

LANDIS ARBORETUM

THE NEWSLETTER

Esperance, New York

FALL 2007

VOLUME 26, NO. 4

Website Redesign Attracts Visits, Hits

www.LandisArboretum.org

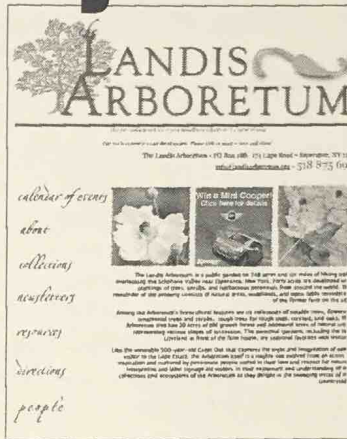
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Even as construction on the redesigned Landis Arboretum website continues, members and visitors show no reluctance to check on incremental progress for themselves. Visits to our site have increased exponentially over the past six months.

One reason, of course, is that this *Newsletter* asked you to visit the site and offer your comments. Another reason is that, increasingly, logging on to a website is almost routine behavior for those seeking information or considering a visit to a specific venue or area. More than ever, the Arboretum has become a destination of choice!

The addition of stunning and award-winning images by nature photographer Bill Combs, Jr., (www.floridawildlife.com/); the easy-to-navigate, handsome design of Joanna Bateman of The Bateman Design Group (www.joannabateman.com/); the inclusion of a resources page, *Support Those Who Support Us*, (landisarboretum.org/resources.html)



“a fast read.” Over time, and as funding permits, we intend to add features that enable members and friends to enroll for and pay for events, memberships, etc. online.

As you view the graphic that accompanies this message, be mindful that web analytics remain an imprecise science and that many factors (including the actual software used to record web statistics) can affect the actual numbers.

Those with an overriding need to know the ins-and-outs of webstats may want to visit <http://blog.centresource.com/2005/06/21/hits-vs-visits-the-mystery-revealed/>, the source for much of the information mentioned here.

What matters most is that the Arboretum is making headway in a big way in sharing our rich resources and abundance of assets in order to attract as many visitors—new and return—to what for too long has been the northern Catskills’ best-kept secret. Visit us soon and often—virtually and for

—see *Monthly Statistics* chart on page 8

that links the Arboretum to other pertinent sites, and the timely updates on Arboretum events also have all won new fans and supporters for www.LandisArboretum.org.

Former board member and longstanding Arboretum supporter Herman Finkbeiner funded the original webwork at Landis. The informational content of the site was detailed and informative—and probably more than many site visitors cared to read. At Herm’s urging, we worked to enhance the visual aspects of the Arboretum website and continue to compress the language for those in need of

Holiday Festival Dinner & Auction

Saturday, December 8, 2007
4–8 pm

at The Crossings of Colonie
580 Albany Shaker Road,
Loudonville, NY 12211
\$60 per person.

Fundraising highlights include highly anticipated drawings for

- 2007 MINI Cooper Car, valued at \$20,500 (SEE PAGE 3)
- A beautiful hand-stitched “migrating geese” quilt donated by Toine Wyckoff of Niskayuna

- A panoply of auction items and many other prizes

- Start with a cash bar and tasty hors d’oeuvres and proceed to a tantalizing three-course dinner and hand-made desserts by Dottie Gallo-Vojnar, Sweet Tooth Caterers, Esperance, New York
- Beverage Service
Stuart Devenpeck,
Hillview Tavern/Cafe,
Esperance, NY

Music by Rick Hill with Tom White

Popular area auctioneer Randy Passonno, Collar City Auctions Realty & Management, Inc.

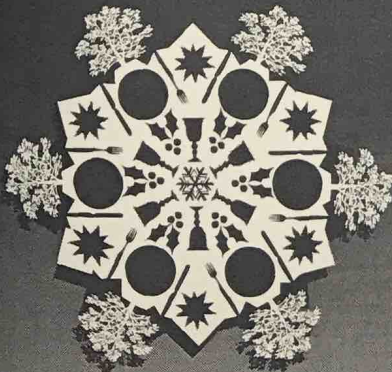
For reservations and more information, call the Arboretum at 518-875-6935

Arrive early.

Bring a friend.

Celebrate in Style.

Enjoy It All!



Come Celebrate!
Landis Arboretum's

Holiday Festival
We hope you won't refuse.

THE LANDIS ARBORETUM NEWSLETTER is published quarterly for its members. The Arboretum's mission is to foster the appreciation of trees and other plants and their importance in our environment.

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The Arboretum is located one and one-half miles north of Route 20 in Esperance. Follow the signs from the village to Lape Road. The Arboretum is one-quarter mile straight ahead. Visit our website for more information and directions.

