

LANDIS ARBORETUM

THE NEW S L E T T E R

Esperance, New York

SPRING 2008

VOLUME 27, NO. 2

WHAT'S Inside

- 2 ... Education
- 3 ... Collections News
- 4 ... New Faces

Spring Plant Sale News

- 5 ... Exploring Connections
- 6 ... Plant Sale Primer
- 7 ... Book & Plant
- ... Donations
- 8 ... Concert Series
- 8 ... Landis 5K
- 9 ... Wish List
- 9 ... Education Expands
- 10 ... Landis Portraits
- 12 ... Successful Season
- 12 ...



Drawing of crabapple by Anne Jaster

SPRING PLANT SALE

ABUNDANCE • BEAUTY • CORDIALITY

Book, Bake and Sunday Artisans Sale Add to Format

Preparation for the 36th annual Spring Plant Sale *fund raiser* at the Arboretum is at a fever pitch! *Connect the dots*—the initial catch phrase of an article by trustee Jeff Schworm has surfaced as the informal rallying cry for our staff and volunteers determined to overlap and interlink the

many activities required to make this year's signature event a success.

Scheduled for Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, from 10 am to 4 pm, this spring's fundraiser will include a new twist (see page 6) to the traditional Pick of the Pots members-only preview party on Friday, May 16, at 5 pm. Expect the return of the delightful Ms. Cherie and the Hot Pots and tasty fare by Dottie Gallo and Sweet Tooth Caterers. Used-Book Committee chair Marian Hotopp promises bigger, better bargain hunting this year, and Gina Nielsen is preparing

novel additions to the anticipated selection of home-baked goods. Regional artisans return for Artisans' Sunday. Sue Gutbezahl is guiding the work of new volunteer graphic artist Marcie Reiff to create the look and visual appeal of the event.... Look for more, easier to read signage. Dots, dots, and more dots! The focus, of course, is top-quality, rare, and unusual plants. The Plant Sale Committee aims to exceed expectations, and Carol and Bob Olsen will once again mount this unique sale with a finesse and flair that belie limiment and stress. Read about this year's high profile offerings and follow the dots to Jeff's informative overview (page 5).

Plant Sale weekend will take place rain or shine, and the proceeds will benefit maintenance and improvements at Landis, your favorite year-round garden of trees and shrubs. Remember: one is fun, but arriving with friends can easily double the fun and excitement of the Plant Sale Experience!

Youth Bureau and Arboretum Partner

Representatives of the Schoharie County Youth Bureau and the Arboretum made quick work of forging an enthusiastic partnership at an early March meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to explore ways to expand the program offerings of the Youth Bureau's 2008 Summer Adventure Series and to introduce more young people to the Arboretum's spectacular outdoor campus and nature-based programs. The recent partnership between the Arboretum and the Wildlife Learning Company is expected to enhance the current calendar of educational opportunities available to area youth.

Under terms of the discussion, the Youth Bureau will expand its 2008 Summer
—continued on page 11



Arboretum Office Manager Vicki Hazzard (seated) boots up one of the two computers donated to the Arboretum's educational initiatives by the New York Power Authority (NYPA). Standing left to right—Assemblyman Peter Lopez, NYPA Interim Regional Manager Lynn Hait, and NYPA Community Relations Manager Stephen Ramsey, join Arboretum Executive Director Thom O'Connor for the demo. All praised the progress under way at Landis at the event. Home-made soup and sandwiches followed and included members of the Arboretum Board and the Schoharie Youth Bureau principals. —Photo: Fred Breglia.

