

I was reading an English magazine last week and learned that, according to one study, birds that are fed during the winter months have an average of one and half more eggs than birds that are not able to eat at a winter feeder. It seems to me that this is a pretty good reason to put a bird feeder or three in your yard. My feeders have already gone through almost 200 pounds of sunflower seed. Providing nesting sites is another feature that we can provide for our feathered friends. What's this got to do with gardening? Not a lot, but in summer encouraging birds to visit your yard can help cut down on insects and provide additional color to the garden palette.

While we're talking about birds and insects, you might want to check out the Kinsman web site. (www.kinsmangarden.com) The company offers a variety of unusual garden objects as well as hanging baskets that you can set on columns called patio stands or border columns. This is a unique way to offer more color in a relatively flat garden or a large deck. The basket flows over with plants and offers a higher visual focus point that you can't get with conventional plantings. You might also want to try their slow release fertilizer in your containers. It is an NPK 13-13-13 mix that is reputed to last all summer. (NPK refers to nitrogen, potassium, phosphate and a 13-13-13 mix is well balanced for good growth and good flowering.) Kinsman also offers rolls of cocofiber, wall and window plant boxes and hangers. You can also buy sheet moss, burlap, moss, garden gnomes, and a host of other products to brighten up your garden.

That said, the real gardening chore this week is to get everything ordered before the rush starts. Check out what's new in all the catalogs, order seeds, and get organized to start planting seeds next month.

First, catalogs. Most of the catalogs are pushing new flowers, shrubs and vegetables. I like to look for new varieties for hanging baskets and containers that spend the summer on the deck. Thompson and Morgan (www.tmseeds.com) are offering a new compact sweet pea that is ideal for hanging baskets. I already have mine and will be starting them this week directly in the hanging basket. They also offer a new begonia "Bayou



The Island Garden

By Roger Marshall

Pink Bicolor" which should do well in a hanging basket. I love to add lobelia to any hanging basket, because it provides summer color over a long period. T & M offers a new variety called "Cascade mixed." Another hanging basket or container garden plant is Viola "sweeties." When grown properly it will fill a basket with tons of color.

If you are a fruit person and like to have fruiting plants indoors you might want to take a look at www.raintreenursery.com. They have a huge variety of fruiting plants. I have ordered from them before and found their plants to be superb. This year I plan on starting some lingonberries on a slope that doesn't seem to like anything but briars growing on it. Lingonberries are native to Scandinavia and make terrific sauce, wine and preserves. Eventually the plants become a dense mat of bushes that crowd out almost everything else, then you get to harvest the berries. If you want to grow unusual apples you might look at the varieties they offer from all over the world. I'm growing one of their Bramley trees as well as a Wolf River russet. Bramleys are used in Britain as a cooking apple and in my opinion, there is no better apple pie than one made with Bramleys. Also from Raintree you can get rare fruits like goumis, serviceberries, aronias, sea buckthorn, olives and tea plants for your own green tea.

While you are looking at seed catalogs you might want to buy seed starting trays, potting soil, and plant markers. Jamestown Hardware has a lot of garden supplies, as do many of the other garden centers and seedsmen, and its getting near spring, in spite of the snow we had last week. In about three to four weeks or so, we'll cover starting plants in your basement, greenhouse, or cold frame and discuss how to get set up for spring.

Swain formally charged with wife's death in Tortolla

Jamestown David Swain has been returned to the British Virgin Islands where earlier this month he was formally charged with killing his wife, Shelley Arden Tyre.

The BVI Beacon reported that Swain appeared Feb. 14 before a magistrate. In court, a prosecutor read aloud the charge of murder alleging that Swain killed his wife on March 12, 1999, at The Sound, Cooper Island, near the Twin Wrecks Mary L and Pat, where the couple had been scuba diving.

Swain, 52, a former member of the Jamestown Town Council, has repeatedly proclaimed his innocence.

Swain was arrested in November by federal authorities on a murder warrant from the British Virgin Islands at his dive shop, Ocean State Scuba, on North Main Road. The dive shop has since been closed.

In January Swain waived extradition to the British Virgin Islands.

Nine years ago BVI officials ruled Tyre's death an accident, "un-

less proven otherwise," after she died while scuba diving with Swain on a vacation in Tortolla.

Tyre's parents, Richard and Lisa Tyre of Jamestown, won a wrongful death suit against Swain in 2006.

