

George Landis Arboretum NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 • Number 2

Spring 1993

Arboretum Botanical Artist's South American Odyssey

If you thought the days of the intrepid artist-naturalists were over, Anne Jaster is entitled to disagree with you. This fall, the teacher of the Arboretum's "Drawing in the Greenhouse" program took her sketchbooks and paints along to South America, and returned with some stunning botanical paintings and managed to baffle the experts with her unusual finds.

Anne's explorations included the Chilean coast, where upwelling of bottom currents of the Pacific Ocean moderates the cold southern latitude climate. In such an environment, tropical plants abound, but travelers are surprised to find them just up the road from glaciers!

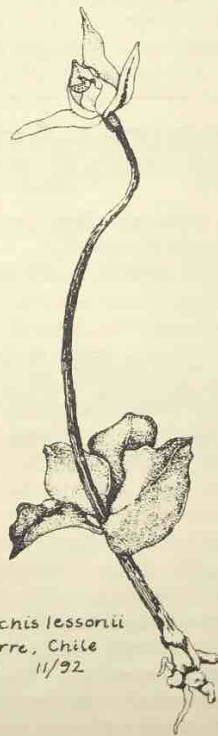
Anne Started her trip in Paraguay last November (spring in South America). She visited her daughter, who is serving in the Peace Corps. Locally, the Corps is concerned about the preservation of a stand of virgin forest which climbs up the slope of the cordillera, the national forest of Ybyturuzu. This is a humid, subtropical habitat arranged in climate zones varying with elevation. Her interest in orchids was gratified by the many epiphytic species in the area. She was also struck by species of plants which in North America are herbaceous—but in the Paraguayan climate are perennial and are commonly woody.

Leaving Paraguay, the Jasters' journey took them to Santiago, Chile, which Anne describes as a "fantastic gardening climate", renowned for its orchids. Her real adventure, however, started 1000 miles south: at Puerto Montt where the Jasters boarded ship at about 43 S latitude, not too far from Patagonia. Here they steamed south and followed the coastal islands and estuaries, which were commonly glaci-

ated. At Puerto Aguirre she found a very peculiar plant. It seemed to be an orchid, but the base of the flower stalk was surrounded by a whorl of leaves, an unorchid-like arrangement. The habitat was a grassy exposed hilltop. Intrigued, she took a sample and immediately returned to the ship and painted the specimen. Shades of Darwin and Wallace!

Later, Anne's drawings and paintings were enough for Eric Christenson of the New York Botanical Garden to tentatively identify it as *Codonorchis*

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© *Codonorchis lessonii*
Pto. Aguirre, Chile
A. Jaster 11/92

Codonorchis lessonii by Anne Jaster

Rare Plant Sale & Perennial Sale Scheduled for May, June

The Calendar is really dashing toward spring and the George Landis Arboretum's Rare Plant Sale, May 15. That's two weeks later than usual, to give you a little more time to look around your yard and decide that you need a few more trees.

You have all sent back your pre-orders and now we have an additional listing of sale plants. This is a listing of all of the plants which will be available the day of the sale. If you would like to review this list, please call the Arboretum for a copy. This year we have smaller plants, reasonably priced to encourage you to experiment. A number of them have been propagated from our own collections, both from cuttings and from seeds. Holly Emmons will be here again with plant treasures from her Cobleskill classes. Everyone should find a treasure to take home. Sale begins promptly at 11:00am.

The ever popular Perennial Plant Sale will be held on June 12 beginning at 11:00am. Hundreds of choice perennials including an ample selection of Clematis will be available.

We look forward to seeing you at these fun events.

Kathie Lippitt

Garden Travel

Day Trip to Two Mass. Gardens

- Botanic Gardens, Smith College
- Stanley Park Gardens

June 1, 1993

Garden Tour of Brandywine Valley

- Mt. Cuba Center
- Doe Run - The Gardens of Sir John Thouron
- Wm. H. Frederick Garden
- Longwood Gardens

June 10-12 1993

For additional information, call the Arboretum at 875-6935

At The Garden

Director's Report

Spring has finally arrived, or so they say, on 20 March 1993 at 9:41 A.M. It is still somewhat hard to believe. Just a few weeks ago we were all stocking our larders preparing for what turned out to be one of the biggest blizzards of the century. The winter aconites should be blooming now but the ground is still covered by a thick blanket of snow. The sun is just beginning to give hints of warmer times to come.

