

# Hidek Herald

An online newsletter for your entertainment  
**April 2008**



## **Proprietor's Message**

We hope you are enjoying the springtime. This is the Bartlett pear tree in front of my office. I know I'd better enjoy it because it is only in bloom for about 10 days a year.

We have added a new columnist, Rochelle Bothe, who will write on a variety of topics. We hope you enjoy her gardening column this issue.

Our regular columnists, sportswriter Larry Harris and funnyman Mark Lupton return for your enjoyment.

John Trotta  
Proprietor

# **A Spring Garden**

**by Rochelle Bothe**

**Daffodils are in the midst of their glory and tulips are preparing to make their appearance. The other day I was in my flower garden, clearing away the old leaves to make room for my blooming bulbs, when I looked closely at some tulips that were just erupting from the ground. Even without their blooms I appreciated their charm and beauty. The morning dew had collected in the nested sprouts like tea in a tea-cup, and the new leaves were all curled around each other, in a baby's grip. It made me smile, thinking about the days of sunshine that are just ahead. I had visions of my flower garden in full bloom with sunflowers towering over a jumble of purple coneflowers, cosmos, nasturtiums, and johnny-jump-ups; with hollyhocks standing tall and proud along the pathway. The butterfly bush in full bloom; hummingbirds and butterflies in profusion, and birds chirping happily in the oak trees overhead. I felt inspired to get my flower garden ready for spring.**

**One of the things I love the most about spring is preparing the soil for planting new flowers. The ground is still cool and damp, but when the leaves are cleared and the ground is loosened up and amended, the soil seems clean and fresh and ready to put forth a new season of blooms.**

**If you've never attempted to plant a small flower garden – don't be intimidated by it. I am not a landscaper or a professional gardener, but through trial and error I have developed an easy method for creating a charming flower garden. I used to loathe the thought of gardening, but I have grown to enjoy the process and I find that "working in the yard" gives me a peace of mind I can't find anyplace else.**

**To prepare a small flower bed, just follow a few basic steps:**

- 1. Decide on the size and shape you want your flower bed to be. Try to keep the size small enough so that you can finish the project in one day. Any more than that and you may feel too overwhelmed and get discouraged. Keep the shape non-symmetrical – a meandering shape that you would find in nature is the most charming. If you like, once you decide on your shape, you can lay it out with a water hose as a guide.**
- 2. Go to a nursery and select your compost, plantings and mulch. You can also pick up some gardening supplies – such as a hand shovel and rake, colorful gardening gloves, and some of those clunky clogs to wear in the dirt. Have fun with the plantings - this is the real fun part – and for me it is very easy to go overboard on purchasing flowers. Try not to get too many varieties. You get much more impact if you use a lot of just a few varieties, rather than use too many varieties. I like to pick 4 or 5 flowers and grasses that I love and create a flow of each type. Be sure to also pick some non-flowering grasses or small shrubs. Select colors that appeal to you. If you want to really make a statement, you can use a color theme, such as all white, or purple with yellow (a wonderful combination). If you want to use mulch, purchase this as well. Mulch will make the flower bed look complete, and it will help keep weeds down, pests out and keep the soil**

cooler. Shredded bark looks the most natural, but there are other's that work well.

3. Dig up the area, using a rounded or pointed shovel, digging down about 8 inches. Loosen up the soil with the shovel, a rake, or a hoe.
4. Mix in some compost. I like chicken compost, and it will stink for a day or two, but in the long run it will help keep the soil cool and damp and it will provide nutrients for your plantings, giving you beautiful results once the blooming starts.
5. Water the plot lightly. Don't let it turn to mud. I find that the consistency should be such that if you make a ball of dirt in your hand, it will stay together without dripping any water, and it will crumble apart easily with little effort.
6. Start planting! Using a small shovel or hand shovel, dig the hole for each planting, loosen up the soil a bit when removing the plant from the pot, and gently place it in the hole, replacing soil as needed. Keep plant varieties together, with taller plants generally in the back and shorter ones in front. Look at the effect of the colors – whether they are contradictory or complimentary – depending upon the effect you want. After all the plantings are in the ground, spread the mulch around, being careful not to dislodge anything.
7. Hardscape is a nice touch. Adding a metal figure, fencing, small sculpture, large rocks or any other item large enough to view in the garden will give a nice focal point. Place it off center, below some taller plantings and it will look balanced.
8. Water the new flower garden and while doing so, take joy in each planting, knowing that with regular watering and care your flower bed will soon grow and be an invitation to bees, butterflies and birds – not to mention passersby.



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## **MORE SUITS THAN SUBSTITUTES**



by Larry Harris

**A long time ago, say about 55 years, it was rare to come upon a basketball coach wearing a suit and tie. Sweat pants, shiny nylon team jackets and maybe a pair of sneakers courtesy of the Converse company were the style of the day.**

**Then along came a dapper New Yorker named Frank McGuire and the entire college basketball landscape changed. The coach took Chapel Hill, N.C., by storm and soon it became his fashion to emerge just before tip-off time, clad resplendently in necktie and jacket, trailed by a couple of assistants who would button or un-button their coats precisely at the same time McGuire did.**

**He also brought four Irish Catholics and a skinny, hugely talented Jewish kid named Lennie Rosenbluth and when the imported Carolina Tar Heels were done in 1957 they had recorded 32 victories without a defeat, the last win coming for the NCAA championship against Wilt Chamberlain and Kansas in three overtimes. But that's another story for another day.**

