

LANDIS ARBORETUM

THE NEWSLETTER

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From the Director's Desk —John Sanchirico

"Another knoll of pasture, jutting out from the woodlot, was crowned by a single white oak some six feet in diameter at the base. Under this tree, whose trunk was marked by two wriggling lightning scars, one could see in the near valley the clustered houses of five villages, Esperance, Quaker Street, Braman's Corners, Eaton's Corners, and

Burtonsville, and in the distance the peaks of the Catskills in the south and the Adirondacks in the north. On a quiet or east wind days one could hear the rumble of horses and wagons going over the bridges at Esperance and Burtonsville. This was of all places on the farm the spot my father loved. It was the spot to which he always took visitors, and from the promontory of land upon which the oak stood he gave the farm its name, Oak Nose Farm."

—Fred Lape, A Farm and Village Boyhood

As I write down my initial thoughts for my first letter as your new director, I sit in this very same spot, some hundred years later, looking out at the same hills and valleys seeking some inspiration to best guide me in direction and desire for the Arboretum's future. With my own eyes now set upon these cascading hills, just now becoming fully clothed in their fall attire, vibrant colors of red, orange and yellow hue, it is difficult, if not impossible, for me to feel anything but hope for the future, as well as a deep and humbling reverence for the natural beauty that is the Landis Arboretum. Here, it all seems very clear to me that this is and always has been the true living purpose of the Arboretum: to inspire, to evoke, and to instill both wonder and reverence for that intrinsic beauty with which we have all so graciously been blessed.

I have now just become settled here at the Oak Nose Farm myself and am readying myself for a thoughtful and productive winter

comprised of hard focus and unbridled hope for the blooming possibilities of the coming spring. To think that all of this was created by the dream of one man with the unfettered encouragement of his closest friends, a man who had no formal background in botany or horticulture, driven by quixotic inspiration and fueled by a love and respect for the natural world and a vision of man in his rightful place as a steward of nature and not as its master.

The Arboretum has since grown and thrived under the care and tireless dedication of its ongoing family of volunteers, employees, committee members, and long line of trustees both past and present, without all of whom the Arboretum could not have survived until today. During my very short time here thus far, I have met one devoted volunteer after another from multiple backgrounds and varied interests, but they all seem to share one common characteristic, and that is a joyous and innocently enthusiastic love for the beauty and the

serenity of this amazingly magical place high on the hill.

I am most proud to now have a role in the preservation and future stewardship of this unique living dream. I will do my very best to ensure it is passed on to the further deserving generations of children, to again be used by them as a living tool for cultivating and fostering appreciation of the natural world and the need for their loving stewardship of it.

When I told my 9-year-old son about the new position I had been offered, he looked up at me and said most simply, "Dad, your new job is to be just like the Lorax, you have to talk for the trees now."

I now ask all of you to please consider and then respond: what can the Arboretum do to become a better valued resource, a place to connect with nature, a means to teach stewardship and conservation to our children, a place to inspire and give hope to those of all ages and abilities?

Second Annual Wine-Tasting at Cobleskill's Grapevine Farms To Benefit Landis Arboretum

Grapevine Farms, Cobleskill's country shop and bakery, is pleased to host the second annual evening of wine tasting to benefit the Landis Arboretum. Vintners from some of New York State's finest vineyards will be there to share their wines, complemented by a selection of delicious hors d'oeuvres. Other highlights of the evening include the raffling of a beautiful basket of New York State wines and the holiday shopping for which Grapevine Farms is famous. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a wonderful evening at

Grapevine Farms while benefiting the Arboretum. Sample some of New York State's distinctive wines, enjoy the tasty hors d'oeuvres, mingle with old and new friends, stroll through the many charming rooms at Grapevine Farms for unique gifts, and help support the Landis Arboretum, the Capital District's jewel of a public garden in Esperance, New York.

Wednesday, November 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Admission is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Tickets may be purchased at Grapevine Farms (2373 State Route 7, Cobleskill, NY 12043) on the night of the event, or in advance from the Arboretum, by calling (518) 875-6935.

Visit the Arboretum's website at www.landisarboretum.org for more information about Landis and the wide array of programs it offers.

