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**November 2020** 

www.bookcliffgardens.com

## We are open every day from 10am-4pm!

## THE BUZZ by Mona Dyer

Man, oh, man! Just like that --- our glorious summer came to a screeching halt! Until last week, October was everything autumn should be, don't you think? Days were sunny and warm, picture-perfect, and pristine. The grandiose change in color was breathtaking. Then -- whoosh -- It SNOWED!

A week ago, crystal blue skies and cottonwoods along the river turning brilliant gold made us joyful. Out at the farm, scarlet Engleman Ivy draped lazily along a fence line ... dry leaves skittered across the patio and wind whispered through the apple tree. Serenity was about to wash over me ... then the racket started. Yup! Rowdy, raucous racket flew in on two-toned wings! A trio of exuberant magpies decided the 50-year old apple tree was an ideal place to play hide and seek. They swooped and dived, squawked, and bantered with each other ... squabbling and teasing as they gleefully played. They stayed awhile, then packed up their crazy roadshow to go crash someone else's peace and quiet! Silly hooligans! All dressed up in elegant black and white plumed tuxedos, with absolutely no manners whatsoever! Thing is, it was a kick watching them enjoy the wondrous fall day! Cherished moments appear out of nowhere.

I just say, share the glories of Autumn ... even when the company you keep is rowdy! Whether it's a pile of leaves or shoveling snow, find a reason to laugh. Hopefully, the old apple tree sheltered my raucous magpie pals from the crazy snowstorm. Their company is welcome anytime!

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Cold weather has come... and it is time to snuggle in // get hygge // begin the season of celebrations! Due to current COVID recommendations, we are cancelling our annual open house.

However, we'll still have all the great open house finds starting in mid-November!

Shop for fresh Evergreen boughs or wreaths (that smell oh-so-good), find stunning Christmas Cactus, and beautiful Poinsettias - for holiday decorating or to give as a cheerful gift!

Amaryllis Bulbs make beautiful flowers. Paperwhites chase away wintertime blues and are a great stocking stuffer.

Gift Certificates are ALWAYS the right size and color for a perfect gift.

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> Remove leaf debris from pond surfaces. To catch leaves, stretch net over the pond surface. Finish planting spring flowering bulbs like tulips, daffodils & hyacinths. They'll brighten spring! Make sure your garlic is planted now! You'll need it for next summer's recipes! Prepare irrigation systems for winter. Blow water out of lines and drain & cover your pump.

Monitor moisture around trees & shrubs. Water as needed. Drought damage can occur this time of year.

Clean, sharpen & oil your garden tools to put them away for winter. Winterize your concrete fountain before water freezes in it. Drain thoroughly, put dry towels in basin &

cover with plastic.

Holiday Open House! less water. 10am to 4pm!

Start a backyard compost pile with shredded leaf & garden debris.

Fertilize houseplants monthly. Shorter days & slower growth means houseplants need

Buy Poinsettias and start forcing Paperwhites & Amaryllis bulbs for Holiday Color! You'll find a beautiful selection at Bookcliff Gardens!

Visit Bookcliff Gardens for beautiful houseplants to decorate your home & office spaces! HAPPY Use Soil Pep to mulch around plants in your perennial beds.

THANKSGIVING They'll love you for it! Mulch & water pansies for long lasting fall color.

Closed today

Check moisture around your trees and shrubs & water as needed. Winter drought damage can start this time of year if we have a warm, dry autumn.

Loosely wrap trunks of young trees to prevent winter sun-scald injury.

Work veggie & annual flower bed soil to expose & kill insect eggs & improve soil tilth. Add a layer of Soil Pep then give it a nice watering. You're tucking soils in for spring!

Think about checking stored dahlia & canna bulbs occasionally. Remove rotting bulbs. If dahlia bulbs are dry & shriveling, spray lightly with water. Canna bulbs are amazing! If you're overwintering, keep them chilly and dry. They'll do you proud next summer!

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