



THE NEWSLETTER  
**LANDIS  
ARBORETUM**  
Esperance, New York

WINTER 2004

VOLUME 23, NO. 1

## **New Trails and New Areas Open to Visitors**

by Fred Breglia, Head of Horticulture and Operations



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### It's still early, but **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

March 26, 27, 28

Capital District Garden Flower Show  
Hudson Valley Community College  
In Troy.

Volunteers are needed to staff our  
booth at the show.

May 15-16

Spring Plant and Book Sale

Friday, May 14

Members Only Preview

Become a member and get "The Pick  
of the Pots," meet a lot of people and  
have a hearty dinner at the Arb.

We will be looking for volunteers to  
set up, work the sales, and clear up  
after. More in the next issue of the  
Newsletter.

Call 875-6394 for more information.

I traced the little footprints in the snow. They led me from the Arboretum barn down the hillside toward the newly renovated Willow Pond and onto the Willow Pond trail, where many newly-planted native species are hibernating for the winter season. A ruffed grouse flew out in front of me as I walked along. I continued onward and found myself on a new trail that circles the rim of a large gorge. Following the contour line, it was an easy walk, with land falling away for more than 100 feet several feet from the trail. I noticed the black locust fence installed on the lip of the ravine, which makes it safe for Arboretum hikers.

The tracks continued on and connected to the Bass Woodland, where miles of new trails await the visitor looking for new areas and wonderful hiking. They led me through a climax forest ecosystem, where graceful hemlocks co-exist with oaks, sugar maples, yellow birch, and beech. Next I saw the forest composition change to a dominant oak-hickory association. As I continued along the trails, the forest eventually diminished and was replaced with meadow grass, orchard grass, and many pioneer plants such as some brambles. I was suddenly startled as a doe and first-year baby ran out in front of me. How wonderful nature is.

Looking around I took in the great views of the Schoharie Valley. The wind made a distinct whistling sound as it passed invisibly through the trees, yet its presence was known. It was awesome. Nature is truly magical. On I hiked and I found myself gaining elevation. The blazed markers on

the trees guided me through this newly opened area of the Arboretum, past some large white and red oaks ranging in age from 200 to 250 years, back through the original natural areas of the Arboretum, onward past the Great Oak, and back to the barn where I started. What a great snowshoe loop. The tracks I was following were those of another winter hiker who apparently made this exact passage a day or two earlier.

These trails are part of a growing network of trails in new parts of the Arboretum. Most of the new trails are in the Bass Woodland. This past fall we cut the trails, being careful to route them in the most logical ways, following natural ridgelines and contours. Just recently all the trails have been marked with pink, yellow, and orange blazes on the trees. All these trails have been mapped using global positioning system (GPS) and geographical information system (GIS) technology, and a map is now available for visitors. Be sure to pick up a copy of the map in the kiosk in the lower parking lot. The natural areas enhancement grant, funded in part by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, has enabled us this past summer to cut these trails, renovate the ponds, and control invasive species.

Next year we plan to add more trails, more trees, and a large wetland stabilization project. The Landis Arboretum is growing every season even when the trees are not. Come out and explore the new areas. Who knows what you may find. Who knows what you may see. One of the greatest things in nature is that every time you go into the woods, natural areas, or the collections, the experience is never the same. Conditions change from day to day. Our encounters with wildlife are always different and in different places.

"Nobis placeant ante omnia silvae."  
"Before all else may our joy be in the forest."

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 174 Lape Road. The Arboretum is one-quarter mile straight ahead.

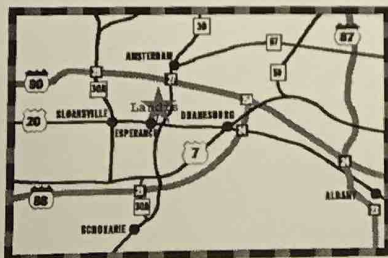


Photo by Fred Breglia



# FROM THE GARDEN

Gloria Van Duyne, Executive Director

Even though we are still bombarded with winter weather, usually by this time of year most of us are desperate for the first signs of spring. I've scoured plant and seed catalogs for possible additions to my home gardens and for recommendations to the Plant Sale Committee at the Arboretum. Like ordering food at a wonderful restaurant, what I want and what I can actually handle are often different things. So I've cut back on catalog orders with the hope that I will plant them all before May. Any remaining cravings will be easily satisfied at the Spring Plant Sale.

