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Above: At the Capital District

Garden & Flower Show on Friday,

March 27, the big attraction was

Pippin (page 2) and friend Jeff

O'Handley of the Wildlife

Learning Company. Below: Lawson Harris staffs the

SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 16 & Sunday, May 17, 2009
ABUNDANCE • BEAUTY • CORDIALITY
Book, Bake and Artisans Sale Add to Format

-Fred Breglia, Director of Horticulture and Operations

reparations for the Spring Plant Sale, the major fundraiser of the Landis Arboretum, are almost complete.

This year's highlights include a diverse selection of shade and ornamental trees and flowering shrubs.

Among them are resistant American elm cultivars, special fruit trees, specimen conifers, including the 'Cobra' spruce, and numerous flowering shrubs, all of which are hardy in our area.

In addition to the large number of perennials normally available, the sale will feature an incredible selection of Echinacea, Japanese iris, and peonies. An assortment of climbing plants, unique annuals, heritage vegetables, and raspberries will round out the ever-growing list of plants available at the sale.

The annual spring and fall plant sales are an important source of income for the Arboretum. They give you a chance to help Landis—while you acquire beautiful and unusual plants of many types to improve your home environment. As always, we hope for great weather during the sale days, but we plan to make the

event a positive experience for all attending regardless of rain, shine, or even snow (which actually happened one year).

For the convenience of our customers, the Arboretum will provide ample parking, wheelchair accessible bathrooms, and a snack bar with hot and cold selections, hot tea and coffee, cold drinks and water, and, of course, some of the best baked goods offered anywhere.

We can use donations of healthy plants that are potted and sale ready. We have extra pots available at the Arboretum, so call if you need some. Please label the plants with the common name, and we will price appropriately.

The Friday night members-only PREVIEW PARTY is a great opportunity to shop for plants. If you're not already a member of Landis, you can enroll at the door. Not only will you get first pick of plants, but you will also be offered an array of appetizers to eat, great wine to drink, and music to entertain you while you purchase your plants—all without any lines.

As usual, we have assembled the most knowledgeable staff around to answer all your plant questions. We can provide recommendations for any site condition or landscape.

Free Admission and Parking • 10% Member Discounts • Acorn Gift Shop Is Open

Arboretum's booth. Plant & Book Donations Accepted for Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser

The Arboretum welcomes plant and book donations for its Spring Plant/Book/Bake Sales and Artisans' Way on May 16 and 17th.

- · Plants should be "sale ready" and clearly labeled—name, variety, color are suggested. They should be weed-free with unsightly foliage removed. We will do the pricing.
- · If you have plants or books you wish to donate or need information, please call the office at 518-875-6935 to make arrangements.
- · Donations of books in good condition are welcomed always. Please contact the Arboretum with information about book donations by May 5.
- · Artisans are invited to showcase their wares for a nominal fee within the confines of the Plant Sale staging area. Call 518-875-6935, Option 3 to express interest and receive additional details.



Help Wanted! Join the Fun at the Plant Sale

The 2009 Spring Plant/Book/ Bake Sale/ and Artisans' Way is one of two signature, plant-focused fundraising events for the Arboretum.

We need help...

- To set up the week before the sale
- To unload and display plant material

The expanded format will require—

- Additional cashiers and ticket writers
- · Plant experts
- · Day-of-event parking attendants
- · Sales help for book donations and bake-sale items.

Volume 28, Number 2

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 1.5 miles north of Route 20 in Esperance. Follow the signs from the village to Lape Road.

to brand





PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

-Anne Donnelly

And you thought

the winter was a slow time at the Arboretum! Only the plants get downtime, it seems.

Much has been accomplished in recent months, and we head into a dynamic time at Landis. Concerted, energetic, and relentless efforts at seeking funds—and friends—have borne fruit. Our Farmhouse looks better, and our carriage house is well on the way to becoming a real Welcome Center.

So what's been going on?

