



The Newsletter LANDIS ARBORETUM

Esperance, New York

Spring 1999

Volume 18, No. 2

Upcoming Events

- May 14 Members Plant Sale Preview Party
- May 15-16 Spring Plant Sale, 10 am-4 pm
- May 16 Family Workshop: Nature Art, 2 pm
- June 3 Botanical Drawing Course, 6-8 pm
- 5 Free Arboretum Tour, 11 am
- Family Workshop: Moths, 8:30 pm
- 10 Botanical Drawing Course, 6-8 pm
- 11-12 Amateur Astronomers, 10 pm
- 17 Botanical Drawing Course, 6-8 pm
- 19 Concert: Quercus Quartet, 7 pm
- 20 Family Workshop: Herpetology
Hike, 2 pm
- 26 Free Arboretum Tour, 11 am
- July 10 Free Arboretum Tour, 11 am
- 14 Arb. Adventures: Reptiles, 10 am
- 17 Family Workshop: Pond Ecology, 2 pm
- 21 Arb. Adventures: Birds, 10 am
- 24 Sun/Moon Picnic, Astronomers, 5 pm
- 28 Arb. Adventures: Mammals, 10 am
- Family Workshop: Full Moon
Sing-Along, 8:30 pm
- Aug. 1 Family Workshop: Meet the
Arthropod Squad, 2 pm
- 4 Arb. Adventures: Insects, 10 am
- 8 Concert: Duo Cellists, 3 pm
- 11 Arb. Adventures: Outdoor Living
Skills, 10 am
- 12 Perseid Meteor Showers, Astronomers, 9pm
- 14 Sun Mountain Fiddler Concert, 7 pm
- 17 Star Party, Astronomers, 7:30 pm
- 18 Arb. Adventures: Nature Art, 10 am
- 22 Family Workshop: Tree Identification, 2pm

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The Spring Plant Sale

- Herm Finkbeiner, Chair

On May 14, 15 and 16, 1999 the Arboretum will celebrate its 27th annual plant sale! Like the 26 that went before, this sale will provide the opportunity to satisfy - at least in part - the lust every gardener feels in the spring. "Where can I find more interesting plants for my garden?"

More than 6,000 out-of-the-ordinary trees, shrubs and perennials will be offered for sale. Newly discovered catalogs list new and interesting selections; well-known nurseries and gardens, not-so-well-known but highly recommended smaller growers and suppliers have planted seeds and rooted cuttings, potted and repotted...all of these help to bring an unprecedented selection of new and different plants to the sale. During the past ten years, a great deal of effort has been devoted to increasing the number of genera and the variety of species available at the sale. That hard work has made it possible to offer plants that are not to be found anywhere else in the Capital District. In addition, with sale plants properly labeled, expanded signage and knowledgeable volunteers to provide cultural information, finding something new and different is just plain fun!

As every Arboretum member probably knows, the plant sale has become a major source of the income that helps to keep the Arboretum functioning. For those that haven't had the opportunity to explore the grounds, please take a look around while you are at the Arboretum for the sale. We can't remember seeing Landis look better.

We are presenting the Pick of the Pots Preview Party and Sale for the third time. The past two years brought such an enthusiastic response that members are again being given the opportunity to make purchases before the sale opens to the general public.

Hours for the **Preview Party** are from **5 to 8 p.m.**, Friday evening, **May 14**. Admission is \$10 for members. However, to be completely fair (and add to our membership) non-members may become members and be admitted for a total of \$35. (The 10% member discount on plants and Acorn Shop items applies during both the party and the plant sale.) A evening stroll among the trees, shrubs, and perennials for sale; picking, choosing and purchasing plants; and collecting the plants that have been ordered in advance would be any gardener's idea of heaven. As an extra, a hot and cold buffet supper will be served; there is no additional charge. (Logistics and limited facilities at the Arboretum restrict the supper to the first 150 who sign up.) To make reservations for the Preview Party, telephone the Arboretum at 875-6935.

The Plant Sale will be open both to members and to the public on Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (See the insert for a list of most of the plants offered this year.) Guest botanical societies will be represented with exhibits and membership information. Vendors selling garden-related items will be on hand. And, the Arboretum's Acorn Shop will open for the season with new items in the inventory.

Continued on page 2 >

From the Garden

Patricia Rush, Executive Director

It is with very mixed feelings of both regret at leaving the Arboretum and excitement at my new life that I want to tell all of the members that I have resigned as Executive Director, effective the end of April. I've decided to take an "early retirement" to join my husband, who retired in February.

I've enjoyed my work at the Arboretum very, very much. However, while the Arboretum is making the transition to a professionally managed public garden, it is imperative that the Board continue to move forward with the long range planning process.

It is my sincere hope that I remain involved with the Arboretum in some way. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to work with all of you. My only regret is that my time at Landis has been relatively brief. I look forward to seeing the work of the Arboretum continue forward under new direction.

Gifts and Grants

Trustee Nancy Boericke has contributed \$1,000 to the endowment for support of the horticulturist's position. Her gift will be matched by GE. Also, Trustee Mervyn Prichard has given \$250 to the endowment fund for the horticulturist's position. The balance needed to be raised to meet the challenge in order to qualify for the second \$10,000 is now \$2,750. The NYS Council on the Arts has awarded a grant of \$900 to support consultation for our long range planning process. Correction: The ZBGA grant for care of the collections was incorrectly reported in the last issue. The award was \$9,760.

Winter Into Spring, the 1999 benefit auction chaired by Trustee Mary Ann Tomlinson, attracted almost 60 people to the Mohawk Golf Club on March 19 for the silent and live auctions and gourmet food stations. Net income from the benefit came to \$5,721. Many, many thanks go to Mary Ann and her committee for their hard work.