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.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Anne Donnelly, Sue Gutbezah, Cindy King, Nolan Marciniac, Thom O'Connor, and Marcie Reiff

EDITOR AT LARGE

Lee Latimer

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Sue Gutbezah

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Fred Breglia, Anne Donnelly, Jonathan DiCesare, Vicki Hazzard, Nolan Marciniac, Thom O'Connor, and Jeff Schworm

PRINTER

Miller Printing and Litho
Amsterdam, NY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Barbara Brabetz, *President*
Jeff Schworm, *Vice President*
Gerald Peters, *Treasurer*
Donna Vincent, *Secretary*
Scott Trees, *Member at large*

William Bateman, Gail Browning, Gary DeLuke, Jonathan DiCesare, Anne Donnelly, Tom Edmunds, Alan French, Dottie Gallo-Vojnar, Maria Kuethe, Susan O'Handley, Steve Perog, Jim Paley, and Jeanne Stefanik

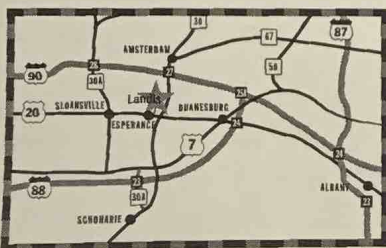
ARBORETUM STAFF

Thom O'Connor, *Executive Director*
Fred Breglia, *Director of Horticulture and Operations*
Vicki Hazzard, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Erin McKenna, *Gardener*

Address correspondence to:

Newsletter Editor, Landis Arboretum
P.O. Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066.
phone 518-875-6935
fax 518-875-6394
email info@landisarboretum.org
http://www.LandisArboretum.org

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



Education Highlights

Anne Donnelly

"The average person has come to recognize over 1,000 corporate logos but can recognize fewer than 10 plants and animals native to his or her locality."

—Paul Hawken, environmental journalist and author of *The Ecology of Commerce*



Photo by Pat Donnelly

This quotation was tacked above my desk when I was a professor of biology, and it both haunted and motivated me. I taught biology to non-majors, and Hawken's words inspired me to bring a "Critter of the Day" to every lecture and to create a series of self-guided small-group field trips as part of Biology 101. Some of my classes enrolled 275 students, and taking them all on field trips just wasn't possible.

Feedback from now-adult students proved this strategy one of the most memorable components of the class. Recently, I became reacquainted with JoAnne Jorgenson, a former student and a Schoharie County native, now Schoharie County Youth Board (SCYB) assistant. She remembered that she chose to do the "Ecology and Geology of I-88" field trip covering the stretch from its East Cobleskill ramp to the Crossgates Mall. She was astounded to discover all of the interesting things she learned about an area she thought she knew.

This chance encounter with a former student echoed Jeff's page 5 article: another dot in a pattern of connections.

And then our *Coming Attractions* calendar caught the attention of Earl Van Wormer, president of the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors, who brought it to the attention of Sara Robertson, director of the Schoharie County Youth Bureau. She contacted Thom O'Connor, who then arranged a meeting of Sara, JoAnne, Thom, me, and George McDonnell, SCYB program coordinator. We explored ways to leverage the strengths of each of our organizations for the collective benefit of those we serve. Another partnership was forged supporting the Arboretum Board's objective of having other organizations and educators use the grounds of the Arboretum as a living classroom. The ease of our coming together offered even more evidence that our reputation as a facility with first-rate educational programs is growing and spreading. We see this alliance expanding our potential volunteer pool with SCYB young people and their parents.

We also discussed the Youth Bureau as a participant in our quickly evolving formation of a Teen or Youth Board at Landis. In addition, the Schoharie County Youth Task Force is creating a database of all youth-focused organizations in the county. This made us think of John O'Donnell's

Fueling the Fun, an interactive database offering events, entertainment, and lodging for visitors to customize and maximize their visit to this area.

Similarly, our partnerships with Wildlife Learning Company, New York Power Authority, SCYB, Schoharie River Project, and our alliances with venues like Howe's Cave, Old Stone Fort, and Cave House collectively buttress our goal of forming mutually beneficial, strategic partnerships that increase visitation and usage of the Arboretum. Over time, we will introduce more young people and their parents to Landis, increase membership, and contribute to tourism as well as education.