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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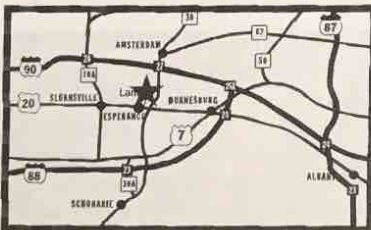
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The Arboretum is located at 174 Lape Road, Esperance, NY. It is one and one-half miles north of Route 20 in Esperance. Follow the signs from the village to Lape Road. The Arboretum is one-quarter mile straight ahead. Visit our website for more information



GOOD FRIENDS, GREEN NEIGHBORS Hannaford Opens Duaneburg Store

— Louise Polli

When the new Hannaford Supermarket opened its doors this past June, it became the largest employer in the Town of Duaneburg. It also brought to town a desire to be a good neighbor—as well as an environmentally conscious and innovative business. Hannaford's Store Manager Gene Prout is a local resident and a strong supporter of his community. We talked recently about the store's impact on the area, its budding relationship with Landis, and the environmental awareness that shapes Hannaford's operations.

As Gene stated, the people this store serves are his neighbors. He made a point of visiting the existing local merchants, proprietors of the deli and the meat market, for example, and using their services when crews were preparing the store for opening. He employs from 100–120 staff, depending on the season, the vast majority of whom reside within 20 miles of the store. The Duaneburg store provided new jobs as well as the opportunity for some workers from other employers or Hannaford locations to shorten their commute.

Hannaford's relationship with the Arboretum continues to grow and was spawned even before the store opened. Alan French, Landis board member and President of the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers, which hosts Public Star Parties, shared his initial concerns about the effects of the new store's lighting on the Arboretum's prized "dark skies." In some communities, the siting of a new store or business is an adversarial process that pits developers against residents, neighbors against neighbors, and produces enough acrimony to bring out the worst in everyone. Hannaford's entry, however, was marked by careful planning and dialogue to resolve any potential conflicts between the store's design and footprint and the needs and concerns of the community.

Alan and the Duaneburg Planning Board met with Hannaford's Doug Boyce to discuss how external lighting at the store could alter the Landis sky and impact the ability of the astronomers to deliver their programs to the Arboretum's members and visitors. The result of that discussion was a move from 1000-watt metal halide fixtures to those



which used 400-watt high pressure sodium, more easily filtering out light, and 30-foot light poles instead of those 40 feet tall. In addition, Hannaford modified the lighting of its flagpole so that two small downward shining lights now illuminate it. Alan believes that the new design resulted in better nighttime lighting without harsh unshielded light and glare. He stated, "Hannaford and the Planning Board understood that sky friendly lighting is also very effective lighting, providing good visibility and security."

Gene wants his store to remain responsive to the community. Hannaford is committed to healthy eating and the nourishment of children, and donates produce and nutritional food to schools. Gene generously provided bottled and bulk water, oranges, and bananas for September's 5K Forest Run at Landis. He sees a future in which the Arboretum and Hannaford can come together to sponsor volunteer parties and workfests. He has offered space on his community bulletin board to advertise Landis events and activities, as well as the use of his loading dock and parking lot for deliveries and carpooling, respectively. Hannaford's approach to community service is one that emphasizes product and service rather than cash, providing resources and time to support good health and sustainability for the organizations and individuals it sponsors.

Hannaford is also environmentally responsible and proactive. The Duaneburg store is a showcase of green design principles put into practice. From the skylights that maximize the use of natural light, to the motion-sensitive LED-lit refrigerated cases that run cool and save energy, to the iceless seafood cases and advanced refrigeration which recycles its own heat, the new store proves that limited consumption of resources and minimized impact on the environment are not only possible but totally consistent with a sound business model. It was built to meet the standards of the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program and anticipates LEED silver or gold certification.

The fit with nearby Landis Arboretum couldn't be better.

Thanks for the treats...

Phyllis and Phyllis, bake sale coordinators, thank everyone who contributed homemade baked goods to sell at the Fall Plant Sale.

As always, this event offers something for everyone—and their sweet tooth.

Native Alternatives To Invasive Plants

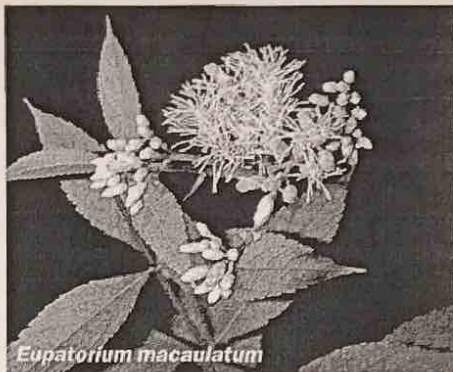
—Fred Breglia, Director of Horticulture and Operations

Second in a series of two articles.

