

# The Landis Arboretum Newsletter

Lape Road

Esperance, New York

Spring 1998

Volume 17, No. 2

## The Spring Plant Sale - Herm Finkbeiner

It's what you have been waiting for! It's the 26th annual Landis Arboretum Spring Plant Sale, this year to be held on May 15, 16 and 17, 1998.

Again, most importantly, **more than 6,000 out-of-the-ordinary trees, shrubs and perennials will be offered for sale.** Knowledgeable Arboretum volunteers have been researching uncounted catalogs, well-known nurseries and gardens, not-so-well-known but highly recommended smaller growers and suppliers, planted seeds and rooted cuttings, potted and repotted....all to bring high quality, unusual plants to you. During the past ten years, the number and variety of species available at the sale has been expanded greatly. Sale plants are properly labeled, appropriately grouped on tables and on the lawn, and expanded signage and knowledgeable volunteers provide cultural information.

The plant sale has become a major source of income which helps to keep the Arboretum functioning. It's a classic win/win situation - you find the plants you have been lusting for and the Arboretum is able to continue!

Last year's Pick of the Pots Preview Party and Sale brought such an enthusiastic response, in spite of less than salubrious weather, that we are again happy to give members the opportunity to make purchases before the sale is open to the public.

Hours for the **Preview Party** are from **5 to 9 pm** on Friday evening, **May 15**. Admission to the Preview Party is \$5 for members; non-members may become members and be admitted for a total of \$30. (The 10% member discount on plants and Acorn Shop items applies during both the party and the plant sale.) Members may stroll among the trees, shrubs, and perennials for sale; they may choose and purchase plants; and they may pick up plants they have ordered in advance. A light supper of hearty soup, crusty bread, salad, cheeses and wine will be served; there is no additional charge. (However, because of logistics and limited facilities at the Arboretum, the supper is restricted to the first 150 who sign up.) To make reservations for the Preview Party, telephone the Arboretum at 875-6935 or mail in the form included in this newsletter (p. 7).



Plant Sale volunteers Viktoria Serafin, Sue Gutbezahl and Carol Wock.

**The Plant Sale will be open both to members and to the public on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17 from 10 am to 4 pm.** (See p. 3 and p. 4 for a preview of some of the plants available this year.) **Lectures and demonstrations** (p. 6 for details) will be presented on Saturday and Sunday. **Guest plant organizations** will be represented with exhibits and plants for sale. **Vendors** selling garden-related items will be on hand. And, the Arboretum's **Acorn Shop** will be open with an expanded inventory (see Acorn Shop ad, p. 4).

Members of the Plant Sale Committee are: Herm Finkbeiner, General Chair; Carol Wock, Vice-Chair; Rich & Linda Ohlerking, Commercial Exhibitors/Vendors; Carolyn Edwards, Finance; Barbara Hunt, Acorn Shop; Anne Jaster, Staging; Viktoria Serafin, Special Displays & Plant Societies; Pat Rush, Publicity; Lucinda Willemain, Lectures & Demonstrations; Sue Sagendorf, Membership & Arboretum Display; Earl Van Wormer, Parking; Nancy Boericke, Raffles & Prizes; Carol Wock, Plant Sales; Claudia McLaughlin, Preview Party; Central Bridge Civic Assoc., Food Sales; Viktoria Serafin, Offsite Plant Propagation; Florence Grimm, Volunteer Coordinator; John Manion, Mervyn Pritchard, Carol Rader, Ed Miller, Volunteers.



## From the Garden

April is national **Volunteer Recognition Month** and I would like to recognize and say **THANKS** to all of the wonderful people who work extremely hard on behalf of the Arboretum. It is literally true that the Arboretum could not survive a month without the hard work of the large group of volunteers who care so much about the welfare of Landis. These folks give of their time, their talent and their treasure; they are my safety net in the time of need, so let me sing their praises!

Elsewhere in this issue, the volunteers who cleaned out the barn before renovation began are mentioned, but I would like to give very special thanks to **Florence Grimm, Peter Rumora and Ron Neadle** who came during a sleet and ice storm on the work day in March to cart barn debris up the hill.

The Auction and Benefit on April 4 at the Lower Mohawk Club in Schenectady was a huge success, the best ever, thanks to the hard work of a dedicated committee chaired by Board Vice President **Nancy Boericke**, and including **Diane Armstrong, Elliess Riemer, Anne Jaster** and **Jacqui Tomlinson**.

Our April Work Day attracted a huge group of hard-working youth and adults, including a troop of Girl Scouts from Schenectady led by **Mary Comley**, and the Esperance Boy Scout troop led by **Paul Simkin**, who has also joined the Building and Grounds Committee. Others at the Work Day, held in glorious weather, included Trustees **Merv Prichard** and **Lucinda Willemain**, plus **Lisa Glen, Robin Glen**, and **Ed Miller**.

A Very Special Thanks goes to **Florence McKie**. Florence is our Wednesday Office Volunteer; she is as regular as clockwork to help us with the multitude of office tasks such as putting on labels for our mailings, making copies of brochures, calling to recruit volunteers for various events, helping put book covers on our new edition of *A Garden of Trees and Shrubs*....whatever needs doing, Florence is there to help. Thank you so much, Florence, for the help you give us. You and your little dog Beau are rays of sunshine at the Arboretum office.

I could go on and on to talk about our wonderful Plant Sale Committee, especially Trustee **Carol Wock** and **Viktoria Serafin** who monitor conditions in the greenhouse. I could wax enthusiastic about our Board of Trustees, all of whom give an enormous amount of time to the on-going work of the Arboretum. And who give of their treasure to help maintain the Arboretum's financial well-being.