Our Year End Fund Drive did very well due to the generosity of many members and friends. A Particular note of appreciation to the Ellis H. and Doris P. Robison Foundation for their

The George Landis Arboretum Newsletter

is published quarterly for members of the Arboretum. The GLA's mission is to provide natural history and horticultural education through programs and through its plant collections.

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Pamela H. Rowling

gift in response to our year end appeal.

The winter is a very busy time for us at the Arboretum. It is during this season when outdoor activities have lessened that we have the opportunity to regroup and plan for programs and locate potential funding sources which support ongoing maintenance and special projects. This year winter has been a time of many changes. Arboretum Assistant Director Amy Lent has moved on to new endeavors. Amy was with the Arboretum for four years. Many of the positive changes which we experienced during this time, from increased public exposure to overall general organization, can be attributed directly to her. Her intelligence and energy will be missed at the Arboretum. We wish her the best of luck with her new job.

Following Amy's departure a decision was made to try splitting this full time position into two parts to more adequately fill Arboretum needs. Replacing Amy in the office is Tressa Vellozzi. Tressa is known to many Arboretum members as the talent behind so many of the fine illustrations in our newsletter and other communiques. She has also been responsible for the layout of the newsletter in recent issues. She will be serving as general office manager and newsletter editor. I am sure that we will have the opportunity to put her seemingly endless tal-

ents to the test. The other staff member, Deborah Coyle will concentrate her efforts in the green house and in the gardens. In a few short weeks we have made a transition from a staff of two to a staff of four. I am confident that this will be a great arrangement once everyone settles into their respective roles.

Volunteer Richard Downs has spent many hours readying the Acorn Shop for its scheduled opening on April 24. It looks great. However we have found that due to unforeseen circumstances we must delay opening the shop.

Our Spring Benefit featuring Peter Rumora was a great success. We tried a few changes in the general management of the day which all seemed to be well received. Many individuals and area businesses contributed items ranging from consulting and design services to woody plants, garden tools, books and lawn ornaments. Thanks to all who participated in this important fundraiser and for those who could not attend, I hope to see you next year.

Our major efforts now will be directed to educational programs, preparing the many member pre-orders, organizing for the Rare Plant sale, the Perennial Sale and to cleaning up the grounds for the season.

Well, spring is coming. Overcome by curiosity I have gone out and dug around in the snow in a thinning spot. Snowdrops and winter aconite up, in bud and ready to go. Now we just need some sunshine.

Botanical Artist

Continued from Pg. 1

lessonii, a plant which is not only rare, but is rarely illustrated.

Although *Codonorchis* is obviously her favorite, there are more examples of her discoveries. In Puerto Montt itself, she found another flower which has the experts squabbling. According to the New York Botanical Garden, it's in the spiderwort family. To the Smithsonian, it's an iris. To both of them it is rare and not too well documented.

In contrast to the pale orchid and iris (or spiderwort), there is a vivid red bellflower which Anne found growing farther north, in Villarica. This region of Chile is famous for its Lake District and thermal springs. The climate is lush, tropical and dramatic, with high cataracts crashing into valleys of abundant greenery. In the spray of a waterfall, Anne found these specimens. Us-

ing her paintings and herbarium specimens as a guide, the New York Botanical Garden and the Smithsonian think it is probably a *Gesneriad*. Again, rarely documented and certainly not commonly illustrated.

What is even rarer is a specimen of the classical botanical artist—one who combines artistic accomplishment, scientific observation, love of plants and how they grow, who is willing to go out in the field, (wherever on earth the field may be) and bring back not only a scientific illustration of a plant, but a work of art which captures its spirit as well. Anne's South American expedition has not only added to our knowledge of plants in an endangered environment, but has delighted our eyes and captured our imagination.

Those who sign up for Anne's "Drawing in the Greenhouse" classes this year are bound to benefit from her recent experiences—and they only have to travel as far as the Arboretum!

Garden Exotica

Cornus mas: Spring's Mantle of Gold

by Andrea Modney

Everyone's heard the old saw about hypochondriacs and medical books. I can sympathize with that, because I have the same problem. Except that instead of "I have that", I say "I must have that" every time I research a plant for another of these articles. This time it's *Cornus mas*, the Cornelian Cherry. I really must have it.