Until my first plants arrive, I look for the many benchmarks identifying the arrival of spring. Landis's spring bulbs—the brilliant yellow winter aconite and pure white snowdrops—bloom consistently every year by the last few days of March. The combination of hillside elevation, southern orientation, and stone walls to absorb the slowly strengthening sun rays encourages impressive displays in our perennial gardens—and just in the nick of time. We've enjoyed flocks of turkeys and seasonal avian visitors for the last few months, but it is always exciting to see the first red-winged blackbird return and bluebirds working on their nests.

We are also looking forward to another year of Landis programs. Our annual calendar is included in this mailing. Some favorites like Fred's pruning workshops and George Steele's free family programs return again as reliably as our favorite birds. Be sure to look at the schedule for updates and new additions to our family and general programs. The menu of school programs, assembled last year by Chris Keefer and Agnes Rapoli on our Education Committee, is already very popular. Call or email our office for a new school program brochure. Art workshops are offered again with the help of a grant from the Decentralization Regrant Program of the New York State Council on the Arts.

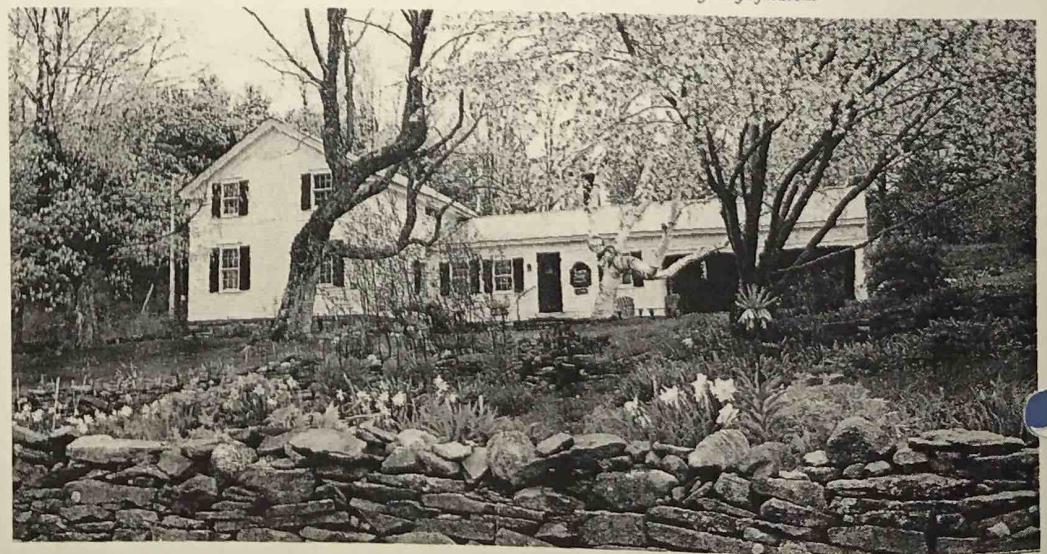
Grants and donations help underwrite the costs of programs and other expenses not covered by program fees. Support from individuals, companies, and foundations is greatly appreciated. If you are ever uncertain about what to give someone as a gift, you might underwrite part of a program in someone's name to honor their birthday, birth, graduation, anniversary, or other special occasion. Most importantly, we hope you will be able to attend some of this year's programs and visit the collections. Landis is here for you. We look forward to seeing you as much as we look forward to seeing the red-winged blackbird and winter aconite.

## New Grants

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Urban and Community Forestry grant of \$3,500 for the Tough Trees for Tough Sites collection.

New York State Council on the Arts grant of \$1,000 for nature and art workshops in 2004.

The farmhouse and the Van Loveland perennial garden in early May. Photo by Sonja Javarone



# A Treasure from the West

## Colorado Blue Spruce

*Picea pungens* by Sonja Javarone

It is blue. It is native to Colorado. Is there anyone who doesn't know what we are talking about? Yes, Colorado blue spruce, but they are not all blue and the species is also native to other regions of the Rocky Mountains. Blue is a color variation resulting from blue light reflecting off needles having a waxy coating. The tree is native to mid-level elevations throughout several states.

For the fans of Michael Dirr, in reference to Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*) he says: "Overused; popular as a specimen but hard to combine well with other plants; acceptable in dry climates; can be used in groupings; one of the standard practices in past years has been the use of this plant or a blue-foliage type in the front yard where it immediately detracts from the rest of the landscape" (*Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, 5th ed., 1998).