But I will save a "last but not least" thanks from the heart to our newsletter editor **Fran Finkbeiner**. Fran collects, lays out and edits this newsletter four times a year. But she also does many other things for the Arboretum, ranging from producing flyers for the plant sale to organizing the Garden Show exhibit this year. Thank you, Fran, for being there.

If I have inadvertently omitted anyone from this article of praise and gratitude, please let me know. One of the great pleasures of my work at the Arboretum is working with these wonderful, generous people. Again, let me say "Thank you" from the bottom of my heart.  
- *Patricia Rush, Executive Director*

## Recent Additions to the Board of Trustees

Three people recently joined the Landis Arboretum Board of Trustees. Florence Grimm, a member and volunteer since 1986 and Volunteer Coordinator for five years, is a new member of the Board. She lives in the Amsterdam area and serves as Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee.

Linda and Richard Ohlerking, Slingerlands, are also new Board members. Linda is Director of Volunteers for the Albany County Nursing Home and Richard is in Student Accounts at the University of Albany. Mervyn Prichard, Niskayuna, another recent addition to the Board, is retired from the practice of anesthesiology; he was introduced to the Arboretum by the Ohlerkings. Presently, all three are active members of the Plant Sale Committee.



### THE 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.

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## Plant Sale Preview

- Carol Wock

The greenhouse is filling up with a variety of plants for the spring sale. The unusually warm weather in April accelerated growth in the greenhouse just as it did in our own gardens. As I write in mid-April, some of the clematis has started to bloom and a few perennials are sending up flower buds.

This year our spring sale will feature two new categories of plants, alpines and roses (see p. 4). Again, we will have a wide selection of perennials for sun and shade, uncommon annuals, biennials, herbs, bulbs, clematis, deciduous shrubs and trees, broadleaf evergreens, conifers and dwarf conifers.

Some highlights:

**Alpines** - A selection of four gentian species, a small astilbe, campanulas, dianthus, and an unusual sempervivum.

**Perennials for sun** - Several delphinium; *Filipendula venusta* 'Magnifica' (offered in last year's advance order but cancelled by the supplier); a collection of four hardy geraniums which make excellent ground covers for sunny areas; *Geum triflorum* 'Prairie Smoke' which sold out last year in the first few minutes of the Preview Party; *Hemerocallis* 'Happy Returns', a beautiful small yellow daylily which blooms repeatedly like its famous parent 'Stella d' Oro'; two *Lychnis* which may be new to you - *L. arkwrightii* 'Vesuvius', which has orange-red maltese-cross flowers with red foliage, and *L. chalconica* 'Rauhref' with large white flowers; a new catmint, *Nepeta grandiflora* 'Dawn to Dusk' with light pink flowers with salmon-pink outer petals over gray-green foliage and a long bloom period; *Nipponanthemum nipponicum* (Montauk Daisy - I'm glad this one has a common name!), a rugged plant which becomes semi-shrubby and is filled with large white "daisy" blooms over glossy green foliage in the fall. This is a wonderful plant: *Sidalcea* 'Party Girl', filled with miniature bright pink hollyhock-like flowers most of the summer. We will have a limited number of *Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Filigran'. This variety is more upright than the species and has more finely cut foliage, an improvement over an already wonderful plant which is the mainstay of the late summer-early fall garden.



*A Record Spring Benefit* - The Arboretum's twelfth annual Spring Benefit, held at the Lower Mohawk Club in Schenectady under the chairmanship of Nancy Boericke, was our most successful. Jack Aernecke of Channel 6 (shown here with Kathy Aernecke, Patricia Rush, far right, and Ralph Boericke, left) conducted the live auction with style and wit, helping to earn a record net profit of \$7,128; last year's benefit brought \$4,200. A special Thank You to Nancy Boericke and her committee. And we thank you all for your contributions - and for your fine bidding!

**Perennials for shade** - Several kinds of ferns, astilbe, hosta (at least 20 varieties, including very unusual varieties for collectors), *Iris cristata* in three colors; *Ligularia dentata* 'Desdemona'; a collection of four pulmonaria, three of which are new; wildflowers - *Anemone canadensis*, *Podophyllum peltatum* (Mayapple), *Sanguinaria canadensis* (Bloodroot), *Trillium grandiflorum*; and Yes, we do have *Corydalis flexulosa* 'Blue Panda'! It's safely tucked away in a shady corner of the greenhouse in sufficient quantity to last more than the first five minutes of the Preview Party!

**Bulbs** - Potted Asiatic lilies from the garden of member and lily grower/hybridizer Janet Vinyard. Also look for *Crocasmia* 'Lucifer', a summer bulb with a more graceful form than familiar summer bulbs like gladiolus and dahlia. Because of its free, graceful form, it blends well with perennials. It's especially effective with daylilies.

**Clematis** - The three selections offered this year were chosen for their long period of bloom. 'Ernest Markham' has large 6 inch deep, rose-red flowers with golden stamens; 'General Sikorski' has large 6-8 inch mid-blue flowers; 'Comtesse de Bouchard' has 4-6 inch pink flowers with creamy stamens. The Comtesse is a tough plant and blooms heavily from early summer to fall; considered the best pink clematis, it is on the Top 10 clematis list.

**Deciduous shrubs** - Blooming shrubs to look for: *Chaenomeles speciosa* 'Cameo', a flowering quince with delicate salmon-pink flowers; *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Tardiva', *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Snow Queen', (the best seller in the 1997 advance orders); *Viburnum dilatatum* 'Erie'; all of these will be large plants in three gallon pots. Also, we have ordered a large selection of lilacs in a variety of colors; these will also be good-sized plants. Note: Did you purchase *Buddleia* 'Black Knight' last year and find it not to be 'Black Knight'? We had phone calls from several people last summer who were disappointed when their plant bloomed. Because of this, we have changed our supplier and ordered what we hope will be a sufficient quantity of this buddleia. The only other buddleia offered is 'Harlequin' which has variegated leaves and deep pink flowers. (Cont'd p.4 >)



## Old Roses ...

### and New "Old" Roses

- Carol Wock

When I told members of the Plant Sale Committee that I had ordered a selection of roses for the Spring Plant Sale, more than one person told me they had given up on roses. As we discussed the difficulties they experienced, I realized the roses that had caused them to give up were the hybrid tea roses.