Garden Conservancy Open Days

The Garden Conservancy, a national organization dedicated to preserving gardens, has announced that June 19 is the Albany area Open Day. Five private gardens will be open to the public on that day.

The private gardens include the following: Longwood Garden in Delmar, off Route 140, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.; the garden of Joan and Henry Ferguson in Loudonville, on Chestnut Hill Road off Route 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the garden of Phyllis and Peter Heerwagen, Fenway Court, Loudonville, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the garden of Ginny and Ernie Kopp, Reddy Lane, Loudonville, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and the Bullock House Garden of Larry and Denise Becker, Slingerlands, on Bullock Road off Route 85, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a \$4 admission charge to visit each of these gardens; the proceeds benefit the work of The Garden Conservancy.

Landis is a public garden member of The Garden Conservancy, and is listed in The Conservancy's *Open Days Directory*, which is available in the Acorn Shop. The directory gives time, date and directions for all gardens, public and private, participating in the Open Days program in the entire country. For more detailed directions to the private gardens open on June 19, call the Arboretum office.

Spring Plant Sale (Continued from page 1)

Members of the Plant Sale Committee are: Herm Finkbeiner, General Chair; Carol Wock, Vice-Chair; Rich and Linda Ohlerking, Commercial Exhibitors and Vendors; Shelley Weed, Finance; Barbara Hunt, Acorn Shop; Anne Jaster, Staging; Viktoria Serafin, Plant Selection and Greenhouse Management; Fran Finkbeiner and Claudia McLaughlin, Publicity; Susan Sagendorf, Membership and Arboretum Display; Paul Schneider, Botanical Societies and Plant Sales; Fred Breglia, Parking; Nancy Boericke, Raffles and Prizes; Carol Wock, Plant Sales; Cindy Weyl, Preview Party; Central Bridge Civic Association, Food Sales; Florence Grimm, Volunteer Coordinator; John Manion, Plant Sales; Mervyn Prichard, Pack and Carry.



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.

Editor

Fran Finkbeiner

Contributors

Fred Breglia, Herm Finkbeiner,

Anne Jaster, Patricia Rush,

Viktoria Serafin, Carol Wock,

Arthur Young

Printer

Shipmates

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ARBORETUM STAFF

Patricia Rush, Executive Director

Shelley Weed, Office Manager

Fred Breglia,

Horticulturist and Operations Manager

George Steele, Science Educator

Address correspondence to:

Newsletter Editor

The Landis Arboretum

P.O. Box 186

Esperance, New York 12066

Phone: (518) 875-6935

Plant Sale Preview

- Viktoria Serafin

In
Be

Selecting plants for the following year's plant sale is perhaps the most enjoyable part of sale preparation, but it's also very challenging, as we try to anticipate and guess what you would like to see offered next year. Once we have a tentative list we must find sources, which can take months, and then we place orders. We anxiously await confirmation of orders, which may also take months, sometimes bringing disappointment when something we really wanted to offer is not available in time for the sale.

This year we are including an insert in this newsletter that will list plants we plan to offer. Due to the vagaries of nature, crop failures and production problems, we cannot promise that this list is "carved in stone," but you should be able to find other irresistible selections and not be too disappointed if a plant on your wish list isn't available. There will also be a few surprises which did not arrive in time to make the list, as well as varieties of which we have too few to list.

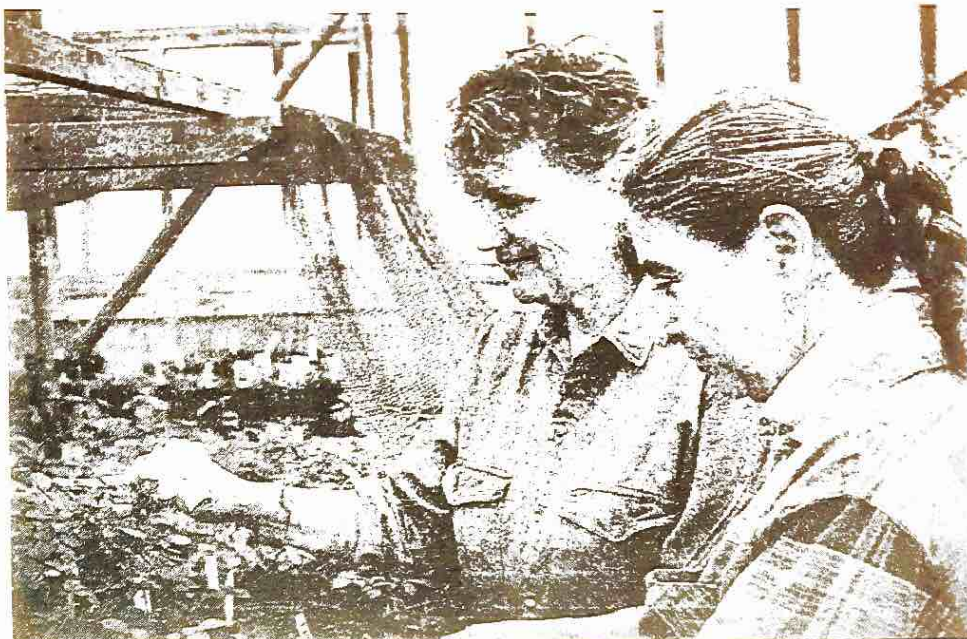
Much of the plant material has already arrived and is in the greenhouse being cared for and encouraged by knowledgeable volunteers.

We will again have a selection of alpines, as well as a wide selection of perennials for sun and shade, uncommon annuals, biennials, herbs, clematis, deciduous shrubs and trees, and conifers including many dwarf cultivars.