Belt-tightening in every way possible has made us leaner. We are grateful for your support. Fiscal prudence with your contributions has made us more confident that, in spite of what is happening "out there," the Arboretum will survive and even thrive, In these uncertain, stressful times, we hope that you will see the Arboretum as a natural sanctuary and source of comfort and solace. A leisurely walk along our trails, a visit to the gardens, or attendance at our very affordable classes and events will surely lift your spirits and connect you again with the earth and like-minded folk too.

Newsletter

The Schoharie County ARC has pitched in to assemble and streamline distribution of our Newsletter mailing. Their involvement saved us 27% on the fall newsletter. Miller Printing continues to support our cost-cutting efforts. Our Board canvassed the membership regarding the arrival time of Newsletter. During these informal phone conversations several members asked: "Why isn't the newsletter online instead of in print?" Canvassed members said they wanted the newsletter but didn't want their contributions going to unnecessary paper and postage. How do you feel? We value your opinion, and your reaction will give us direction.

Comments on those who advertise in our Newsletter were another surprise. You told us that you read the ads with interest and learned about businesses you would not have known about otherwise. You said that you do support those who support us! This is invaluable information as we approach other businesses—perhaps even your own—for future ad inserts.

Board Training

This year, our allvolunteer Board completed two empowerment seminars sponsored by the Council of Community Services of NYS and underwritten in part by the New York State Council on the Arts. The first session covered board roles and responsibilities; the second, financial responsibilities and obligations for nonprofits. These excellent workshops provided a wealth of information and excellent advice, and we are promised on-going support. We had just revised our bylaws and reviewed our committee charges in January, so we had a good start and now have a clearer picture of what needs

to be done. Ours is definitely a working board, and we are do to just eleven members. We not more directors with a strong commitment to our mission and the resources to help us, such as skills in the areas of fundraising, grant writing, creative land use, and long-term financial planning.

Volunteers

We are delighted that Susan Sagendorf has graciously consented to work with the committees and special events chairs as volunteer coordinator. Susan and her husband John are known to many of us and have been longtime supporters of the Arboretum. Anne Bevins and Judy Helfrich, also valued and skilled volunteers, will be helping Susan in this critical function.

Membership

Members are our lifeblood. Memberships are a major source of our operating funds since most grants and many contributions are restricted. The day-to-day cost of operations continues to climb. We can scarcely cut back more, but with your help, we can increase membership. Consider renewing your membership at a higher level. Give memberships as gifts. Attend our events and fundraisers. Bring friends and business associates and urge them to join. Become more active: volunteer to be a "docent" and greet people who visit on weekends. The Arboretum has many dropin visitors on weekends, and many would become members if invited personally. We must put a personal face on the Arboretum. We have heightened awareness of the Arboretum throughout the Capital Regid More people than ever are coming. Can we count on you to greet them and make them feel at home?



COLLECTIONS NEWS —Fred Breglia, Director of Horticulture and Operations

"Connecting to Collections"

"Connecting to Collections Conference Conference

tions" conference in San Diego, California.

About 200 leaders, representing gardens with significant collections from around the country, came together at a conference sponsored by the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Sciences) and the Heritage Preservation. The Arboretum was invited to attend because of our involvement with the North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC), as well as our registered Northeast Oak Collection and our cooperation with the Plant Collections Project.

The purpose of this conference was to help gardens in the under-one-million-dollar budget category to find funding and stay alive. Many of the nation's horticultural treasures are in peril and need conservation. These precious collections are at risk of being lost forever.

Speakers from leading institutions gave panel presentations, ranging from funding to preservation, with lots of time for interacn and first-hand discussion with each speaker. In addition to the funding issues facing public gardens today, we have urgent environmental issues to deal with.

Scientists estimate that more than a third of all species will be threatened by extinction by 2050, making the Arboretum's commitment to conservation more important than ever.