BVI officials renewed their interest in the case after the civil court verdict.

Swain's next court appearance is scheduled for April 17 for a preliminary inquiry. Swain is being held without bail in Her Majesty's Prison at Balsam Ghut.

Council

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nance and licensing as two separate issues.

Councilman Robert Sutton said he talked to Department of Environmental Management Acting Director Larry Mouradjian who said, "The problem is calling the caretaker a resident." He added that Mouradjian told him, "The Coast Guard is willing to enter into discussions about a single caretaker." The caretaker would be allowed to stay overnight at the facility as needed, but it cannot be his primary residence and he cannot have his family living there.

Sutton suggested to the council that the DEM would own the property when it was released from the General Services Administration and the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association would take the responsibility of putting a caretaker in the building. This is acceptable to the DEM and the Coast Guard is willing to entertain discussions on the matter, he said.

He also said that the town involve-

ment would be to arrange an agreement with the DEM and BLMA. If DEM ever ceases to be involved, the town could step back in and be responsible for the maintenance of the facility. Keiser suggested that instead of a lease, an employment agreement could be arranged.

The council directed Keiser to arrange discussions with the DEM, Coast Guard and BLMA to see if an agreement could be worked out.

In other business, Keiser reported that Hogan and Associates of Middletown were handling the appraisal of the old town offices at 44 Southwest Ave., on the town's behalf. He said that the appraisal would not be completed until next week.

Church Community Housing appraised the property at \$425,000 and made an offer to the town to build a nine-unit facility on the site. The buyer's appraiser performed the appraisal and Keiser felt that the town should have their own appraisal in the interest of accuracy.

Sutton said that besides the appraisal, the town had to address the archeological considerations on the property. He said that moving the

building and erecting additional structures could involve significant risk. He also said that the Department of Transportation had to stop a project not 50-feet from the Southwest Avenue property because of archeological findings by the Narragansett Tribe.

Keiser said that meeting with the Narragansett Tribe sooner rather than later to discuss the matter was important. Sutton emphasized that the chances of finding remains "were pretty good," and that a study would have to be conducted. Town Solicitor Peter Ruggiero said that the town could spend the money on a study or put the responsibility on the buyer. Sutton said that he thought an alternative plan for the property was in the town's best interests.

DiGiando said the matter would be an agenda item at the March council meeting.

In an unrelated matter, Town Clerk Arlene Petit announced that Jamestown architect William Burgin won an honorary award for outstanding achievement in architectural design for the new Town Hall.

Election

Continued from page 1

Rhode Island requires voters who have registered as a Republican or Democrat to vote for a candidate in their affiliated party. "Unaffiliated voters will declare which party they are affiliating with for this election when they present themselves at the polling place," Montoya said. "They will be given a ballot from their chosen party with the names of that party's candidates and delegates. They will remain affiliated with the party of their choice unless they disaffiliate when they leave the polling place."

One sometimes confusing part of the presidential primary process is election of delegates along with the presidential candidate.

In the Democratic party, voters must choose a delegate to represent them at the national convention that is affiliated with their candidate choice. "For example, if some-

one votes for Barack Obama, they must choose a delegate that has committed themselves to vote for him at the convention. If they vote for a delegate that is not committed to their candidate choice, the computer will not accept their vote," Montoya said.

The Republican party, however, is winner-take-all for the delegate count, so voters may choose any candidate and any delegate on the Republican ticket, although delegates may have declared themselves for a certain candidate.

To be eligible to be on the ballot, delegates must first collect 150 signatures of registered voters from their district. They must then be taken to the town offices of each town represented on the petition for verification. "If, for instance, I had only one signature from someone whose address is listed as Woonsocket, I would have to go to the Woonsocket offices and get that one signature verified," island resident Deb Ruggiero said. Ruggiero

is a delegate committed to Hillary Clinton.

After the signatures have been verified, the delegates participate in a lottery at the Secretary of State's office to determine their placement on the ballot.

Republican Daniel Capuano is one of two Jamestown residents who will be on the ballot for John McCain. This is Capuano's first time as a delegate and he is excited about the opportunity.

"I feel like this is so patriotic and I would be honored to represent the people of Rhode Island for John McCain at the national convention," Capuano said.

Voters with any questions about Tuesday's election should contact Montoya at 423-7200, or by e-mail at kmontoya@jamestownri.net.

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