Some highlights:

Alpines - include the cutest little Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla faroensis* 'Pumila') you ever will see, a tiny yarrow (*Achillea jaborneggii*) with very different, silvery foliage, and *Dianthus* 'Itsaul White'.

Perennials for sun - Several varieties of delphinium and hemerocallis will be available. Repeat offerings from last year include *Lychnis arkwrightii* 'Vesuvius', which has orange-red maltese-cross flowers with red foliage, and *L. chalconica* 'Rauhreif' with
(Continued on page 5)



Viktoria Serafin, Spring Plant Sale greenhouse manager, and recruit/volunteer Linda Rosen admire an early Griffith Buck 'Hawkeye Belle' blossom in the Arboretum greenhouse.

More About Old Roses and Some Modern Roses ...on Their Own Roots

- Carol Wock

Before last spring, few roses had been offered at Landis Arboretum plant sales. Last year we cautiously ordered several varieties of roses, all grown on their own roots. To our delight, they were best sellers, with many varieties selling out during the Members' Preview Party. For our sale this year we were less cautious in our ordering, increasing the quantities considerably. Following are descriptions of the roses you will find at the plant sale in May.

OLD GARDEN ROSES

This designation refers to classes of roses in existence before 1867 when the first hybrid tea was developed. In recent years, old roses have gained in popularity, with the result that more are introduced into the trade each year. (See the article in the Advance Order Catalog for a brief discussion of their characteristics.)

Gallica roses - Gallicas are the oldest of garden roses. They were grown by the Persians as early as the twelfth century B.C. and 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. Size is compact and care is easy. All are hardy in Zone 4. This year we offer **Charles de Mills**, with huge, classic old rose blossoms opening crimson, aging to a rich purple. To five feet.

Damask roses - Also ancient roses, dating back at least to Biblical times, they were brought to Europe by the Crusaders. Damasks have a strong perfume-like fragrance and are hardy through Zone 4. We offer **Celsiana**, which has large, semi-double blossoms

(Continued on page 4)

that are a soft pink with golden stamens. Blossoms are borne in clusters on a graceful plant. Magnificent perfume. Developed before 1750. To five feet.

Alba roses – These elegant roses have been in existence since the classical Greek and Roman period. 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 **Belle Amour**, a delicate coral pink, an unusual color in old roses. Semi-double, cupped flowers on a vigorous, upright bush to five feet. Strong myrrh fragrance. This old rose was found growing in a convent garden in France.

Portland roses – This small class of roses was quite popular in the middle of the 19th century. Portlands are similar to Damasks, but more compact. They are extremely fragrant, and repeat blooming. We will have two Portlands offered at the sale. **Arthur de Sansal** (1855) has old-fashioned flat, fully double blooms of dark crimson, with a wonderful damask fragrance. A compact bush, to three feet, makes this a good rose for small gardens. **Comte de Chambord** (1860) has beautiful old-fashioned flat, quartered blossoms that open bright pink and age to mauve-pink. Very fragrant. Upright plant to five feet.

Bourbon roses – Bourbons are the result of a natural cross between *R. chinensis* and a variety of *Damascena*. This occurred on the Ile de Bourbon (now Reunion); the first bourbon reached France about 1819. Bourbons soon arrived in England and the U.S. and were popular in Victorian times. 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 areas. (I have grown 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** (1851), with fully double camellia-type blossoms of rich, rosy pink. A vigorous, bushy plant to five feet and considered hardy to Zone 4. **Variegata di Bologna** has large cupped blossoms of creamy-white, striped with a purplish-crim-

son which make a striking spring display. The bush is strong and upright and may be grown as a pillar rose or a short climber. To six feet.

Moss roses – These roses were loved by the Victorians. Moss roses aren't actually a separate class of rose, but are Damasks and Centifolias that have developed a fragrant moss-like growth on the sepals, and add great elegance to the flowers. We offer one this year. **Henri Martin** (1867) has crimson red, mossed, semi-double flowers in clusters on long stems, so makes a good cut flower. Very fragrant. Bush is vigorous, five to seven feet.

An additional old rose is **Stanwell Perpetual**. Developed in 1838, it is a cross of *R. x damascena bifer* x *R. spinosissima*. Blossoms are fully doubled, quartered, blush-pink fading to white. Fragrance is wonderful! The deep, greyish-green foliage shows the elegance of its Damask heritage. Blooms all summer. About four by four feet.

MODERN ROSES

Three groups of hardy modern roses will be featured at the sale.

Griffith Buck roses – The late Dr. Griffith Buck taught horticulture at Iowa State University. His goal was to breed shrub roses that were hardy and disease resistant. He produced over fifty hybrids but few are still available. All are hardy in Zone 4. At the sale look for **Hawkeye Belle**, with blush-pink buds opening white; **Applejack**, with clear pink blossoms; and **Countryman**, with large, cupped blossoms of rosy-pink.

Canadian roses – As you would expect, these roses were bred for their hardiness and disease resistance. We offer **John Cabot**, with deep rose-pink blossoms on a large, vigorous plant that may be grown as a climber. Repeat blooming; four to five feet as a shrub, eight to ten feet as a climber.

John Davis has beautiful old-fashioned blossoms of candy-pink. Repeats; Zone 2! To ten feet, so it may be grown as a climber. **Jens Munk** (included here although it is a rugosa hybrid) has pink double blossoms which open to show golden stamens. Strongly fragrant and blooms continuously. To five feet.

Rugosa hybrids - Hardy, healthy shrubs that are easy to grow. **Scabrosa** has luminous single deep pink blossoms on a shrub to six feet. **Robusta** has single red blossoms that are stunning against the dark green foliage. To five feet. **Therese Bugnet** has beautiful, old-fashioned, lilac-pink blossoms, quite fragrant and borne in clusters. Has a long first bloom period, some repeat in the summer and more bloom in the fall. The canes are deep red and the grey-green foliage turns deep red in the fall. A rose for all seasons; to five feet.