The difficulties of growing hybrid tea roses partly explain the reasons for great changes in the "rose world" during the past two decades. Just what are these difficulties? First, many hybrid teas are tender in this climate and require winter protection of varying degree. If die-back of the top occurs, then suckers from a rootstock may appear (hybrid teas are grafted or budded onto rootstock). Second, until very recently, breeding of hybrid teas concentrated on color and form at the expense of fragrance. (Perhaps this isn't really a difficulty, but rather a disappointment.) Third, hybrid teas have been prone to disease, requiring use of chemicals; many modern gardeners will not grow plants requiring chemicals. Another factor is because the naturalistic style of gardening has become popular and hybrid teas have not lent themselves to naturalistic plantings. However, hybrid teas possess two characteristics that continue to make them popular with many gardeners. They rebloom throughout the summer and they have a great range of color.

All the characteristics of hybrid teas, whether negative or positive, seem to relate in some way to the major changes that are transforming rose gardening. The first major change is the re-discovery of old garden roses. Rose societies have been formed for lovers of old roses. Rose "rustlers" search for old roses in cemeteries, abandoned farmsteads, and around historic homes. Several rose nurseries now concentrate on growing old and species roses. Why old roses? Most are wonderfully fragrant. Many are extremely hardy. They are not prone to disease. Most form graceful bushes that blend well into the garden; in other words, they form a plant that is attractive even when not in bloom. They can be used effectively in a mixed border of shrubs and perennials and lend them-

selves to naturalistic plantings. Do old roses have any drawbacks? Yes, most have only one period of bloom. However, many are so special that those who love them don't find this to be a serious fault.

A second major change in the rose world is in the breeding of roses. Perhaps David Austin was the first breeder to realize the potential for developing a new kind of rose. Austin has used old garden roses crossed with modern roses to create his "English roses." Most of his English roses have the fragrance and voluptuous blossoms of old roses combined with the color range found in hybrid teas. Most importantly, most will rebloom throughout the summer. They are hardier than many hybrid teas, but not as hardy as many old shrub roses. Their main fault is their form; they have the sparse growth habit of hybrid teas. For this reason, Austin recommends planting them in groups of three to give the appearance of a more attractive plant.

The third major change is in the way roses are grown. As mentioned above, hybrid teas are budded or grafted onto a rootstock. The "new" trend is to grow roses "on their own roots" by taking cuttings and rooting them (all roses were grown on their own roots before large-scale commercial distribution). Since an own-root rose plant is the same above and below ground, there is no problem with rootstock suckering. Own-root roses are more predictable in size, since a rootstock may push the variety to grow larger than expected. Rootstock also influences hardening off in the fall. A rootstock more tender than the variety may push it to keep growing longer in the fall. There are many varieties hardier than their rootstock (a commonly used rose rootstock isn't reliably hardy in Zone 4.) So, with own root roses, the hardiness of the variety is the only issue. Own-root roses are long-lived, often surviving to 100 years or more. Grafted roses have a much shorter life; after 10 or more years, a woody knot often forms at the bud union. This knot inhibits the ability of the rose to put out new growth, and so the rose goes into decline. The disadvantage of own-root roses is an economic one; it takes longer to grow a rooted rose to a sellable size, so the grower's cost is passed on to the consumer. With budding or grafting, a sizable plant is produced in a year so, as you might expect, the large commercial growers are still using these methods. 4 (Cont'd on p. 5 >)



## THE ACORN SHOP

Open May - October  
Saturday 10-4  
Sunday 12-4

### NEW THIS YEAR!

Kaleidoscopes, activity books for kids  
T-shirts for kids & adults  
Stationery  
Jewelry  
Local honey and maple sugar products  
Lots of new books  
AND the newly reprinted  
*Garden of Trees & Shrubs* by Fred Lape

### CLEARANCE ITEMS

Last year's jewelry, T-shirts & books

### SPECIAL PLANT SALE HOURS

Friday 5-9  
Saturday & Sunday 10-4

### Plant Sale Preview (Cont'd from p. 3)

**Deciduous trees** - We again plan to have a selection of several sizes of the beautiful *Stewartia pseudocamellia*. There will be a limited number of *Acer griseum*. River Birch, Crimson Birch, larch, and *Taxodium distichum* have been ordered. We have secured a large number of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn Redwood). Other trees in smaller sizes will be available.

The listing above is only a sample of the plants that will be available. We have attempted to expand the variety of plants in each major category. We also offer a variety of sizes, and therefore prices, to meet a variety of needs and budgets. The Plant Sale Committee is excited about the coming sale, and we hope you are too.



# Coming Attractions 1998

The Landis Arboretum, Cape Road, Esperance, NY

## Free Tours

On the first Saturday of each month, from May through October, tours will be held of Arboretum gardens with special seasonal interest. The tours begin at 10 am from the lower parking lot, rain or shine. No registration is necessary.

## Plant Sales

Two plant sales are held each year at the Arboretum, the larger Spring Sale and Preview Party on May 15, 16 and 17 and the Fall Sale on September 12 and 13. Descriptions and details are published in the Arboretum newsletter

## Concerts

The Arboretum offers exceptional surroundings for the enjoyment of music. The ticket prices for each concert is \$5 for Arboretum members, \$8 for non-members, and children under 12 free. Advance reservations are requested.