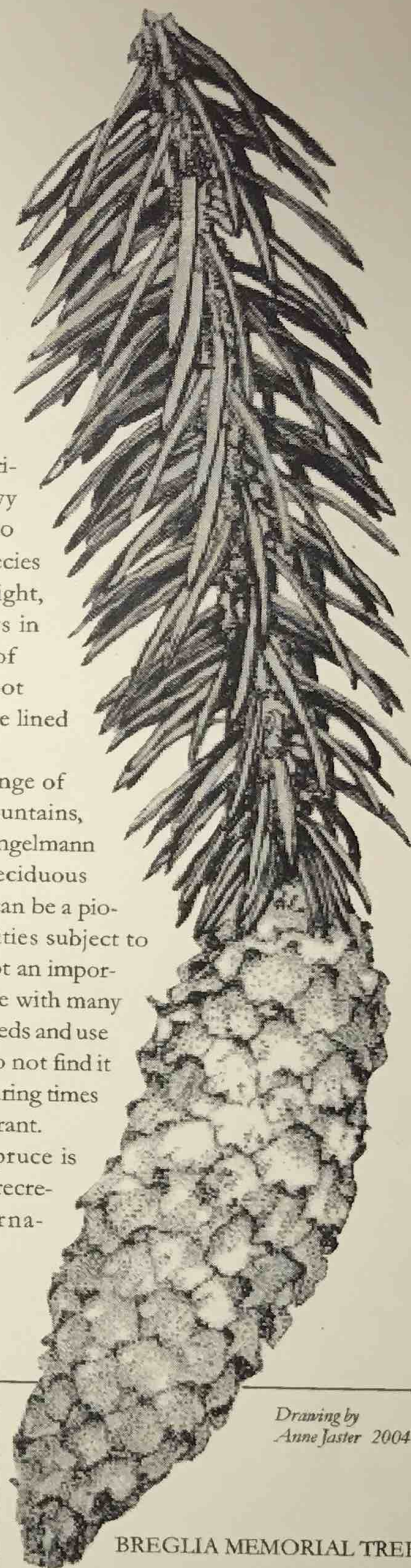
Dirr does not mince words. The Colorado blue spruce can be a victim of its own beauty, overpowering our senses, and making us insensitive to neighboring plants. Judicious placement of specimen plants is needed to effectively display this species; hedgerows and hedges can be very effective locations. Carefully placed specimens can be a constant source of pleasure. Dwarfs may be an alternative, but all but a few dwarfs are too large for foundation plantings. The Landis notable blue spruce is a pendulous specimen near the Lape stone.

*Picea* is derived from the Latin word *pice*, or pitch, referring to bark resin. The species name *pungens* means sharp-pointed. Some references add the variant name of 'glauca,' referring to the bluish-colored needles in most cultivars.

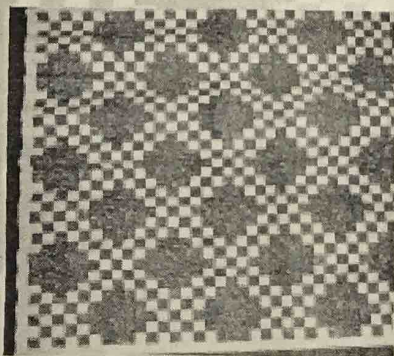
Colorado spruce has four-sided, incurved, and prickly needles. Cones are cylindrical, 2-4 inches long, with thin wavy scales. The species may be up to 120 feet tall and 600 years old. The species prefers rich, moist soil, full sunlight, and is drought resistant. It grows in USDA hardiness zones 3-7. Most of the cultivars are grafted on to root stock in January or February to be lined out in the spring.

Throughout its native range of central and southern Rocky Mountains, Colorado spruce associates with Engelmann spruce and other conifers and deciduous species at mid-level elevations. It can be a pioneer species in riparian communities subject to flooding and disturbances. It is not an important timber tree; the wood is brittle with many knots. Birds and squirrels eat the seeds and use the trees for cover. Deer and elk do not find it palatable. Mule deer will browse during times of over-population. It is fire intolerant.

All and all, Colorado spruce is most valuable for wildlife habitat, recreation, land reclamation, and ornamental horticulture.



Drawing by  
Anne Jaster 2004



Congratulations to  
Marilyn Desmond of  
Albany, the winner of  
the beautiful blue and  
gold 2003 quilt.