In addition to the roses described above, we will have the wonderful climber **New Dawn** and a few of the roses offered in the Advance Order Catalog. We will also have seedlings of **Rosa glauca**, so often admired in the arboretum gardens.



Used Books Wanted

- Arthur Young

Once again at the Spring Plant Sale we would like to continue to offer books for sale to the plant people who have multiple interests and a love of reading.

The books from Fred Lape's library have been winnowed, and those excluded from our permanent collection have been sold for the benefit of the arboretum.

We would like to have members and friends of the arboretum contribute any hardcover books and good quality paperbacks to the sale. Plant and garden books, ones that could be sent out on a new life without personal pain, would be especially welcome.

I would be glad to pick up contributions after April 15. Call me, Arthur Young, at 518-283-6321.

Sale Preview (Continued from p. 3)

red foliage, and *L. chalcidonica* 'Rauhreif' 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; *Sidalcea* 'Party Girl', filled with miniature bright pink hollyhock-like flowers most of the summer.

Perennials for shade - Astilbe, hosta (at least a dozen varieties, including very new and unusual ones for collectors) and *Ligularia dentata* 'Othello' will be available to grace your garden. Don't miss *Tellima grandiflora* 'Forest Frost' (Fringe Cups), which is a ground cover for a dry shady situation where few plants succeed and pretty enough for a specimen, too. Combine this with *Cryptotaenia japonica* 'Atropurpurea', an entirely new plant on the North American horticultural scene, and you will have a silver-and-purple confection to die for! We also have two new *Corydalis* varieties, 'Purple Leaf' and 'Pere David'.

Bulbs - Potted Asiatic lilies from the garden of member and lily grower/hybridizer Janet Vinyard will again be available. She will also bring a few *Lilium martagon*, my absolute favorite, which will perform well even in shade, and is fabulous for adding vertical dimension to a shade perennial planting.

Vines - *Clematis* 'Betty Corning' is always in demand, and this year we were able to obtain a good supply. *C. recta* 'Purpurea' is a more shrub-like form, with purplish foliage and white flowers. It may well be in bloom at sale time, and you may see it gracing the stone wall along Lape Road.

Ground covers - Tired of the same old pachysandra? Check out *P. procumbens*, our native Allegheny Spurge, which is not evergreen. The blooms appear with the

emerging foliage. *Chrysogonum virginianum* 'Pierre' gives you cheerful, yellow "daisies" from early spring on, and *Ajuga* 'Arboretum Giant' is a new introduction of that genus that we just can't wait to see in our gardens.

Native plants - This category is one of the most popular across the country in recent years! In addition to several ferns, we offer *Claytonia virginica*, which looks like a little lily, although it is a member of the Portulacaceae Family, and several other wildflowers. The few pots of *Convallaria majalis* 'Rosea' we managed to procure last year disappeared fast, but we will now have a larger number. *Anemone canadensis*, *Sanguinaria canadensis* and *Trillium grandiflorum* have also been ordered.

Ornamental grasses - You keep asking for these, and we usually have a good supply at the Fall Sale. This time we have some to offer in the spring, too, including *Imperata cylindrica*, which is already showing its brilliant red color as it emerges.

Deciduous shrubs - We expect to have a good selection of lilacs in 3-gallon pots in a variety of colors, including *S. hyacinthiflora* 'Esther Staley', which will extend the lilac bloom season; the hyacinthifloras are the earliest to bloom. We also will have a wide selection of other lilac hybrids in a larger size than at the previous two sales. Buddleia offerings will include *B. alternifolia* 'Argentea', and 'Dartmoor', which has the largest panicles we have seen on any cultivar! *Kerria japonica* 'Picta' is one of the prettiest shrubs we know, in and out of flower, and for other foliage colors, we have a selection of elderberries with gold, variegated and purple leaves.

Deciduous trees - will include a few weeping pussywillows (grafted standards). We again plan to have a selection of several

Reopening! ACORN SHOP



The Acorn Shop will be open
from May 14 through mid-October.
Weekend hours: Saturday 12-5
Sunday 1-5

Watch for a special sale table
at the Spring Plant Sale.

SHOP STAFF IS NEEDED
FOR THE SEASON.
PLEASE CALL TO VOLUNTEER.

sizes of the beautiful *Stewartia pseudocamellia*. Other trees in smaller sizes will be available.

We have also tried to grow a few annuals hard to find elsewhere. *Chenopodium foliosum* 'Strawberry Sticks', which is related to a common weed, produces clusters of edible red berries. *Nicandra physaloides* 'Splash of Cream' has variegated foliage aptly described by the cultivar name.

The listing above is only a sampling of the plants that will be available. We have worked hard to find new offerings to please your plant palate. We also offer a variety of sizes, and therefore prices, to meet a variety of needs and budgets. We look forward to seeing you all there, and to helping you with your selections.

Lancaster Development, Inc.