## Quercus Quartet

On Saturday evening, June 20 at 7 pm the Quercus Quartet, led by violinist Ann-Marie Barker, will perform a program of classical music with a nature theme in the beautiful setting of the Landis Arboretum. Pieces to be performed include:

Haydn: Sunrise Quartet

Dvorak: Cypresses for String Quartet

Puccini: Chrysanthemums

Warlock: The Curlew - for tenor, flute, clarinet and string quartet

The Quercus Quartet will be joined by tenor James Ruff from the Glimmerglass Opera for the performance of The Curlew.

## The Sun Mountain Fiddler

Dick Solberg, the Sun Mountain Fiddler, will perform at the Meeting House on Saturday, August 8 at 7 pm. He has been playing the violin for more than 30 years, beginning as a street musician. He toured the original thirteen states of the Union in an old blue van, playing at arts and craft shows, bicentennial celebrations, and in New York City for the tall ships event. A resident of central New York State, he is a fulltime entertainer with an impressive following. He plays fiddle, piano, guitar and bass - and sings. Last summer at the Arboretum, he had the kids dancing and adults tapping their toes and clapping their hands. Bring a picnic supper, enjoy the view and the music.

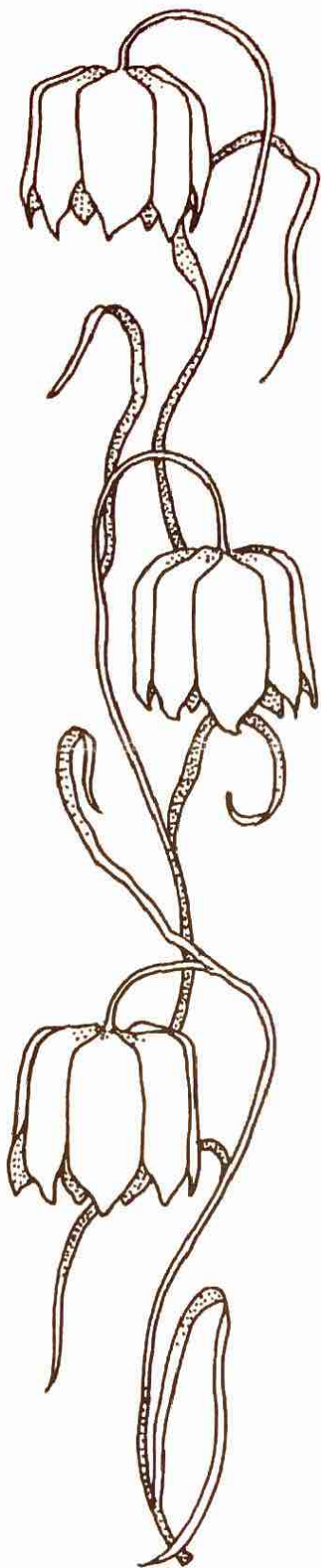
## Star Parties

The Albany Area Amateur Astronomers meet regularly at the Landis Arboretum for its dark skies and good horizons. On Sun/Moon picnic dates, the club's special solar telescope is used to provide a safe view of the Sun; lunar and star gazing is continued after dark. Visitors are welcome to join the club's activities; bring a blanket to sit or lie on and a picnic supper if you wish.

## Weed Walk and Herb Luncheon

Saturday, July 18. Walk and Talk, 10-12 Noon. Luncheon, 12:30, Meeting House. Registered Master Herbalist Shawn Schultz of Pattersonville will lead the group on a two hour walk around the Arboretum fields, identifying and discussing medicinal weeds and their uses. An herb luncheon prepared by Arboretum volunteers will follow in the Meeting House at 12:30 p.m. Cost for the full program - walk, talk, and luncheon - is \$30 (full program available only). Registration deadline July 6.

**For additional information or to register for any of the above events, call the Arboretum at 875-6935.**



Fritillaria



# Calendar of Events, 1998

## Landis Arboretum

### May

- 2 Arboretum Tour, Spring Bulbs, 10 am
- 9 Family Workshop, *Songs of Spring Night Walk*, 7:30-9 pm
- 15 Plant Sale Preview Party, Members Only
- 16-17 Plant Sale, 10 am-4 pm
- 23 Family Workshop, *The Bluebird*, 2-3:30 pm

### June

- 6 Arboretum Tour, Flowering Shrubs, 10 am
- 6 Star Party, Sun/Moon Picnic, 5 pm
- 13 Family Workshop, *Herpetology Hike*, 2-3:30 pm
- 20 Concert, Quercus Quartet, 7-8 pm, Meeting House
- 21 *Father's Day Summer Solstice Campfire Sing-A-Long*, 8-9:30 pm

### July

- 4 Arboretum Tour, Perennial Gardens, 10 am
- 8 Arboretum Adventures for Kids, *Pond and Forest Exploration*, 10-1:30 pm
- 11 Family Workshop, *Way Cool Wiggly Water Wonders*, 2-3:30 pm
- 15 Arboretum Adventures for Kids, *Reptiles and Amphibians*, 10-1:30 pm
- 18 Medicinal Weed Walk and Herb Luncheon, 10-2 pm
- 19 Family Workshop, *Tree Identification*, 2-3:30 pm
- 22 Arboretum Adventures for Kids, *Backyard Bugs*, 10-1:30 pm
- 29 Arboretum Adventures for Kids, *Animal Homes*, 10-1:30 pm