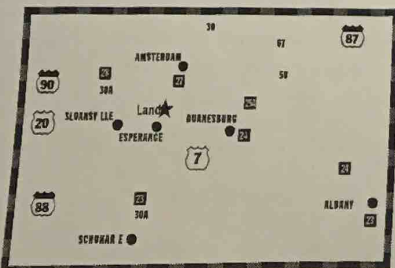


Photo: Ken Nichols



At Large

Thom O'Connor, Executive Director

By their deeds you shall know them

Variations on this oft repeated headline can be traced to sources as diverse as the Bible and centuries of propaganda and sloganeering. Like most phrases that have attained cliché status this, too, retains value in encapsulating a multi-layered message in few words. Even a casual visitor to our Arboretum sees instant and concrete evidence of good deeds completed and under way. Our award-winning ISA Certified Arborist offers insight into some of the people behind the deeds. I add others below.

Visitors Center Under Way

Hats off to deed-doers Donna and Bob Vincent of Plantscapes Florists of Duanesburg. Above and beyond her work as the chair of the 2007 Summer Solstice Garden Party, trustee Donna and landscaper Bob commanded the repurposing of the carriage house adjacent to the Farm House into a soon-to-be new Visitors Center. The Vincents personally arranged for the delivery of the first round of stone, and then hand-carried and spread the required levels of gravel to create the rustic surface that will become the initial floor of the evolving room.

The goal is to complete the new area before the spring '08 season to bring visitors closer the Acorn Shop and our center of business in the Farm House. There, they can sign in (important to documenting visitations for grant writing purposes and internal planning), learn more about us, and view new maps of the Arboretum trails before starting their visit to Landis.

A tip of the cap to enthusiastic, everywhere-at-once volunteer Ben Fox, who worked in concert with the Vincents to create the sill that will support two sets of exterior grade French doors—for which I seek donations. Ben also helped trustee Tom Edmunds with the installation of the Farm House and Acorn Shop doors donated by Barbara Hunt and Marian Hotopp and expanded the shelving in the Barn for the better-every-year annual books sales.

A Stone's Throw Toward Completion

Did someone mention stone? It all started with a call to Mike Caputo of Carver Stone Products in Middleburg. He responded with a good-deed donation of a truckload of stone—and the promise of more as needed—to further the carriage house project. And, to assist in the completion of the Quarry Garden, Carver Stone will donate additional product to add eye-appeal and texture to this Arboretum legacy in restoration

under the guidance of both Fred Breglia and Erin McKenna.

Caputo, who is vice president of the sand and gravel division of Carver, lives in nearby Princetown and takes community action as a fact of life. Carver employs 34 county residents at its Middleburg facility, which encompasses more than 600 acres, including a quarry. His employees and their families know the Arboretum, he says, and its importance as a cultural institution in the county. "We support the Arboretum because we believe in what it does and brings to the area," he added.

Wynn Kintz, owner of Kintz Plastics, Inc., in Howes Cave, also believes in the Arboretum. Why else would KPI have donated a seemingly endless supply of tee-shirts with the Arboretum signature for sale at all Landis events, including the highly successful September 5K? Through trustee Bonnie Keller, NBT Bank of Duanesburg joined KPI as a proud and active sponsor of this inaugural event.

Unsung Deeds...Loud and Clear

Other unsung and habitual deed-doers include the members of the publications committee who achieve new benchmarks of excellence with every issue of this paper: Publications chair Anne Donnelly and her team (Nolan Marciniac, Cynthia King, Maria Kuethe, and graphic designer Sue Gutbezahl) oversee the production of all printed material for the Arboretum—an astounding contribution.

Add to the good-deeds list the members of our own all-volunteer board of trustees who put in more late night and weekend hours than many would imagine.

Then there are area businesses and organizations such as Stewarts Shops, Selkirk's Ace Hardware, Sterling Insurance, and Miller Printing, Lamont Engineering, Donna Lavigne Insurance, Kenneth Fake Agency, Catnap Books, Owl Pen-Books and The Bookhouse of Stuyvesant Plaza, Race Printing, Stock Builders, Realty USA, our Town of Esperance, Pizza Shack, Liddledale Nursery, Fenimore Assets, Proctors Theatre, Troy Music Hall, New York Power Authority, the Gables B&B, the Schoharie ARC among many others—and still more who advertise in our newsletter and who, like *The Times Journal*, *The Times Union*, *The Amsterdam Recorder*, *The Business Review*, the Chambers of Schoharie, Schenectady, Montgomery, and Cooperstown, the Albany Convention Center, and National Public Radio's WAMC, come to our aid more often than we like to think.

—continued on page 8

Photo: by Sonia Javaronne



COLLECTIONS NEWS

Fred Breglia, Director of Horticulture and Operations

The entry area at Landis Arboretum has been landscaped with funding provided the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.

More than a hundred trees were installed, new mulch beds were created, and a landscape plan that has been on paper for several years was completed—all in four days. The Brickman Group and White Birch Nursery (both of Schenectady) donated equipment use and allocated many employees to help us get the specimens planted. Jeff Schworm, Landis trustee and owner of The Nursery at Liddledale Farms (Duanesburg), donated both plants and time to help make this landscape dream become a reality.

If you have been to Landis Arboretum lately, you will certainly see the major face-lift this landscape has given to our entry area. The plantings are a sampling of what you will see throughout Landis; for example, glancing up from the parking lot, one sees many resistant varieties of crabapples, lilacs, cherries, spirea, and dwarf conifers.

