

Greetings from The Herbarie!

South Carolina is known for its mild winters, but the first half of January has been unusually balmy! We took advantage of the warm 75F temperatures here at Stoney Hill Farm and spent some time digging in the earth. I prepared a couple of beds for spring planting by tilling the rye grass under and covering the soil with a thick layer of mulch. So, when it is time to plant spring seeds, the soil will be ready to receive them. I also planted some more of my beloved roses. One is Rosa Eglanteria that I like to refer to as Shakespeares rose. It is also known as Sweetbriar Rose. It is a wild type rose that only blooms once. I planted Constance Spry outside our fenced garden. I am hoping the deer will not find her too tasty. Constance Spry is the first of the English roses and reportedly has a lovely myrrh scent and gorgeous double pink blossoms. Lately I have gotten interested in growing roses with big hips. A friend sent me some cuttings and sprouts from her Rugosas last fall. Plants shared by friends are always extra special so I gave them the best care possible to encourage them to grow for me. I am pleased to see that it looks like they have all taken root and are growing well!

This time of year I also enjoy looking at all the colorful seed catalogs. I especially enjoy Johnnys Seeds and Seeds of Change. I have ordered from both companies and have been very pleased. We are still harvesting the cabbage and collards and are pulling a few carrots from the garden, so of course we had the traditional collards and blackeyed peas for New Years Day! I am looking forward to swiss chard, asparagus and mixed salad greens this spring. This summer I hope for rich, juicy tomatoes and lots of red okra!

Big news! We have a new addition to our family! Sally is my six month old, 50 lb. big baby girl. [picture]

She is a Great Pyrenees puppy that we bought as a guardian for our goats. This breed originated in the southwest of France and the northeast of Spain and has traditionally served as livestock guardians. Great Pyrenees are big dogs and often weigh over 100 lbs. at maturity. They are calm and sweet natured, but will defend their flocks or family when necessary. My Australian Shepherd, CG (Country Girl) died about two years ago. She was a wonderful dog and I have missed her. I did not know that I could ever find true dog love again, but I have with Sally! To be honest, Sally is now a house dog and we will need to find other protection for the goats—perhaps another Great Pyrenees??

In this issue of The Herbarie Update we will be sharing some formulas and new products with you. This is a good time of year to review and refine