

LANDIS ARBORETUM

THE NEWSLETTER

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UPDATE

Be Part of Landis' Green Revolution

—Wilma Jozwiak, Membership Chair

The Winter issue of the *Newsletter* marked Landis' first foray into electronic publication—all members who had provided us with an email address received both paper and electronic versions. We want to accelerate the move, which will decrease our contribution to the waste stream at the same time that it allows us to enhance *Newsletter* content for the online version. But we need your help.

First, if you have not already done so, please contact me at wjzowiak@aol.com to confirm the email address you prefer we use to mail the electronic newsletter.

Second, please use the same email address to let us know about any issues with accessing the newsletter sent to you. We are working closely with Constant Contact, our new email partner, to identify and correct problems that interfere with your enjoyment of this new *Newsletter* publishing approach.

Thank you for being our partners in "greening up" our publications.



Signature Spring Plant Sale to Benefit Landis

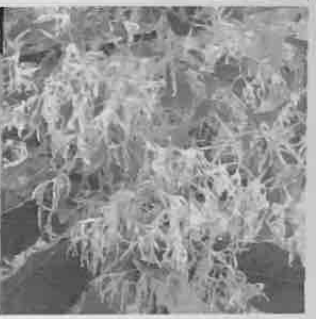
The 38th annual Landis Arboretum Spring Plant/Book/Bake/Artisans' Sale Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, May 15, and Sunday, May 16, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. There is no admission or parking fee. The sale will take place rain or shine, and all proceeds will benefit maintenance and improvements at Landis, the Capital Region's arboretum.

Abundance and Beauty Await

This year's highlights include a diverse selection of shade and ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, perennials, and annuals, as detailed in Jeff Schworm's article, "Hard Times, New Ideas: Rethinking the Spring Plant Sale," on page 1 of the insert.

The annual spring and fall plant sales are a critical source of income for the Arboretum. They offer an opportunity to acquire beautiful and unusual plants.

The Arboretum provides ample parking, wheelchair-accessible bathrooms, hot tea and coffee, cold drinks and water, and some of the best baked



goods offered anywhere.

Pick of the Pots PREVIEW SALE

The Friday before the Plant Sale (May 14, 4–8 p.m.) is designated as Pick of the Pots (PoPs), a members-only plant preview and sale, a great opportunity to shop for plants before the crowds!

Not a member? You can join at the door on Friday night! Pre-registration is no longer required. As usual, we have assembled a knowledgeable staff to answer all your plant questions. We can provide recommendations for any site condition or landscape.

The PoPs event is "a privilege of membership," says Horticulture Director Fred Breglia. **"The preview event will be free to members.** It is our way of saying thank you to all who support the Landis Arboretum through membership."

The Arboretum gratefully accepts donations of healthy plants that are potted, sale ready, and labeled

—continued on page 2.



Garden Party at Landis Arboretum Saturday, June 19, 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Celebrate the Summer Solstice at Landis. Bring your friends and enjoy the pleasures of the season—dinner at twilight, live music in the great outdoors, original artwork, and a silent auction, all designed to provide you with a memorable and relaxing evening to welcome summer and benefit the Arboretum.

Join us under the Great Tent, stroll through the Van Loveland Perennial Gardens, sit by Willow Pond, or gaze at the early evening sky and the rolling hills of the Schoharie Valley. Landis has it all, and you won't want to miss this popular event.



This year we have a special addition to the festivities: garden sculpture by renowned artist Samuel E!

A native of Oneonta, Samuel E works in various media using life experiences and his expertise as a professional welder to

create his art. Landis is delighted to announce that a unique collection of outdoor metal sculptures by Samuel E will be onsite at the June 19th Garden Party.

This will truly be an evening of sensory delights, so reserve your seating now. Tickets are available at a special rate of \$40 per person, prepaid. After June 10, the price will be \$45. Tables of 8 are also available on request.