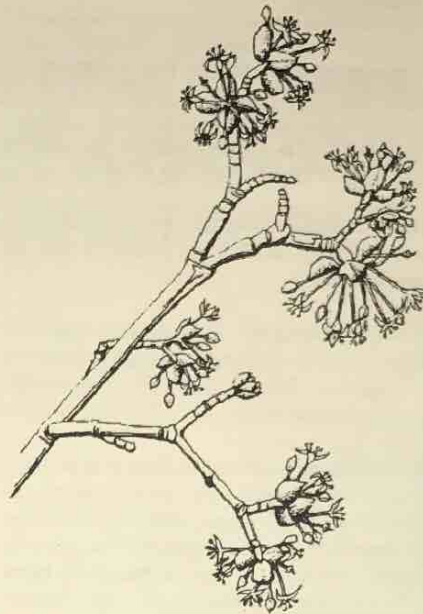
This native of Europe and Western Asia has been brightening the early spring landscape in this country since 1800. It can be grown as a shrub or as a small tree of 20'-25'. In either form, its glory is the profusion of small sulphur yellow flowers which precede the leaves very early in the year. Though the individual flowers are quite small, there are so many feathery clusters of them that to quote Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia: "...from a distance the whole plant looks as if it had a yellow cloth hung over it."

Cornus mas is a shrub with enough charms to give it ornamental interest all year. The foliage maintains a lustrous green vigor until late in the fall when it takes on red or burgundy tones. Beautiful fruit ripens in August and September. Though very sour, the edible fruit is good for preserves. Or if left on the plant, is much appreciated by birds. Especially in the tree form, the dark close-textured bark of *Cornus mas* gives a nice emphasis to the garden in winter.

The word "mas" from the binomial means 'male', with the implication that this is a vigorous type of *Cornus* in comparison with the more delicate varieties. Indeed, this robust shrub is well named. So far, this species remains unaffected by pests or disease, a welcome trait. It is valuable in shady locations, tolerates dry soil and city pollution. All of which is more than one can say about its *Cornus* cousins.

It can be used in the landscape as a featured tree, a dense bush for screening or windbreak, or as a hedge. To add to its versatility, it comes in several varieties. Besides the yellow fruited *flava*, and "Alba" with white fruit, there are two with foliage variegation. "Variegata" has yellow or white leaf margins; "Aurea-clegantissima", though not as hardy, boasts a creamy variegation with a rosy tinge to it.

Though well spoken of by garden writers and plantsmen, *Cornus mas* has been too much overlooked. Val-



H. THOMPSON 1933

able for its beauty, vigor and adaptability, this plant deserves to be seen more often, whether on sun-drenched suburban lawns, or in dark, cool city gardens. It fits in anywhere.

I must have it.

Drawing by Heather Thompson

Garden Reading

Shigo on Pruning

by Lucinda Willemain

Two books by Alex L. Shigo:

A New Tree Biology: Facts, Photos and Philosophies on Trees and their Proper Care

Tree Pruning: A Worldwide Photo Guide

The first of these is a textbook on forestry, the second is a pictorial guide to the theory and practice of pruning, illustrated with photographs, which are mostly in color. It summarizes much of the information from the longer text.

Gardeners receive so much well-meaning advice. I'd be surprised if we didn't know a few things which are definitely not true. In the face of this kind of uncertainty, Dr. Shigo's books

can be read with great confidence. Everybody who prunes his own trees, or even thinks of pruning his own trees or woody shrubs, ought to read it.

Alex Shigo, while pursuing a long career as chief scientist with the U.S. Forest Service, has dissected some 15,000 trees with a chain saw. He found out exactly what pruning and other common forestry practices do to the wood of trees. His research at the U.S. Forest Service changed the way pruning is done all over the world in our lifetimes. He's not at all bashful about taking an authoritative position: in simple language, Dr. Shigo will tell you exactly what to do about your trees.

Dr. Shigo styles himself as "Crusader with a Chainsaw", who battles the forces of world ignorance about trees. This is no longer a true picture, since arborists, foresters and authors of recent books for the home gardener have adopted the new system of "natural target pruning" and have discarded the old system of cutting limbs flush with the trunk. Everyone now knows that tree wound paint is worse than useless. The Cooperative Extension Service has played a role in spreading this knowledge which Dr. Shigo's research originally suggested.

