

# George Landis Arboretum

## Newsletter

Lape Road  
Autumn 1995

Esperance, New York

Vol. 14, No. 4

### Reflections

Frank Gilmore

Back in the 1940s, during World War II - a time of rationing and blackouts - there were no Wayside Garden catalogues. But Fred Lape would write letters all over the world in search of seeds for his fledgling arboretum. It was a passionate quest, and his early successes only fueled his determination to transform his family homestead in Esperance into a world class garden.

Who was this large-spirited person with romantic dreams? We are told he loved plants, art, music and poetry and surrounded himself with beauty. And he dearly loved his farm, a typical New York State vernacular farmhouse with barn behind, at the edge of a winding dirt road flanked by old stone walls. But he was also a gritty laborer, experimental botanist, arborist, and excellent writer.

It was not a romantic time at the end of the war, but Fred began to design and to plant a most enchanting world, a world where strange spiky evergreens from Manchuria stood alongside American Hemlock; where tender species from a more temperate climates would somehow survive the rigors of Zone 4 on the slopes overlooking the Schoharie Valley.

Ours, too, is not a romantic time, either in the world-at-large or within our economically-stressed region. For many of us, the ordinary little farmhouse at the top of the road, and those magnificent vistas from the arboretum grounds provide an essential counterpoint to what is

happening to each of us in 1995. The charm of this place is that it is not - nor ever will be - fixed in time. The farm buildings and stone walls are from the early 19th Century, but the snowdrops may have just emerged an hour ago. Nothing changes in this garden except the cycle of the seasons and the re-emergence of green with spring.

It is a place of private reflection, and a place where everyone pitches in. It is an icon of a simpler agrarian world and a place to shovel. And it is a place for passionate amateurs.....started by one of the best. But most importantly, the Arboretum needs to continue as a place of acceptance and belonging, of breathless beauty and discovery for future visitors of all ages.

Perhaps the poem that follows, written by a friend and admirer of Fred's shortly after his death, could give us some insight into who he was.

#### LOST ANSWERS

A poem by Ina Jones

In Memory of Fred Lape 1900-1985

*Blear sun and the wind  
strumming dark notes  
on cable wires.  
November again - a year  
since you banked your house  
knee-deep in leaves  
and took off south.*

*Renegade,  
Hidebound to hardscrabble hills,  
yet winters you chose  
blue beaches.  
As foreign to your nature  
as modern paintings  
to your murky walls, stove-warmed.  
I remember those brash paintings -  
like flamingos let in the coop  
with laying hens.  
An original,  
someone called you.  
I'll say this: your bachelor house  
had original dust.*

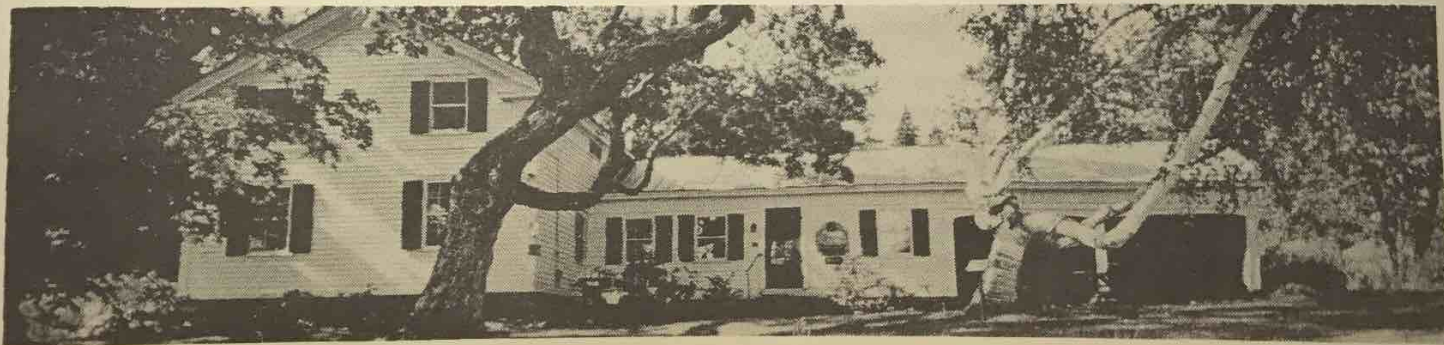
*Oh, it was sad out there  
last spring, crocuses setting up landing flares  
looking to guide you in,  
nuthatches at your feeders in vain,  
I, as always, with questions -  
about my rhubarb's sickening,  
about a poem that wouldn't go.*

*Leaves swirl.*

*I draw my rake once for me,  
once for you,  
I breathe pine doubtly,  
stoop to a weed red-tinged,  
feather-leaved, hairy-stemmed -  
what's its name?*

*Wires sing in a windy grief,  
they know:  
answers are fewer now.  
Answers have died in Mexico.*

(The poetry and prose of Fred Lape will appear in subsequent issues.)





## From the Board of Trustees - Carol Wock

Like most non-profit organizations, custody and direction of the Arboretum are the responsibility of the board of trustees. We would like to acquaint our members with who we are, how we are selected, and what we do.

Trustee candidates are selected by a nominating committee composed of three trustees and two persons who are not trustees. Election usually takes place at the annual meeting in May. Trustees serve three year terms and are eligible to serve two consecutive terms. Term limits are typical of most non-profit boards and serve the purpose of rejuvenating the board on a regular basis. Criteria used in selecting candidates to comprise a balanced board include geography (an attempt is being made to represent the whole Arboretum area); demonstrated commitment; ability to connect us with sources of funding both private and corporate; knowledge of horticulture and/or natural history; and experience and expertise in fields of practical value such as law, banking, architecture, and business. Our by-laws state that there may be no fewer than five and no more than twenty-five trustees. At present the following people serve.

**John Abbuhl, MD** is a pediatrician and knowledgeable plantsman who started a private arboretum on his own land. He has a long association with the Landis Arboretum and serves on the Horticulture and Finance Committees.