Lape Day 2 was a tremendous success. We had dozens of bands and soloists sign on for some of the best jamming in our area. Host-band Fred and Friends started playing at 3 pm and ended the evening after 10:30 pm. Jeff Schworm and guests performed an improvised rendition of "The Arboretum Blues." Many area bands with tremendous energy filled the hours and supplied non-stop music for more than 100 people. Lape Day 3 is already "on the boards" for next year.

Tirefest 2007. The last of 10,000 abandoned tires were removed at the Arboretum's third and FINAL tire clean-up. The tire disposal was funded by Iroquois LEAF of the Iroquois Pipeline Operating Company and implemented through R.J. Valente Companies (Halfmoon), Charlie Parker, James "Nick" Spath, John Gorsin of "Forestry with Pride," and Smitty's Construction (all of Esperance). Thanks also goes out to Lions Club president Patrick Donnelly (Lawyersville) and nature photographer Bill Combs, Jr. (Cobleskill), as well as the inmates of the Summit Shock Incarceration Facility.

Trail Markers Donated. As I mentioned in a previous message, our goal is to color-code and highlight each of the trails for both the enjoyment and safety of visitors. The Arboretum continues to be surprised by the generosity of our growing circle of friends and volunteers who are at the heart of its ability to function as a non-profit enterprise and community garden of trees, shrubs, and flowers. In the spring of 2007, Arboretum members Cheryl and Steve Perog of Capitol Supply, Inc., in Duanesburg, NY, donated 500 weather-resistant trail markers to highlight the boundaries of the Ancient Forest Trail. The Perogs have increased their generosity by donating another 500 trail markers to designate more of our trails. We thank them as do all our members and visitors who will have an easier time navigating our extensive trail system.

Surprise and gratitude do not begin to capture the reactions of the board and staff of the Landis Arboretum to the recent \$3,500 contribution to Landis. The donation was made by an anonymous donor through the Chicago Botanic Garden in recognition of the PlantCollections™ project. The money will be used to purchase a projector that will become integral to our cooperation with the State University of New York's Cobleskill campus to create a course that will enable students to learn PlantCollections™ BG-BASE software at the Arboretum. Another portion of the funds will be used to create materials to support the curriculum and to promote it at SUNY and to other colleges.

I will also be attending the **PlantCollections™** meeting in November, which will welcome the Beijing Municipal Botanical Garden and the National Database Network India. The development of this international component is exciting in itself.

Looking ahead, we have the **Winter Auction** and the drawing of the winning ticket of our MINI Cooper. If you haven't purchased one of 350 tickets that we are selling, be sure to get yours today and take a chance on winning big. With odds like this, you can't afford not to buy a ticket—and at the same time to help support Landis Arboretum. Tickets make a great Christmas gift. You can also take the money instead of the car if you choose. Call the office (518-875-6935) for details.

FRED'S TREE QUIZ

Test your tree IQ and sharpen your bar stool trivia at the same time. Each question is worth 25 points and a passing score is 75%. Good luck!

1. Which eastern species of oak has the heaviest wood on average?
2. Which eastern species is the state tree of the most states?
3. Which of these 3 conifers is the longest lived: black spruce, balsam fir, red spruce?
4. Which eastern hardwood tree reaches the greatest heights?

Answers on page 7.

Only 350 Tickets @ \$100 Will Be Sold!

Three Ways to Win!

- First prize:
MINI Cooper (\$20,000 value)
Second prize: \$250
3rd prize: \$150



Compact Powerhouse Keeler
On the Road to a Cleaner Environment

Proceeds to benefit the Landis Arboretum. Winning tickets to be drawn at Landis Arboretum Holiday Event in December 2007. Please read disclaimer and acknowledgement on back of ticket.
Keeler MINI, 1111 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110 • 518-785-4197 • www.keelermotors.com
Landis Arboretum, PO Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066 • 518-875-6935 • landis@midtel.net

FRED'S TIMELY TIPS

on the winter protection of your trees and shrubs: If you haven't installed tree wrap around the trunks of your young trees, you should do so now to prevent damage by fluctuation of temperatures, as well as serving as a measure of protection against rodents. I also recommend installing a collar made from custom cut, small hole fencing, with holes about 1/4 inch in size, around the trunks of woody plants to help prevent girdling by voles.

Education Highlights

Anne Donnelly

The Education Committee enthusiastically welcomes two new members Susan O'Handley and Gina Nielsen.



Susan is a career environmental education professional, as well as vice president and co-owner (with her husband Jeffrey) of Wildlife Learning Company and based in Hartwick, NY. Her wide-ranging experience includes her position at the Boys' and Girls' Harbor, Inc. of East Hampton, NY, where she directed all activities, particularly those involved in the organization's year-round environmental education, adventure education, and summer camp programs. Prior professional credits include her position as program director at Queens College Center for Environmental Teaching and Research; she also served as director of education for both Save the Sound, Inc. and the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, where she assisted in the administration and daily operations of the nature center and bird sanctuary.