I had the opportunity to chat directly with leaders of the IMLS. I explained that our biggest challenge is to find operational support. Although the IMLS does not provide funding for operational support, we can apply for funding for staff time directly related to collections

Frad Breglia was awarded Best In Show for his sculpture, "The Gyre," by the Cooperstown Art Association Show in March.

Missed it?

Catch Fred's show at Moon River Cafe/Gallery in Schenectady. The opening reception is July 17 at 7pm. His work can be viewed there from July 1-31. Fred will discuss his work at 7pm. The band, Organized Chaos, will play at 8-11pm.

"The Gyre" is a blend of plaster molds and sculptures made from his and his wife Erin's faces, amid three-dimensional shapes of plastic bottles, forks, computer ink cartridges, and plastic trash covered with murky layers of acrylic care and preservation. Given that Landis holds the NAPCC's registered Northeastern Oak Collection and considering our participation in the NAPCC Multi-Institutional Oak Collection and our partnership with the Plant Collections Project, spearheaded by Chicago Botanical Garden (which is funded in part by the IMLS), we have a convincing case for fund-

In addition, we are eligible to apply to the IMLS to receive a free bookshelf that contains informative and practical materials to help us sustain Landis' heritage. This is a musthave resource, intended for small to mid-sized institutions with special collections.

The networking at this conference was a tremendous success. I saw many old friends and made new ones. I also established contact with professionals focused on NAPCC oaks and have been asked to send seed material to arboreta in Nebraska and Ohio. In return, they will send seeds of a few of the oaks that we need to complete our NAPCC collection at Landis.



Propagation Team Prepares for Plant Sale



or the Arboretum's propagation team, the Spring Plant Sale in May is actually the culmination of a process that begins in January. That is when decisions are made

as to what seeds will be ordered, what plants can be used for cutngs in March, and what supplies ced to be ordered to have everything ready to root the cuttings and plant the seeds.

This year, the propagation team is offering something

new at the spring sale. Heirloom vegetables, including several varieties of tomatoes, some peppers, and a few eggplants, will be available for the gardeners who would like to try something new and unusual in the vegetable garden or even tuck some interesting vegetables among the perennials.

The tomato offerings will include well known heirlooms like Brandywine and Stupice. There will also be yellow tomatoes, orange tomatoes, red tomatoes, tomatoes of all types and sizes. For those worried about how heirlooms will grow in our Zones 4 and 5 gardens, there will be Opalka tomatoes. These meaty, tasty, paste tomatoes are from seeds brought over from Europe around 1900 by the Opalka family

in Amsterdam, NY. Eventually a Polish co-worker of one of the Seed Saver Exchange staff shared the seeds with Seed Savers, so now this locally cultivated tomato is available to all of us

Another local heirloom that will be offered at the Spring Plant Sale will be Joe's Long Cayenne Pepper. This medium hot pepper was brought over from Italy by the Joe Sestito family of Troy, NY, cultivated through seeds saved year after year, and finally given to the Seed Savers Exchange.

There will be many other varieties of heirlooms available at the sale, including one variety of tomato and one variety of pepper with variegated foliage. Both pepper and tomato will need sunshine to perform at their best,

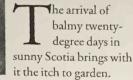
but think how stunning the foliage, as well as the fruit, could be in your perennial border!

The propagation team will offer cuttings of many of the native shrubs found at the Arboretum, as well as a selection of woodland plants. Most woodland plants enjoy shade or dappled light, which makes them good candidates for a shade garden or a dark corner. The team will also offer divisions of perennials from members' gardens and some nice old garden standbys that we just can't resist raising.

Stop by the propagation team's tables located outside the greenhouse early for the best selection of these Arboretum-raised plants. Celebrate spring!

Education Highlights

-Gina Neilsen



I page through my magazines and surf the Web for new seeds to try. I run to Hewitt's when I see a "50% off seeds" sign that conveniently popped up just this week. Ah! I think: an open invitation to try a few crops of winter-sown seeds. I scan the seed packets. I search for key words such as "sow in early cool spring weather" or "needs stratification" that indicate the seeds within are good candidates for winter sowing.