**Frank F. Gilmore** is an area architect experienced in urban design. He was a member of the design team for the new capital of Iran prior to their revolution, and his firm is presently involved in the design of the new terminal at Albany Airport. An avid gardener, Frank serves on the Horticulture Committee, as co-chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and is Vice-President of the Board.

**Anne Jaster**, well known to Newsletter readers, teaches botanic illustration at the Arboretum, at ECOS, and has taught in the public schools. She serves as advisor to the Schenectady County Nature and Historic Preserve and has completed Cornell Cooperative Extension's Master Gardening program in Schenectady County. She is currently Secretary of the Board, serves on the Education Committee, is co-chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and chair of the Nominating Committee.

**Pieter Kien** is a senior engineer at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, Inc. Pieter is a former treasurer of the Arboretum, and is now a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. He has a long acquaintance with the Arboretum, having visited for over twenty five years.

**Claudia McLaughlin** is the new Director of the Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum, an organization she helped found in 1978. She has also served on the museum's board. Claudia has served as Director of the Children's Museum in Saratoga Springs and as Education Director at Brookside, the Saratoga County History Center. She is presently Treasurer of the Board and as such is chair of the Finance Committee; she also serves as co-chair of the Education Committee.

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### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

*Even though these pages have a moderately new look, by no one's definition can I be described as "new" - not as an editor of this newsletter, nor as a Landis Arboretum supporter....(nor even as an inhabitant of Earth, except in a much larger context!) An arboretum newsletter was originally proposed by the Friends of the Arboretum Steering Committee, of which I was a member, in September 1981 and a modest Volume 1, Number 1 was produced on my almost-state-of-the-art, secondhand IBM Selectric typewriter and distributed to arboretum members in early 1982.*

*Our arboretum depends on its volunteers. Many, many dedicated volunteer supporters have come forward, some have gone, many remain, many return - each with particular talents and points of view. We volunteers are, by Nature perhaps, idealists - who are finding that idealism shares the non-profit table with hard-nosed practicality in these financially competitive years. Firmly believing that cooperation follows understanding, this newsletter introduces members of the Arboretum's governing board, those volunteers who bear responsibility for direction of the arboretum, and reports the procedural policies formally defined by the Board.*

*We welcome your participation in this newsletter which is now produced on my fleetingly-state-of-the-art Macintosh. Send your suggestions, your comments, and copy for the publication to the arboretum office. - Fran Finkbeiner*

**THE GEORGE LANDIS  
ARBORETUM NEWSLETTER**  
is published quarterly for its members. The arboretum's mission is to provide natural history and horticultural education through its programs and through its plant collection.

#### **Editor**

Fran Finkbeiner

#### **Contributors**

Margaret Biener, Kenneth L. Carnes, Alan French,  
Frank Gilmore, Anne Jaster, Sonja Javarone, Claudia  
McLaughlin, Lucinda Willemain, Carol Wock

#### **Printer**

infographics

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Carol Wock, President  
Frank Gilmore, Vice President  
Claudia McLaughlin, Treasurer  
Anne Jaster, Secretary  
John Abbuhl, Pieter Kien, Carl Salmon,  
Janet Tissiere, David Vincent,  
Lucinda Willemain

#### **Emeriti**

Merrill Bousman, Mabel Harkness,  
H. Gilbert Harlow, C. William Huntley,  
Richard Southwick, Will Roth,  
Robert Raymond

#### **ARBORETUM STAFF**

Rich Downs, Gardener  
Regina Pineiro, Acorn Shop Manager  
George Steele, Science Educator



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**Carl S. Salmon** is an Amsterdam attorney with extensive service on a variety of boards. In 1962 he was appointed a founding trustee of the Fulton Montgomery Community College by Governor Rockefeller. Before receiving his law degrees, Carl attended the Cornell University College of Agriculture and uses his ag education in his large home vegetable garden. He is a member of the Arboretum's Finance Committee.

**Janet Tisiere** graduated with a degree in Plant Science from SUNY Cobleskill where she majored in Landscape Development. She worked for three years at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where she designed new landscaping and acted as coordinator for the landscape project. Janet is now a realtor for Century 21 in Cobleskill, and serves as chair of the Arboretum's Horticulture Committee and as a member of the Personnel Committee.

**David Vincent** is a local businessman with experience on a variety of boards and currently is president of the board of trustees for the Schenectady Christian School. He was a member of the Schenectady County legislature from 1980 through 1991. He has been a member of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission since 1982 and served as chairman in 1984. David is chairperson of the Arboretum Personnel Committee and is member-at-large on the Executive Committee.

**Lucinda Willemain** was an active volunteer at the Arboretum for six years before becoming a trustee. Her lifelong love of horticulture is supplemented by training in landscape design. Lucinda has had a long association with the Capital Hill Choral Society, and also sings in a small ensemble which is recording Gregorian chants. At the Arboretum she serves on the Horticulture Committee and is co-chair of the Education Committee.

**Carol Wock** is recently retired from North Colonie Schools where she was a special education teacher. She has had experience in the elementary classroom and worked as a learning disabilities consultant for BOCES. She is an enthusiastic amateur gardener who has been a Landis Arboretum member since the late 1970s. Before becoming an Arboretum trustee, she worked as a volunteer in the greenhouse. She serves as president of the Board.

## Board News - Carol Wock

In the past year organizational documents recommended for the legal functioning of a non-profit board of trustees were written. The first were position descriptions for Director, Horticulturist, and Office Manager; these were adopted by the Board over a year ago. Then during the winter of 1994, the Finance Committee produced Financial Policies and Procedures, the Board's first written guide. In February of 1995 the first complete, board-approved personnel policy for the Arboretum was written. This spring our by-laws were reviewed and rewritten. Non-profit board literature recommends that by-laws and all written policies be reviewed at least every two years and up-dated as needed.

In July, Anne Jaster and Carol Wock attended the national conference of the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) held in Montreal. Of special interest was a daylong session on master planning, a process to be initiated here soon. In August, Lucinda Willemain, Claudia McLaughlin and Carol Wock attended a regional AABGA conference at the Tower Hill Botanic Garden near Worcester, Massachusetts.