If you learned (as I did) by reading books written twenty or thirty years ago, it's time to read these new books. The practices and procedures we learned are out of date.

Shigo points out the long-term effects of pruning as well as other things which will affect the life and health of our trees. He discusses insects, fungi and bacteria that infest trees, and how the trees attempt to defend themselves. Not all trees grow in forests, and he talks about how trees can be safely managed in cities, where they may be planted near power lines or near buildings. A serious practical question is this: if we cut down the best timber for use, we leave the weakest. We've done this for generations, and what does this mean for the genetic quality of our timber reserves? What is the effect of genetic variation in a tree species' ability to defend itself against damage from its environment?

For the naturalists among us, there are some good pictures which show what bark can tell us about what's going on inside a living tree. Tell-tale marks are left by squirrels, woodpeckers—even bears!

The pictures (black and white in *Tree Biology* and mostly in color in

Continued on Pg. 4

Pruning Books

Continued from Pg. 3

Pruning) are an outstanding feature of these books. Readers accustomed to the typical garden book may need to be reminded to slow down and study each picture carefully. I recommend a magnifier in some cases. This is a text book, after all, and not designed for mass-market appeal. Some of the pictures are not "garden-book pretty"—many of them are close-ups of rot and other dismaying sorts of damage. These pictures deliver convincing documentation of important points made in the texts.

I don't think we can argue with the basic philosophy of these books. People who care for trees and shrubs try hard to understand them and how they grow in order to do the best possible job. Understanding trees is not only a hands-on experience, it is a life-long study.

I think we should be aware of what happens when a tree is injured. The injury lasts a long time—in fact, it never really heals at all. It is buried in the interior of the wood and is walled off from the rest of the wood if the tree is in general good health. But buried injuries cause weakness and sometimes very expensive and dangerous problems later.

People who take care of trees, own trees, volunteer on community tree-planning committees should know the things discussed in these books. You can trust the advice of the man who cut thousands of trees in half, read their secrets, and documented his findings in his research and photographs.

P.S.: There exists an electronic device called the "Shigometer". It measures electrical resistance of wood, which is an indication of its condition. It is used to detect rot inside of live trees, cut wood, telephone poles and the like. This device, in addition to his chain saw detective work, adds up to the conclusion that Dr. Shigo is an indefatigable and dedicated defender and protector of trees.

Look for Dr. Shigo's books on sale at the Arboretum's Acorn Shop.

A New Tree Biology: Facts, Photos and Philosophies on Trees and Their Proper Care. By Alex L. Shigo. Shigo And Trees, Associates. 619 pages, 684 illustrations.

Tree Pruning: A Worldwide Photo Guide. By Alex L. Shigo. Shigo And Trees, Associates. 188 pages, 164 illustrations, mostly in color.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are a precious resource of the Arboretum. They donate their time indoors and out, in groups or individually, on a regular or special event basis and have fun doing it. Join this valuable group of supporters, in any of the following volunteer opportunities. Please call Florence Grimm, Volunteer Coordinator at 842-7436 or at the Arboretum 875-6935, for additional information.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Hospitality: Plan, prepare, serve refreshments for special events.

Membership Committee: Assist with membership activities, staff booth at major events

Office Assistant: Assist with general office duties, mailings, filing, typing on a regular basis (or as needed). Commitment is for 1/2 day per week.

Newsletter: Remember that this is *your* newsletter, and we invite you to contribute to it! If you'd like to write on botanical or gardening subjects, a book review, feature article or have an idea for an article of interest to you, please contact the Newsletter editor and have a chat.

Artwork: If you'd like to do plant illustration, spot illustration, signs, posters, etc. we'd like to talk to you. We're always in the market for "clip art" for our publications.

Publicity: Assist with promotion of events and programs via the newsletter, brochures and flyers. Help distribute promotional material.

Bloom List Person: Work in a team to keep the Arboretum's weekly bloom list up to date. Commitment is for 1/2 day, Wednesday or Thursday.

Gardeners: Maintain the many planted areas at the Arboretum from January through December. Commitment is for 1/2 day per week. This can cover weeding, pruning, raking, transplanting, deer protection, mulching, fertilization, etc.

Greenhouse: Assisting with seeding, potting, general propagation. Commitment: Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, 1/2 day.