Scientific evidence is mounting that connection with the natural world is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. In all likelihood, you, as member of the Arboretum, already enjoy nature and believe and live that premise. Read *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv. It's fascinating, well researched, and well written. In addition, support environmental education by supporting No Child Left Inside Act (S.1981), which would strengthen and expand environmental education and reconnect children with nature through outdoor learning experiences. Last fall we participated in Duaneburg school's "Turn Off the TV Week" during which parents and kids were challenged to live a week without television and computers. Great concept!

Now loop back to the quote at the top. We need to change that sentiment: we need to unplug our kids (and ourselves). We're making progress by connecting.

Sponsor?

As we prepare our 2009 *Calendar*, we extend an invitation to you and your company to partner with us in spreading the word to schools and other education-focused organizations throughout our region. For as little as \$250, you can sponsor a program or event. In exchange, your company name will appear in conjunction with that event on our *Calendar*, on our website, and in any promotional materials related to that event.

And to protect and showcase your brand, only one sponsor will be assigned to any one event. The exceptions to the one sponsor/one event guideline will be our two annual Plant Sale fundraisers, our Annual 5K Family Cross Country Forest Classic, and the yearly celebration of Fred Lape, founder of the Arboretum. It is important to find multiple sponsors for many of our events: for example, last year, the tee shirts for the 5K were underwritten by Kintz Plastics of Howes Cave, and the food and refreshments by NBT Bank, Duaneburg.

Photo by S



COLLECTIONS NEWS

Fred Breglia, Director of Horticulture and Operations

Global Conditions, Local Action

Global warming is a reality. The rate that our planet is warming, as gauged by comparing historic and current trends in near-surface air and ocean temperatures, is increasing.

The scientific community believes that greenhouse gases are the primary cause of these recent warming trends, although some skeptics believe that the earth is just going through a natural cycle. No matter what you believe is the cause, the earth is warming. There is indisputable evidence, ranging from the depleting polar ice caps and glaciers to the record number of heat waves and hurricanes.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations scientific group, released a report in 2007 stating that 20 to 30 percent of plant and animal species are at risk of extinction. Right now, 27,000 of the earth's plant and animal species become extinct every year.

According to the US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), since 1990 the earth's average surface temperature has warmed by about 1.2 degrees F to 1.4 degrees F. This difference may not seem significant, but even this small increase has made the past decade the hottest on record. In 2003, Europe experienced the world's deadliest heat wave. During the month of August, 35,000 Europeans died from heat related causes. These heat waves not only cause death but also inhibit precipitation, causing drought and increasing the probability of forest fires. The United States is also experiencing the effects of global warming in the form of intense and numerous forest fires, as well as some of the most severe storms in recorded weather history.

Each year, weather patterns are altered more and more as a direct effect of global warming. These effects are causing a chain reaction in the everyday lives of everyday people, and arborists are no exception. Whether or not we are aware of it, the interconnection between global and local climate changes affects the tree care industry.

Record heat waves, severe water conditions, and damaging storms are all challenges for arborists around the world. Climate change is affecting individual trees in the landscape as well as entire forests around the world. There

has been a direct link between climate change and overall forest health and productivity, as well as between climate change and major species migration (changes in geographic ranges of certain species). These effects are leading to negative changes in timber production, outdoor recreational activities, water quality, wildlife loss, and rates of carbon storage, according to a 2007 US EPA study.

With the increased likelihood of drought, we not only reduce the amount of water and growth in trees, but we also increase a tree's susceptibility to certain pests and diseases. These warmer temperatures and drier conditions have led to record survival rates of many pests that normally die in the harsh conditions and colder temperatures in winter. One example of such a pest in the United States is the hemlock wooly adelgid (*Adeleges tsugae*).