I also check the wintersown.org database and decide to try some Astrantia major. The process is simple: find a Cool Whip container with lid; throw in dampened Pro-Mix; set the seeds at the proper depth after stabbing holes in the top and bottom of the container for circulation and drainage; and then place outside against foundation of your house, and wait for germination. Basically, Mother Nature ensures that the seeds germinate when the conditions are right. Winter sowing in February

and March is an outlet for impatient, itchy gardeners like me.

Winter sowing, in fact, is a wonderfully practical and frugal concept. You use recycled cotainers for your seeds. You don't waste energy on lights in the basement. And you don't need to stress out that your new puppy will knock your plants off the windowsill because they are outside, neatly tucked and secured against your foundation.

I learned a hard lesson last year. I watched seeds sown in tin foil containers fly across the backvard on a blustery day. Since our recycled containers are often make of plastic or other light materials, it should have been obvious to make sure they were secure against the wind. But live and learn. My sowings were successful otherwise, and I did not find any pests trying to open the containers or bothering them in any way. There is no damping off or whiteflies or other nagging diseases and pests that often affect my seedlings in the basement under lights. Hardening off is easy, as you gradually increase the air circulation by enlarging the ventilation holes in the top of your container. The highly informative wintersown.org gives all the details and links to get

started. There are even databases of plants listed by genus to see what has been reported as successfully winter-sown in your zone.

Noting that Astrantia sown in February germinated in April in zone 5, I am encouraged to try those seeds. Last year my sowing was very successful, and I had lots of seedlings to share. Most interesting was the cup-and-saucer vine seedlings I donated to the Arboretum's Spring Plant Sale. Why not try your own green thumbs at winter sowing? You'll find you have more than enough for your gardens—and end up donating some of your new and interesting seedlings to the sale. And winter sowing offers a wonderful opportunity to relax and let your thoughts flow—and share them with others—such as me, for instance.

As the new chair of the Education Committee, I welcome your wintersown comments and suggestions for future classes at the Arboretum. Our committee seeks new volunteers, new ideas, and renewed energy. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the evening hours. Please e-mail me at gngarden@earthlink.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

LANDIS PORTRAITS

A series about the people behind the plants at the Landis Arboretum

Susan Sagendorf



Susan Sagendorf
—the Arboretum's new
volunteer
coordinator—
believes in the
power of
volunteers.

She pointed out that Landis has a long history of volunteerism: "There have always been volunteers [at the Arboretum]. Even when Fred Lape started it, there were groups of friends who came there to work because they loved it. The Arboretum won't continue without volunteers... [and] in these hard economic times, that's more true than ever before."

The daughter of a landscape architect, Susan remembered accompanying her father to nurseries and to Chicago's Morton Arboretum, reading the labels on the plants. After a career in both Chicago and Philadelphia with Aramark, a national food services corporation, she and her husband settled in Schoharie County so that John could manage Howe Caverns.

he recalled that her real estate agent mentioned the Arboretum's plant sale to her as an opportunity to fill in the empty spaces on her new property. As a person who had always been interested in gardening and the outdoors, she discovered that Landis proved to be "a good fit." Shortly after that first plant sale, she became involved as a volunteer and eventually served two two-year terms on the Board of Trustees. And now she has agreed

to serve as the Arboretum's volunteer coordinator.

Susan is convinced of the importance of spaces like the Landis Arboretum. She reflected that "growing up in northern Illinois, we had great access to the outdoors. . . . Someone made a good decision to save woodlands and prairie. As things get more and more developed, we need more places like the Arboretum. . . . [Landis is] so peaceful. It's like your own private estate—with a horticulturist and a gardener to take care of it!"

An enthusiastic "back-yard gardener," she admitted that the Van Loveland Garden is her favorite spot at the Arboretum.
"I could sit there forever," she said.
"I've weeded and mulched that garden, and I try to fashion my own gardens after it....While it's

designed, it seems to just happen, and that's the mark of a good garden."