Among the worst shrubs to plant due to their invasive qualities are shrub honeysuckles (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. morrowii*), winged burningbush (*Euonymus alatus*), and privets (*Ligustrum amurense*, *L. obtusifolium*, *L. vulgaris*). Great alternatives for these invasives are American fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*) and bush honeysuckle (*Dierilla lonicera*); both are extremely attractive flowering shrubs and are very hardy in our area. The elderberries—either common elderberry or red (*Sambucus canadensis*, *S. pubens*) are a very attractive flowering shrub with the bonus of delicious fruits that are great eaten right off the shrub, baked into pies, or even made into wine—or enjoyed by the birds.

Three shrub dogwoods, gray, red osier, and silky (*Cornus racemosa*, *C. sericea*, *C. amomum*), have nice natural mounding habits that require little pruning and provide valuable fruit for wildlife. Another underutilized large shrub with great form is spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*). It is very adaptable from moist to dry sites, can live in sun or shade, and has fragrant spicy smelling leaves (which give this plant its name). It also furnishes fruit for wildlife. If you prefer, an evergreen shrub option is the American yew (*Taxus canadensis*), easy to shape and a source of fruit for wildlife too.

Climbing and trailing vines that have become very invasive are Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and black swallowwort (*Cynanchum nigrum*). Some great alternative vines are American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), which is a woody vine that has the same characteristics of its invasive cousin, including fruit for wildlife, yellow fall color,



and ability to grow in a variety of tough sites—without the added worry of its taking over the neighborhood. Trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) has some of the most fragrant, showy flowers of all native vines and is shade tolerant. Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is adaptable from sun to partial shade, provides fruit for wildlife, and has the best fiery red fall foliage of all the native vines. One of my personal favorites is virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*). Virgin's bower is easily confused with sweet autumn clematis due to its highly attractive fragrant flowers that are like magnets for hummingbirds and butterflies. This highly adaptable native vine can live in sun, part shade, or full shade, as well as in moist to dry sites. Native Americans even used this plant as medicine for many purposes.

A few invasive brambles/thorny shrubs that are problematic include multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*). However, the native swamp rose and Carolina rose (*Rosa palustris*, *R. carolina*) have nice summer flowers, are thicket forming, and provide rosehips (fruit) which are good for wildlife and can be brewed

into a delicious tea with many health benefits. Native blackberries and raspberries (*Rubus* spp.) are thicket forming and produce delicious fruit.

To conclude, I want to mention a few wetland herbaceous invasives. The common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) are probably the two worst wet area invaders. There are so many better options. With such choices as native irises (*Iris versicolor*, *I. prismatica*), with lovely spring-blooming purple flowers; blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*), with its striking blue mid-summer flowers; cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), a tall, late-summer flowering perennial that has incredible long lasting red blooms; and Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), with its late summer mauve colored flowers—it's easy to set up a multi-season ever-blooming wetland garden.

This is only a partial list of New England invasives. To avoid buying invasive plants for your home or yard, you should ask nursery personnel whether a plant is native and whether it can be invasive under any or certain conditions.



Jennifer Anderson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

"Stump" the tree expert? "Tap" his knowledge?

We invite our members to ask questions of the Arboretum's ISA-certified Arborist, Fred Breglia will answer your questions about trees—pruning, diseases, selection, etc.—in his column in the winter and spring issues of the Newsletter.

Submit your questions by e-mailing
info@landisarboretum.org
(put COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
in the subject line)
or by writing

Communications Committee
Landis Arboretum
PO Box # 186, Lape Road
Esperance NY 12066.

Renewal Options During Membership Year Shift

Beginning in 2012, Landis is joining the majority of nonprofit organizations by establishing a single point of membership date. The shift will simplify membership database management and make it easier for members to remember when renewal is due. Although most organizations have chosen January 1 for membership renewal, Landis has chosen May 1 because it coincides with the Spring Plant Sale, our signature event. During the months leading

up to May, current members may renew and new members may join at prorated amounts.

You may join online using PayPal (small handling fee) or download a form at www.landisarboretum.org, or call our office at or call our office at 518-875-6935 to receive a form by mail. Any questions regarding membership renewal? Please contact John Sanchirico at director@landisarboretum.org.

LANDIS PORTRAITS: A series about the people behind the plants at the Arboretum

—Nolan Marciniac

Lee Lattimer

"We don't know where we're going unless we know where we've been," Lee Lattimer insisted.

Recently installed as the Arboretum's official historian, Lee said that cultivating a sense of the past will insure that the Arboretum stays true to its founder's vision. He also confessed that he very much enjoys "detective work."

Reading Fred Lape's memoir, *A Farm and Village Boyhood*, motivated Lee to research the Arboretum's history. He admitted that he admires Lape as a "Renaissance man." Lape, who founded the Arboretum, was a poet and playwright, a teacher, an internationally recognized botanist, a linguist, and an amateur musician. Lee has already unearthed many documents—deeds, mortgages, death certificates, newspaper articles, monographs, photographs, college records—that shed light on Lape, George Landis, and Levan Loveland. He also hopes to record the first-hand accounts of long-time members of the Arboretum who have a sense of its history.