Wildlife Learning Company, Inc. is a full-service environmental education company offering services and products to schools, libraries, environmental organizations and members of the general public. We envision a dynamic collaborative partnership.

Gina Nielsen, although new to the committee, is no stranger to Landis. A resident of Glenville, she has been a long-time volunteer at the Arboretum, active in the maintenance of the Van Loveland Perennial Gardens, and a mainstay behind the Arboretum's annual bake sales to raise funds for the gardens. The multi-faceted Gina has a BS degree in biology and an MS degree in science education. She started work as a graduate student in the Fish and Wildlife Division at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry before transferring to SUNY Albany to become a teacher. Gina taught 7th grade life science for seven years for the Burnt Hills school district before leaving to raise twins, Annika and Nicholas, now kindergarteners.

As an Adirondack wilderness teacher for a summer camp, Gina led many nature hikes; her experience includes orienteering/compass and map skills. Landis is very fortunate that she has assumed a leadership role in the Arboretum's growing scouting initiative.

Riverwalk

It was a perfect fall day and more than 1,500 children and families participated in Riverwalk, sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York. This event, staged along the Mohawk River, boasted nearly forty hands-on programs—one of which was Landis Arboretum's Environmental Quiz, which encouraged the use of keys to identify plants and animals in our environment. Anne Donnelly, Judy Puddester and Gina Nielsen spent a very busy day indeed! A Scotia troop won the contest—the prize for the troop was a set of the "FINDERS" series of plant and animal identification books (available in our Acorn Shop). In addition, each team member (Maria DeMarco, Britta Kilbourn, Ashley Rios, and Seneca Willoughby) received a laminated card of animal tracks.

More Programs

George Steele has consented to offer two additional winter family programs; one a full moon Owl Prowl on January 19, and a February 16 day program on Winter Ecology, with or without snowshoes. Mark your calendar as these are not in *Coming Attractions*.

New and timely this season are:

- K-9 SkillsDrill: Environmental Conservation Officer (K-9 Unit) and Landis member Keith Isles presents a 45-minute demonstration with his dog. He explains the role of Environmental Conservation officers and how K-9s are used. He also offers insight into the training process and the areas of use for dogs, such as handler protection, human tracking, wildlife detection for apprehending poachers, etc. Groups should call 875-6935 to schedule.
- Forging ahead with our strategy to become the premier facility where educators desire to present their programs, Landis has a presence at the New York State Outdoor Educators Association at Hunter Mountain.
- We have hosted the Master Gardeners, (see photos on page 5) and seek to increase our delightful partnership with the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers. They meet periodically at the Arboretum because of the great view and the dark skies. It's truly amazing how many people are aware of the Star Parties, and "always wanted to go to one of those programs, but". We have asked Alan to write up some celestial highlights for

the casual observer for this issue. Tell us if you'd like us to continue as a feature.

More about the Wildlife Learning Company

As you will see on the Wildlife Learning Company website, www.wildlearn.com, and on ours as well, the Arboretum may soon be host to Wildlife Learning Company programs through a partnership that is currently being developed. Jeff O'Handley brought a group of approximately 40 students per day to Landis from Canajoharie Middle School, on October 11-12 for pond study and forest exploration—an immediate outcome of our new goal to invite others to use the Arboretum as a way to introduce new generations to the outdoors and the assets of the Arboretum.

I hope we have informed you of the many changes taking place at our Arboretum. I also hope that may have piqued your interest, and you will participate and invite your colleagues, friends, and co-workers and join us for the many educational initiatives at Landis. And for those of you engaged with youth groups, look at our offerings and ideas and tailor a program for the interests of your group



Photo courtesy of SUNY Alumni Association

He's Done It Again....

Congratulations to Fred Breglia, the Arboretum's ISA Certified Arborist and Director of Horticulture and Operations. In September, SUNY Cobleskill honored Fred as the college's 2007 Distinguished Alumnus. SUNY Cobleskill Provost Dr. Anne Meyers shares a teacher-student memory with a delighted Fred Breglia and the audience at the awards dinner, honoring Fred as the college's Alumnus of the year. The sold-out dinner reflected Fred's accomplishments both in his professional and personal lives.

—more on page 6.

Photo, (right) by Cynthia King



King (photo above) was held recently at the Landis Arboretum. Twenty five Master Gardeners and staff from CCE's in Albany, Schoharie and Rensselaer counties participated in a day of exploration, exchange of ideas and good food. (photo, right) Co-host for the event was the Fulton/ Montgomery

The first Master Gardener Invitational, organized by Landis volunteer Cynthia

Counties CCE Master Gardener Group. Fred Breglia, Landis horticulturist and ISA arborist led the morning tour in and around Lape Rock to the Meeting House. After lunch, Ed Miller led another walk through his Native Plant Trail. The Master Gardeners thoroughly enjoyed their leisurely day getting to know the Arboretum better, and we decided to repeat the Master Gardener Invitational next year on September 23 with a rain date of the 25th.

Lend a Helping Hand

The Landis Arboretum will share in the rewards of a musical event presented by The Helping Hands Benefit Concert Series on Sunday, December 2. Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem will be the featured artists at the 3 pm concert at the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church. Suggested donations: \$10/adults, \$5 for students and seniors, and \$25/families.