Label Production Engrave display labels, assemble labels and collect broken labels for repair. Must be

dextrous and detail oriented. Commitment is for a 4-hour block of time.

Curatorial Assistant Help with mapping, plant collection inventories, and plant label verifications. Need to be accurate and good with detail, plus be comfortable with map reading. Commitment is for a 4-hour block of time or 1/2 day.

Acorn Shop Management People: Need some retail experience in inventory control, ordering and bookkeeping. Computer familiarity a plus, but will train. Commitment variable

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Acorn Shop People: Staff shop weekends April to November and on special occasions during the week. Commitment minimum 1/2 day.

Tour Guides: trained guides for trails. Lead walks for school children, seniors and various other groups. Commitment would be for weekends or weekdays, for a minimum of 1/2 day.

Educational Assistants: Assist with the programs for children and adults. Weekdays and weekends. Commitment: 1/2 day.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Flower Show: Commitment: 4-hour shift. Assist with handouts and answer questions about the Arboretum at the booth in the Knickerbocker Arena held in March for 3 days.

Spring Benefit: Registration, assisting with setup and takedown, raffle, etc. Commitment: 4 hours.

Rare Plant and Perennial Sale: Pot, move, arrange, label and price plants. Assist in writing receipts, cashier, parking, assisting buyers. Commitment: 4 hours.

This Native Plant

Acer saccharum: Sugar Maple

- Spectacular Fall Color
- Beautiful hard wood
- Delicious maple syrup
- Cooling summer shade
- Attractive landscape tree

All of these traits describe the Sugar Maple, to some the most important native tree in the northeastern United States. It is truly a tree for all seasons and because of its fame as the producer of maple syrup and fall color, it is the signature tree of our region of the country. New York and Vermont have selected it as their state tree and to the Canadians, its leaf is a national symbol.

You are probably familiar with these valuable qualities of Sugar Maple, but have you ever taken a close-up look at the tree? Have you taken the time to examine in detail its bark, twigs, flowers, leaves and fruits? Could you describe these characters to someone else and tell them how a Sugar Maple differs from, say, Norway Maple, a frequent companion in the urban landscape? Let's take a look.

A mature Sugar Maple will have a dense, broad, rounded crown, but not as dense as a Norway Maple. This allows more light to penetrate to the ground below. Its bark is smooth and grey on young trees but soon becomes dark grey and coarse, even shaggy with long scaly plates. In contrast, Norway Maple has a smooth, very finely fissured bark when young, later becoming networked by shallow ridges. As with all maples,

Sugar Maple's slender shiny-brown twigs give rise to leaves and branches on opposite sides, an arrangement that is much less common among other trees. In fact, an easy way to remember the trees in our area with opposite leaves is to remember the phrase "MAD HORSE" which stands for Maple, Ash,

They droop, as though the leaf stalk is struggling to hold them up. The edges of Sugar Maple leaves are firm, not drooping, and have deeper lobes.

You say maples have flowers? Even though they are inconspicuous and lack petals, maple flowers have both male and female parts, or they

may lack male or female parts, and all kinds may be present on the same tree, a trait botanists describe as polygamous! The flowers form rapidly in the early spring and they are difficult to see before the fruits start to form.