Martin A. Galasso
President

P.O. Box 189, Cobleskill, N.Y. 12043

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Oaks, Oaks and More Oaks

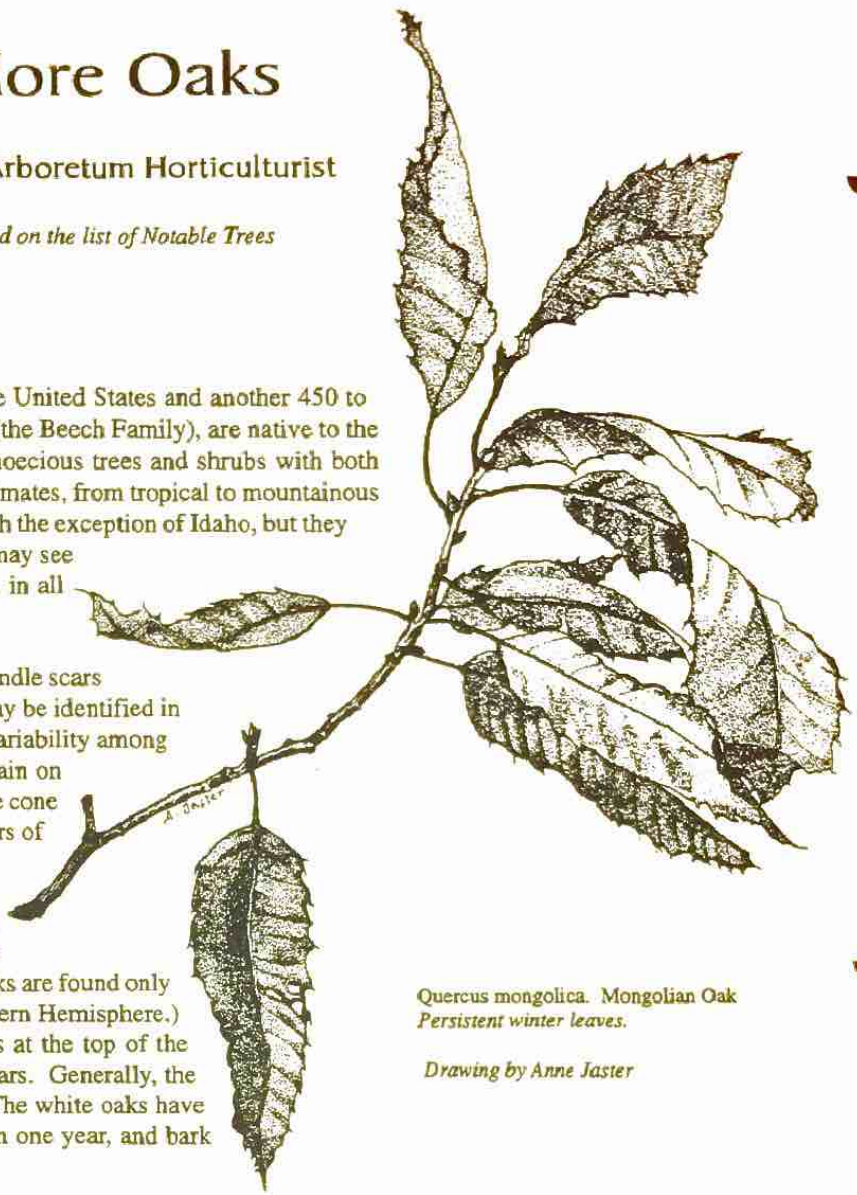
- Fred Breglia, Arboretum Horticulturist

This is another in the on-going series describing species included on the list of Notable Trees at the Landis Arboretum.

There are about 70 different *quercus* species native to the United States and another 450 to 500 worldwide. Oaks, members of the Fagaceae Family (the Beech Family), are native to the Northern Hemisphere. They are a diverse group of monoecious trees and shrubs with both deciduous and evergreen species. Oaks are found in all climates, from tropical to mountainous regions, and are actually native to 48 of our U.S. states with the exception of Idaho, but they will grow there too. With so many different species you may see them growing in desert areas, seashores, and mountains, in all types of soils from sand to clay.

Oak trees have clustered buds at tips of twigs, multiple bundle scars per leaf scar, and the acorn is the fruit. Generally they may be identified in season by leaf shape alone even though there is genetic variability among the same species. Immature oak (and beech) leaves remain on the tree throughout the winter, a characteristic known as the cone of juvenility. Male flowers appear in late spring as clusters of drooping catkins; female flowers are inconspicuous.

Typically, oaks are broken into two groups, the red and white. (The letters R and W in the description of oaks at Landis that follows identify them as red or white. Red Oaks are found only in North America, and White Oaks throughout the Northern Hemisphere.) The red oaks have pointed leaves with hair-like bristles at the top of the lobes, and incredibly bitter acorns that mature in two years. Generally, the bark of the red oak is smoother than that of the white. The white oaks have leaves with rounded lobes, sweeter acorns that mature in one year, and bark that is rougher than the red oak.



Quercus mongolica. Mongolian Oak
Persistent winter leaves.

Drawing by Anne Jaster

Most oaks are slow-growing, long-lived, and have few pests or diseases that threaten the life of the tree. Exceptions are oak wilt and a new bacterial leaf scorch.

Oaks are very important timber trees, providing about half of the annual production of hardwood lumber in the United States. Acorns may be used as hog feed. In England, years ago, common folk were taxed according to how many pigs could be supported from the acorn harvest on their property. The bark is a source of tannins used in the production of leather goods and in dyes. Indians boiled and ground out the tannic acid to make even the bitter red oak acorns a staple in their diet. They also used tea brewed from the bark as medicine. Mammals and game birds such as ruffed and sharp-tailed grouse, bobwhites, wild turkeys, pheasant, mourning dove, wood ducks, whitetail deer, black bear, foxes, squirrels, raccoons, opossum, and chipmunks depend on the fruit of oaks as a large part of their diet. Deer and rabbits browse on oak twigs, and porcupines eat the cambium layer beneath the bark.

Landis Arboretum is home to 16 different species of deciduous oaks, including the Great Oak, after which Fred Lape's Oak Nose Farm was named. A good number of the oak species can be found across the road from the Meeting House, just after you pass through the lilac collection. But you will also see oaks throughout the arboretum, including many in the native woodland area.