### August

- 1 Arboretum Tour, Late Blooming Shrubs and Perennials, 10 am
- 1 Star Party, Sun/Moon Picnic, 5 pm
- 5 Arboretum Adventures for Kids, *Nature Art*, 10-1:30 p.m.
- 8 Concert, Sun Mountain Fiddler, 7 pm, Meeting House
- 15 Family Workshops, *Bats, Bats, Bats*, 8-9:30 pm
- 18 Star Party and Club Meeting, 7:30 pm
- 19 Arboretum Adventures for Kids, *Birds*, 10-1:30 pm
- 23 Family Workshops, *Family Wildflower Walk*, 2-3:30 pm

### September

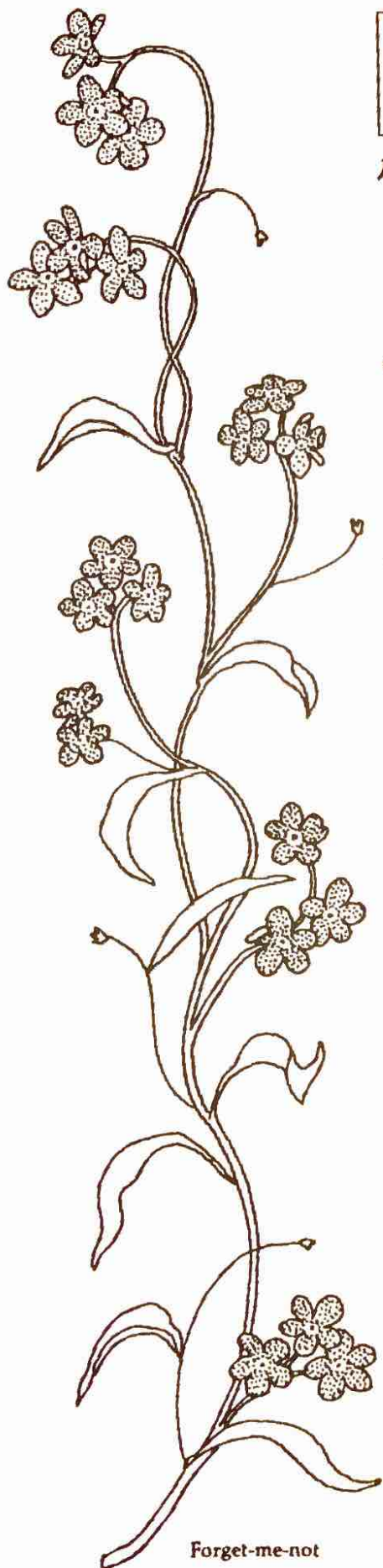
- 5 Arboretum Tour, Fruits, Berries and Collectable Seeds, 10 am
- 12 Family Workshop, *Plant Art*, 2-3:30 pm
- 12-13 Fall Plant Sale, 10-4 pm
- 26 Family Workshop, *Fall Foliage Walk*, 2-3:30 pm

### October

- 3 Arboretum Tour, Evergreens and Plants for Winter Interest, 10 am
- 3 Family Workshop, *Meet the Arthropod Squad*, 2-3:30 pm
- 16, 17 Star Party, 7:30 pm
- 30 Family Workshop, *Halloween Owl Prowl*, 7-8:30 pm

### December

- 11, 12 Star Party, 7:30 pm



Forget-me-not



## Free Family Workshops

Free Family Workshops with nature educator George Steele will be held on selected Saturdays and Sundays, at the times designated, from May through October. All programs begin - rain or shine - at the Arboretum Meeting House. No advance registration is necessary. Programs are free (except for an \$10 materials fee for each bluebird nest box built in The Bluebird session); donations from non-members are greatly appreciated.

**Songs of Spring Night Walk.** Saturday, May 9, 7:30-9 pm. - Join us for a walk around the Arboretum listening to the songs of spring as the frogs, birds, and insects herald a new year of growth.

**The Bluebird.** Saturday, May 23, 2-3:30 pm. Learn about the return of our state bird. We will build bluebird nest boxes to help them reproduce. There is a \$10 materials fee for each nest box built; participants keep the nest box to set up in their own yards.

**Herpetology Hike.** Saturday, June 13, 2-3:30 p.m. This is one of the most popular family programs at the Arboretum. Join us as we explore the woods, fields and ponds for salamanders, newts, frogs, toads, snakes and turtles.

**Father's Day Summer Solstice Campfire Sing-A-Long.** Sunday, June 21, 8-9:30 pm. Enjoy an evening of nature tunes and tales around the campfire.

**Way Cool Wiggly Water Wonders.** Saturday, July 11, 2-3:30 pm. Explore the Arboretum's ponds for all the water life that is to be found there. You'll be surprised at the numbers and varieties of insects and other invertebrates that we'll find, along with tadpoles, newts, and a turtle or two.

**Tree Identification.** Sunday, July 19, 2-3:30 pm. An arboretum is a living museum of trees. Join us on an easy walk along the woodlot trail to learn about the common trees of our area and how to identify them.

**Bats, Bats, Bats.** Saturday, August 15, 8-9:30 pm. Learn about these amazing - yet misunderstood - mammals on a walk around the Arboretum grounds.

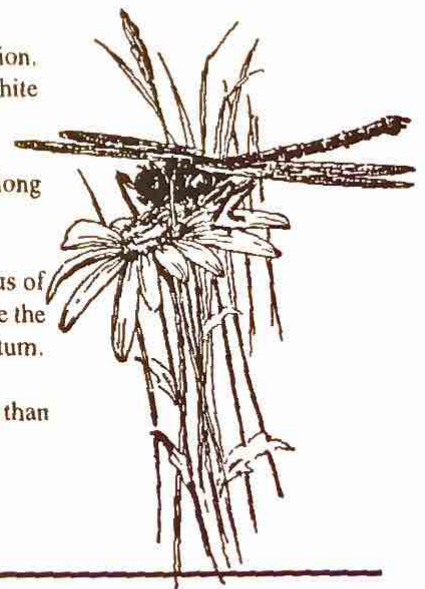
**Family Wildflower Walk.** Sunday, August 23, 2-3:30 pm. Join Anita Steele to learn about the lore and lure of wildflowers.