The numbers of this deadly pest, which originated in Asia and attacks and kills our native hemlocks, has historically been limited by winter lows; however, with a streak of mild winters, the adelgid has been able to spread its range northward. This trend can be seen around the globe. In England, arborists are seeing a similar trend with a leaf miner moth that strips foliage from many species, from oaks to horse chestnuts. This pest, which was normally kept under control by low winter temperatures, has now become a major problem for arborists in this era of milder winters. Even in Alaska and British Columbia, warmer winter temperatures have led to a greater survival rate of the spruce bark beetle larvae, which is directly linked to the combined loss of over 9 million acres of white spruce.

-continued on page 8

Support NYS Ancient Forests

To read the Bruce S. Kershner Heritage Tree Preservation and Protection Act, or find your senator's address to send a personal letter, visit the NYS Senate website: www.senate.state.ny.us.

Look for the link on the left side of the site "Bills and Laws" and input S4637-A to find the bill's text, sponsor memos, and current status. Another link indicates

"Senators" and facilitates finding your Senate representative and related contact information. You may choose to send your note, modeled on the one below, to the bill's chief proponents:

Honorable Carl L. Marcellino, Chair
NYS Senate Environmental Conservation Committee
Room 509 Legislative Office

Building, Albany, NY 12247
Honorable Sam Hoyt
NYS Assembly, Room 837
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Honorable Robert K. Sweeney, Chair
NYS Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee
Room 625 Legislative Office
Building, Albany, NY 12248

Dear Friend of the Environment and Champion of Our Empire State:

Subject: S.4637-A Bruce Kershner Old Growth Tree Bill
Assembly Bill A.8145 Amended (S.4637-A)

As a member of the Landis Arboretum, I am aware of the importance of New York State's Ancient Forests as Links to Past and Future and support pending legislation that would preserve and protect this valuable natural asset in our state.

By my signature below, I support the Bruce S. Kershner Heritage Tree Preservation and Protection Act. I urge you to support this bill as well.

Signature

Print Name

City/Town

New Faces Energize 548-Acre Arboretum

Anne Donnelly and Thom O'Connor

Following unanimous approval of the candidates at its February meeting, the Landis Arboretum welcomed seven new trustees. All appointments were effective immediately.

William Bateman

Bill, a licensed architect practicing since 1989, began his work on Hilton Head, SC, and the surrounding area. Although his practice was primarily concerned with single family residential structures, he also worked on commercial, multi-family and church projects. These residential projects usually were located in gated communities.

Bill has served on several architectural review boards in the capacity of consulting architect. He is currently working with the Sharon Springs School District Board of Education on their NYS Excel grant program. A former resident of Schoharie County, Bill and his family presently live in Hillsdale, NY in Columbia County.

Gail Browning

Gail is well-known throughout the region for her commendable work spearheading initiatives as a senior member of the SUNY Cobleskill Community Outreach program. John Sagedorf, long-time Arboretum supporter and former managing director of Howe Caverns, commented: "Getting Gail on your team [is] an exceptional accomplishment for the Arboretum. She knows everyone—and knows how to manage multiple projects to successful outcomes simultaneously."

After moving to Idaho, Gail has returned to the area and lives in Esperance, where she operates a business consultancy that specializes in small business. Gail is married to former Arboretum Treasurer Dave Browning.

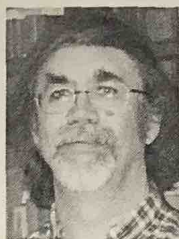
Gary DeLuke

Gary is president of White Birch Nursery in Schenectady, a premier landscaping enterprise in the Capital Region. A staunch supporter of the Landis Arboretum, he and his firm were instrumental in major upgrades to the Arboretum grounds in 2007.

He is an active member of The New York State Nursery and Landscape Association, a member of the American Diabetes Association, the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Adirondack Ski Touring Council, and the Mohawk-Hudson Cycling Club.