A result of our contacts at these conferences has been the realization just how unique a niche the Landis Arboretum occupies in the world of botanic gardens and arboreta. Of about 400 members organizations of AABGA, one hundred are arboreta. Of this hundred, fifty-eight are funded by colleges or universities whose grounds they occupy. Two are located on the grounds of foundations or corporations, and three are funded by park districts or a municipality of some kind. Four are large, urban arboreta. Of the remaining thirty-three arboreta, only six of these may have budgets under \$100,000, as ours does. We plan to contact these six arboreta to share information.

*Horticulture is both the art and  
the science of cultivated plants.  
Art as old as the Garden of Eden,  
Science as new as biotechnology  
and gene-splicing.*

## NATURE'S CALENDAR

*What's blooming and what's doing  
at the arboretum*

### October, November, December Autumn Flowers

Aconitum napellus, Anemone hupehensis japonica,  
Asters, Autumn-crocus, Boltonia, Clematis,  
Cyanthemums, Sedum 'Autumn Joy', Common  
Witch-hazel

### Colorful or interesting fruit

Bottlebrush Buckeye, Buckthorn, Red Chokeberry,  
Conifers (mature cones), Crabapples, Dogwoods,  
Yeddo Euonymus, Star Magnolia, Mountain-ash,  
Quince, Roses, Sapphire Berry, Staghorn Sumac,  
Viburnums, Black Walnut, Winterberry

### Leaf color

**Reds & Oranges:** Red Chokeberry, Yeddo  
Euonymus, Enkianthus, Japanese Maple, native  
maples and oaks, Paperbark Maple, Sassafras,  
Smoke Tree, Stewartia, Staghorn Sumac

**Yellows:** Ginkgo, Golden Larch, maples,  
Yellow-wood

**Rust:** Bottlebrush Buckeye, Bald Cypress,  
Dawn-redwood

### Other

Leaf and flower buds

Fungi

Migrating birds

The Night-time Sky (see p. 10)

- Sonja Javarone

## At the Garden

**Tamara Wilson** of the Charleston-Four Corners area has joined the Arboretum staff as a temporary part-time office worker.

As a result of the summer's drought and the subsequent reduced need for grass mowing, our gardener **Rich Downs** has had the time for more extensive trimming and clearing of underbrush - and the Arboretum looks especially tidy if a bit parched.

In July a volunteer constructed and installed a donation box in the information shed and the Arboretum has collected just under \$90 from the box. Unfortunately, recent vandalism suggests limited use of the box.

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# How Does Our Garden Grow?

## New Members (\*) and Renewals July through September 1995

### Patron

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne B' Rells  
Anne Coggeshall  
Fran & Herman Finkbeiner  
Janet Gargiulo  
Anne Jaster  
Arlene & Pieter Kien  
Carol Loucks  
Mrs. Max V. Shaul  
Carol & Kenneth Wock

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Susan & Martin Farber  
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Mooney  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Raymond  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan T. Wenzell

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Barbara Beverley  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Bieber  
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Carberg  
Barbara & Gordon Clark  
Mrs. Constance Compton  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Corbett  
Evelyn Galante  
Frank G. Gilmore Family  
Laura Lehtonen & Steve Young  
Susan Murray  
Edward C. Pheil Family  
Helen & Robert Ringlee  
Vicki & Michael Rosenberg  
Mr. & Mrs. William Vetter  
Ann & David Vincent

### Family

Mary & Robert Abes & Family  
Rhodes Adler  
& Annick deBelle Feuille  
Jane Barton & Edythe Meserand  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Beal  
Barbara Beaumont  
Elizabeth Bell\*  
Anne Best  
Susan & Guthrie Birkhead  
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Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Bowdish  
Jean Brockley & Family  
Natalie Buttner  
Carolyn Byrne & Winsor Lott

Mary Anne Chiariello & Family  
Linda & Gary Craft\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Crangle  
Catherine Curvin & Family\*  
Jackalyn Endres Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ertelt  
Mickey & Paul Fleishman\*  
Dr. & Mrs. Alfred Gilbert  
William H. Keeler\*  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Lamb  
Elizabeth & Henry Lamont  
Mr. & Mrs. George E. Landis  
Sue & Bob Loden & Family\*  
Millie & David McCoy\*  
Hope Plavin & Michael Young  
Richard Southwick Sr. Family  
Verena & Tohru Takekoshi  
Mark Vermilyca  
Sally & Paul Vonie\*

### Individual

Dr. E.H. Ahrens  
Frances Arthur  
Winifred Balz  
Elizabeth Bell\*  
Anne Best  
Arlene Briard  
Natalia Buttner\*  
Tim Danehy\*  
Marjorie Dow  
Dennis Drenzek  
Katherine Gall  
Mary Lou Garrett  
Janice Harris  
Mary Ellen Houlihan  
Gretchen Hughs  
Joan Johnson  
Steve Karpinski  
Charles Kieley\*  
Lorraine Kirik  
Richard Law  
Nahum Lewis  
Lisa Lombardi-Bello  
Judith Lott  
Andrea Lurie  
Debbie Lynch  
Dudley Marple  
Micki Massry\*  
Alma Mastandrea  
Ruth Mereness  
Elizabeth & John Moore  
Reverend Dale Morgan

Bruce Morrow  
Stephanie Neubert & Gerald Eddy  
Nancy O'Connor  
Elizabeth Plauth  
Isabel Prescott\*  
Mrs. Raymond Rau  
Jane Robbins  
Anne Rosse  
Claire Schmitt  
A. Joshua Sherman\*  
Joan Sondergaard  
Claudia St. John\*  
Mary Stock  
Janet Tiessiere  
Inga Thomson  
Dr. George Tregaskis\*  
Judy Wertenbaker  
Pamela Yourno

### Senior/Student

Anne Altshuler  
Frances Arthur  
Thomas Baker  
Margaret Benelli\*  
Dr. Ernest Beaudoin  
Mrs. Harlo Bray  
Charles P. Brown\*  
John Burns\*  
Dorothy Clark  
Shirley Clark  
Bernard Darrel  
Ilah DePaoli  
Maude Dunlap  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Durban\*  
Robert Dylong  
Mr. & Mrs. David Eisner  
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Mona Lapham  
Florence McKie  
Catherine Ozug  
John Piechnik  
Charlotte Ramsey  
Mrs. Thomas Shaw

Joyce Spence\*  
Mrs. Eoo Stergas\*  
Bernice Stiner\*  
Mrs. Carl Tomaszewski  
Frederick Watts, Jr.