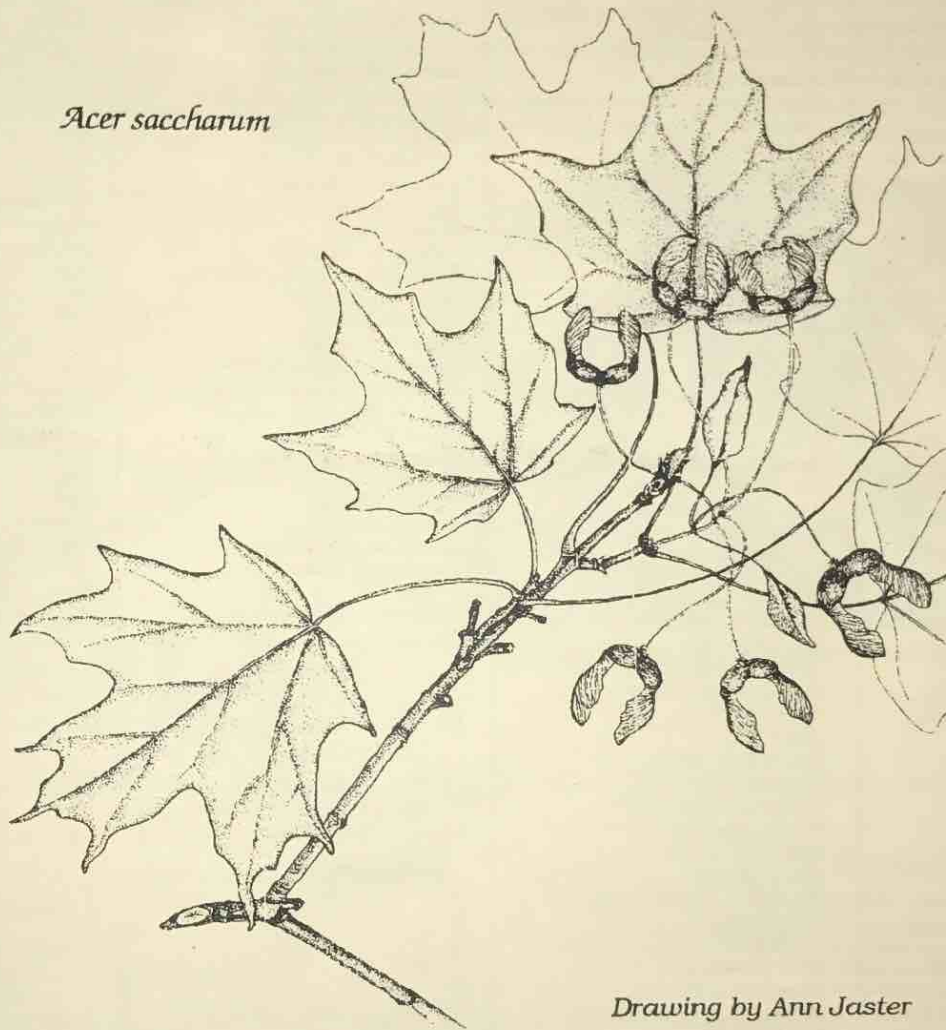
Technically, the fruits of maples are called "samaras", or winged fruits. Kids know them as "helicopters" as they spiral their way to the ground in summer and fall. Look at the shape of the two joined samaras. They form a U-shape with the wings almost parallel to each other. Now look at the Norway Maple. Its wings are spread out horizontally and opposed. U-shaped for sUgar maple, vs. Op-posed for nOrway maple.

Now is a good time to pick a

Sugar Maple of your own and follow it through the seasons. Look closely at its different parts as the year progresses and by next winter you may have discovered something new about this beautiful tree. Keep a tree diary, make sketches, touch, feel and smell. The state tree of New York awaits your inspection.

Steve Young is a botanist with the New York Natural Heritage Program.

Acer saccharum



Drawing by Ann Jaster

Dogwood and Horse Chestnut.

The distinctive Sugar Maple leaf is similar to the leaf of Norway Maple but the trick is to look at the sap of a broken leaf blade or petiole. The sap of Norway Maple is milky, just like the milky-white glaciers of Norway's fjords. Black Maple, another closely related maple, also has similar leaves but a look at the leaf edge tells the difference.

How Does Our Garden Grow?

New Members (*) and Renewals December 1992 through February 1993

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Schoharie Valley Garden Club
Sherwood Forest Garden Club
West Hill Garden Club

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Arboretum Wish List

New Computer for office system: PC 386/486
Good Garden Tools
Pathbuilders: For Museum Shop and Office Entry
Drafting Tools & Supplies

D. E. C. Shade Tree Workshop

Saturday June 5th
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Central Park Picnic
Pavillion
Schenectady

Pre-Registration \$3
382-0680

Many thanks to...

Dave Vermilyea for materials and supplies for the mapping project: professional surveying equipment and tools...and for the intercom system which makes life so much easier...
Lois Vermilyea for the telephone in the library...
General Electric for badly needed office furniture...
Chuck & Alice Huppert for the refrigerator...
Richard Downs for the portable display unit.
Margaret Carballeira for the aprons...

