

Thanks for visiting my garden!

Our Waterford neighborhood has many excellent gardeners, and we have teamed-up on a container garden demonstration that we hope you enjoy.

Here's a little about us ...

Jenny Beard is a full-time User Experience Designer. Jenny moved to Big Canoe from Virginia Highlands (Atlanta) about ten years ago. She started her front garden about seven years ago when she updated the front of her house. Jenny has added new plants and details to this garden each year. In addition to gardening, Jenny spends time amusing her two standard poodles, Zsa Zsa and Lulu, and loves interior design projects for her home... there's always a project! With limited time to garden, Jenny has kept her garden small and lower maintenance until she has more time to devote to her this hobby. You can contact Jenny at 404.441.4096.

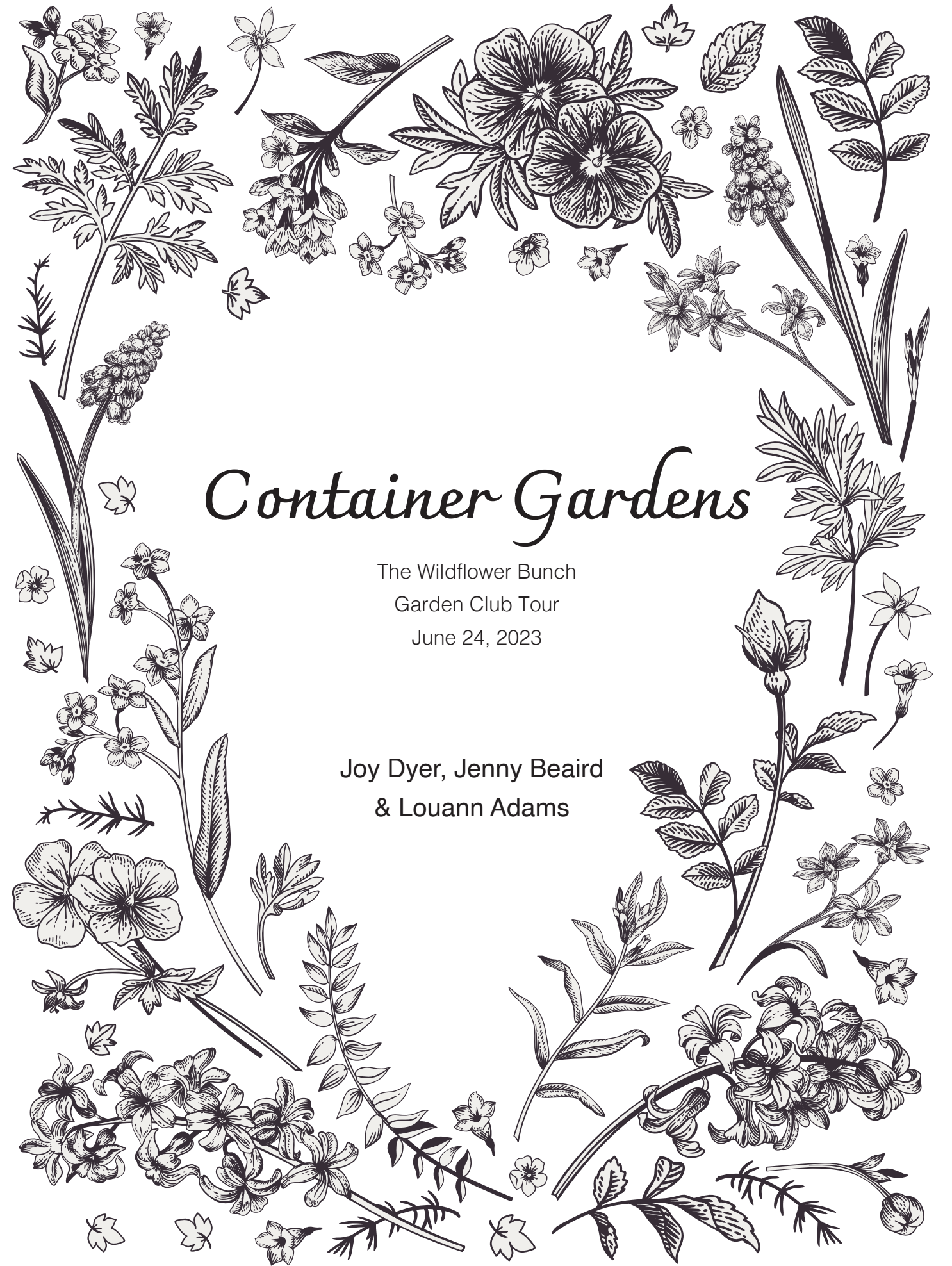
Joy Dyer moved to Big Canoe from Macon, where she owned a successful landscape company. After settling into her new home, Joy quickly realized she missed designing and working with gardens. While shopping at Scottsdale Farms, Joy struck up a conversation and couldn't resist the opportunity to partner with Scottsdale Farms as a garden designer. Soon Joy plans to retire from Scottsdale Farms and create her stunning garden designs here in Big Canoe, allowing people to enjoy the great outdoors in style. Joy's specialty is creating outdoor rooms that are both functional and beautiful, and she loves nothing more than seeing people enjoy the spaces she has created for them. You can contact Joy at 478.320.9036.