Lee was working a desk job for a trucking company when he decided that he needed to change his life. He quit his job and drove his pickup across the country, camping out on the way to the West Coast. He got as far as the Independence Rock in Wyoming when he ran low on funds. He decided to return to the Binghamton area, his "home turf," and eventually enrolled in SUNY Cobleskill and earned his Bachelor

of Technology degree in wildlife management. Right now, he works for the New York State Workers' Compensation Board in Albany—alas, another desk job!

Lee credited Anne Donnelly, for whom he worked as a lab assistant while he was at Cobleskill, for "deepening" and finely honing his love of nature ("and everything in it")—and the Arboretum too. "Life is so hectic," he said. "It's important to take some time out and 'vegetate.'" He suggested that we all need to "sit and absorb [what the Arboretum offers] and get rid of 'inner pollution'... and set everything back into perspective again."

He remembered that the first time he came to the Arboretum, he was privileged to sight an oven bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). Since then, he works as a volunteer and serves on the Communications Committee, in addition to having taken on the responsibilities of historian. He said that he gravitates to the Woodland Pond "to meditate" on its beautiful merging of habitats: water, field, and forest. He hikes the trails, too, camera in hand. He mentioned that splendid view from the Meeting House.

And always, he said, he is made aware of both history and nature at the Arboretum: things changing, things remaining the same.

Lee is looking for volunteers to form an historical committee and also for memorabilia such as old photos. If you can help, please contact the Arboretum or e-mail him directly at lrattimer@midtel.net.



Ed and Roxanne Gillen were married under the Arboretum's Great Oak on August 14. Following the ceremony, the bride, groom, and most of the wedding party ran the 5K trail before celebrating under a tent overlooking the spectacular Schoharie Valley.

[Trail] Blazing Saddles: Equine Trail at Landis

—Wilma Jozwiak

No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle.

—Winston Churchill

In a few short months, the sound of hooves on a new trail will celebrate the age-old relationship between equines and humans.

The Equine Trail will be a collaboration between Landis and the Landis Arboretum Trail Blazers, a community of equine enthusiasts led by Landis neighbor Bonnie Fewtrell. Bonnie rides, drives, and shows her donkeys in competition, and has long wanted to have a larger area close to home for rides and drives, but doubted that Landis would be receptive to such a trail on its property. At the same time, Landis arborist Fred Breglia was eager to add trails in areas of Landis that are currently not accessible. Since construction and maintenance of trails is time-consuming, Fred is hard pressed to maintain the existing trails. Thus began a mutually beneficial collaboration.

Equine traffic has not been allowed on existing Arboretum paths because uncontrolled access would mean that equines' hooves would damage sensitive root systems, causing irreparable damage to trees. While existing trails in Schoharie County will continue to be devoted to foot traffic, recent acquisition of acreage in Montgomery County has opened the door to areas that are less sensitive. The area to be developed in Montgomery County is extremely picturesque, with changes in elevation, amazing views, streams, and even waterfalls. Construction of this new trail will more than double accessible trail structures at Landis. Down the road, Fred and Bonnie would like to see more development that would link new and existing trails, creating a perimeter trail for the entire Arboretum.

The initial use of the trail will be limited to equines. Eventually, the trail will be multi-use, open to pack animals like llamas and alpacas, equine-drawn carts, sled dogs, and non-motorized vehicles (mountain bikes in particular). In addition, hikers, snowshoers, and cross country skiers are likely to find the trails irresistible. Models for such trail concepts include several well-established trails in other parts of the country, such as the nationally known Tsali Recreation Area in western North Carolina. Tsali trail managers have developed schedules to ensure that equines and others have successful access, opening the multiple trails alternately to different traffic on subsequent days. At Landis, it is more likely that non-motorized vehicles would have access to certain portions of the trail. Fred envisions bike club volunteers working with the equine community to identify areas where they could build elements necessary for biking without inconveniencing equine riders.

It is expected that the trail will open in rough form for equine use in the spring of 2011. For the first several months, equine traffic will help to establish the trail and identify any needed adjustments. The Landis Arboretum Trail Blazers will manage trail construction and maintenance and will need the support of volunteers. If you are interested in a rewarding opportunity to help Landis, contact Bonnie Fewtrell by leaving a message at the Arboretum, or e-mail Volunteer Coordinator Susan Sagendorf at ssagendorf@yahoo.com.