So, what's a daisy mayhem? The Signature Sounds website answers that question with dispatch: "Wicked percussion, sublime lead singing, great harmonies, sparkling original songs and a deep repertoire. Four people who share an irresistible chemistry on stage. A young, hip, cracker-jack string band in love with American music. *The Boston Globe* described their music as 'neo old-timey with cosmopolitan splashes of contemporary pop and jazz.'... This is a band that picks up what's lying around—from tin cans to traditional music—and creates something new."

—from page 5.

This accolade follows Fred's selection last spring among the 40 Under Forty Capital Region entrepreneurs who "are making a difference in their businesses and companies." Fred was selected by a business panel from more than 190 nominations, based on his career accomplishments over his nine-year career at Landis; he will celebrate a decade of service to the Arboretum in May 2008. **And Again...**

The Arboretum's Renaissance man was lauded once again on November 2 by the State University of New York as it marked the 40th anniversary of its

The Helping Hands Concert series is an entertainment mainstay in the Schoharie Valley and is spearheaded by Rockin' Reverend Rick Hill, Pastor, Schoharie United Presbyterian Church, a well-known and respected Capital Region musician, participant at the recent Lape Day celebration at Landis, and longtime supporter of the Arboretum. The Helping Hands Benefit Concert series is sponsored by the Schoharie County Presbyterian Churches. The Helping Hands events are always well promoted by music icon and WRPI dj Sonny Ochs, sister of legendary Phil Ochs—and well attended (as we hope this one will be) by Friends of the Arboretum—like you.

For more information about the featured artists, log on to or listen to tracks from their 2007 CD, "Big Old Life" at www.raniarbo.com/recordings.html.

Please mark your calendar, tell your friends, and, if you can't attend, send good checks! Let's fill the sanctuary with membership, donations—and joy!

Education Opportunity Program. EOP selected Fred as one of 40 EOP graduates to represent the tens of thousands of students who have participated in the program in its four decade history. Fred will be honored in a publication to celebrate this event and was feted at the awards dinner.

Congratulations Fred—from the Publications Committee, the Board of Trustees and staff of the Arboretum—and the ranks of tireless volunteers who support your efforts to make Landis a center of excellence in the Capital Region. You make us, the Town of Esperance and the people of Montgomery and Schoharie counties, proud!

Star Gazing at Landis

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Alan French

Alan French has been exploring the night sky for more than 40 years. He is a telescope-maker and vice president of Dudley Observatory's Board of Trustees and the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers, who meet regularly at Landis.

Two bright planets will grace the night sky during the last quarter of the year. Brilliant Venus will dominate the morning sky before sunrise. Mars will gradually move into the evening sky as it travels closer to Earth and grows brighter.

Venus is a pretty sight when paired with a crescent moon. Such conjunctions will occur on the mornings of October 7, November 5, and December 5. Look toward the east about one hour before sunrise.

In mid-October, Mars, in the constellation Gemini, rises just after 10 pm (EDT) and is due south a little more than an hour before sunrise. By mid-November, Mars rises around 7:30 pm (EST) and is due south and highest just after 3 am. A month later, the red planet will be south just before 1 am. On the evening of December 23, the full moon will pass less than one-half degree north of Mars (the apparent size of the moon is one-half degree). Mars will be at its brightest, so the pairing will be impressive. Although Mars will not be as close as it was in 2001 (when it was slightly closer than at anytime in recorded history), it will be much higher in our skies, where the views are usually clearer through a telescope.

The astronomical highlight of December is the annual Geminid meteor shower. Although not as well known as the famous Perseids (probably because the Perseids occur in the more comfortable month of August), the Geminids is actually a better and more reliable shower, arguably the best of the year. The peak this year is on the night of December 13-14, so you will want to watch during the evening hours on Thursday, December 13 and the early morning hours on Friday, December 14. The Geminids is one shower that puts on a good show before midnight. The crescent moon sets just after 8 pm, so moonlight will not hamper much of visibility of the event.

If the skies are clear, bundle up, pack a thermos of coffee or hot chocolate, and watch the show! Simply sit in a lawn chair or on an insulating mattress and look high in the sky. At its best, you may see an average of one meteor every minute or two.

1 Arboretum Inaugural 5K Forest Run Unqualified Success

On a day that was surely a meteorologist's dream, close to 200 people gathered at the Capital Region's Arboretum for First Annual Landis Arboretum Forest Run: A Cross Country 5K Classic.

The Saturday race was sponsored by Kintz Plastics of Howes Cave and NBT Bank of Duanesburg, NY. Members of the Albany Running Exchange arrived early and stayed late to provide the expertise and guidance needed to insure success for the Arboretum's initial foray into the running game.