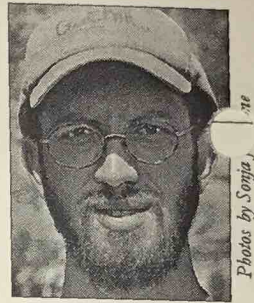
Quilt photo by Sonja Javarone

Quilters are hard at work  
on this year's quilt. It will  
be on display at the  
Spring Plant Sale in May.  
The pattern is "Around  
the World," a variation  
of a traditional pattern  
known as the  
"Drunkard's Path."

### BREGLIA MEMORIAL TREE

Contributions are being accepted in memory of Fred Breglia's father, Ferdinand (Fred) Breglia, who passed away last winter. Contributions can be sent to the Landis Arboretum for a memorial tree to be planted at the Arboretum. The tree will be dedicated in spring. Recent donors (as of December 2003): Michael F. Breglia

## Pruning Basics 101



Photos by Sonja

**P**runing is one of the most common and useful of tree maintenance practices. Every cut made has the ability to affect the tree in some way. One of the easiest ways to improve the health of a plant is by making good cuts at the right time of the year. Making bad cuts, or cuts at the wrong time are the easiest way to diminish the plant's health. This article addresses some of the basic guidelines but is not a substitute for a pruning course with a professional arborist. I also encourage you to read some the reference materials listed at the end of this article. I have, and they helped increase my pruning knowledge.

### Reasons to prune

First and foremost you must have a reason to prune. More times than not we prune for people reasons and not for tree reasons. Trees growing in a forest require little or no pruning and grow very well. Landscape trees are different. Common reasons for pruning young trees are to improve structure or health. Some reasons to prune older trees is to mitigate hazards such as large broken or damaged limbs. Other reasons include clearance for drive-ways or lawnmowers. As I said previously, each cut affects the tree in some way. The removal of foliage directly affects the tree's photosynthetic rate, and therefore affects its future growth, sometimes creating a dwarfing effect. The removal of branches on one part of a tree can stimulate growth on unpruned branches.

### Making the cut

The first step is knowing where and how to make pruning cuts. Every cut should be carefully made at the right location leaving a smooth surface without any tears or jagged bark. We always cut back branches to the point of origin or to a lateral branch, and always back to a branch collar. Be sure to locate the branch collar, which is an area where the tree can seal pruning cuts. (See figure 2.) Injury to this collar region can prevent a tree from ever sealing off wounds and therefore lead to decay and decline. It is easy to prune a completely dead branch as there will be a distinct line where the dead wood ends and the live wood begins. This line is the beginning of the branch collar, be careful not to injure the collar region. The goal

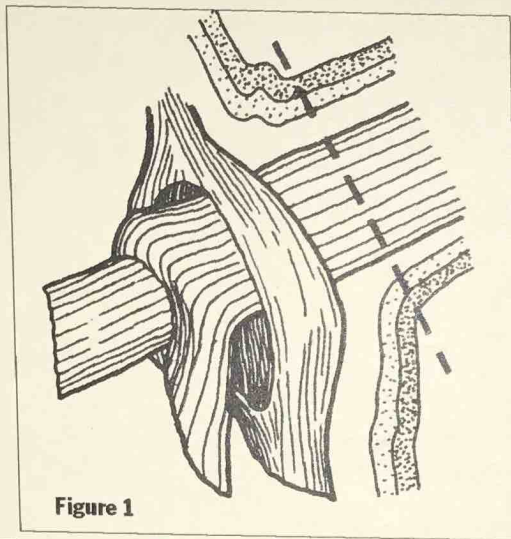


Figure 1

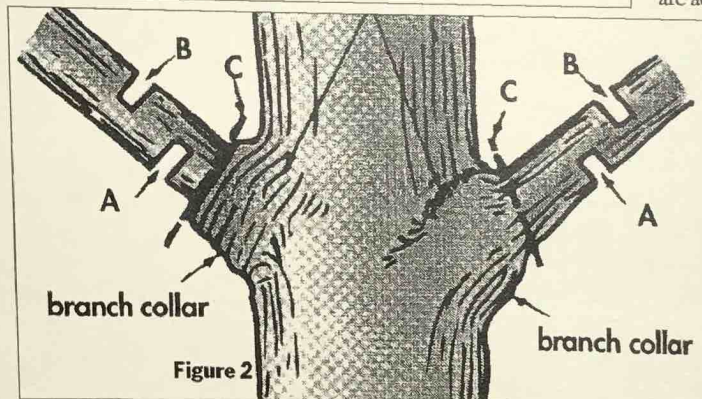


Figure 2

is to cut the branch back to the collar without actually cutting the collar at all. On live wood the collar is a little harder to see. A general guideline to follow is that branches are usually uniform in size and increase diameter very gradually as they get closer to the trunk or point of origin. As you near the branch collar, look for a rapid increase in branch diameter. As with the dead branch, make the final cut just outside and away from the branch collar. (See figure 1.) The three-point pruning cut prevents damage to the collar area: an undercut away from the collar and then a top cut farther out remove the branch safely. After this a small stub is left, which you remove with a precise final cut just outside the collar. (See figure 2.)