Alan French

Mr. French and his wife Susan live in Glenville. They have been sharing the night sky with people at star parties in the Capital District for



more than 30 years. He is a telescope maker, but also enjoys naked-eye astronomy.

In addition to being a member of the Town of Glenville's Park Planning Commission, Alan is vice president of Dudley Observatory's Board of Trustees and the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers. The Albany Area Astronomers foster public interest and enjoyment of astronomy. They meet regularly near the Landis Arboretum Meetinghouse to take advantage of the Arboretum's dark skies and unobstructed horizons. An active supporter and frequent volunteer at Arboretum events, Alan is now serving Landis as a trustee and as an active member of the expanded Education Committee. In addition to amateur astronomy, Alan and Sue enjoy birding and hiking.

Susan M. O'Handley

Susan lives in Hartwick and is vice president of Wildlife Learning Company, Inc., a full-service environmental education company offering services and products to schools, libraries, environmental organizations and members of the general public.

A federal and state licensed wildlife rehabilitator, Susan is also a primary caretaker of the WLC live animal teaching collection. She enjoys bird watching, canoeing, and reading. Susan serves as lead contact for the Arboretum's recently announced partnership with WLC and is an active member of the Arboretum's Education Committee.

Steve Perog



Steve is co-owner and vice president of the Capital Supply Company in Duanesburg, a business which focuses on chemical sales and safety services throughout New York State.

In addition to his longstanding and active support for the Arboretum, Mr. Perog is leader for Duanesburg's Boy Scout Troop 51 and a member of the Duanesburg Area Community Center, from which he recently retired as vice president of the its board for six years.

He is an active member of Duanesburg Lion's Club, the Esperance Elks, the Lower Adirondack Search and Rescue

Team, and the Schoharie County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, which is focused on conservation of wetlands. He also is a member of the Nature Conservancy and New York Trails.

Jeanne Stefanik

Retired manager of the Severino Center for Technological Entrepreneurship at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Jeanne was responsible for budgets and operations as well as for developing programs for students with an interest in entrepreneurship. In 2002, she launched the Women in Entrepreneurship symposiums and \$50K Tech Valley Collegiate Business Plan Competition.

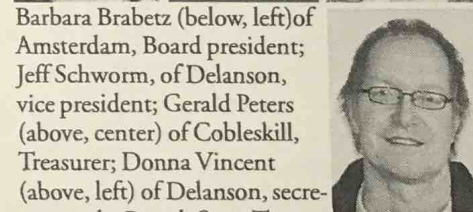
When CNN chose Troy-based RPI among America's Best Colleges for Entrepreneurs B-schools with entrepreneurial flair, it cited Jeanne Stefanik. "Under the direction of entrepreneurship champion Jeanne Stefanik, the school's Severino Center for Technological Entrepreneurship, and its Tech Valley Collegiate Business Plan Competition have ignited startup creation on campus and in the surrounding community..." Jeanne resides in Cobleskill.

Combining Past and Future

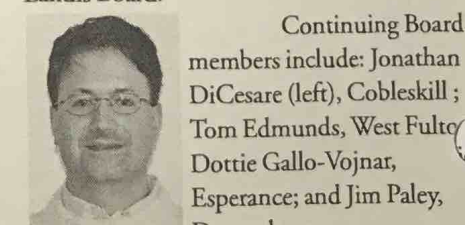
These new trustees join incumbent directors



Barbara Brabetz (below, left) of Amsterdam, Board president; Jeff Schworm, of Delanson, vice president; Gerald Peters (above, center) of Cobleskill, Treasurer; Donna Vincent (above, left) of Delanson, secretary to the Board; Scott Trees (left), of Summit, member at large; and Anne Donnelly of Lawyersville (below left) who serves as board-level champion for two of the Arboretum's most active committees—Publication and Education. These six people comprise the Executive Committee of the Landis Board.



Continuing Board members include: Jonathan DiCesare (left), Cobleskill; Tom Edmunds, West Fulton; Dottie Gallo-Vojnar, Esperance; and Jim Paley, Duanesburg.



