



BOOK REVIEWS

R is for Rose

By Carolyn Parker

FASHION DESIGNER AND STYLIST Carolyn Parker turns her skills to photography and writing in this coffee-table book that looks at 26 different rose species – one for each letter of the alphabet.

From the ancient *Rosa rugosa alba* through the alphabet to the Bourbon rose, ‘Zephirine Drouhin’, Parker chronicles her fascination with the species. Each rose recalls a story – good for quick short reads. And there’s useful advice on arranging these thorny beauties too.

Beautifully photographed, *R is for Rose* by Carolyn Parker is published by Horticulture Books (www.fwpublishings.com).

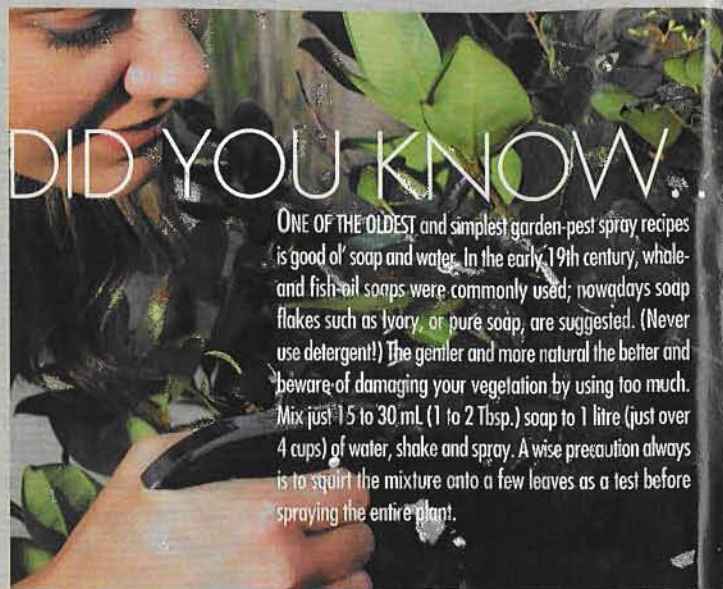
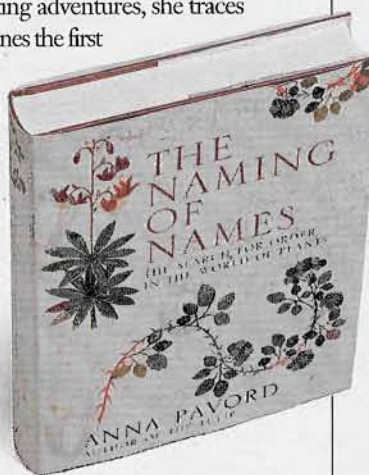
The Naming of Names

By Anna Pavord

ANNA PAVORD – BEST KNOWN for her bestseller *The Tulip* – focuses this book on plant classification, a subject one would expect to be dreary and frankly, bland, even to many plant lovers. In reality, it is anything but dull. Pavord recounts flying over Guyana’s rainforest, “stumbling” through that growth six months later, stepping over snakes, balancing on moss-covered logs doubling as “bridges” across streams and an eerie, unearthly sound that seems caught in the treetops . . . “it wraps all around us, ghostly and insubstantial, ebbing and flowing.” A few pages later and she’s riding with horsemen through the Tien Shan mountains of Central Asia.

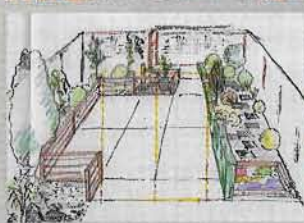
Of course there was plenty of research too – there would have to be to accurately reflect her search for order in the natural world. Along with Pavord’s own exciting adventures, she traces the journeys of others and examines the first expeditions to the Indies, the early settlers in North America and the culture of Islam. Athens in the third century BC, the Salerno medical school and the Pisa and Padua universities during the Renaissance all feature alongside the likes of Pliny the Elder, Carl Linnaeus and William Turner, the “father” of English botany.

The Naming of Names (\$65) by Anna Pavord is published by Bloomsbury Publishing and distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books (www.raincoast.com).



DID YOU KNOW

ONE OF THE OLDEST and simplest garden-pest spray recipes is good ol’ soap and water. In the early 19th century, whale- and fish-oil soaps were commonly used; nowadays soap flakes such as Ivory, or pure soap, are suggested. (Never use detergent!) The gentler and more natural the better and beware of damaging your vegetation by using too much. Mix just 15 to 30 mL (1 to 2 Tbsp.) soap to 1 litre (just over 4 cups) of water, shake and spray. A wise precaution always is to squirt the mixture onto a few leaves as a test before spraying the entire plant.



Garden Makeover

THE PREVIOUS OWNERS OF this small townhouse garden had left it neglected and overgrown. Yoshihiro Kawasaki and Dorothy Kennedy of Zen Gardens went to work to provide the new owner with a contemporary Japanese-influenced patio garden.

Measuring 1.8 by 5.5 m (6 by 18 ft.), the garden now offers an additional room for the client, an extension of indoor living in a rather limited space. By eliminating an ugly compost pile in one corner of the yard and removing many small bulbs from the grass, the elements of rock, stone, wood, water and plants were introduced to create a miniature landscape.

The client’s desires and aspirations, outlook on life, and wish for a healing garden seemed to call for an area of contemplation and meditation. Designed in two sections, the main feature is a Zen garden on the east side of the patio with evergreen foliage and features that can be enjoyed throughout the seasons.

– Judith Hogan PHOTOS courtesy BCLNA