Remember wounds on trees never heal; they seal. The collar area of each branch is the area where the sealing occurs. Wound dressings were once thought to speed up sealing and reduce decay and were commonly used on all pruning cuts. Research shows that using paints or sealers on the pruning cuts does not help and therefore should not be used.

### Timing

The best time to prune depends on the desired result and the species. Removal of dead wood can be performed at any time of year. Most live wood is removed either during the summer, i.e., late June or early July, for species that are bleeders such as birch and maples. Canker-prone species including some ornamental fruit trees are also pruned in summer. Many edible fruit trees and hardwoods that do not bleed in the spring and are not canker prone are often pruned in the winter when they are dormant. Two times to never prune are when the leaves are actively growing and when leaves are actively falling.

### Pruning for structure

Mature trees should require very little pruning, and is usually limited to the removal of dead or hazardous limbs. When pruning to improve structure, we primarily prune young trees. Research shows that if we can promote good structure early in a tree's life then the tree will remain intact in the landscape longer than trees that have not been structurally pruned.

Wind, snow, and ice storms primarily break apart trees that are structurally defective, trees with two leaders or codominant stems.

Young tree pruning can be explained in five steps.

- Step 1. Remove dead, dying, or damaged branches.
- Step 2. Establish a dominant leader. There should be only one leader, which is usually the strongest vertical stem.
- Step 3. Select the lowest permanent branch. You have to consider the tree's function to decide on a location for the lowest branch. For example a street tree should have a higher branch than an arboretum specimen.
- Step 4. Pick permanent scaffold branches. These are selected for good attachment, adequate spacing in relation to other branches, and for size.
- Step 5. Select temporary branches above and below the lowest permanent branch.

—continued on page 5.

## MANY THANKS

TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR GENEROUS GIFTS AND CONTINUING SUPPORT—

**Ann & Shawn Bevins, Ken Hotopp, Sonja Javarone, Gail Kessler, Ann Rogan, Susan Sagendorf, Janet Vinyard, Carol Wock, and the SUNY Cobleskill Division of Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism** and everyone who donated various items to make our Holiday Gourmet Luncheon and Silent Auction a great success.

**Barbara Hunt and Judith Lott** for their time spent at the Empire State Plaza Holiday Sale.

**Nick Zabawsky** for the donation of the book "Lilacs, The Genus Syringa" by Fr. John L. Fiala.

**Durward Degroff** for his wonderful carpentry work.

**Fred's Pruning Swat Team.**

**Terry Staley and Sonja Javarone** for their continued help with plant records.

**Dee Kistel and Nicole Dennis** for their continued support in the office.

**Mrs. Ona Curran** for a lawn mower, trimmer and other equipment

**Don Orr and Jim Schlemmer** for making and donating products made from the great oak.

**The Private Industry Council students** for their continued support and hard work for maintaining our grounds.

**Provost Brothers Well Drilling** for their continued support.

**Deb and Alden Banks** for the donation of the pick-up truck.

**Ruther's Machine Shop, Esperance**

**Hubbell Galvanizing, New Hartford,** for their help with the window guard on the barn.

**Smitty's Construction** for their renovation work.

**Howard Stoner** for his help with machine maintenance.

**Thank you to everyone that we may have not mentioned who donated their valuable time to volunteering at the Arboretum.**

### Pruning Basics—continued from page 4.

All five steps will not be accomplished in one or two seasons, so we choose temporary branches to leave on until all five steps can be installed. This may take several years of going back to your trees until finally all five steps can be installed.

#### Tools for the job

The most commonly used pruning tools are bypass-type pruners and loppers (not anvil-type), razor-tooth handsaws, and small chainsaws. The size of the cut will determine the tool we choose. Always use sharp tools and be sure to sterilize the tools between trees by using rubbing alcohol. Folding saws and pruners are available for sale in the Arboretum's Acorn Gift Shop.