To purchase tickets by phone or for further information, call the Arboretum at (518) 875-6935, or go online: tickets can be reserved through PayPal at www.landisarboretum.org.

THE LANDIS ARBORETUM NEWSLETTER is published quarterly for its members. The Arboretum's mission is to foster the appreciation of trees and other plants and their importance in our environment.

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

Spring Plant Sale—continued from page 1.

by the donor with the common name. The Arboretum staff will price your donations appropriately.

Bookies Return

The Landis Arboretum is bound to be the destination of choice for book buyers, sellers, and collectors for the Used Book Sale scheduled in conjunction with the Arboretum's Plant Sale. Bibliophiles are always well rewarded with thousands of titles in good condition to browse through and buy. Rain? The books are under cover in the Arboretum's 1830s English barn.

The Book Sale is made possible through the generosity of the Arboretum's many friends and supporters who collect books throughout the

year. Dozens of volunteers clean and categorize the offerings. Categories include, but are not limited to, science and nature, gardening, reference, poetry, child, mystery, self-help, diet and nutrition. Donations of books in good condition are always welcome—please contact us by phone or e-mail (see below) about book donations by May 8.

Artisans Contribute To Festivities!

Always responsive to your requests and comments, the Arboretum will showcase the quality offerings of select area craft-specialists whose work will be for sale Saturday, May 15, and Sunday, May 16, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Arboretum Plant Sale: A Primer

- **Volunteers** from Arboretum-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 501 will be available to help those needing assistance in getting purchases to their vehicles. Read more about the Scouts in "The Boys of Landis."
 - **The Acorn Gift Shop** will be open. Some popular items include polo and sweatshirts with our logo, high-quality pruning tools, animal puppets, nature games, and books. This year, the Arboretum will feature spectacular photographs by Arboretum member and award-winning nature photographer Bill Coombs, Jr.
 - **Starting times and dates** for the sale are firm. Purchases may not be made prior to the sale. The Arboretum cannot set aside plants prior to the sale.
 - **Arboretum plant experts** will be available all weekend to answer your questions and to provide suggestions and advice on plant selection, site requirements, and proper planting and care techniques.
 - **Cars must be parked** in our upper parking area next to the Meeting House.
 - **Limited** handicapped parking and drop-off space is available. Please inform the parking attendants of your needs.
 - **Dogs are not** permitted at the Plant Sale. (Dogs should never be left in cars because temperatures rise quickly inside vehicles.)
 - **Restrooms and picnic tables** are available for your convenience.
 - **Have your membership** card handy for quicker checkout. (10% discount for members.)
 - **All purchased items must be removed by 4 p.m., Sunday.** Landis does not make deliveries and is not responsible for items left after 4 p.m.
- More?**
- **Call the Arboretum at 518-875-6935.**
E-mail us at: fred@landisarboretum.org; info@landisarboretum.org. Check our website: www.landisarboretum.org.

Prose and Poetry by Fred Lape

The Arboretum's founder, Fred Lape, earned a degree in English at Cornell and taught at Stanford University before he returned to the farm in Esperance in 1928 to pursue a career in freelance writing. Mr. Lape also taught for a few years in the late 1930s at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. Prolific in prose and poetry, he was involved in music, art, and theater. We are pleased to offer a sample of his work in the *Newsletter*.

LAMBING TIME

In lambing time they were up all hours of the night.
The man went out in the dark with a lantern.
The boy followed shivering. He kept out of the way.
He stood back and watched in the sheep shed.

The ewe refused her lamb. The man rubbed the lamb with her juice. Sometimes it worked, sometimes not. Sometimes the ewe was stubborn, and under his arm the man carried the bunch of woolly life into the kitchen. They fed it there with a bottle.

Always in March a lamb or two was living behind the kitchen stove as if by right. They grew up like children, but quicker. In April they ran in the yard, they jumped and butted, they ran and played, and the boy played with them.

Often in later years he thought of his father's face bent over the ewe and the lamb, the tenderness, the gentle fingers working.