**Plant Art Workshop.** Saturday, September 12, 2-3:30 pm. Explore plants as tools for art expression. From the simplest leaf rubbing to paper making. Cherokee leaf prints, and plant dyeing. Bring a white T-shirt, pillowcase or handkerchief to work your artistic talents on.

**Fall Foliage Walk.** Saturday, September 26, 2-3:30 pm. Enjoy the fall colors on an easy walk along the woodlot trail while you learn the why and how of leaf color change.

**Meet the Arthropod Squad.** Saturday, October 3, 2-3:30 pm. Arthropods are the most numerous of all animal species. We'll have plenty of opportunities to look at them as we catch, study and release the insects, mites, centipedes, millipedes, spiders, and isopods of the fields and forests of the Arboretum.

**Halloween Owl Prowl.** Friday, October 30, 7-8:30 pm. What better way to celebrate Halloween than to take a walk into the Arboretum woods in search of owls?



## Volunteer Opportunities

We appreciate our volunteers - they are indispensable. Some volunteers work on a regular basis in the office, in the greenhouse, or on the grounds. (The third Saturday of every month is a workday. We love to have volunteers on these days!) Others prefer to help out once in a while. We love both kinds! Each Fall we have a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast as a token of thanks to everyone who volunteers at the Arboretum.

Call the Arboretum *now* to be part of the volunteer work crew - and watch the newsletter for specific volunteer opportunities.

# Arboretum Adventures for Kids

This series is designed for children ages 7 to 11 and taught by nature educator George Steele in cooperation with the Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum. The Adventures take place Wednesdays from 10 am to 1:30 pm and include participatory learning sessions in the morning, lunch (brought from home), and crafts, games and other activities related to the program topic in the afternoon. Classes are held rain or shine; please dress accordingly. The fee is \$10 per session for the first child in a family, \$8 for additional children from the same family. Any child who attends the first five sessions may come to the sixth session at half price. *Registration and payment are required at least one week before each class session.* Parents are welcome to remain with their children, but are not required to remain.

- July 8                    *Ponds & Forest Exploration*
- July 15                  *Reptiles and Amphibians*
- July 22                  *Backyard Bugs*
- July 29                  *Animal Homes* (An additional \$10 materials fee for the bluebird nest box will be charged for this session.)
- August 5                *Nature Art*
- August 19               *Birds*

## **Arboretum Adventures for Kids Registration form**

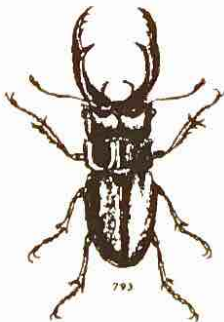
Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Child #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of sessions (1-5) @ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Session 6 @ \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost \_\_\_\_\_

Child #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of sessions (1-5) @ \$8 \_\_\_\_\_ Session 6 @ \$4 \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost \_\_\_\_\_

Child #3 \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of sessions (1-5) @ \$8 \_\_\_\_\_ Session 6 @ \$4 \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost \_\_\_\_\_



Please indicate the sessions which each child will attend.

Child #1	Child #2	Child #3	
_____	_____	_____	July 8    Ponds & Forest Exploration
_____	_____	_____	July 15   Reptiles & Amphibians
_____	_____	_____	July 22   Backyard Bugs
_____	_____	_____	July 29   Animal Homes
_____	_____	_____	August 5   Nature Art
_____	_____	_____	August 19   Birds

Please indicate below the name and phone number of someone to contact in case of emergency. This person should be available during the 10 am to 1:30 pm time period on each of the session days.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_



### Roses featured in the spring sale -

The preceding information is intended to give a general background and appreciation for the roses you will find at the spring sale. We will offer five classes of old garden roses, and several types of modern roses including David Austin English roses. All the roses sold will be fragrant (except seedlings of *Rosa glauca*) and all are grown on their own roots. We have even located five varieties of hybrid teas on their own roots!

**Gallica roses** - Gallicas are the oldest of garden roses. Historical sources document their growth by the Persians as early as the twelfth century B.C. They were distributed through commerce to the Greeks and Romans. Gallicas are also the most highly developed. The English were growing them in the 1600s, and they, followed by the Dutch and French, developed many new varieties. Gallicas are heavy bloomers and most are extremely fragrant. They have a great color range, with shades of pink, reds, purples, and a few have red and white stripes. Size is compact and care is easy. All are hardy in Zone 4. We offer four gallicas: **Apothecary's Rose** (*R. gallica officinalis*), **Complicata**, **Duchesse de Montebello**, and **Tuscany Superb**.

**Damask roses** - Also ancient roses, dating back at least to Biblical times, they were brought to Europe by the Crusaders. Their parentage is thought to be mixed. They have a strong perfume-like fragrance, and either white or pink blooms. Hardy through Zone 4. At the Sale you will find **Madame Hardy**, an elegant white rose, and **Kazanlik** (*R. damascena trigintipetala*) a pink rose used in the making of perfume. If you like to make pot-pourri, this is the rose to use, as its dried petals hold their fragrance.

**Centifolia roses** - Also known as Cabbage Roses because of their large, globular flowers of many petals. These are the roses shown in the paintings of the Dutch masters. Damasks have a complex parentage that may include at least six rose species. They are thought to have been developed by Dutch breeders in the seventeenth century. Zone 4 hardiness. We offer **Fantin Latour**, a delicate pink.

