

Ten Thousand Villages
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News Release

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For Immediate Release

Master Gardener Demonstrates Container Gardening at Ten Thousand Villages

RALEIGH, N.C., March 27, 2006 – April Blazich, horticulture director of the N.C. State Fair, will present hands-on demonstrations for creating and growing a thriving container garden at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 8, 2006, at [Ten Thousand Villages of Raleigh](http://www.villagesofraleigh.org), a non-profit, fair trade retail store in Cameron Village.

Container gardening offers opportunities for the novice and veteran gardener alike to make the most of limited growing space or just have fun experimenting with new plants. A well-known member of the North Carolina gardening community, Blazich will share tips and techniques for success, including:

- Choosing the right soil mix and location
- Selecting a color scheme
- Growing an herb garden
- Arranging and rearranging plantings
- Maintaining your container garden
- Creating miniature water gardens
- Selecting plants on a budget.

The demonstrations will showcase planters in a variety of textures and shapes made by artisans living in Vietnam, Cameroon, Indonesia and Nepal. The first 12 customers at the event who purchase a planter valued at \$25 or more will receive a free [raspberry, cultivar Mandarin](#) plant, donated by the Horticulture Science Department of N.C. State University. All customers will receive 15 percent off plant and garden accessories, including planters.

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About Ten Thousand Villages of Raleigh

[Ten Thousand Villages of Raleigh](#) is a non-profit, fair trade retail store located in the Cameron Village Shopping Center. Opened in 1995, the store is part of a network of nearly 100 fair trade stores across North America. The Raleigh store's principal wholesaler, [Ten Thousand Villages-U.S.](#), is the oldest and largest fair trade home décor and gift retailer in the United States, and a founding member of the [International Federation of Alternative Trade \(IFAT\)](#) and member of the [Fair Trade Federation \(FTF\)](#), both of which aim to improve the livelihood of disadvantaged people in developing countries and to change unfair structures of international trade. Ten Thousand Villages of Raleigh purchases products only from carefully chosen organizations that are members of the IFAT and FTF.

In 2005, Ten Thousand Villages-US received [Co-op America's People's Choice Award for Green Business of the Year](#). The award recognizes Ten Thousand Villages as a leader among businesses across the country committed to social and environmental responsibility.

About Fair Trade

Fair Trade contributes to the alleviation of poverty in developing regions of the world by establishing a system of trade that allows marginalized producers to gain access to developed markets. This system of trade builds on artisans'/producers' skills, enabling communities to play an active part in their own development and at the same time satisfying consumer demand in developed markets.

About April Blazich

April Blazich has served the Triangle and the state of North Carolina as a horticulturist for over twenty-seven years. With a Masters of Agriculture degree from Penn State University and recognized as a Master Gardener, Mrs. Blazich has won numerous awards for her gardens and specimen entries at the North Carolina State Fair, including winning the prestigious "Commissioner of Agriculture Award for Best in Show" in 1993 for her vegetable garden. She has taught seminars and workshops for garden clubs, school groups, national conventions, and the North Carolina State Fair. A self-professed "plant junkie" Mrs. Blazich specialized in teaching about herb and vegetable gardening, as well as edible yard weeds and works as the Superintendent of Horticulture during the North Carolina State Fair.