For a completed list of participants and running times log on to www.albanyrunningexchange.org/results/searchResults.php. According to local realtor Jonathan DiCesare (Cobleskill), Arboretum trustee and 5K chair, "Josh Merlis of the Albany Running Exchange said we had excellent attendance—with a rock solid and impressive 128 finishers for a first-time race. We could not have carried off this event without the help of the Exchange and the dozens of volunteers and supporters who worked so feverishly." He acknowledged the support of Tammy Rumph, director of marketing for the Schoharie County ARC and board member of the FAM Run. He also adds

with more than a little pride that his oldest son,

Jonathan, and his mother, Alice, took top place in two bookend age groups.

Capital Region runners of all ages and levels of proficiency were invited to run and compete while enjoying spectacular views of the Schoharie countryside at the beautiful Landis Arboretum. Prizes were awarded in each age group (14 and under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+) in this timed event.

"We're very excited about the race itself—and about the fact that it is another first for the Arboretum," says Mr. DiCesare.

"Whether a runner is gearing up for the season ahead or winding down from a prior race or cross-country event, the Landis course will be as perfect as the natural beauty that surrounds it." Mr. DiCesare invited all runners to use the Arboretum's newly groomed 5K trails throughout the year. "We are open daily from dawn to dawn to dusk," he told the crowd, "and 365 days a year."

Mr. DiCesare, an agent for Realty USA, proposed the race in concert with another Landis trustee, Scott Trees, late last fall. At that time, he turned to Fred Breglia, Landis Operations Director, for detailed knowledge of the Arboretum grounds, and to race coordinator Matt Nark of nearby Mechanicville, a seasoned and accomplished runner, for the



parameters needed to set a course that would be both challenging and inviting.

The result, says Mr. DiCesare, was threefold: a course that is challenging to runners at all skill levels, an inviting walk for those less interested in running or competition, and appropriate use of the Arboretum's spectacular 548 acres that straddle Schoharie and Montgomery counties.

The 5K course traversed many notable sites at Landis—including its Pioneer and Woodland trails, the 500-year old iconographic Great Oak, symbol of the Arboretum, the Fred Lape Memorial stone, and the beautiful Van Loveland Gardens.

Discussion is under way regarding expanding the 5K event to include a race for younger children, a dog walk, and combining the 5K event with Lape Day.

2 Fall Plant Sale Success

On a weekend as memorable for its weather as for competing Capital Region social events, the Landis Arboretum's annual two-day Fall Plant, Used-Book, and Bake Sale in September proved to be an unqualified success.

Despite the nearby Garlic Festival and Art Show, antiques fair, Larkfest, and a car show, visitors to the Arboretum's two-day fall fundraiser drove the gross receipts beyond the \$14,000 mark—showing a penchant for used-books (close to \$600), and a hunger for home-baked goods, which brought in close to \$400 for the perennial gardens fund at Landis.

Twenty-four plant sale visitors joined the ranks of Arboretum membership, and seven visitors purchased raffle tickets for the 2007 MINI Cooper.

Compliments abounded on the sale offerings—from beautiful ornamental, cold-hardy grasses such as *Miscanthus*, *Calama-*

grostis, *Pennisetum*, *Panicum*, and *Festuca*—to the great buys and closeouts. The presence of subject-matter experts continues to be a winning sales strategy.

Spirits were high, and Sunday's excellent weather after Saturday's gray clouds disposed visitors to linger and enjoy the sweeping rolling countryside that provides the alluring backdrop of the sale. Visitors who previously had come to Landis for the first time—for Lape Day and for the Arboretum's inaugural high-spirited 5K Forest Run—returned, some with friends.

Success—like heaven—is not reached in a single bound, and the five-day lead-up to the Fall event required the work and dedication of scores of volunteers led by the Plant Sale Committee members: Carol and Bob Olsen, Bonnie Keller, Bern Allanson, Donna Vincent, Jeff Schworm, Lawson Harris,

Maria Kuethe, Scott Trees, Sonja Javarone, Sue Gutbezahl, Tom Edmunds, Thom O'Connor, and Fred Breglia.

Volunteer Driven

Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager Vicki Hazzard demonstrated her mettle and assembled legions of volunteers to support the event, a task initiated by former volunteer coordinator Judy Puddester, who herself participated in the event.

The ranks of Fall Plant Sale volunteers who signed in to assist in the event include: Bob and Carole Olsen, Lawson Harris, Jack Fritz, Deborah Coyle, Michael and Sue Gutbezahl, Marion and Ken Hotopp, George Cushing, Patty Redlin, Nolan Marciniac, Anne Donnelly, Rose Elliot, Jane Smith, Ben Fox, Jackie Schrom, Kathy Spoffard, Alan French, Ron Needle, Judy

—continued on page 8

LANDIS PORTRAITS

A series about the people behind the plants at the Arboretum

—by Nolan Marciniak



Maria Kuethe

"As you get older, you think more about what's left, what you'll do for the kids, for other people—how they'll remember you, your legacy," Maria Kuethe reflected. "I'm so grateful that Fred Lape did this."

More than twenty years ago, Maria noted an ad for the plant sale in the local paper. In her garden today, she still has a cranesbill she purchased at that sale that she swears she has never seen anywhere else—and a sedum and a clematis as well. Over the years, the plant sale became a yearly event, and she began to donate plants she had potted up from her own gardens. This year, encouraged by her neighbor Lawson Harris, she agreed to serve on the Board of Directors.