**Alba roses** - Elegant roses, in existence since classical times. Bushes are slender and upright, with distinctive grey-green foliage. Albas will bloom in partial shade. Hardy to Zone 3. At the sale look for **Celestial**, with blush-pink, semi-double blooms having a wonderful fragrance.

**Bourbon roses** - Bourbon roses are the result of a natural cross between *R. chinensis* and a variety of *R. damascena*. This cross occurred on the *Ile de Bourbon* (now Réunion; the first Bourbon reached France about 1819. Bourbons soon reached England and the U.S. and were popular in Victorian times. Unlike the four types of roses discussed above, Bourbons will bloom intermittently throughout the summer if pruned after their period of profuse early summer bloom. Fragrance is strong. Zone 5, with some dieback in colder zones. (I have grown three Bourbons in my Saratoga County garden for ten years without winter protection. Dieback varies but has never been extensive.) At the sale, look for **Louise Odier** (Zone 4), **Madame Isaac Pereire**, **Variiegata di Boland** and **Zéphirine Drouhin**.

**Climbers** - We offer the popular **New Dawn**, still considered to be one of the best climbers, and **Darlow's Enigma**, of unknown parentage but never without bloom. It has large clusters of small, white flowers which have a rich, sweet perfume. Two of our rose sources rave about this rose, and one has named it the 1998 Rose of the Year.

**Griffith Buck roses** - The late Dr. Griffith J. Buck taught horticulture at Iowa State University. His goal was to breed shrub roses that would be hardy and disease resistant. He produced over fifty hybrids but few are still available. The ones we offer are fragrant and hardy through Zone 4: **Applejack**, **Folksinger**, **Les Sjulín**, and **Prairie Harvest**.

**David Austin English roses** - We have selected eight Austin roses in several colors and sizes: **Tamora**, **Belle Story**, **Brother Cadfael**, **Wenlock**, **The Prince**, **Glamis Castle**, **Graham Thomas**, and **The Pilgrim**.

Continued >



### Horticulturist Joins Arboretum -

Fred Breglia will begin officially on May 1 as the Arboretum's new horticulturist. Fred lives in Richmondville, and is finishing his degree in plant science at SUNY Cobleskill. A student of Trustee Chris Cash, Fred is very knowledgeable about woody plants and trees, and has extensive landscaping experience. He will be working full-time at the Arboretum through the fall as horticulturist and operations manager. He will care for the collections, and will supervise volunteers, students and contract workers who maintain the grounds during the summer. Fred has already met many volunteers at the April Work Day. When you see Fred on the grounds, say "Hello!" - Pat Rush

**Hybrid teas** - One of our sources has started growing fragrant hybrid teas on their own roots. We offer **Double Delight**, **Fragrant Cloud**, **Just Joey**, **Lemon Spice**, and **Sweet Afton**.

While the above listing may sound like an enormous number of roses, we have ordered only three to five of each individual variety. If you have a serious interest in any of these roses, come to the sale early Saturday morning, or better yet, attend the Preview Party on Friday afternoon.

Sources used in preparing this article: *Hardy Roses* by Robert Osborne, *English Roses* by David Austin, and the catalogues of several rose nurseries.



## Lectures and Demonstrations

The following lectures will be part of the Spring Plant Sale activities:

### Saturday

11 am "The Basics of Water Gardening," by Ed Duncan, Jr., Water Garden Company, Latham.

12 noon "Hybrid Daffodils," by David Burdick of the American Daffodil Soc.

1 pm "Garden Ideas from the Great English Gardens," slide presentation -Carol Gates, Gates Garden Design, Dolgeville.

2 pm "How to Plant Trees, Shrubs & Perennials," by Fred Breglia, Landis Arboretum Horticulturist

### Sunday

1 pm "Dwarf Conifers," a picture presentation by Richard Southwick, former Professor of Plant Sciences, SUNY Cobleskill

2 pm "How to Plant Trees, Shrubs & Perennials," by Fred Breglia.

## Propagation Study Group

The Arboretum's Propagation Study group under the direction of Chris Cash, Chairman of the Board of Trustees' Horticultural Committee, meets at 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Arboretum. Meeting dates and topics for the next four meetings are as follows:

May 7	General Hybridization
June 4	Softwood Cuttings
July 2	Perennial Propagation
August 6	Seed Collection

For information contact: Chris Cash 518-234-5246, e-mail: Cashc@Cobleskill.edu

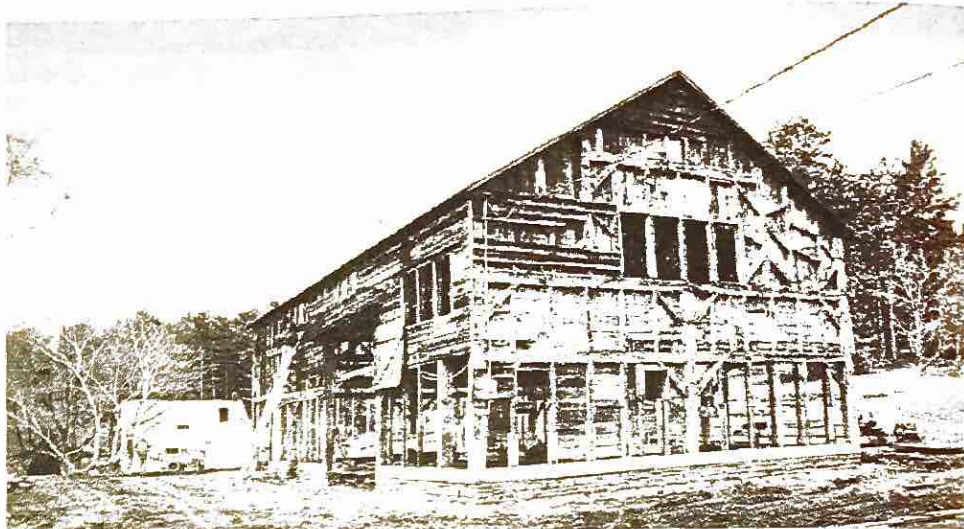


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with Ecological  
Emphasis

25 Sycamore Street  
Albany, NY 12208



## Barn Restoration Update - Heim Finkbeiner

On Monday, February 23, a momentous event took place at the Landis Arboretum. The barn rose five feet into the air! And, on Monday, April 6, the barn was lowered - *ever so carefully* - onto its new dry stone foundation.