—from *Hill Farm* (1976)

the LANDIS ARBORETUM

HARD TIMES, NEW IDEAS: Rethinking the Plant Sale

—Jeff Schworm



Adiversity: the mother of invention? For many of us at the Landis Arboretum, the adage is proving to be the rule. In these difficult economic times, what we have come to depend upon is no longer dependable, but as the Roman poet Horace said, "Adversity reveals genius, prosperity conceals it."

So how has adversity inspired genius here at Landis? In a nutshell, it is our willingness to rethink the usual and to provide an opportunity for people to pitch in with new ideas and renewed effort. And what better way to demonstrate our genius than by the upcoming Spring Plant Sale?

Our Plant Procurement Committee is rejuvenated by new energy and enthusiasm. We will have several new consignors and donors at the sale. Our Propagation Committee is literally digging in and expects to have more heirloom vegetables and flowers than last year. Tomatoes, for example, will run the gamut from Brandywine to Opalka to Stupice to Aunt Ruby's Green with several more in between. Herbs, both medicinal and culinary, will be a new offering this year.

As part of our new approach we will purchase select plant material to be offered exclusively at the sale, with unsold plants designated to become part of the Arboretum's

collection. For this first year, we expect to offer at least 30 lilac varieties with many newer, unusual, and just plain nice plants. Most of these specimens will be available in 3- and 5-gallon containers. We anticipate such plants as *Syringa julianae* 'George Eastman,' and *S. pubescens* subsp. *microphylla* 'Superba,' or Daphne Lilac. Unsold plants will become the beginnings of a new Lilac Garden here at Landis.

Each year we notice increased interest in native plant materials and expect to have much to offer in natives as well. For example, one of the many native selections at the sale will be *Prunus virginiana* 'Canada Red Select,' a tough and hardy cherry with lustrous red leaves during much of the growing season.

But there is certainly more to biodiversity than planting natives. A renewed effort has been made to locate and provide a wider selection of out-of-the-ordinary plants, including the following: *Acer x freemanni* 'Celebration' (a red/silver maple hybrid), *Pyrus fauriei* 'Korean Sun' (pear tree), *Rhamnus frangula* 'Fine Line' (buckthorn), *Rosa* 'Julia Child,' *Abeliophyllum distichum* (forsythia), and *Orixa japonica*—Japanese Orixa, a rarely offered shrub that loves partial to full shade. In shade, this shrub's large waxy and aromatic leaves become even more beautiful, turning light lemon-yellow, in the fall.

Looking for conifers of some distinction or a cool azalea or two? There will be plenty to consider for purchase: *Azalea perichlymenoides* (Pinxterbloom azalea) and the newer 'Parade' azalea, as well as two new bald cypress selections, *Taxodium distichum* 'Shawnee Brave' and 'Peve Minaret.' Also available will be several *Picea engelmanni* varieties (spruces), in addition to *Pinus parviflora* 'Templehof' and *Ledum groenlandicum*, or Labrador Tea, a little known northeast native ericaceous plant that loves cool, moist areas.

Also new is our collaboration with the Tri-County Arts Council, which has invited local artisans to showcase their creative offerings at the Spring Sale. Artists' offerings are likely to include beautiful jewelry and other accessories, pottery and things for the home—because they will be handmade and unique, the collection will surprise us all.

As a preview of things to come, we plan to have a sampling of sculpture throughout the sale and garden areas from the artist and sculptor Samuel E, who will be exhibiting a more comprehensive selection of his work at our Summer Garden Party.

Whether your heart sings for ground cover, perennials or trees, for used books or quality crafts, for baked goods, or for art in the garden, we guarantee that this year's Spring Plant Sale will be an entirely new experience.

CAROL LOUCKS (1918–2010).