Maria, the daughter of Russian émigrés, grew up in New York City. She says that she always had an intuitive interest in plants, beginning with the Woolworth plants she cared for in her city apartments. Today, her Glenville property features a daylily collection of over 200 varieties, a perennial bed, a rock garden, and a small vegetable garden. "I didn't know anything about gardening, so I got everything wrong," she said, "but eventually I got it right."

She earned an undergraduate degree in English literature from Bard College and a master's degree in comparative literature from the University of Chicago.

When Maria and her husband moved to the area from Baltimore, she encountered a bit of culture shock: "people who were good housekeepers and who sewed their children's own Halloween costumes." For a while, she raised dairy goats—and a family of three. But after working with families who were reported for child abuse or neglect, she was encouraged to pursue her doctorate in counseling psychology. Eventually, she maintained her own practice in Saratoga Springs.

Since her retirement, she has volunteered her time with regional ARC programs for developmentally delayed adults. Maria was instrumental in initiating the Arboretum's evolving collaboration with ARC, the success of which she finds "enormously thrilling," convinced as she is that participating in Nature is a "healing experience" for all human beings. The Arboretum, she says, "is important to [these consumers] for the same reason it's important to anyone: it makes them happy.... They badgered the staff to come back again."

All indications are that Maria Kuethe will leave a lasting legacy too.

Toine (Antoinette) Wyckoff

On September 11, 2001, Toine (Antoinette) Wyckoff immediately knew where she had to be: at the Arboretum. "I told myself what I needed... was tranquility. There's something nurturing, something spiritual, about this place."

A native of Oklahoma, where, she admitted, "there aren't a whole lot of trees," she was introduced to the Dallas Arboretum when her daughter was a student at SMU. When she and her husband settled in the Northeast more than twenty years ago, she was pleased to discover that the Capital District had an arboretum as well. She brought her son and his fiancée to Landis for a picnic behind the Meeting House overlooking the Schoharie Valley. It was precisely to this spot that she returned on 9/11.

"The vastness, the beauty of that spot gave me the big picture. The world is so much more than the here and now, bigger than any one issue that you could bring with you," she commented.

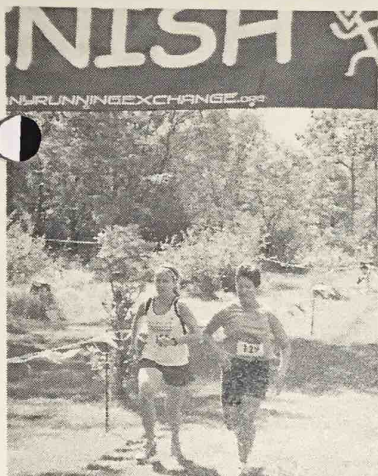
She initially thought of her move to the area as "the five-year plan." But she found herself putting down roots: she worked as a school-based social worker at Linton (later Schenectady) High School and then in Watervliet. And in spite of many hours she spends airborne to see her eight grandchildren, all Southerners, she says she can call Upstate NY home.

Toine's Niskayuna gardens feature both lots of perennials and woodland wildflowers. She says she's always been "in love with good dirt. I know I inherited my Granny's green thumb, and that helps for sure." She remembers that her grandmother "always treated living things with reverence."

After that picnic on the grounds of the Arboretum, Toine came to a plant sale; then she became a member, and then a volunteer. "I never met a crabby person here," she said. "You can learn a lot, and everything you do is appreciated. You get much more back than you give. I'm grateful for the opportunity."

She would encourage families to visit Landis. "I can't think of a better way to spend a day with your family. The kids can run. The air is clean. It's just a jewel."

Toine Wyckoff betrays her Oklahoma roots when she admits that sometimes, the tree canopy in the Northeast "gets a little claustrophobic. It's nice to see the sky, the horizon" from the hill behind the Meeting House, a glimpse into that big picture.



5K photos on pages 5–6, by Fred Breglia. Before the race, p. 5. Finishing the race, above, p. 6.

Mr. DiCesare (Arboretum trustee, Jonathan DiCesare) invited all runners to use the Arboretum's newly groomed 5K trails throughout the year. "We are open daily from dawn to dusk," he told the crowd, "and 365 days a year."

ANSWERS to Fred's Quiz (see page 3)

1. Live oak, about 55 lb. per cubic foot.
2. Sugar maple, in Vermont, New York, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.
3. Red spruce, documented at 400 years.
4. Tulip tree. The East Coast height champion is 175 feet tall and grows in the Great Smoky National Park.



Looking



Landed



Checking



Lunch



Finished



Take off



Bye

At Large— from page 2.

They— and the Donnas and Bobs, Bens, Sonjas, Steves, Cheryls, Rons, Peters, Mats, Victorias, Anne, Carols, Florences, Mervs, Kens, Marians, Arts, Nicks, Pats, Susans, Randys, Daryls, Lawsons, Trinas, and Franklins (you know them and others far longer and better than I), and the scores of people who simply “show up” unannounced and leave unheralded each week to chat, relax, lunch, suggest, and to offer their time (for a day or even as hour)—are devoted to deeds that keep us afloat and in various stages of array, development, and beauty. Like the members of our mostly unsung buildings and grounds, plant sales, and education committees, they hail from a rich tradition of service to inhabit the present and make the future possible.