-Nolan Marciniec

For Susan, it is an article of faith that volunteers will continue to maintain the Arboretum. Of course, she said, there is a good deal of self-satisfaction in giving one's time and effort to "a natural wonder" like Landis. And beyond that, there is also the reward that comes from "taking care of what's been left to us, protecting it" for future generations.

Susan is proud that her committee includes some long-standing volunteers such as Anne Bevins, Judy Helfrich, and Bob and Carol Olsen. But she also believes that there are many ot capable volunteers among the membership who believe as passionately as she does in what they can make possible.



trail is going into its sixth year of monitoring and record keeping. In one season, it have been home to as many as 46 baby bluebirds that matured and left the nest boxes to join their parents. We watched both parents care for the youngsters until they learned what they needed to know to survive. Some of these birds returned to the Landis Arboretum the following year to raise families of their own.

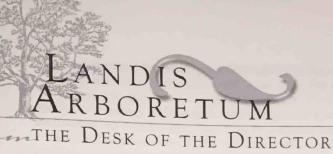
All photos by Bill Combs. (top) male bluebird. (bottom) female bluebird

a black-capped chickadee nest in one of the boxes. Watching the acrobatic flight of the tree swallows and being scolded by the chatter of the house wrens are just added bonuses.

In addition to the weekly monitoring of the nest boxes, we leg-band all birds occupying boxes with a unique identifying number. This procedure enables us to follow the movements of

-continued on back





As we enter May-- the traditional start of our busy season -- our staff and volunteers rightfully feel as if they are in mid-season. Since the highly successful Rite of Spring, we have participated in The Capital District Flower & Garden Show, a Community and Family Wellness Day program with Senator Hugh Farley, and a meeting of District 3 Federated Garden Clubs of NYS.

In addition, our ISA Certified Arborist Fred Breglia mounted two shows of his Global Warming Exhibit: one at the TriCounty Arts Council in Cobleskill; the other at the Cooperstown Art Association.

Soon again, the exhibit will be seen in concert with Schenectady's Art Walk.

We participated actively in WMHT's online auction (bartering gift certificates and membership in exchange for airtime that we could never afford otherwise to promote our own signature fundraising event, this month's Spring Plant/Used Book/Home-baked Goods Fundraiser and Artisans' Way on May 16 – 17.

We are exploring a mutually beneficial marketing partnership with White Flower Farms, and tracking the fine points and benefits of selling the Farmer's Almanac in our Acorn Shop, which we anticipate will be online by the end of May. Through Fred and Landis friend and photographer Frank Knight, the Arboretum is consulting with ECOS (Environmental Clearinghouse) on a new publication focused on Capital District native trees for landscaping at tough sites,

We have added links to Faddegon's, Ward's Nursery, the Huyck Preserve, ECOS, the Green Spiral, the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, and the Duanesburg Area Community Center to the Resources page on our website (www.landisarboretum.org).

SCOUTS: PRIDE, SUPPORT

The Arboretum continues to support scouting and is especially proud of Arboretum-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 501 under the leadership of Scoutmaster Chuck Stephens (Delanson). The Arboretum has been the recipient of three Eagle Scout projects to date: Bryan Phillips constructed and installed trail signs and posts as a member of former Troop 105 sponsored by the Esperance Elks; Chris Whitman built and donated the Leopold Benches at Landis last year; and Marc Whitman, who was approved for Eagle rank at a Scout Council at the Arboretum in late April, created the handsome split rail fence around the Great Oak that many saw at the Breglia wedding last summer. Troop 501 will be the frontrunner in implementing plans for Boy Scout Camporee at Landis in mid-October.

Our Arboretum also been honored by donations of books from 5th graders of **Girl Scout Troop** 2345 (Cobleskill) under the leadership of Jacqui Hauser and Carolyn Edwards. For its Bronze Award project, the girls collected and distributed books to eight organizations, including Landis. In addition, Richmondville's **Cub Scout Den Pack 15** was out in force for the Spring Cleanup!