The North American native **White Oak**, *Q. alba*, hardy to Zone 4 with a native range from Maine to Florida and as far west as Texas, is perhaps the most important commercial timber tree. The Great Oak here at Landis is a White Oak; the trunk circumference measures 15.5 feet and it is estimated to be about 400 years old. White Oaks, like many others, are slow-growing but they can grow very large. The National Champion White Oak is nearly 32 feet in circumference, 100 feet tall and 120 feet wide. Leaves usually have between five and nine lobes and in autumn turn a beautiful shade of purple mixed with brown. White Oak is the state tree of Connecticut and Maryland.

Spring Plant Sale 1999

Here is a list of what we are planning to have available, barring circumstances beyond our control.

Abies koreana
Achillea huteri, jaborneggii, ptarmica
Aconitum lamarckii, napellus 'Rubellum'
Adiantum pedatum
Aesculus parviflora
Ajuga reptans 'Arboretum Giant'
Alamantia turbith var. haynaldii
Alcea 'Chater's Mix', rosea, r. nigra
Alchemilla alpina, erythropoda, faroensis 'Pumila', glaucescens
Amsonia tabernaemontana, t. salicifolia
Anemone canadensis, hupehensis, sylvestris, tomentosa 'Robustissima'
Anemone x hybrida 'Honorine Jobert'
Anthemis 'Snow Carpet'
Aquilegia alpina, 'Crimson Star', flabellata 'Nana Alba'
Arabis blepharophylla 'Red Sensation'
Artemisia lactiflora 'Guizho', schmidtiana 'Silver Mound', stellariana 'Silver Brocade', x 'Powis Castle'
Aruncus aethusifolius x dioicus, dioicus
Asarum arifolium, europaeum
Asplenium ebenoides
Athyrium nipponicum pictum
Astilboides tabularis (Rodgersia tabularis)
Astrantia major 'Rose Symphony'
Athyrium nipponicum 'Ursula's Red'
Baptisia leucophaea
Bergenia cordifolia 'Rose'
Brunnera macrophylla
Buddleia alternifolia 'Argentea', davidii 'Dartmoor'
Calamagrostis 'Overdam'
Callirhoe involucrata
Campsis x tagliabuana 'Madame Galen'
Caragana pygmaea
Centaurea cinerea, montana
Chaenomeles japonica 'Texas Scarlet'
Chamaecyparis thyoides 'Heatherbun'
Chrysogonum virginianum 'Pierre'
Cimicifuga acerina, racemosa, ramosa Atropurpurea', simplex 'White Pearl'
Claytonia virginica
Clematis 'Betty Corning', 'Dr. Ruppel', 'General Sikorski', 'Henry', maximowicziana, viticella 'Polish Spirit'
Clethra alnifolia 'Ruby Spice'
Codonopsis lanceolata
Convallaria majalis, m. 'Rosea'
Coreopsis grandiflora, 'Early Sunrise'
Cornus sericea 'Silver & Gold'
Cortinus coggyria 'Royal Purple'
Corydalis 'Pere David', 'Purple Leaf'

Cryptotaenia japonica 'Atropurpurea'
Delphinium chinensis 'Blue Butterfly', 'P.G. Blue Bird', 'P.G. Galahad', x belladonna 'Bellamosum'
Dianthus barbatus 'Sweet William', plumarius 'Itsaul White'
Dicentra eximia 'Stuart Boothman', formosa 'Langtrees'
Dictamnus fraxinella
Digitalis purpurea 'Alba', p. 'Apricot Beauty', p. 'Excelsior', p. 'Foxy'
Doronicum orientale 'Magnificum'
Dryopteris clintoniana, goldiana
Echinacea purpurea
Echinops sphaerocephalus 'Arctic Glow'
Epimedium alpina rubrum
Euonymus 'Harlequin'
Eupatorium rugosum, r. 'Chocolate'
Euphorbia polychroma
Exochorda macrantha 'The Bride'
Filipendula rubra 'Venusta'
Galega officinalis
Gaura lindheimeri 'Corrie's Gold', l. 'Siskiyou Pink'
Geranium dalmaticum, renardii, sanguineum
Gillenia trifoliata
Gypsophila repens, pink
Hamamelis x int. 'Fire Charm' int. 'Sunburst'
Hedera helix 'Goldheart'
Helenium sp.
Helleborus purpurascens 'Red Power'
Hemerocallis 'Kwanso', 'Stella de Oro', 'Susie Wong', Pink 'Lavender Appeal'
Herbs: selection of 10 popular herbs
Heuchera 'Velvet Night'
Heucherella 'Rosalie', tiarelloides 'Crimson Cloud'
Hosta 'August Moon', 'Blue Cadet', 'June', 'Paul's Glory', 'Queen Josephine', 'Robert Frost', 'Royal Standard' 'Whirlwind', others
Hydrangea anomala petiolaris, serrata 'Blue Billow'
Hypericum Kalmianum
Iberis sempervirens (dwarf form)
Inula ensifolia 'Sunray', helenium
Iris ensata, 'Henry's White', e. 'Variegata', sibirica
Jeffersonia diphylla
Juniperus communis 'Gold Cone', squamata 'Holgers', x media 'Shimpaku'
Kerria japonica 'Picta'
Kirengeshoma palmata
Lathyrus 'Chatsworth', 'Midnight', vernus 'Alboreus'
Liatris 'Floristan White'
Lamium galeobdolon 'Herman's Pride'
Lamium maculatum 'Beacon Silver', m. 'White Nancy'
Lathyrus varnalis 'Chatsworth'
Lavandula 'Hidcote Blue'
Ligularia dentata 'Othello', stenocephala 'The Rocket'
Lobelia cardinalis
Lonicera japonica 'Aureoreticulata', x heckrottii
Lychnis arkwrightii 'Vesuvius'
L. chalcidonica 'Morgenrot'
L. ch. 'Rauhreif'
Lysimachia nummularia 'aurea'

Oaks and More Oaks (Cont'd from p. 6)

Swamp White Oak (*Q. bicolor*) (W) is another Zone 4 tree with a native range from Quebec to Georgia west to Arkansas. They may grow to 70 feet – even larger in ideal conditions – are similar in habit to Burr Oak, and furnish us with a general purpose wood. The Urban Horticultural Institute at Cornell University lists this tree as a species suitable for street planting, one that can tolerate both wet and somewhat dry soils.