Louann Adams moved to Big Canoe from Starkville, Mississippi, about ten years ago. Surrounded by a lush landscape that is the envy of the neighborhood, Louann's home overlooks Toad's Pond, and you'll often see her, her husband Craig and their dog Flop enjoying the view from their bay window. Louann's "secret garden" is a tucked away hideaway. Her secret garden begins with a beautiful gate that leads to a relaxing patio. This spot was a welcome gathering place for Waterford neighbors when we were all "locked down" during Covid. You can contact Louann at 717-471-1686.

The Wildflower Bunch Garden Club Tour June 24, 2023

Thanks to Liz Littleton and all the volunteers for a fun and successful 2023 garden tour!

Learn more about the Wild Flower Bunch Garden Club at www.wildflowerbunch.com



Container Gardens

The Wildflower Bunch
Garden Club Tour
June 24, 2023

Joy Dyer, Jenny Beard
& Louann Adams

Golden Rule of Container Gardening Design

The golden rule of container gardening is to think in terms of tall, full & trailing. Or you may have heard ... thriller, filler, and spiller.

First, will your container be viewed only from one side, or will it be viewed from all sides? The views will determine the arrangement as you select and plant your container.

Your taller plants are your centerpiece and should be at the center of a round or square container placed away from your home since all sides will be visible.

If planting a long window box, be repetitive with your centerpiece plant along the back of the container.

Next, you will place your fuller and medium-height selections around or in front of your taller plants.

Lastly, place your trailing plants in front of all of these. Trailing plants soften the edge of the container. Think of your container garden as a painting – including a background, middle ground, and foreground.

Plant Size

- For a lush look, plant containers full. You don't need to go by the space requirements listed on the plant label in a container since you're not permanently placing the plants here.
- The height of your container is a consideration. For the best look, your tallest plant should be about the height of the container. The maximum height will vary based on the width of the container. The planter is a part of your painting, and proportion is important. Seeing a short plant or shrub in a tall container can look odd. This makes the plant look stunted and dwarfed. Once you have established the proper centerpiece, the surrounding plants will grow together cohesively, harmonizing the pot with the centerpiece.

Selecting your plants

- This is where you can be creative! Look on Pinterest, magazines, and the internet for container design ideas!
- Select plants that will thrive together. If your container is in full sun, select sun-loving plants. Shade-loving plants belong together. You can often cheat a little if one side of your container gets much less sun and sneak in a shade plant with your sun-loving plants.
- Know the dimensions of your container when you are selecting plants. This will guide you in how many plants you need.