### Gift Memberships

John and Maria Hester\*  
Jason Rooney\*  
William C. Wock\*

### Patron Organization

All Seasons Tree Service

### Contributing Organization

Young Home Heating Fuels & Service

### Family Organization

Lake & Valley Garden Club  
Morrisville Womens' Garden Club\*

### Endowment Fund Contributions

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne B' Rells  
Maude Dunlap  
Janet Gargiulo  
Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Gilbert  
Ann Marie Grady\*  
Mrs. John B. Huyck  
William A. Keeler  
Andrea Lurie  
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Mooney  
Charlotte Ramsey  
Mrs. Raymond Rau  
Peter Rumora  
Frederick Watts, Jr.  
Hope and Michael Young

### Nancy Bates-Eiler Yao

### Memorial Contributions

Agency Management Services, Inc.  
Mariellen B. Beem  
Robert & Lavina Block  
Theodore & Patricia Demarest  
Cecil & Rosalie Fan  
Sam & Robin Fan  
Ruthven Slawsky Farber  
Gourmet Awards  
F.A. Guernsey & Co., Inc.  
Suzanne J. McFall  
Jean W. Meehan  
John & Melanie Powley  
Michael Testa  
Uncle Sam Stamp Club  
Stanley and Vivian Wu

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning in January 1996 Arboretum members will receive a complete list of members and contributors along with the Annual Report. New members will continue to be welcomed in the Newsletter, but instead of publishing a partial list in each Newsletter, a complete membership list will be offered once each year.

(Continued from page 3)

Between August 14 and September 4 two hundred eleven visitors signed the guest books in the Meeting House and the information shed. Two people came from Sao Paulo, Brazil, others from Utah, Texas, Florida, Michigan, New Hampshire, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Brooklyn, and seventeen from the hinterlands of New York City.

In September the Arboretum office staff began recycling office scrap rather than burning it in a barrel outside. Predel & Company from Schenectady furnishes the containers, picks them up when filled, and pays 5 cents per pound. Newspapers will also be collected and members are invited to add to the containers which will be in the shed attached to the back of the farmhouse.

Niagara Mohawk has strongly recommended that the tattered electrical cables between the boxes in the house and the barn be replaced as soon as possible - before the snow flies. A volunteer has been found to rewire the barn at no charge, but the Arboretum is looking for an Angel to provide the necessary materials. Can you help?

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## The Geneva Trip

Claudia McLaughlin

On a recent regular visit to the Arboretum, Ken Duncan of the NYS Department of Agriculture discovered **Diplodia Tip Blight** (*Sphaeropsis sapinea*) on Ponderosa pines in the grove across the road from the Meeting House. Blighted needles, and stunted and dead new growth are evident on the lower branches, and the fungus is working its way up. No species of pine is immune to the disease and a dry growing season further weakens an infected tree. Mr. Duncan has recommended removal of the trees and a thorough raking and removal of all debris; the Horticulture Committee is investigating further.

**The Arboretum Calendar** holds six remaining events in 1995.

Saturday, October 14, 2 pm - For the Birds Feeding Workshop. FREE

Saturday, October 28, 7 pm, Owl Prowl. FREE

November 24 & 25, 7:30 pm, Star Party

December 15 & 16, 7:30 pm, Star Party

In the field near the Meeting House. (See page 10.) FREE

An Arboretum-sponsored bus trip recently took members and friends to the USDA Experimental Station in Geneva for a tour of the facility. A member of the group commented that it was the *best* trip she had ever been on.

Dr. Phil Forsline of the Geneva station and an international team traveled to eastern Kazakhstan to collect material from the wild apple forests which are now in danger of being destroyed. Imagine a country whose land stretches across treeless deserts and glacier-covered mountains, where the forests consist of apricot, almond, pistachio, and apple, a land where the name of the capital city translates as "Father of Apples" because this is where the original apples on Earth developed. In this former Soviet region, the apple forests, once protected as national parks, are disappearing rapidly as the trees are cut for firewood and the land used to graze sheep. While scientific teams have already collected a great deal of material during three expeditions, much more remains to be discovered. Like the destruction of the Amazon rain forests, destruction of these Khazakh areas will mean that many ancient species are lost forever. Attention from international conservation organizations and political pressure may be the last hope for preserving the biodiversity in these unique forests.

This program and a separate program to identify and preserve germ plasm from over 2000 different varieties of apples already growing at the experimental station in Geneva were the focus of this recent trip sponsored by the Arboretum. Dr. Forsline and other staff members provided a tour of the facility, including the cyrogenic storage area where the genetic material is preserved, the laboratory where the DNA analyses are made, the greenhouse, and the orchards. The variety in size and color of the fruit, color and shape of the leaves, and shape and growth habits of the apple trees was astonishing, as was the variety in flavor. The group was able to sample some of the 1300 varieties of grapes as well.

Several Arboretum trips are being planned for the future and planners welcome suggestions for specific places or themes which members and friends would find of interest. If you have a recommendation, please call the Arboretum office or drop a note in the mail.

## Schenectady Museum Plant Show

Claudia McLaughlin

"Rhythms of the Seasons" was the theme of the special exhibit set up by the Arboretum for the "Schenectady Celebrates with Flowers & Music" flower show held at the Schenectady Museum on September 22-24. The main part of our exhibit consisted of four standing display panels holding a series of Sonja Javarone's vibrant photos which reveal some of the colorful plantings to be found at the Arboretum during all seasons of the year. We also sponsored a one-hour program entitled "Fall Color" for which Dr. John Heimke, botanist and biology professor at Russell Sage College, developed and presented a special demonstration using computer graphics to show the changes which produce the succession of color seen in plants in the temperate region.