Volunteers

Volunteer Notes

by Florence Grimm

The organized volunteers are going into their third year. The amount of snow at the Arboretum will slow down the spring projects. As I look back on years before the volunteers were organized, I can remember when a newsletter mailing was done in Pam's truck. There was no heat in the library and the Arboretum did not have the use of the farm house. Now that has all changed due to the help and hard work of the volunteers. We have heat in the library and a furnace for the greenhouse. The farm house has been turned into office space and a museum shop.

I can remember when a winter day would find three vehicles parked along the road at the Arboretum. Now we have a functional parking area which on many winter week days often has from seven to ten cars. These people are working on the computers, drawing boards, in the greenhouse, the mapping project, the newsletter, the education programs, organizing the next bus trip, planning special events, etc. etc. Winter now finds the Arboretum a very busy place, a twelve-month business. We have grown, and are continuing to grow rapidly.

The first work day and volunteer workshop was held on March 6. It was very well attended. In the morning, new members and old got a chance to sign up for the various coming events at which they could volunteer their time. We walked to the major areas and observed lots of rabbit damage. In

the afternoon, dormant pruning was taught by Jeff Zapierti and Tom Burbine, followed by a hands-on supervised pruning session. There's lots more pruning to be done. I'm hoping these new learned skills will be used in the near future at the Arboretum and at the homes of the volunteers.

Chuck Huppert had started restoration work on the Sun Pit which was the original greenhouse at the Arboretum. This is located on the slope just past the farmhouse. It was built right into the slope. Mike Riley has volunteered to make the completion of the restoration his 1993 project.

Peg McCall and Mary Riley have become the first participants in our "Adopt A Garden" program. Peg and Mary have chosen the area in front of the library as their garden project. Mary

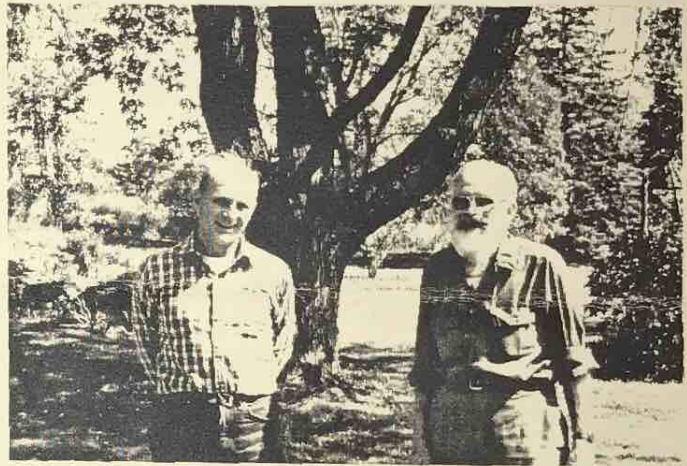
thanks go out to them from everyone at the Arboretum.

At the time of this mailing the booth at the Wildwood Flower Show will be history in more ways than one. It will be remembered as the '93 March snowstorm by many, I'm sure. "Yours truly" thought she'd be smart and head for Philadelphia and Longwood Gardens. The storm closed the gardens as well as the Philadelphia Garden Show, King of Prussia Mall, Highways and much more. With borrowed equipment I went cross-country skiing and made the best of it. Thank goodness we were with friends and did not have to "wait it out" in a motel room. All was not lost, for on Friday it was gorgeous and we enjoyed Historic Philadelphia.

The Arboretum bus trip to the Boston Flower Show was a huge success, and with that note I'll end.

Think Spring!

Volunteer Snapshots...



Jack Hofmeister (left) and Alan Rand pause from their labors last summer at a Volunteer Workday

Membership Form

George Landis Arboretum

Yes I would like to

become a member:

- New Member
 Renewal
 Senior/Student \$15
 Individual \$25
 Family \$35
 Contributor \$50
 Supporter \$75
 Patron \$125+

- Garden Clubs and Businesses:
 Group \$35
 Contributor \$50
 Supporter \$75
 Patron \$125+

Please mail to:

Director
 George Landis Arboretum
 P.O. Box 186
 Esperance, NY 12066

Name _____

Address _____

Make check payable to Landis Arboretum. The Arboretum is a non-profit organization. Membership fees above \$15 and donations are tax deductible.

Donation to the



Arboretum Endowment Fund:

- In addition to membership, I would like to contribute to the endowment fund.
 I don't want to join at this time but would like to contribute to the endowment fund.