#### Recommended references

I highly recommend the following reference materials, which provide up-to-date information on pruning:

"The Arborists' Certification Study Guide" by Sharon J. Lilly provides a wealth of knowledge.

"Pruning: An Illustrated Guide to Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs" by Donald A. Rakow is a good book available in the Acorn Shop for \$6.95.

International Society of Arboriculture brochures provide great information on a multitude of subjects. They are sold in the Arboretum's gift shop at three for \$1.00.

Figures 1 and 2: Printed with permission of the International Society of Arboriculture. "The Arborists' Certification Study Guide," Sharon J. Lilly.

## THANK YOU

TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.

Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady

Glenbrook Farm, Viktoria Serafin

Gardener's Workshop


Jean Sweet Interiors, Inc.

Keyserkill Studios, Inc., Tressa Vellozzi

Temper Corp, John Rode

## WELCOME New Member

Martha Connor



(518) 439-8105

**Sandra S. Walck**  
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Delmar, NY 12054

## Fred Breglia To Speak at Capital District Garden & Flower Show

On Friday, March 26, Fred Breglia, the Arboretum's horticulturist will be speaking on two topics: "Promoting Plant Health through Pruning" at 1 pm, and "New and Unusual Ornamental Trees for the Landscape" at 3 pm. The show will be held at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. For more information go to <http://www.northeastshowpro.com/gardenshow.htm>.

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## WISH LIST

### Equipment Wish List

We are looking for the following items (or estimated dollar amount to purchase items).

#### Equipment

- Bird feeders and seed
- Projector for PowerPoint presentations
- Laptop computer
- Picnic tables and benches (\$250)
- Professional climbing saw (\$150)
- DR brush mower (\$2500)
- Hardback rakes, shovels, loppers, and mulch fork (\$200)
- Trowels and other small gardening tools
- Troy Built hand cart

And always, the large tractor—

- A John Deere 790 (or machine of equal quality) 4wd, 30hp, with backhoe and loader (\$20,000)
- 4wd pick-up truck

#### Acorn Shop

- Clear plastic containers for storage:
  - Three 6" deep x 11" high x 26" long
  - Ten 9" deep x 11" high x 15-18" long

### Project Wish List

We are looking for volunteers familiar with the following tasks (or equivalent dollar amount to complete these projects).

- Stone walls around the greenhouse and walls around perennial garden need rebuilding. (\$800)
- Hand quilters for next year's raffle quilt

### Education Wish List

- Animal skins in good condition
- Skulls and bones in good condition
- Feathers and nests from wild birds
- Insect collections
- Local rocks and fossils
- Tree identification books
- Leaf identification books
- White enamel pans
- Tall rubber boots
- Magnifying glasses
- Walkie-talkies
- Environmental science tools

# Committee Reports Bloom

## Buildings and Grounds

The mission of the Buildings and Grounds Committee is to advise in the management of the Landis Arboretum's buildings, grounds, and outdoor equipment. In 2003, the accomplishments in these areas have been many. Two very visible ones are the renovation of the four ponds and the reclaiming of the hillside near the lower parking area. The work on the four ponds was made possible through a grant received from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund. The ponds will now provide much needed water for our collections during a drought. The pond by the barn is the best one for amphibians; educator George Steele uses it extensively in his education programs. When the trail hardens on the hillside by the parking lot, it will provide a much more visitor-friendly approach to the collections above.

A grant from the Iroquois Pipeline Company made it possible for the Arboretum to install wonderful photometal interpretive signs. The Arboretum is constantly improving trails with better drainage to enhance the visitor experience. Trails now wind through the newly acquired Bass property and link with our existing trails. Brush-hogging is a continuing operation, and the hillside at the meetinghouse and open farm fields are done on a rotating system. Through our active bluebird program, we are now a member of the Route 20 Bluebird Trail. Nesting boxes have been installed at suitable sites throughout the Arboretum.

The buildings are in need of constant care. **The library** ceiling has been insulated. The com-

## Telling Our Story

### Publications

Decisions: Paper color, layout, contents, photos, art work, editing, projects; there is really no end to the processes involved in producing newsletters, brochures, signage, promotional materials, and advertising. The Publications Committee takes pride in its accomplishments.