Scarlet Oak (*Q. coccinea*) (R) is another species native to the U.S., ranging from Maine to Florida and Missouri. It is hardy to Zone 4 and can reach heights in excess of 80 feet. Leaves of the scarlet oak are bright green in summer, turn a brilliant red in fall – hence the name. Cultivars are commercially available.

Shingle Oak (*Q. imbricaria*) (R) is an important hardwood species that is hardy to Zone 5 and grows native from Pennsylvania to Georgia and Arkansas. Shingle Oaks may grow to 60 feet or more in the wild. The leaf is similar to the American Chestnut and Chestnut Oak, both turn shades of yellowish brown to reddish brown in autumn. The tree is suitable for street planting and prefers moist soils, but will tolerate intermittent drought.

Burr Oak, (*Q. macrocarpa*) (W) often called Mossy Cup Oak, has a native range extending from Nova Scotia to Pennsylvania and Texas. It is hardy to Zone 4, may grow to 80 feet or more, and turns a yellow brown in fall. The acorn has fringe-like border. Tolerant of drought and able to withstand periodic flooding, this is another species that Cornell recommends for urban conditions.

Black Jack Oak (*Q. marilandica*) (R) can reach 50 feet, but is usually smaller. Black Jack Oak is pushing the limits of its hardiness at Landis; it is rated to Zone 6.

The Mongolian Oak (*Q. mongolica grosserata*) (W) is one of my favorites here at Landis. It is located at the top of the hill above the lilac collection and is a superb specimen with narrow, sharp-toothed leaves clustered at the ends of branches. It is native to Northeast Asia, Mongolia, Japan and Sakhalin and is hardy to Zone 5. It is considered an important timber tree and may reach heights over 100 feet.

Pin Oak (*Q. palustris*) (R) is native to the United States and ranges from Massachusetts to Delaware west to Arkansas. It has long, drooping branches, deeply-lobed leaves that turn shades of red in the fall, and may reach 80 feet or more. It is commonly planted as a street tree.

Durmast Oak (*Q. petraea*) (W) is native to Europe and western Asia and hardy to Zone 5. In France, forests of tall Durmast Oaks were planted to supply the navy.

Chinquapin Oak (*Q. prinoides*) (W) is a small tree or shrub native from Maine to Alabama and west to Texas; it is hardy to Zone 5.

Chestnut Oak (*Q. prinus*) (W) may reach 100 feet or more. It ranges from Delaware to Florida and west to Texas. It is listed as hardy to Zone 6, but is found growing in Schoharie County. It is another commercially important tree.

The **English Oak** (*Q. robur*) (W) is hardy to Zone 5 and may reach 80 feet or more. It is native to Europe, North Africa and Western Asia. In England years ago, shipwrights trained young branches to angles and curves that grew into structural elements for ships to be built 50 to 100 years later. Today it is on Cornell's list of trees suitable for urban use.

Fastigiated English Oak (*Q. robur 'Fastigiata'*) (W) is a cultivar of the English Oak. It is another of my favorites,

with its columnar habit, and grows next to the lilac collection where it stands out among the other oaks near it.

The **Northern Red Oak** (*Q. rubra maxima*) (R) is native to eastern North America and hardy to Zone 5. Another street tree listed by Cornell, it can grow to 80 feet with relatively smooth bark that becomes deeply furrowed with age.

Shumard's Oak (*Q. shumardi*) (R) is a native of the southeastern U.S. and hardy to Zone 6. Another good street tree; to 75 feet.

The **Post Oak** (*Q. stellata*) (W) is a large tree that can reach 100 feet or more in a range from Massachusetts to Florida and west to Kansas and Texas.

The **Black Oak** (*Q. velutina*) (R) also grows to 100 feet with large ten inch-long leaves and acorns with fringes around the cap. Its native range extends from Maine to Florida and Texas and it is hardy to Zone 4. The bark yields tannins and the inner bark yields a bright yellow dye known as *quercitron*.

I hope this summary of the oak collection here at Landis will give you a few more reasons to come and visit us.

References: *Hortus Third*, Cornell University; *A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs*, George A. Petrides; *Gray's Manual of Botany*, Merritt Lyndon Fernald; and *The Folklore of Trees and Shrubs*, Laura C. Martin.

Gary DeLuke



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Bluebird Boxes Replaced

- Pat Rush

Dan Palemiere (pictured, left), a native of Cobleskill who now lives in Fultonville, and who is a friend of our horticulturist Fred Breglia, has built and donated 18 bluebird boxes to the Arboretum. The boxes have replaced the dilapidated ones in the meadow below the Farmhouse. New box sites have also been developed, two in the Meeting House field, two in the field below the Meeting House, and four sites in the collections.

The boxes have been installed on metal poles to discourage raccoons and other critters, and to make them more permanent. They were constructed according to specifications recommended by the Bluebird Society; Dan is also developing a management plan for the bluebird boxes at the Arboretum.

Dan has been involved with bluebirds and their nesting sites for several years. He built and installed boxes for a school in Rawlins, Wyoming, and has assisted Kevin Berner, professor of wildlife at SUNY-Cobleskill, in putting up and monitoring boxes in the area.