We thank Kaye Vosberg, general chairman of the show, for giving us the opportunity to bring a sample of the Arboretum's beauty to a wider audience, and we thank Dr. Heimke for his time and expertise.

< The Acorn Shop remains open for business through the end of October, weekdays by chance or appointment, on Saturdays from 10-5 and Sunday from 12-5. Don't forget that members receive a 10% discount on many items and that the Shop is a good place to find an unusual Christmas gift.





# Give Vines a Bit of Thought

Sonja Javarone

Sometimes we do not see what is most obvious. As we tour the arboretum, our interest is drawn to the native and exotic trees, or to perennials, or to the bird population, but have we ever taken note of the vines? Granted, vines reach their greatest potential in more tropical climates. Many trees in the rain forest would fall over without the climbing and twining vines (*lianas*) binding one tree to another. Our temperate vines may be less aggressive than their tropical relatives, but no less deserving of our attention.

Here at the arboretum, Virginia creeper, virgin's bower, wild grape, Asiatic bittersweet, silkvine, and trumpet creeper line the ditches and stone walls along the roadway. Species and hybrid varieties of clematis grow in the perennial gardens. Clematis and Dutchman's pipe are waiting final placement from the holding beds behind the library. The shed near the Acorn Shop supports porcelain berry. Wild grape and poison ivy climb the Scotch pines in the rhododendron section. Moonseed is found on the left-hand side of the front hill near the lower parking lot. A bit more exploring will reveal the bitter nightshade on the far side of the barn. Let's investigate the world of vines and give our next tour of the arboretum a new focus.

Vines may be herbaceous or woody, annual or perennial, deciduous or evergreen. They support themselves in various ways. Some (trumpet vine, climbing euonymus) cling by rootlets, rootlike hold-fasts, or tendrils with tiny adhesive discs at the ends. Others are supported by twining leaves, stems or petioles (clematis, wisterias). Still others have spring-like tendrils which act as flexible shock absorbers (grapes, sweet peas). Many twine around erect plants or structures, using them to climb towards the light. Some vines twine clockwise (hop), while others twine counterclockwise (morning glory). Observing vines may raise more questions than can be easily answered. What is involved in the twining mechanism? How is this lifestyle advantageous? What is the effect on the tree or other plant used for support by the vine?

Vines create their own particular aura - very appealing to the interested gardener. A vine-covered arbor or pergola lends an intimate focal point to the garden. A pile of rocks, a fence, or a wall covered with vines enriches the landscape. Tripods made of saplings, old farm equipment, trellises, and tree trunks can all be supports for vines. Some vines make excellent ground covers for steep banks or shady places. Hanging baskets, deck or porch rails, and window boxes can all profit from a vine or two. Vines add diversity and interest to the garden and wild areas alike.

The following list includes species hardy in Zone 4 and 5. Many are suitable for the home garden, while others - like poison ivy - are to be appreciated only away from the cultivated garden. Vines vary in cultural requirements. Consult a good garden book or a horticulturist for details.

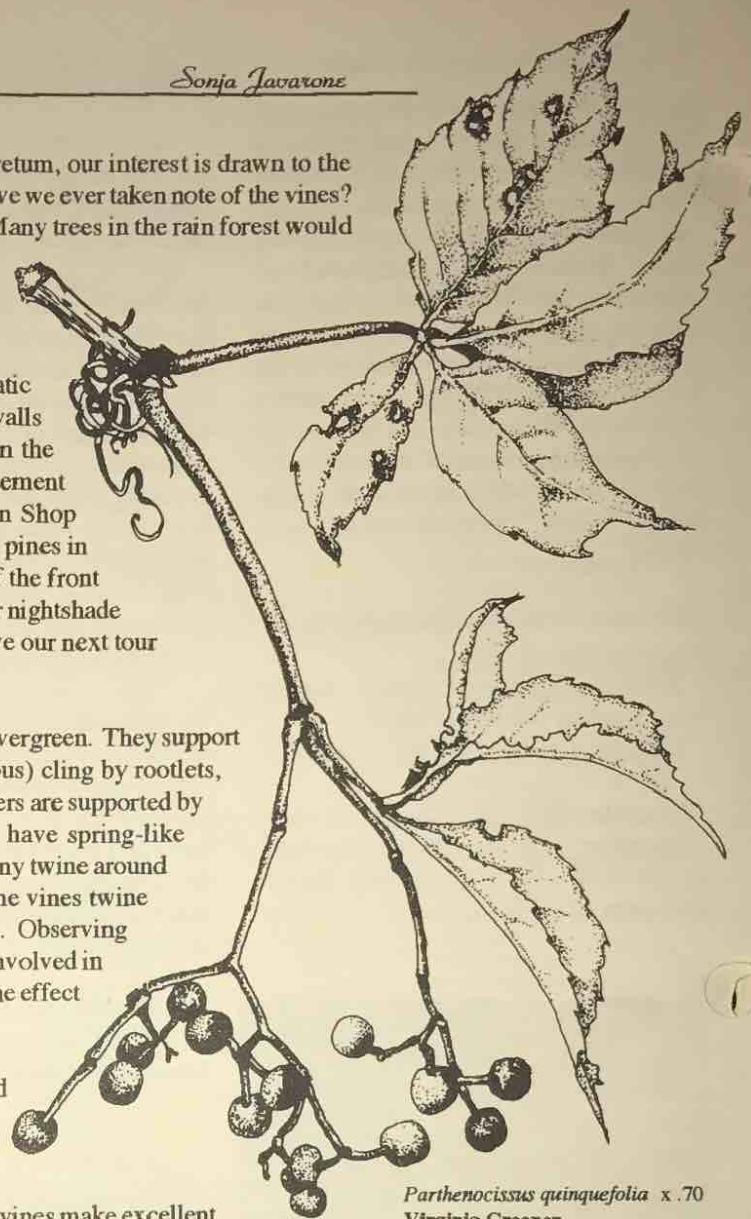
**Virginia Creeper**, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, is a native vine that has been imported to Europe. It is extensively used for its decorative qualities and brilliant red autumn foliage. The fan-shaped compound leaves, usually with five leaflets, are a sure key to identification. Its blue berries, mostly hidden by foliage, are eaten by many animals and birds.