**Oh, what McGuire did to sports attire and oh, how the world of hoops apparel has turned! Nowadays, coaches like Villanova's Jay Wright and Louisville's Rick Pitino spend more for one superbly tailored suit than I did for a brand-new, 1958 300-horsepower Ford Skyliner (for youngsters who never saw one, that was the revolutionary convertible where the hard top retracted into the trunk).**

**Now everyone who can get past the guard on the door comes out in flashy new raiment. During an NCAA tournament game recently, there were more suits than substitutes on one team's bench. Now there are so many three-button jobs out of a 1930s gangster movie perched on the pine that the guys playing the game have nowhere to sit when there's a timeout called.**

**So what happens next? Well, some of the guys in suits take these little tiny chairs and race them out onto the court so the tall gentlemen doing the sweating have a place to park their perspiring carcasses for a minute and a half.**

**And what are the coaches doing while all this is going on? Well, occasionally they'll chew somebody's fanny out, but much of the time the**

chief guy is conferring in a mini-group with other assistants. Another bunch of suits! It looks like a convention of Wall Street brokers deciding whether to cast your pension to the winds! The players just sit there until the ref blows his whistle to get back to action.

What hath the legacy of Frank McGuire wrought? And by the way, just how old will Johnny Dawkins and Steve Wojciechowski and Chris Collins be by the time Duke's Coach K decides to give it up?

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#### **FITTING VICTORY:**

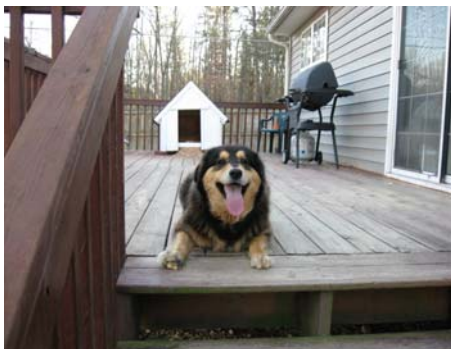
Denny Hamlin jockeyed his Toyota to that brand of auto's second NASCAR victory at Martinsville on March 30 and it seemed only just that a good ol' Virginia boy would win in his home state.

That meant that after six races of the 2008 schedule, the mighty Hendrick Chevrolet team still had not recorded a win. The experts say it's just a matter of time, that Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson and Casey Mears and Junior Earnhardt will win more than their share of races, but there must be a few raw nerves around those particular pit areas.

Never a week goes by without some sort of NASCAR controversy, with the latest development involving charges of parts theft. What a shame that a sport which gives so many people pleasure can't be managed with a little more class.

*Larry Harris may be contacted at [lharris537@comcast.net](mailto:lharris537@comcast.net)*

#### **PET OF THE MONTH – Savannah Denton**



This happy little girl was rescued on a farm in Kentucky. Her human Daddy found her when she was thrown out of a car and given up for dead. She was so small; she weighed in on a postage scale at 1 ½ pounds. As you can see, she is grown and happy. Nobody really knows what breed of dog she is, but she loves people, and would be happy to give you a slobbery kiss.

## **KIDS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS**



by Mark Lupton

**People can be so entertaining sometimes. One of the responsibilities I have with my work is going into grocery stores to do product audits and inventory checks, and conveniently, there are lots of people available for my entertainment in these stores.**

**One day as I was writing down information on some particular products a gentleman came storming up to me with an angry look on his face. As he approached me he exclaimed, "PAPER TOWELS!?"**

**Evidently he must have thought I was a store employee and he was in a hurry to find paper towels. That still didn't mean I couldn't have some fun with him.**

**I stammered for a second, thought about it and replied, "Um...wait....I know this one.....What is the quicker picker upper?"**

**He wasn't amused. Well, at least not as amused as I was to myself.**

**Another time I was in the coffee aisle checking dates on coffee when a man came into the aisle with a young boy of about 5 years of age. As I was writing information down the man sheepishly asked me about coffee.**

**"Could you help me? I'm looking for just regular coffee, nothing fancy, just something I can put in a normal coffee maker." He requested. "I'm just not that familiar with coffee and how it's made, I feel so stupid."**

**"No problem" I countered. Kind of an unusual request, but hey, I'm always willing to help out a fellow coffee lover, even if he's new to the wonderful beverage. I pointed out several cans of ground coffee, offering my personal favorite brands.**

**He picked out a can and put it in his cart. He then sheepishly asked about coffee filters, saying he didn't know what his maker took. Not knowing what kind of machine he had he said it was just a normal coffee maker, nothing fancy, he just poured the water in the top and the coffee came out the bottom into a glass "thingie."**

**I pointed out the eight to twelve cup filters, telling him if they were a little big he could always cut them down. He thanked me profusely, again saying how stupid he felt about not knowing something simple like coffee and coffee makers. As I was about to reassure him the boy with him suddenly spoke up.**

"Daddy? Can I tell him?"

"No, no son. I think we've bothered the nice man enough." Replied the man.

"But daddy....he doesn't understand why you are confused."

"No, son, we need to get going...."

That's when the boy turned to me and exclaimed, "Daddy just got out of jail!"

Ever see one of those "priceless" ads? The look on the man's face could have been perfect for one.

Price of coffee: \$2.95

Price of filters: \$1.50

Price of the look on the man's face after having his son blurt out to the world he just got out of jail: priceless!

I bet he doesn't take his son shopping again for a long time. Or at least not until he has a lengthy conversation about how some things should remain private.

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