Carol was a dedicated and tireless volunteer at the Landis Arboretum for more than twenty years. Working with the Albany Master Gardeners, she was instrumental in the restoration of the Van Loveland gardens. For many years she tended the perennial beds, weather permitting, every Wednesday morning during the gardening season. Carol treasured the Arboretum. She asked that donations in her memory should be sent to the Landis Arboretum Endowment Fund, PO Box #186, Esperance, NY 12066.



Carol, improving the Van Loveland Garden.

ERRATA

We apologize for the omissions of three donor/members in the listing that appeared in the Winter Newsletter
Dottie Gallo—Sweet Tooth Caterers
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Johnson
LEO MODEL Foundation
Peter Model and Marjorie Russel

LANDIS LIVE ON WAMC

Tune in as Fred Breglia, Landis' Director of Horticulture and Operations, answers your questions about all things horticultural on WAMC's "Vox Pop." All broadcasts begin at 2 p.m. on the following Fridays:

April 2 May 7 June 4 July 2
August 6 September 3 October 1

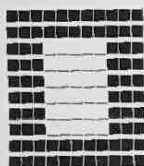


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CALL FOR A MAP, WE'RE TUCKED IN THE HILLS

Ted Baim: The Man Behind the Arboretum's Herbarium

—Anne Jaster

In June of 1990, a ceremony was held at the Arboretum to mark the 80th birthday of amateur botanist and artist Ted Baim. The celebration also marked the presentation of the Baim Herbarium, a collection of 4500 pressed plants to the Arboretum.

Ted Baim's interest in plants began in his early teens, when he read Ernest Thompson Seton's *The Book of Woodcraft* (woodcraft meant survival in the woods, rather than wood-working). This book contains illustrations of one hundred trees. Identifying them in the field was Ted's initial experience in botany. Soon he was also identifying and studying the wild flowers, grasses, and sedges. Since some of their identifying features are very small, Ted took material home for study. These were his earliest herbarium specimens.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Ted enjoyed camping out. A favorite place was the Plotterkill ravine (now Schenectady County's Plotterkill Preserve). He identified more than 600 plants there and listed them in "Vascular Plants of the Plotterkill Preserve." Other early camping and botanizing destinations were Indian Lake and the South Bay on Lake

Champlain. At Hart Lake in 1940, Ted met Orra P. Phelps and her daughter, Orra A. Phelps, legendary figures of natural history in the Adirondacks. Over the years, they and other naturalists were sources of information and inspiration for Ted.

During World War II, Ted served in the Army. Although exposed to hardship and danger (he was wounded twice), he was always collecting plants. Training in Louisiana and Florida and service in the Philippines and New Guinea exposed him to many new groups of plants. Having to decide what and how to collect, Ted sensibly chose easy-to-manage plants like ferns and conformed their storage to the dimensions of *Newsweek* magazine. At the end of his service, the magazines were bound tightly together and carried home in his duffel bag. Identifications of these exotic specimens were made with the aid of experts at the Arnold Arboretum and the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University. Part-time employment at the herbarium of the New York State Museum provided Ted with more opportunities to consult professionals and to study plant classification.

Years before he began collecting plants, Ted was drawing and painting them. Using pen and ink and watercolor, his accurate eye, skilled hand, and artistic sense produced paintings of beauty and quality. His series of fifty paintings of mosses has been exhibited at many places including the New York Botanical Garden, the Burnt Hills Library, Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, and here at the Arboretum. The collection is now housed at the New York State Museum.

The 4500 herbarium sheets presented to the Arboretum constitute half of Ted's collection. He entrusted his herbarium to us so it will remain intact, not traded or dispersed. It includes specimens from the Gaspé Peninsula and from the states of Maine, Louisiana, Florida, Maryland, and New York. But perhaps it is the material collected in the Philippines and New Guinea (Papua and Hollandia, the latter now called Irian Jaya) that catches the eye and reminds us of how much more there is to know. For this we can thank the late Ted Baim, a man committed to his craft—even under the most extraordinary circumstances.