**Boston Ivy**, *Parthenocissus tricuspidata*, of Asiatic origin, decorates buildings throughout the temperate regions of the world with its shiny green leaves which turn to a brilliant scarlet in autumn.

**Wild grapes**, *Vitis* species, include many native North American grapes (Fox, Riverbank), all of which can be used for jellies, juices, and wines, and for wreaths, woven baskets and other decorative uses.

**American Bittersweet**, *Celastrus scandens*, should not be collected from the wild. Native populations of this vine have been plundered for their decorative berries.

**Asiatic or Oriental Bittersweet**, *Celastrus orbiculatus*, a native of China and Japan, is a twining vine that has escaped to the wild in the eastern United States.



*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* x.70  
**Virginia Creeper**  
Illustration by Anne Jaster



**Poison Ivy**, *Rhus radicans*, may be observed as a ground cover, shrub or vine. Do not be deceived by an attractive vine having compound leaves with three leaflets, striking fall color, climbing twenty feet into a tree. Birds and some people are apparently immune to the poisonous non-volatile oil secreted by the plant. We may appreciate the autumn color - but obviously poison ivy is not to be cultivated.

Clematis species includes fourteen native species, one *Clematis virginiana* (**Virgin's Bower**) with its fluffy fruits and *C. verticillaris* (**Rock Clematis**), both possibilities for introduction into a garden setting. The more familiar and spectacular garden cultivars are of Asiatic origin.

**Trumpet Vine or Trumpet Creeper**, *Campsis radicans*, is an especially attractive native vine. Several garden cultivars have been developed. According to Dirr, "If you can't grow this, give up gardening."

**Trumpet Honeysuckle**, *Lonicera sempervirens*, the hardiest of native honeysuckles, is a vine with dramatic potential in the garden. Cultivars with yellow, orange, and scarlet flowers are available.

**Climbing Euonymus or Wintercreeper** (*Euonymus fortunei*), originally an import from China, has many cultivars, some of which are climbers. This vine is among the hardiest of the evergreen vines.

**Silkvine**, *Periploca graeca* is an interesting southeastern European import which has escaped to the wild in many areas. The leaves remain green late into the fall and the milky sap is poisonous if eaten.

**Greenbriers**, *Smilax* species, are native vines that provide food for wildlife. Prone to rampant growth, they are usually suitable only outside the cultivated garden.

**Moonseed**, *Menispermum canadense*, is an attractive native vine. When used in excess, its medicinal qualities can be toxic and potentially fatal. In pioneer times, a tincture of the roots was used as a laxative and tonic.

**European, or Common Matrimony Vine** (*Lycum halimifolium*), native of southeastern Europe and Western Asia, is a sprawl-

ing spiny vine with orange-red berries. It has escaped in many areas and is toxic to sheep and cattle.

**Bitter Nightshade** (*Solanum dulcamara*) is a native vine with attractive red berries. The plant is poisonous to humans and livestock. Although related to tomato, potato, and eggplant, cultivation is not recommended.

**Porcelain Berry** (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) native to China, Korea, Japan and the Russian Far East, has lovely porcelain-blue berries in the Fall.

**Wild Mock-cucumber** (*Echinocystis lobata*) is a fast-growing, self-sowing native annual vine with sprays of showy, delicate white flowers. It can provide quick cover for unsightly areas. The cucumber-like fruits are interesting.

**Wisteria** species are hard to establish, but worth the effort. America, Asian, and Japanese species area available.

**Dutchman's Pipe** (*Aristolochia durior*) native to the Central U.S. has been popular since colonial times. Even though it has no autumn color, the large leaves provide nostalgic atmosphere and shade for a Victorian entranceway.

## WISH LIST

Shredded bark mulch - by the bag,  
by the wheelbarrow,  
by the truck load!

A platform-type screw jack - to  
make the lifting easier....

A refrigerator - or someone to  
diagnose and repair the  
one in the farmhouse.

A librarian to wile away the hours  
sorting, organizing, and  
cataloging our books.

## Gardening..... On Line

Margaret Biener

Gardeners have a new tool. However, it's nothing so earthy as a new compost bin or a new shovel design. It's the electronic world of the bulletin board (BBS), the Internet (Information Super Highway) complete with the World Wide Web, E-Mail, News Groups and special interest ListSers.

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society is becoming more broadly accessible to more people with their complete library catalog on-line. Their "Hort Link" will carry book reviews, calendars of events and activities of horticultural organizations in New England, class registry, event ticket sales, book purchases, and staff expertise to answer your questions.

To access Hort Link, one needs a modem which connects your computer to a telephone line. Call 617-536-9280, ext. 238 for more information. Hort Link will make it possible to E-Mail individual departments and staff members with a response within a 48 hours. Presently there is no fee, except a long distance call.

We will soon be able to link to the information Super Highway with a local call to CRISNY (Capital Region Information Service of New York), an affiliate of the National Public Telecomputing Network. For more information call 442-2585 (SUNY Albany).

Previous electronic communications with a cataloger at Arnold Arboretum indicates that they are planning to have their and other arboretum holdings information available on-line soon. There are many ListSers with interactive communications on gardening. These include: GARDENS from U of Kentucky, MGarden for Master Gardeners, Washington State, and an Internat'l Rock Gardening list from the Netherlands. There are news groups such as "rec. gardening" and specialized World Wide Web pages - to boggle the mind and imagination.

*Peg Biener, a perennial gardener and member of the North American Rock Garden Society, has been a Master Gardener with Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County since the early 1980s.*





## Gardens to Visit

Lucinda Willemain

**Once I heard about a wonderful garden - and I hoped to see it some day.** To my sorrow I found that the owners had died and that I was too late. Then, unexpectedly, I discovered that a friend of mine lives next door to this garden - that it is not gone after all, and that my friend knows the new owners. Recently, on a bright autumn day, my friend called the owner for permission to visit, and we cut across her back yard to find ourselves in the lovely garden that once belonged to Shirley and "Red" Redington.