—continued on page 8.

LANDIS ARBORETUM

Spring Plant Sale 2008

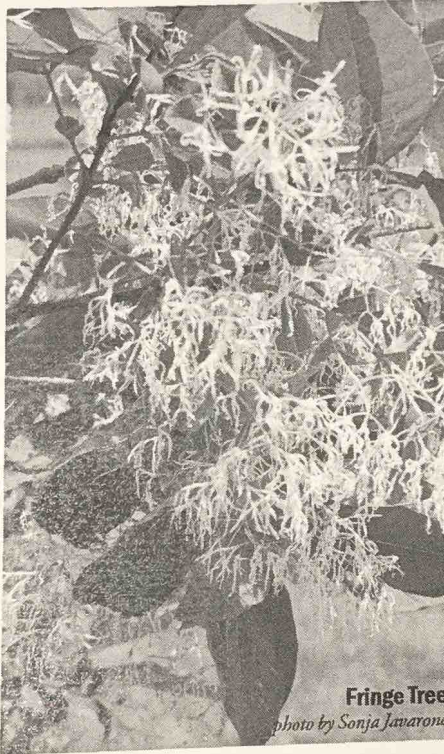
SATURDAY, MAY 17 • SUNDAY, MAY 18 • 10-4PM • RAIN OR SHINE • LANDIS ARBORETUM • LAPE ROAD • ESPERANCE • NY • 518-875-6935

EXPLORING CONNECTIONS

Connecting the dots... We are more than the sum of our parts. The great thing about Landis is that there is no one great thing about Landis: there are many. I've been thinking about connections...connections between what goes on here and science...spirituality...world affairs...and there are many. Trees, shrubs, perennials, community, world: interconnection. We know that it's a small world (or so we've been given to understand). Certainly, today's technology shrinks distance and time into an almost meaninglessly small measure, but how does this shrinking affect our health and well-being? What shapes our picture of the world? and what can we do to improve the picture? I'm sure you're thinking what I'm thinking: "plant a tree." Of course. Plant a tree or a shrub or some Gaillardia. Sounds like something Ladybird Johnson might have said, but I can tell you that among stress relievers, planting just about anything is right up there!

A Greek proverb holds that "society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they will never sit beneath." This is not meant to suggest that there are great numbers of gray hairs around here! I'm sure my mother never dreamed that her unwitting purchase of an Oregon Grape Holly (*Mahonia aquifolium*) on sale at Montgomery Ward's would be the beginning of a 34-and-counting-year love affair and, well, wild ride for her son. The presence of that one interesting little plant with bright yellow flowers... Connect the dots... a child's game... great for kids... great for us.

One very entertaining aspect of the Arboretum is the perennial phenomenon of the annual Spring Plant Sale. As one of the more important fundraisers, it is a labor of love that in a few days transforms the place from tranquil to tumultuous. This year's transaction will feature, among thousands of plants, a selection of the Perennial Plant Association's "Plant of the Year" for every year since 1990, the first year of inception, including this year's model, Geranium 'Rozanne'. A few other nice plants to have achieved the distinction are:



Fringe Tree
photo by Sonja Javarone

Perovskia atriplicifolia or Russian Sage; *Salvia* 'May Night'; and *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'.

Perennials are always fun and a great attraction here, especially with the renowned VanLoveland Gardens in fine form. Our developing plant propagation program will hopefully begin to inculcate new excitement and interesting perennials into the sale. A few items clinging to life in the greenhouse are *Astilbe* 'Ostrich Plume'; the tiny *Lilium* 'Hope'; and a great collection of hellebores. Speaking of the Greenhouse, great things are being planned for the repair and upgrade of the Greenhouse... great opportunity to connect here!