Projects in 2003 included writing and editing the new informational signage now present on the grounds, writing/editing/designing native plant brochures (woodland trail, bog demonstration project, willow pond trail), updating existing brochures (notable trees, perennial gardens), planning new

## Be a Volunteer

**The Arboretum thrives on the involvement of volunteers. We are always looking for volunteers. If you want to volunteer, we have something for you to do, something rewarding and appreciated. Join a committee. Join the Arboretum family in service for all. Contact the office by phone—518-875-6935 or email—landis@midtel.net for more information.**

mittee is looking into ways to insulate the walls and place an attractive, maintenance-free siding on the building. **The greenhouse** needs to have a new plastic roof installed in the near future. **The farmhouse**, under ideal circumstances, would receive a new roof. The committee is looking into an alternative solution at present. Stonework has been done around the farmhouse. New, safer paths from the Acorn Shop and farmhouse have been made to the driveway and barn. **The barn** has window guards in place. Flooring in the east bay of the barn has been completed, and a folding set of stairs has been built for entry to the second floor. A well has been drilled at **the meeting house** to prepare for the Board's plan to improve and expand this building. This major undertaking is in the planning stages. Making the meetinghouse a four-season building will open up many opportunities for the Arboretum to expand.

This past year has seen some outstanding donations to the Arboretum, all of them appreciated. The donation of a Scag 27-hp mower and a pick-up truck have made our work easier. Also the support of volunteers cannot be overlooked; they make many of these improvements possible. **Please feel free to add your name to the list of volunteers who work on the buildings, grounds, or the committee. The committee meets at the Arboretum farmhouse on the first Thursday of even-numbered months at 3 pm. Work days are scheduled several times a year and are listed in the newsletter. Special task groups (e.g., pruning swat team, building painters) meet as needed. Contact the office for more information.**

publications, and editing the website. In addition, Gloria gives us special projects from time to time.

Sponsors and donations for publication costs are always needed. It takes money for professional printing. We have brochures ready to go whenever funds become available. Any contribution is appreciated.

**We are in need of additional writers for news articles and persons to update the website. Do volunteer for any of the above. The committee meets the second Tuesday of every month, 10 am, in the farmhouse. Contact the office for more information.**

# WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL EVENT REGISTRATION

NAME _____		CITY _____		ZIP _____		PHONE _____	
ADDRESS _____		CITY _____		ZIP _____		PHONE _____	
Workshop/Event	Date	Number of members attending	@ \$	= \$ subtotal	Number of nonmembers attending	@ \$	= \$ subtotal
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Payment Method							<b>Total \$</b>
Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Please make payable to Landis Arboretum    Credit Card: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard							
Card number _____				Exp. Date _____			
Signature _____							

To register for the Cobleskill/Arboretum Horticultural Certification courses, please see the registration information on page 8 (calendar).

## Artworks and Field Trips Featured

### Education 2003 Highlights

The Landis Education Committee welcomed new members Steve Coonradt, Chris Keefer, and Agnes Rapoli. Steve served as chairman of the committee this year. Other committee members were Fred Breglia, Jack Fritz, and Gloria Van

me. The high point of the committee's work in 2003 was putting a set of school programs in place—including field trips at Landis—to supplement New York State elementary curriculum in the areas of plant science, pond ecology, insect ecology and the importance of trees. A brochure advertising these programs was developed and sent to nearly 100 schools in the Capital Region. Three school programs were held onsite at Landis in 2003: an Arbor Day program, a tour of the woodland trail, and the ecology sampler.

A mural of nearly 20 four-by-eight-foot plywood panels was painted by families, organizations, and groups. The painted panels were set up in a zigzag, and the mural was on display all summer and fall near the greenhouse. This public artwork exhibit was funded by the New York State Council on the Arts and was directed by four local artists: Jane Kirstel, Laura Ryan, Deborah Beck, and Lori Lawrence. The panels will be used in the future for displays.

The committee evaluated current programs and their benefits to the Arboretum and the public. We plan to continue offering over 50 successful workshops, tours, exhibits, and programs in

4. **The Education Committee meets on the third Tuesday, every other month. The next meeting is February 19. New volunteers are valued and welcome. Call 875-6935 for more information.**

### Acorn Gift Shop

The Acorn Gift Shop has had a good year: just ask anyone who has worked there. We are the best customers! A great variety of things are for sale: garden gloves, tools, books, candles, mugs, t-shirts, hats, spice masks, and more. Unique bowls made from the branch of the Great Oak that fell last year are available.

The shop is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer on weekends. You meet new people on busy days, enjoy the peace and quiet on a slow day, and know you are helping the Arboretum. The shop is open from May to October during office hours and on Saturdays noon-5 pm and Sundays 1-5 pm. This year the shop will also be open in October, November, and early December during office hours.

