bridges and plant annuals in small spaces.

Jim says, "people are tired of the same old thing, try some new combinations, there are so many new hybrid varieties out there. You can create some dramatic effects with small plantings and they are so easy to care for." The annuals do need regular applications of fertilizer to keep the plants flowering. And good soil is essential for proper drainage.

The grass growers were a "tough crowd", especially with a non-turf topic. Jim did a great job to bring some excitement to planting flowers. Some other benefits to flower plantings are that they have a welcoming and overall calming effect. During the typical summer stress months, who doesn't need that? Want to see the presentation? Call Luke and he will send you one. **-OC**



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