The Redingtons were long time members and supporters of the Arboretum, members of the North American Rock Garden Society and of other plant societies, all good sources of unusual plant material. I expected to see some rare plants.

"Shirley was a very artistic person. She had a real feeling for design - a wonderful feeling for color," my friend told me. The Redingtons were great gardening neighbors. Shirley would bring over a gift plant for her neighbor and end up doing the planting herself.

The Redingtons designed their garden themselves from the ground up. For privacy the lot is surrounded by woods. The house is situated sideways to the road so that the front of the house faces downhill to the neighbor's yard rather than to the street. The design follows the slope of the land which steps steeply down the hill behind the house to a space of flat lawn adjacent to the neighbor's yard. House and driveway are on the level middle step, leaving plenty of sloping land in front and in back of the house for the construction of rock garden beds which need excellent drainage. Because soil in this area is ordinarily clay, these beds have been improved by years and years of composting and other soil amendments.

Approaching the house on the driveway, the visitor comes first to the front walk, then a little farther to the garage, then to an absolutely enviable utility area with a small greenhouse, cold frame and compost piles that are hidden by the house. The driveway makes deliveries to this area direct and simple. A post and rail fence was erected where the downsloping front garden bed falls away to the right of the driveway. It's a safety feature, especially in winter, but it's also beautifully weathered and planted with flowering vines. Just coming into bloom now, the Sweet Autumn Clematis not far from the front door will provide late bloom and fragrance.

A great deal of planting and cultivating has been done. One imagines two people spending part of every day - and the better part of some days - working in the garden or else planning it. Small trees have been pruned and maintained nicely. They had some outside help.

Various plant collections are growing well here. "Red" planted dwarf conifers of all types in the large sloping beds. Alpine plants and the heathers prove that the Redingtons could grow what most of us with this soil and climate could not. Shirley was a member of the Hemerocallis Society and had a large collection of daylilies. They are laid out in island beds roundish-shaped areas in the middle of the lawn at the bottom of the hill. There seem to be five or seven of these beds in a free-form design. Generally one doesn't like to see a lot of plastic labels in a person's front yard, but for a collection like this it is necessary. Also, the names on the labels are somewhat inspiring. 'Poogle' and 'Chicago Puzzle' are two of the really odd ones and there are about 350 more like that.

Like most gardens, this one records the history of experiments with different kinds

of plantings. Some are still in progress. A holding bed in the utility area is full of young trees and shrubs, growing on now without the gardener to explain where was their intended destination in the garden. This raised bed might once have been a vegetable garden; there is no vegetable garden now but small fruit trees have been planted at the end of the driveway. There is a small stream in the woods on the left side of the house. An arched wooden bridge has been constructed over the stream and a path into the woods was begun and partly, I am told, planted with wildflowers. This little private spot somewhat removed from the house provided a new type of soil and terrain for garden experiments. It is presently overgrown, but the idea remains a fine one.

You can only see this garden now if you happen to be acquainted with the new owners or their next door neighbor. The Redington garden was on the annual garden tour sponsored this past summer by Schenectady County Cooperative Extension. Remember that garden clubs, plant societies such as the North American Rock Garden Society and community groups of all kinds offer garden tours from time to time. Let's try not to miss them. In addition, you surely know someone right now in your town who has a great garden (I'll bet you a jar of wild grape jam!). Indian Summer is a fine time to visit. Call them up, take a little pot of homemade jam or some seeds as a gift. See your friend's garden before winter sets in and all our gardens are under the snow.

*Ed. note: This column will be a regular feature of the Newsletter. We plan to acquaint Arboretum members with gardens they may wish to visit, public gardens that are open most of the time, and private gardens that are open only on special occasions or perhaps for charitable causes through the efforts of various organizations. The nonprofit Garden Conservancy, Box 219, Cold Spring, New York 10516, whose mission is to preserve and restore great gardens, provides access to distinguished private gardens through its "Open Days" program. This year it published a directory that listed, along with maps and directions, more than 100 private gardens in New York and Connecticut open on certain Sundays throughout this spring and summer. The directory also includes 32 not-too-well-known public gardens. In our immediate area Schenectady County Cooperative Extension and the Saratoga County Soroptimists both sponsor one-day, private garden tours. If you know of others, give us a call or send a note to the Arboretum office.*



There is no fixed rule for how late in the fall one can safely plant woody ornamentals. Winter comes in a bit differently each year. **Roots are in active growth as long as soil temperatures are above 40 degrees F.** For most plants, planting three or four weeks before that date should give adequate time for plant establishment and post-installation watering. Container-grown plants can be planted later with less risk than freshly dug nursery grown stock.

Deciduous trees and shrubs should not be dug from the nursery until the leaves have dropped and dormancy has set in, thus **mid-to-late fall is a natural planting time.** However, planting some freshly dug deciduous trees is better postponed to early spring. These include flowering dogwood, maple (Red, Hedge and Japanese), magnolia, hawthorn, stone fruit trees (peach and cherry), oak and birch.

Perennials and bulbs can be planted right up to the time the soil freezes. After the ground has frozen, it is good practice to mulch any perennial planted after mid-October heavily with 5-7 inches of straw or leaves. Winter freezing and thawing will cause heaving and expose the root systems to drying winds which may kill the plant.

The two most advantageous times for planting in the Northeast are: 1) late winter/early spring, as soon as the soil is workable, and as many weeks as possible prior to the major bud break, and 2) late summer/early fall, beginning as soon as the summer heat has begun to ease and the season's top growth is almost complete, extending until 2-3 weeks before soil temperatures drop

below 40 degrees F. One can plant with good results at other times through the year **as long as good planting and after-care techniques are followed.** The main considerations to take into account are a one-to-two month summer drought, killing cold temperatures in late fall/late spring, and frost-heaving during the winter.

As a general rule of thumb, the best times to plant are: bare-rooted plants from mid-April to May (most years); broadleaf evergreens from April to May and August to September; needled evergreens from April to May and mid-September to October; perennials from April to May and August to October; and seeded lawns from late August to early October (yet this year anytime was good).