EXPANDED OUTREACH, EARNED VISIBILITY

We continue to seek maximum visibility and support for our events. To that end, the Arboretum is featured in the May issue of the Catskill Mountain GUIDE, which has a readership of approximately 50,000 per month and is distributed through approximately 1,000 business outlets in nine counties of upstate NY. The magazine is also available at tourist information centers on the New York State Thruway.

In addition, through our photographer-in-residence **Bill Combs Jr.**, whose images continue to beautify our website, we are targeting the creation of a YouTube slide show of the Arboretum...

Rich DiMaggio publishes the travel site www.Didyouweekend.com that featured wonderful images of the 2008 Spring Plant Sale. Rich plans to return this month. Look pretty!

An hour-long interview of Fred by WISF-TV/Chan. 15, Oneonta, will be repurposed (with permissions sought and given) into promotional materials for future use in drawing people to Landis.

In July, the Arboretum will host the 16-member Schoharie County Board of Supervisors and their staffs for that Board's annual off-site meeting at a local venue. The proceedings, open to the public will be taped for subsequent airing on public access TV. We now are active on Facebook, and Twitter.

Despite the scars of healing earth, the critical electrical updates supported by Senator Seward are completed. Minimal work remains on the turnaround created in Phase 1 implementation of the Wanderland universally accessible garden project. Work continues on the creation of a Welcome Center in the former carriage house. Stop by. Look in. We can use your time, talent, and treasure as we move ahead.

EYES ON THE PRIZE

All this activity may suggest that the Arboretum has lost sight of its primary focus - our noteworthy Collections, including our nationally recognized collection of oaks, registered with the American Public Garden Association's (APGA) North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC).

The NAPCC is a network of botanical gardens and arboreta across North America organized to coordinate and improve the collective living plant collections of the continent and enhance the conservation and availability of plant germplasm and future use. Participating institutions such as the Landis Arboretum commit to holding and developing collections of documented, living plants according to specified standards of collection. The NAPCC designation indicates that the Landis Arboretum "stands among a prestigious group of gardens and arboreta that have committed themselves to the conservation and care of specific plant collections curated at the highest professional level." Participation in the NAPCC signals our readiness to make the Arboretum's Quercus Collection available for increased distribution and research, and our commitment to promote public awareness of conservation issues.

PlantCollections: Local Action, Global Gain (http://plantcollections.pathf.com/). The Arboretum is one of 15 public gardens nationwide chosen to participate in the initial development of a international database system and global partnership of botanic gardens, arboreta, universities, governmental funding agencies and commercial database software developers. You can access our entire database via the plant collections portal at http://plantcollections.pathf.com/. Use the keyword options to narrow the search (e.g. maples). Use Landis as a keyword and institutional code as the first search section then click the plus sign to continue to narrow down your search. Our Collections are online for the world. In addition, stalwart volunteer and former Landis Board President Sonja Javarone, a key link in

the PlantCollections initiative, is applying her skills to secure another grant to benefit our lilac collection.

Members of the Schoharie County ARC have returned to work on our grounds and in our gardens, office, and library. They look forward to visiting the Arboretum several times each week as able-bodied volunteers and cheerleaders of all that is happening at this special place. Why not join them?

Can't visit in person? Support us with your goodwill, membership, and kind words. Word of Mouth (WOM), in fact, is a powerful and proven marketing tool. We have no doubt that your words and experiences are golden when it comes to the Landis Arboretum.

Will we see you at the Pick of the Pots Preview Party - and the Garden Party, too? Invitations and reply cards are enclosed for your convenience....

Executive Director

P.S. Special thanks to Bill Combs, Sue Gutbezahl, Trina Bassoff, and Miller Printing for P.S. Special thanks to Bin Control, Section 1985. You can thank them in person at the Plant Sale.

Visit us - and our website - often. Invite your guests!

www.landiarboretum.org