- \$5 \$50
 \$10 \$100
 \$20 Other \$ _____

I would like to volunteer. My daytime phone number is: _____
 (Please circle type of work you are interested in, or write in your suggestions.)

Field work: mowing, weeding, pruning, etc.

Office Work/Projects: word processing, writing (newsletter, etc.), fund-raising, herbarium/library, mailings

Events/Programs: Tour guide, adult education, youth education, plant sales, special events

Committees: Nominating, Buildings & Grounds, Development, Education, Horticulture

Gardener's Workshop

Landscaping with Nature: Using Native Plants in the Landscape

by Anne Best

Indigenous plants are referred to as natives, while those that are imported are called exotics. Every plant is native to somewhere - except maybe hybrids that have been developed for bigger and brighter flowers, droopier branches or more variegated leaves. For the most part, exotics are simply transported natives.

So why should native plants be used in our home landscapes when all these wonderful exciting exotic plant species exist? One of the benefits is the expression of the individuality and unique beauty of any particular place in the world. The indigenous vegetation represents that place. A second benefit of using native plants is the improvement of the biological health of the environment. Intensive monocultures create an unstable condition by upsetting natural controls and so does simplification of natural landscapes. Planting a diversity of native species will provide natural checks and balances and will add richness to our landscapes. Also, it will make a further contribution to the health of the environment by providing food and cover for native wildlife. The most important reason for using native plants has to do with the theory that only the fittest survive. Plants that are native have evolved through billions of years of competition. There has been a long process of trial and error that has resulted in those species that are most fit for each environment.

Now, how to forage for wild plants. Be Responsible! Obtaining stock other than from a nursery requires permission from the owner of the property. Although you may think of your efforts to obtain and preserve native plants as legitimate collecting, the owner may consider it

stealing. Digging up trees or taking roots or other cuttings from parks and nature reserves can also lead to prosecution. Even with permission, never take more than half the specimens of any one kind of plant so it will reestablish itself. As a plant collector, be able to recognize any plants in your area that are in danger of becoming extinct.

When you are ready to dig, remember that the larger the root ball, the better. Initial watering is very important, and the ecological conditions in your landscape must be the same as those of the plant growing in the wild. Ideally you should collect plants during their dormant period in early spring and late fall. Plants moved from June through September need a great deal of care to bring them through the shock of transplanting.

Finally, the very best way to combat the dangers of indiscriminate collecting is to learn to propagate and increase these plants in our own gardens. The fun of gardening, after all, is not in the having, but in the doing and in the sharing: so be sure to exchange seeds and cuttings of your favorite plants

with your gardening friends.

Essential reference Material:

1. Nature's Design: A Practical Guide to Natural Landscaping by Carol Smyser and the editors of Rodale Press Books. 1982
2. Field and Forest: A Guide to Native Landscapes For Gardeners and Naturalists; By Jane Scott. 1982.
3. Protected Native Plants: Booklet published by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Available through Albany County Cooperative Extension. 1990. (Lists endangered species, threatened species, exploitably vulnerable species and rare species).
4. A comprehensive list of sources of native plants, both woody and herbaceous, is published by the New England Wildflower Society, Inc., Garden In The Woods, Hemenway Road, Framingham, Mass., 01701. In compiling this list, the Society surveyed nearly 500 North American nurseries and included only those that propagate at least 80% and wild collect no more than 5% of their native sales inventory. Every native plant gardener should have a copy. (Cost is \$2.95 + \$1.00 postage and handling).

Drawing in the Greenhouse 1993

Botanical Artist Anne Jaster is offering her popular "Life Drawing With Plants" with a new twist this year. It will be offered in two parts, either of which may be taken separately.

As always, no previous drawing experience or botanical knowledge is necessary.

Individual attention is given, and previous attendees are urged to sign up again for additional experience. Guest illustrators and horticultural experts on the Arboretum staff will present special topics and demonstrations.

PART 1: How to look at plants: structure and function. 4 sessions, April 14-May 5.

PART 2: Techniques and Media: Pencil, Pen, Watercolor, mixed media. 4 Sessions, May 12-June 2.

Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 P.M. (Bring a bag supper, coffee & tea provided.)

Each Part: \$34 Members \$39 Non-Members
Information: Call the Arboretum at 875-6935

If you've always wanted to draw plants, come to the Greenhouse!

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P.O.Box 186
Esperance, NY 12066

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