We had a table in the Empire State Plaza Concourse on December 3 and 4. That gave us an opportunity to get the Arboretum's name out there. Can you believe that some people don't know where it is? We also have items in the Departures gift shop on the second floor of the Albany Airport. If we had more volunteers we could have had a table at other events in Schoharie County. We could use more publicity for the Acorn Shop too.

Ordering for the shop occurs in February and March, if you know of a local craftsperson who would like to sell appropriate things on consignment.

**If you would like us to stock something or to volunteer your time, contact Barbara Hunt (518) 762-8390 or Judith Lott (518) 377-0262. Our goal is to enhance and support the Arboretum.**

### Later Blooming Committee Reports

Horticulture, garden volunteers, native plants, finance, membership-fundraising, and plant procurement: reports from these committees will appear in future issues of this newsletter.





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## CALENDAR Upcoming Events

For registration and information call 518-875-6935 or [landis@midtel.net](mailto:landis@midtel.net); or use the registration form on page 7. Enclose with payment and mail to: Landis Arboretum, Lape Road, Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066-0186

All events take place at the Arboretum unless noted.

**Family programs** with nature educator George Steele begin at the Arboretum Meeting House. Programs are free and no registration is necessary. Donations are greatly appreciated. Programs are held rain or shine.

**Advance payment and registration** is required for all general classes and workshops, trips and Horticulture Certificate classes. Call the Arboretum for workshop fees. For your convenience, payment can be made via Visa or MasterCard.

For a more complete description of course contents, see the "Coming Attractions" insert in the Winter 2004 *Newsletter*.

### Horticulture Certificate Courses

Landis Arboretum and SUNY Cobleskill offer courses of interest to professionals and the gardener—they can be taken for credit or non credit. Unless specified, classes are held at Landis.

For registration and payment, contact Linda Karker, Office of Conferences & Training, Wieting Hall, Lower Level, SUNY Cobleskill 12043. Checks are payable to SUNY Cobleskill. Cost: \$80. Can be taken for credit or non-credit.

## MARCH

**9, 16, 23, 30 (Tuesdays) 6–8 pm**  
HORTICULTURE CERTIFICATE COURSE  
Course 1 (Level I)

First Steps in Landscape Design  
Instructor: Sandra Walck  
Location: Landis Arboretum

Design the garden of your choice using professional methods of site analysis, evaluating maintenance considerations and aesthetic elements. Cost: \$80. See left for registration information.

**19 (Friday) 8pm**  
STAR PARTY

The Albany Area Astronomers meet regularly at the Landis Arboretum meetinghouse. Lunar and stargazing after dark. Visitors are welcome to join the club's activities; bring a blanket and a picnic supper if you wish. For information, visit [www.time-sunior.com/communities/astronomy](http://www.time-sunior.com/communities/astronomy), or call 374-8460. Free.

## APRIL

**April 7, 14, 21, 28 (Wednesdays) 6–8 pm**  
HORTICULTURE CERTIFICATE COURSE  
Course 2 (Level I)

Healthcare for Trees and Shrubs  
Instructor: Fred Breglia  
Location: Landis Arboretum

Learn how to provide the very best healthcare plan for the plants that are the backbone of your landscape. Cost: \$80.

See left for registration information.

**9 (Friday) 8:30pm**

STAR PARTY  
See March 19 description. Free

**24 (Saturday) 9am–5pm**

FAMILY PROGRAM  
Spring Migration Hawk Watch

**24 (Saturday) 2–3pm**

Hawk Identification Workshop  
Join us at the Arboretum in the look-out for hawks in migration. The Arboretum offers a great view of the Schoharie Valley, a natural corridor for hawks on the move. You can be part of the watch for as long as you want. A hawk identification workshop at 2 pm helps you hone your hawk-watching skills. Free

**24 (Saturday) 9am–until?**

WORKFEST  
Spring Workfest  
Join us for spring cleanup at the Arboretum. This is a great opportunity to help Landis and meet other volunteers. Make a day of it with your friends and family. Bring your garden gloves. Snacks are provided.

## MAY

**1 (Saturday) 9:30pm**

FAMILY PROGRAM  
Sounds of Spring Night Walk  
Explore the Arboretum grounds listening to the sounds of spring. We'll hear spring peepers and woodcock and learn about the awakening of life after the long winter. Free.