Simple Gifts: Dogwoods in Spring

—Ed Miller, Curator of the Native Plant Trail

Everyone knows the flowering dogwoods (*Cornus florida*). There are two species, Asiatic and native. Both have tree-like forms with showy white (sometimes pink) "flowers." All the dogwoods have small inconspicuous flowers, but the flowering species surround these flowers with showy bracts to attract pollinating insects—and gardeners.

Many nurseries also stock red stem dogwood (*C. stolonifera*), a shrub whose stems are particularly attractive in winter. Also common in the nursery trade are exotic dogwood shrubs with fragrant flowers or unusually colored stems and foliage.

The most common species growing wild at Landis Arboretum is gray dogwood

(*C. racemosa*). It develops white berries on red-stemmed panicles. Quite an aggressive plant, gray dogwood often forms mounds in old fields with the original invading plant in the center surrounded by younger clones.

Growing wild along the Native Plant Trail are old specimens of red stem dogwood and some younger specimens. There are also old and new specimens of silky dogwood (*C. anomum*). This plant also has reddish stems—red enough to cause identity confusion. A close examination of the twig tips looking for a silken covering of fine hairs will generally confirm the identity.

Less common at Landis is the alternate leaved dogwood (*C. alternifolia*). It is the only local species with alternating branches. Given room, it can grow into a

tree form where its layered look gives it the common name of pagoda dogwood.

Even less common at Landis, although there are struggling young plants in our collection, is the round leaf dogwood (*C. rugosa*). It is a mottled-greenish stemmed shrub common in some other sites in the Capital region.

Not found at the Arboretum is the dwarf dogwood, sometimes called bunchberry. Native to the North and the higher elevations, it is a nice plant with large white bracts which enhance its beauty. We have tried transplanting it to our collection, but we have been unsuccessful so far. The Internet indicates that it will not tolerate sites where the soil temperature exceeds 65 F. We will try again in a cooler location.

A curious characteristic of dogwoods can be observed if one grasps the base of a leaf in one hand and the tip in the other and gently pulls until the leaf breaks. A whitish fiber will continue to bridge the gaps where the leaf veins are broken. For years, these strands were identified as latex. One day, an unsung observer looked more closely and discovered that the veins were made up of a tightly coiled component which simply stretches to its breaking point when the leaf is subjected to our stress test. Not latex at all!

Remarkable what curiosity will reveal. Turn your attention to the dogwoods this spring!

THE BOYS OF LANDIS:

—Louise Poll

The Landis Arboretum has trees and gardens, trails and vistas, and... Scouts. It proudly sponsors Boy Scout Troop 501, serving young men ages 10–18 from the communities of Esperance, Schoharie, Cobleskill, Mariaville, Duanesburg, Carlisle, and others. It's a unique and special partnership that benefits the boys and their families, as well as the Arboretum and its neighbors.

The troop has been associated with the Arboretum since 2004. You may have seen the boys in action at the spring and fall plant sales. The Scouts and their leaders are stationed at the top of the driveway, ready to bring your chosen plants—one or two or an entire garden cart full—down to your vehicle in the parking lot and back up again to help the next shoppers. They stay overnight on the Arboretum's grounds.

The relationship between the troop and Landis goes far beyond these popular semi-annual events. Evidence of additional work that the boys have performed can be seen throughout the Arboretum. Often their projects involve efforts to earn merit badges or achieve Eagle Scout status with the assistance of their fellow Scouts and leaders. When you search the signs along a trail, rest briefly at a rustic bench, or pause at the split rail fence encircling the



When you come to the Plant Sale, say hello to Troop 501 Scoutmaster Chuck Stephens and the Boy Scouts. Pictured here, left to right, are Cory Mueller, Stephens, Chas Mueller, and Volodymyr Vynnyk.

Great Oak, you are enjoying the handiwork of Landis' Troop 501.