On February 11 a contract was signed with J.M. Kelley, Ltd. to restore the structural integrity of the barn timbers, to provide a dry stone foundation, to replace the roof sheathing and shingles, and to put new rough-sawn siding on the entire building. A great deal of the contracted restoration work has been completed, and much of the barn will be ready for use shortly.

One of the important aspects of barn restoration that might easily be overlooked deserves very special mention. During the week prior to Mr. Kelley and his crew beginning their work, the barn had to be cleaned out - completely. A group of stalwart volunteers worked for days to remove many years' accumulation of various materials (read junk), to save what was worth saving and to find places to store it for several months, and to dispose of the rest. Every Arboretum member and visitor owes a **debt of gratitude to Florence and Bob Grimm, Bob Meunier, Ron Neadle, Peter Rumora, Pat and Chris Rush, Viktoria Serafin, and Carol Wock. WE THANK YOU.**

A special edition of the newsletter will be published in early June with much more about the barn restoration, the steps involved in the work, the present status, plans and needs. However, if you are interested in seeing the progress that has been made, pay a visit to the Arboretum. (Attend the Plant Sale - the barn will be in full view!)

## How Does Our Garden Grow?



**New Members** - Please note that the names listed here are new members that joined during the first quarter of 1998. **We wish you welcome!** A complete list of members and contributors will be provided once each year.

(The staff is transferring membership data to our new equipment. Along with the transfer, corrections are being made and a 1997 membership list will be provided as soon as possible. If information about you is incorrect, please call the Arboretum at 875-6935.)

Janka Bialek and Andi Lyons  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Donaruma  
George & Marie Giokas

John & Susan Sagendorf  
William K. Wock  
Mark J. Woods

Valerie Woodward





## Pick of the Pots Preview Party and Sale

Friday, May 15, 1998 - 5 pm to dusk

*Includes supper - wine, cheese, soup, salad, & bread*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Members @\$5 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-members @ \$30 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Includes individual membership)*

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*List name, address and phone number of non-member guests on the back or attach to an additional sheet.*

Make check payable to Landis Arboretum and mail to:  
Landis Arboretum, PO Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066

### Questions and Answers

*The information here is provided by the Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schoharie County.*

**In applying mulch around the base of trees, how deep is too deep? We've seen 8-10 inch deep mulch around trees in mall parking lots and public buildings. And, what is the best material to use around trees and shrubs?**

Mulching garden and landscape plants is an important component of plant and soil health. The benefits of mulching include retention of soil moisture, minimized soil erosion, reduction in weed competition, moderated soil temperatures, and a lower incidence of many diseases. In addition, organic mulches add valuable organic matter to the soil as they decompose. These benefits add up to healthier plants and soil, and reduced labor and use of pesticides.

Mulches should be applied in amounts adequate to achieve their purposes. A thin layer of mulch will do very little to control weeds or retain soil moisture. Generally, 2-6 inches of mulch is a good rule of thumb. Mulch may not be beneficial to wet or fine-textured soils since they may retain too much moisture. Be sure to keep the mulch away from the bark on trees and shrubs to avoid promoting decay, disease infection, and rodent damage. There is a variety of materials available for mulches. Organic mulches are highly recommended for their soil improvement properties and need to be replenished as they decompose. However, some organic materials are better than others. Lawn clippings, for example, are better used in the compost bin than as mulch because they tend to mat down, ferment, or mold. Shredded dry leaves are better mulch than fresh, whole leaves for the same reasons. Straw is preferable to hay because it generally does not contain weed



seeds. Wood chips, bark mulch, or sawdust make good mulches but may tie up nitrogen as they break down. This can be remedied by adding a slow release nitrogen fertilizer. The bark or wood of some plants, such as redwood or cedar, may contain substances toxic to landscape plants. Leaching with water or rain, or composting for several months will alleviate this problem. Finished compost of lawn and kitchen scraps makes excellent mulch and soil amendment. Inorganic mulches include stone, crushed rock, pebbles, gravel, or colored rock as well as plastic mulches and geotextile fabric. These materials rarely need to be replenished but don't have the benefit of improving the soil. Plastic and fabric mulches can be used in combination with organic mulches for a more attractive area. Plastic mulches, however, may increase the soil temperature beneath them and reduce the amount of water that reaches the root zone because they are not porous. These mulches may need to be reserved for specific situations or plant preferences.

Remember you can contact your local County Cooperative Extension Master Gardener office for more information on a variety of gardening topics.



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STARFLOWER.  
*Trifolium boreale*

2397 MVT 03/01/99  
John and Susan Sagendorf  
12 VanDuesen Drive  
Cobleskill, NY 12043-1305

The Landis Arboretum - Lape Road - PO Box 186 - Esperance, NY 12066

### Starflower

The starflower balances on its thin brown stem,  
swaying in the wind like a tightrope dancer,  
bowing its green leaf parasol and its flower  
this way, that way, as the wind moves it.

Delicate the starflower, so swiftly shedding  
its white flower over its pale green leaves,  
like a wave tip that breaks and is gone  
and only the sound of its breaking  
disturbs for a little while the air about it.

- Fred Lape  
*A Bunch of Flowers*