Mulching and watering thoroughly after fall planting will increase the chances for survival rates and reduce replacement costs during the following year. So by the time you are reading this newsletter, we have passed the magic window of planting opportunity. If you are still planting trees, shrubs and seeding lawns, consider them "dormant installations" that may require replacement after spring follow-up. If you haven't winterized that nursery stock or left-over perennials, now is the time to do so.

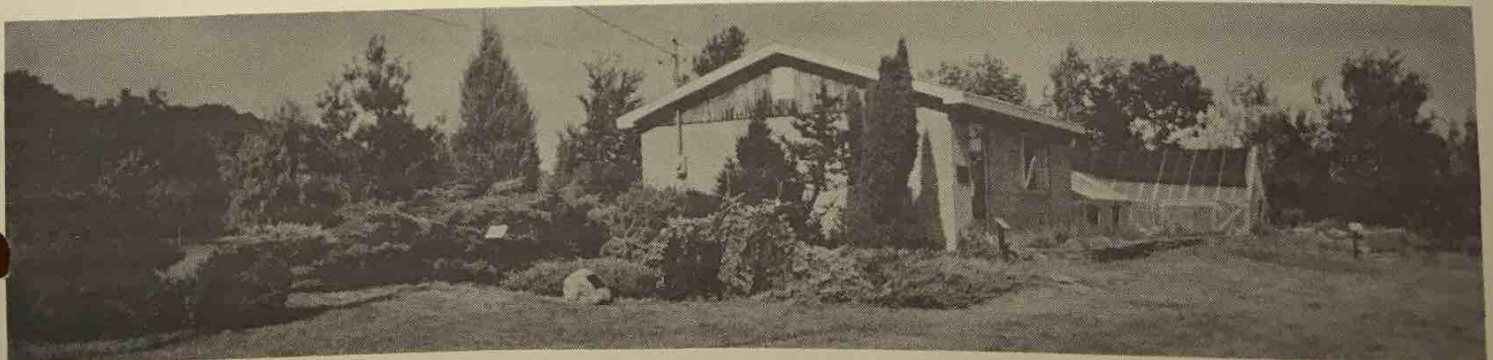
If you have acquired plants late this season, perhaps at an end-of-season sale, take special care. The establishment of containerized plants can be a problem, particularly in very heavy or very light soils. Since the artificial soil mixes utilized in container culture differ in physical and

chemical makeup from those soils normally encountered in most landscape situations, plant roots frequently fail to penetrate the soil in which they are planted and remain confined to the original root volume of the container. Such situations result in a decline in plant vigor and even eventual death of the plant.

To minimize planting failure, the following steps should be taken. Dig a hole two or three times the diameter of the container. Check the drainage; if poor, consider installing drain tile or raised beds. Remove the plant from the container and spread any encircling roots so they extend horizontally into the backfill to stimulate root growth out and away from the root zone. Place the plant in the hole and if the soil is poor, backfill with a fertile loam or a mixture of equal parts loam, peat moss, and/or sand. Firm the soil, water thoroughly, and install a mulch layer. Water the plant regularly, particularly during the first year.

If plants cannot be installed now, they should be watered thoroughly, treated with anti-desiccant sprays such as Wilt-Pruf, heeled into the ground, or stored in a protective environment such as a polyhouse or layered under microfoam.

*Ken Carnes is Commercial Landscape Horticulture agent with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County. He has 25 years of experience in gardening and landscaping and 12 years of vocational ornamental horticulture instruction.*





# Stargazing at the Arboretum

★ ★ ★  
Alan French ★ ★ ★

Fall is a wonderful time for stargazing. The annoying bugs of summer are gone, the full chill of winter has not yet arrived, and darkness falls at a reasonable hour — especially after we return to Standard time at the end of October. The Fall skies are also graced by many meteors or “shooting stars.”

Meteor watching is an easy and relaxing activity. For the best views you will want to pick a dark, moonless night. Watch where you have a clear view, as meteors may appear anywhere in the sky. The field near the Meeting House is an ideal location. Bring a reclining lawn chair or sleeping bag to stretch out on, plenty of warm clothing, and a hot beverage. The company of a good friend can add to your enjoyment.

Meteors appear as swift streaks of light slicing across the heavens. Some are only as bright as the faintest stars, while others may outshine the Moon and cast vivid shadows on the ground. Many bright meteors leave glowing trails, while others seem to explode into pieces like a Roman

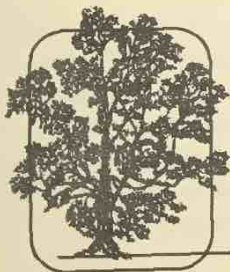
candle. Meteor watching requires some patience. At times a meteor may appear every few minutes, but there will be long stretches when they seem to be avoiding you. The entire month of October is graced by more meteors than usual. Many of these are from the Orionid meteor shower. Although this shower will be at its best between around October 20 and 26, some meteors from it may be seen all month. Since the Moon will be new on 24th, moonlight will not interfere with the peak nights this year.

The Taurids may produce a few bright fireballs in late October and early November. The major shower of November is the Leonids, which is best from the 14th to the 21st, with peak activity during the morning hours on the 18th. (On the 14th, Moonrise is around 11:00 PM, and it will rise about an hour later each following night.) Near the peak, the Leonids usually produce ten to fifteen meteors an hour, but in 1966 forty per second were seen briefly! Astronomers expect this again around the end of the decade.

The most reliable meteor shower of the year occurs in December. This year Geminids will be visible between the 7th and 17th, with the peak around the 14th. (The Moon will rise at 10:48 PM on the 13th, and about an hour later each following night.) At its best, the Geminids may produce a meteor every minute or two.

With patience, any dark night will reveal some meteors, and give you a chance to relax and enjoy the beauty of the night sky. Why not give meteor watching a try on the next clear, moonless night?

You can also learn about the night sky at a “Star Party” held at the Arboretum by the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers. Star Parties are scheduled for November 24 and 25, and December 15 and 16. These all begin at 7:30 PM, and are canceled if the skies are mostly cloudy. If you have any comments or questions, you can contact me at 374-8460, or e-mail me at [72724.2270@compuserve.com](mailto:72724.2270@compuserve.com).



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