Many, many thanks to Dan for this wonderful gift. - Pat Rush

Bus Trip Upcoming

Wednesday, May 26

This House and Garden Tour bus trip will take you for a visit to Park-McCullough House in Bennington, Vermont, to the Southern Vermont Arts Center in Manchester (where you will be on your own for lunch), on to nearby Equinox Nursery and Arboretum to tour and buy, and then on to tour historic Hildene House and gardens, the home of Robert Todd Lincoln, also nearby.

The Brown Coach Company bus will leave from the Home Depot parking lot, Route 7 and Albany Street at 8 a.m. and return about 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. The price includes bus fare and admission to the Park-McCullough House and to Hildene. Snacks will be available on the bus.


Reservations should be made by May 10. To make reservations send your check to Landis Arboretum, PO Box 186, Lape Road, Esperance, NY 12066. For additional information call the Arboretum at 875-6935.

Botanical Art at Landis: Spring 1999

- Anne Jaster

It's been said that drawing teaches us to see. I know that a good way to learn and remember a plant is to draw it. With sketch pad and pencil, we'll spend three June evenings examining flowers at the Arboretum. Our goals will be to heighten powers of observation, learn a little botany and thoroughly appreciate and enjoy the exquisite forms and patterns of plants.

(The fee for the course is \$30; it will meet on Thursday evenings June 3, 10 and 17 from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the Arboretum to sign up. See Anne's drawing on page 6. - Ed.



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The Big Oak of the Landis Arboretum - Fred Lape

In 1982 the Big Oak was designated the official logo of the Landis Arboretum by the Board of Trustees. Over the years it has been called the Old Oak, the Great Oak and the Big Oak. The following is reprinted from the Volume 1, Number 2, April, May, June 1982 newsletter.

The Big Oak of the George Landis Arboretum is an Eastern White Oak (*Quercus alba*). The species ranges from Maine to Georgia, but flourishes best in the section from southern Connecticut and Long Island through Eastern Pennsylvania where it is often the dominant tree. It is not common in New York State north of the Mohawk Valley.

The Big Oak must have been an outstanding forest tree when the land now the Arboretum was cleared, about 1840, for it was singled out by the first owner to be left standing in the open.

My first memory of the tree dates from about 1910 when I was getting old enough to pay attention to trees. It seems to me now in memory that its trunk was as large then as it is now but early in life memories usually magnify with time. There were already two lighting scars, which wriggle like gigantic snakes down the east and south faces of the trunk, and the traces of which still remain.

It was probably one of the features of the farm which induced my father to buy the property, for he loved far views, and he immediately named the place Oak Nose Farm, and always took visitors to see the views up and down the Schoharie Valley, which one gets from the knoll upon which the oak stands. The knoll itself is part of a glacial moraine that was dumped across the valley during the last glacial retreat.

We have never here at the Arboretum taken borings of the tree to ascertain its age. From comparing the size of trunk and branch spread with that of certain famous oaks in southern New England and on Long Island, whose age is roughly known from certain historic events which happened near or under them, we guess the Big Oak to be from 350 to 500 years old.

It was a flourishing tree until the year 1940. Then a natural disaster overtook it. That year there was an ice storm. It rained steadily and heavily day and night for three days, the rain freezing as it fell. By the end of the storm, every blade of dead grass in the fields was coated with solid ice to the thickness of a man's thumb, and all the branchlets of trees were equally coated.

I have never lived through a major earthquake, nor a tornado, nor a hurricane. The last night of the ice storm was the greatest natural disaster I have ever experienced. Few persons on these hills slept that night. From late afternoon of the third day, when the large limbs of trees began to give way, and all through the night to the next morning, there was a constant bombardment from the crashing of limbs as they broke loose from the trees and fell.

On the fourth morning the storm had ended and the sun came out. I walked over toward the Big Oak to see the damage. On the way up to its knoll one looks over a section of the woodlot that had always been the sap bush, with large maple trees that had furnished sap for maple syrup for a hundred years. There was not a single large maple left standing, only the stripped tops of trunks and the mass of fallen branches glistening in the sun. The Big Oak lost all of its branches on the northeast side, about half of its crown.

If I had had at the time either the money or the experience to repair the damage after the storm, the tree could probably have recovered completely, for it was then a vigorously growing tree. I had neither, the open wounds left along the trunk by the pulled out bases of the falling limbs began to rot inward. Once water was able to reach beyond the growing layer of wood, the rotting inward and down accelerated, and has continued ever since. Coons began to next inside the hollow trunk.

In the meantime the tree has continued to grow vigorously, but during the last four years large lower branches have broken off without even a high wind or a heavy snow to cause the break, merely the weight of the branches overpowering the now hollow moorings which they have in the trunk.

Whether anything could be done now that is worth doing is doubtful. The very lower sections of the trunk still seems solid, but the upper section is completely hollow, and one can look up from the lower holes to light in the upper ones.

Even as it stands, the tree may live another hundred years, for the white oak is a vigorous species but the climax of its life definitely came at the end of three days of freezing rain in the winter of 1940 and from then on its way has been downward.



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How Does Our Garden Grow?

New Members – Please note that the names listed here are new members that joined during the first quarter of 1999. **We wish you welcome!** A complete list of members and contributors is available once each year.

Catherine Adams
Emily Bryans
Anne Dewell
Mary Anne Dunham
Mark Fitzgerald
Ted Howes
Alyson & William Jones
Vince Juliano
Marion Kinch
Stephen Lamiac
Amy Lent
Bradley & Catherine Lewis

Rue Moore
Kathleen Page & Family
John Parker
Hauke Rask
Carol Rowell
Deanna Smith
Gail Viamonte
Richard & Nancy Walley
Neil Winner