I sat down recently at Quaker Street's Gibby's Diner with Scoutmaster Chuck Stephens and three of the troop's members, brothers Cory and Chas Mueller, 12 and 13 respectively, and exchange student Volodymyr Vynnyk, 15. It was clear that scouting means quite a bit to each of them, and that the relationship with Landis is, as Stephens declared, "a good fit."

Volodymyr was encouraged to join the Scouts by his host family. He had no exposure to the organization in his native Ukraine, and was skeptical about getting involved. He admitted frankly that he thought it wouldn't interest him, but found to his surprise that "it is cool!"

SCOUT TROOP 501

The Mueller brothers enjoy the camping, hiking, and other outdoor activities, as well as the different experiences they have had while earning their merit badges. Cory was a top seller of popcorn, the troop's major source of fundraising. Chas praised his Scoutmaster, indicating that Mr. Stevens is often the source of many good ideas for the Scouts as they work on their badges in such areas as technology, electronics, forestry, wilderness survival, fishing, geology, first aid, and personal fitness.

Scouting might not be every boy's choice, but as noted on Troop 501's website, <http://troops.scouter.com/ny/bsatroop501>, visitors are always welcome and encouraged to stop in during weekly meetings (Tuesday nights from 6:30–8:30 pm at either the Duanesburg Elementary School or the Landis Meeting House—see the troop's website). The meetings are designed to be a good place for boys to learn new skills, create and build lasting friendships, and have fun. Scouts also have the opportunity to travel to many interesting locations throughout the United States and beyond. These include the World Brotherhood Camporee in Canada, historic sites in Gettysburg and Philadelphia, as well as local landmarks such as Schoharie's Old Stone Fort.

Landis portraits: Viktoria Serafin

A series about the people behind the plants at the Arboretum

—Nolan Marciniac



A young mother with four small children, Viktoria Serafin read a notice in a local paper about the Landis Arboretum and thought the place might provide an opportunity for

outdoor activities with her family. She remembers driving up and seeing what appeared to be a white cloud floating over the trees in the distance. It was a tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*), the first she had ever seen, in full bloom. She didn't know such a thing existed, but that moment marked the beginning of her many years of dedication to the Arboretum.

Viktoria's interest in botany began when she was a child in her native Finland. She remembers dissecting tiger lily buds from her mother's garden in order to see what was inside. "I need to know why things happen," she said.

The same need to know would later lead to a degree in plant science.

Viktoria first came to the US as an exchange student in Columbus, OH. She trained as a graphic artist in Finland and returned to this country to work in design in the New York area. Moving to an old farm in Glen, she sold antiques for a while—but then, she said, she "loved the life here so much that [she] didn't ever want to leave," not even to attend antique shows. Raising sheep came next and kept her at home. When that venture was no longer practicable, she established her nursery, Glenbrook Farms (www.glenbrookplants.com). "It was a lot easier on my back," she noted. Now she sells about 1300 varieties of hostas, as well as other shade perennials and a host of other plants. And Karelian Bear Dogs, a Finnish breed.

Viktoria's plant selections are a fixture of the Arboretum's spring and fall plant sales, attracting loyal customers and making friends over the years.

She described her own garden as "a collector's garden." Her focus is not on design but growing everything she wants to grow.

That's not to say that her gardens are without design. Viktoria remarked that she has been known to walk around the garden with a pot in hand, trying this location and that until she is satisfied with its placement. "Aesthetic pleasure," she insisted, is her guiding principle. But for Viktoria, beauty is in the detail of individual specimens rather than in mass plantings. Equally important is "trying new and different things," which, she noted, was the philosophy of Fred Lape, the Arboretum's founder.

Viktoria observed that although there is a greater tradition of public gardens in Europe, similar recreational and educational opportunities have always been a part of the Arboretum's history. "A worthy cause," she deemed it, "worthy of all the support we can give it."

It's been many years since her first visit to the Arboretum. All her children are grown now. One daughter is now a biologist in British Columbia, and all the children garden. All appreciate the wonders of the natural world.

It has been time well spent.