



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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WEST 13th STORE
2707 West 13th St. N.
Wichita, KS 67203
316-942-1443

EAST STORE
6225 E. Shadybrook
(21st @ Woodlawn)
Wichita, KS 67203
316-687-5451

RIDGE ROAD STORE
802 N. Ridge Rd.
Wichita, KS 67212
316-943-0494

**LANDSCAPE
DESIGN & INSTALLATION
NIGHTSCAPING**
316-943-6886

CORPORATE OFFICE
316-942-3751

TOLL-FREE NUMBER
888-542-8463

EMAIL
askus@johnsonsgarden.com

WEB PAGE
www.johnsonsgarden.com

Garden Tips

by **Marty Johnson**, *President*

To Everything There Is A Season

Do you remember the hit song from the 60s by The Byrds titled "Turn! Turn! Turn!?"? Maybe you remember it as "To Everything There Is A Season." The lyrics were from Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament. I remember hearing the song on the radio when Jeremy and Kristen were younger and telling them that it was from the Bible.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot." This summer has truly been a reflection of Ecclesiastes ... a time for all seasons.

Welcome Bridget Maryan!

Our first grandchild, Bridget Maryan, was born May 31. The proud parents, Jeremy and Kassy Johnson are busy learning what it is to be first-time parents. It is a joy for Nancy and I to see the next generation of Johnson. Maybe someday you will have Bridget helping you at one of the stores. With Kassy back at work this fall Bridget has spent some time with her father at the office. Of course Grandma (Mimi) Johnson has enjoyed babysitting duties as well. Bridget especially likes it when Grandpa (Popsy) Johnson comes down to help. Bridget has already made a trip to the ferti•lome meeting this summer. As all grandparents know, it is the greatest thing to be a grandparent. People would always tell me how great it is, you know, have the kids over, spoil them and send them home. I always thought yea, yea ... I suppose it is. Now that the time is here, it really is great watching Bridget grow, change and especially smile. This truly is a "time to be born."

Farewell To A Dear Friend

This summer has also been, as the song goes, a "time to die." Our good friend, Mr. ferti•lome as you would know him from TV, passed away this summer. Ken Whittington was our Gard'n-Wise salesman and called on us every week. I guess we did have a business relationship with Ken, but he was more than that. He was a friend, mentor, counselor, advisor, teacher ... the list goes on and on.

Ken taught many classes and seminars for our customers. He loved to come to the store on Mother's Day weekend to sell roses for us. Even in his retirement he would still help us out however he could.

Ken truly lived a Christian life. Although I never heard Ken preach to anyone, he lived his life like God truly intended. Ken always wanted to help those in need. Ken started a garden for the less fortunate in his hometown of Potwin. The Potwin PAR

(Plant A Row) Garden provided food for the Kansas Foodbank Warehouse.

Ken insisted that a sign be erected at the garden to give credit to those who had provided materials or funding. There is a long list of names on the sign, but Ken's name is nowhere to be found. Ken just wanted to provide something for those in need, but did not want any recognition. Ken requested that his special friend, Jed Willits, be listed on the sign as CEO.

This little spot under Potwin's water tower will always be known as the Ken Whittington PAR Garden, a ministry in the truest meaning. Ken will surely be missed by all. ■