- Select colors that harmonize. Use plant textures to create more drama. Vary the size of the leaves so your container is visually interesting.
- Do you see a pre-planted container at the garden center that you like? These are often budget-friendly purchases. You can separate the plants for your container! See a lush hanging basket full of impatiences? Again, these are often budget-friendly ways to purchase plants. Gently separate them into individual plants when planting your containers, or it might be the perfect size for your planter.
- Conifers in containers can save you money, save you time and make a design statement at the same time. Conifers are versatile. They are available in a range of gold, green, blue, and variegated shades, and several also change color during the winter. You can find tall, skinny ones; low, mounding ones; and even a few that drape over the edge of a container — they don't always have to be the centerpiece.
- Use an evergreen shrub as a centerpiece for your planter and combine it with annuals. This is a budget-friendly way to have beautiful containers year-round. Just swap out the annuals for the season, add pansies and pumpkins for the fall, and ornaments with cuttings from the woods for winter.
- Purchasing an evergreen in a 4-inch quart or gallon-size pot is an excellent investment. Your evergreen will eventually outgrow the container and can be transplanted into your yard.
- Small hydrangeas can thrive in pots and be moved to your yard at the end of the season.
- While at the garden center, use your shopping cart or a flat surface to arrange the plants as they will be in your container. Will they fill the container? Do you like how they look together?

Break the Rules!

Know the rules well so you can break them well! But, who says there are absolute rules to container design? When it comes to containers, your only limitation is your imagination. If you can grow it in the ground, you can probably grow it in a pot. It's all about proportion and size. Remember, containers are not permanent plantings. Knowing this opens up many ways to experiment and effectively challenge the rules.

Tips for Thriving Container Gardens

- When selecting containers for your container garden, choosing the right type of container for your specific situation is essential.
- If your container will be in a hot area or surrounded by concrete, choose a large container that will hold moisture and won't increase in temperature due to its surroundings.
- Your container must have a drainage hole. Without proper drainage, the plants will develop root rot and die quickly.
- Containers that hold more soil will hold more moisture and require less watering. Consider this if you travel often.
- Avoid using iron and steel containers, as these can literally bake your root zones.
- If you are using large containers, consider using containers that can withstand the cold. If your containers cannot withstand the cold, you will need to move them to a protected area, such as your garage, for the winter. Large containers that are full of soil are weighty! You will likely need to remove all the dirt to move the container for the winter.
- Tall, narrow pots can easily tip over in windy areas. Small, lightweight pots can also blow over (and make a mess).
- Coco-fiber liners in hanging planters look beautiful and require frequent watering. You can slow down water loss by poking holes in a trash bag and using it to line the bottom of the Coco-fiber. Even still, these baskets will need frequent watering. Avoiding these types of planters is a good idea if you travel often.

Preparing the container

Now that you have the perfect container, our next step is to prepare it for planting. Here are a few tips ...

- Your container has a drainage hole and can still use some help with drainage. Add rocks, pebbles, or broken pottery shards to the bottom of your small container. This will prevent the soil from compacting and allow good drainage.
- For large pots, you can save money on potting soil and decrease the planter's weight by filling the bottom with packing peanuts (avoid the water-soluble peanuts), recycle your plastic water bottles and plastic pots from other plants to the bottom of your container to create a false bottom.

- If you are in a very windy location, adding gravel and rocks to the bottom of your planter could prevent it from tipping over.
- Use good quality potting soil. Refrain from using garden soil because it is more dense than potting soil and will not drain properly. Miracle Grow potting soil is available at Ace Hardware, Home Depot, Lowes, etc. They will load the bags into your car but remember you'll need to get them out of your car and pour the soil into the container. Consider buying the smaller bags unless you have a "young buck" to help fill your containers!
- If planting succulents, agave, or cacti, you will want cactus-type soil that drains well.
- It is only necessary to have 12" of soil for most annuals, but at least 24" will save watering time. Remember that the less soil you use, the quicker the container dries. If your planter is in full sun or you frequently travel, you may consider using more soil or a larger container.
- Fill your container with the soil. Consider that your plants need space, so do not fill your planter to the top. The size and number of plants will determine how much room you should leave at the top of the container. After planting your container, you will want a couple of inches from the top to avoid water and dirt running over the sides.

Now we are ready to plant

- Your plants will be close together and share a limited amount of nutrients from the soil. It is essential to add a time-released fertilizer to the soil. Mix in a generous amount where the roots can use it.
- When planting your new plants into their new home, first notice how deep the plant is in the soil. Your new plant does not want to be in the soil too deep ... or its crown coming out of the soil. Position the plant at the original depth.
- When taking the plant (gently) from the original container, disturb the roots a little so the plant will know it now has more room to grow.