At times, I invite people I meet to Landis. Often they are reluctant because they fear not knowing anyone here. Most times when they do arrive, they know more people than they thought—from work, the supermarket, the theatre, bridge club, the hospital, the gym.

Rare is the event that brings us cheek to jowl in a bonding round of “Kumbaya” and “Thanks for the Memories”—although science educator George Steele’s mesmerizing magic campfire at Lape Day ‘06 came close! Such efforts, interactions, contributions, and commitment usually unfold behind the scenes in quiet, unconscious moments that fall upon relaxed gatherings working without fuss, without fanfare in our treasured garden of trees and shrubs.

Don’t think about it. Come by again or for the first time as one of your official deeds of the New Year. In this season of appreciation, celebration, and resolution, keep our Arboretum atop your list of favored places to act out, garden, meander, and share, communicate, smell, touch, and talk in the coming months.

May we have the mutual good fortune of recognizing one another through our deeds. May we be so blessed as to have your continued support in the exciting months ahead at Landis, the Capital Region’s Arboretum.

real.
Lunch at Landis

Arboretum friend and award-winning wildlife photographer Bill Combs, Jr., dropped in to catch a Red Tailed Hawk finding lunch.

“This took place in about one minute. Sometimes being in the right place at the right time works.”

—Bill Combs, Jr.

Website Redesign— from page 1.

SUMMARY OF WWW.LANDISARBORETUM.ORG STATISTICS BY MONTH										
Month	Daily Average				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Sep 2007	894	767	108	45	901	362946	1088	2605	18414	21460
Aug 2007	1064	898	138	55	1267	586768	1707	4279	27850	32993
July 2007	542	413	110	43	1118	286971	1362	3416	12814	16811
June 2007	220	142	100	35	827	186373	1053	3013	4288	6620
May 2007	356	245	156	46	1134	385559	1429	4842	7598	11044
Apr 2007	136	90	61	22	547	142159	677	1843	2720	4097
Mar 2007	155	109	75	26	602	172259	824	2337	3382	4805
Feb 2007	156	93	73	27	474	143168	756	2069	2604	4377
Jan 2007	143	75	58	22	459	129212	708	1819	2336	4455
Dec 2006	143	58	48	25	464	103571	780	1506	1814	4442
Nov 2006	124	42	35	17	339	91756	510	1058	1282	3731
Oct 2006	63	35	28	13	323	65092	404	872	1086	1975
Totals					2655834	11298	29659	86188	116810	

Fall Plant Sale Success— from page 6.

Spoffard, Alan French, Ron Needle, Judy Puddester, Scott Trees, Grace Trees, Randy Degonova, Janet Vinyard, Bob Rynk, Bern Allanson, Art Coleman, Matt Hazzard, Pam Trickett, Dick and Marion Clowe, Gina Neilsen, Jerry and Jan Peters, Tom Edmunds, Katie Horn-Scarpulla, Marc Whiteman, Laurie Meyer, Wendy Carroll, Annette Holawka, Erin McKenna, Jane Kristel, Donna Vincent, Bonnie Keller, Diane Butler, Sonja Javarone, Nick Zabawsky, Bonny Sweet, Bertha Wagner, Cody Nelson, Ed Miller, Pat Butler, Barbara Brabertz, Shawn Bevins, Judy Helfrich, Pat Daley, Bob, Cindy and Corinne Skala, Chris Faulkner, Kim Mistellar, Ann Bevins, Pam Trickett, Chuck Whitman, Thom O’Connor, Beth See, Diane Butler, Jeff Schworm, Viktoria Serafin, and Chuck Stevens, who, along with members of Boy Scout Troop 501, camped on site to provide needed security.

Key consignors to the event included: The Nursery at Liddledale Farms, Behn’s Best Perennials, Glenfinnan Farms, SUNY Cobleskill, and Glenbrook Farms. Visitors enjoyed the opportunity to talk one-on-one with these and other on-site experts.

Bookish in Force

The annual Fall Plant Sale brought in hundreds of bibliophiles and browsers, attracted by the generous book donations from throughout the Capital Region from many individuals, including *Gazette* gardening editor Natalie Walsh, and businesses, including The Owl Pen of Greenwich, The Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, and Catnap Books of Cobleskill—all of whom have contributed to the success of the sale each year.

The annual used book sale, too, is possible only through the generosity of the Arboretum’s friends, tireless volunteers, and supporters, who gather books throughout the year with the sale in mind. Volunteers clean and categorize the offerings—both hard and soft cover—with a price range that few can refuse. Categories include, but are not limited to, science and nature, gardening, reference, poetry, children’s literature, mystery, self-help, diet and nutrition.

“It was a good weekend,” said Plant Sale Chairman Fred Breglia. “Now, it’s time to look ahead with the goal of achieving new benchmarks of success in the year ahead.”