As we continue our game (remember, we're connecting dots), we discover a growing momentum around the Wanderland Garden project and a connection—since the planned pergola connects perfectly with clematis. This year, the Plant Procurement Committee is very proud to offer nearly 50 named varieties of clematis, including several species and just about every color out there. Just to name a few:

'Polish Spirit' (blue); 'Allanah' (red); 'Star of India' and 'Little Duckling' (bicolor); 'Joan Picton' (purple); and *Clematis tangutica* (yellow). 'Betty Corning'? You'll have to come and see!

There will also be a number of other climbing plants like the Explorer rose, *Rosa*



Rosa 'William Baffin'

'William Baffin'. Speaking of connections, another great selection will be *Rosa* 'Hope for Humanity',

a double red rose with 2" fragrant blooms above glossy deep green disease resistant foliage. Both of these rose selections are "own root," which means no graft (connection...wow!) to worry about. As we plant, there is hope.

Amazingly, there is a gentleman with the surname "Trees" on the Procurement Committee, and somehow he starts getting a little excited about some TREE or another in the spring. This time, he may have outdone himself while also driving me to...well, connect the dots! Tulip Tree, Northern Catalpa, and Littleleaf Linden are high on his list, and we're sure to have a couple of each hanging around the event. "Northern Catalpa?" I asked, but he points out that there are some great qualities about this tree, even if it is only fence posts for the future. The wood is highly resistant to rot. Littleleaf Linden is a little more up my alley with its very neat habit and shiny leaves. I'm not sure why *Tilia cordata* and cultivars we've had here in the past have been largely overlooked. Although Scott (Trees) can't quite decide which crabapple cultivar he likes (who really can?), he offers up *Malus* 'Prairie Fire' and the fragrant 'Sugartyme' crab. Both are great landscape performers, plus...who wants to crab about it?

—continued on page 7.

Drawing of crabapple by Anne Jaster

P L A N T S A L E

Primer

In addition to thousands of plants, highlights of the Spring Plant/Book/Bake & Artisans Sunday Fundraiser include:

Friday, May 16, 5 pm

• Pick of the Pots (PoPs). By tradition, the Friday before the Plant Sale opens to the general public is designated as Pick of the Pots (PoPs), a members-only plant preview/sale. Breaking with tradition at the suggestion of members, we'll offer warm and cold canapes and beverages to enable multi-taskers the pleasure of socializing, shopping, and grazing simultaneously. Finger foods, a specialty offering of Sweet Tooth Caterers (Esperance), will be available to the first 150 members at the PoPs event.

This year's PoPs event features the return of the humor and melodious sounds of Ms. Cherie and her Hot Pots.

Because of the limited availability of many plants, improve your chances to get the ones you want by attending the Pick-of-the-Pots Preview Party. Reservations are required for this members-only event, and the cost is \$15 (down from last year). Non-member friends, associates, and relatives who wish to attend the PoPs event can reserve and pay for membership before May 10. Admission for attendees who sign up as members prior to the event is \$60, which includes the PoPs Party and a discounted one-year membership. For more information about individual and corporate memberships, please call 518-875-6935.

Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, 10 am-4 pm

• Bake Sale

Unusual and tasty home made cookies, cakes, pies and breads. Beverages including soda, water, and coffee will be available.

Proceeds to benefit Landis' perennial gardens.

• Book Sale

Bibliophiles and browsers are always well-rewarded with thousands of titles in good condition to browse through and buy,

while surrounded by the more than 6,000 trees, plants, shrubs, and perennials. Categories include science and nature, gardening, reference, poetry, children's books, mystery, self-help, diet and nutrition, and many others. Regardless of the weather, the Book Sale will take place under cover in the Arboretum's 1830s English barn.

Sunday, May 18

• Artisans' Sunday returns this year and to a new location within the Plant Sale itself for added convenience. Select area artisans will showcase, talk about, and sell their wares. Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Interested in participating as an artist/craftsperson? Contact Ms. Vicki Hazzard at 518-8750-6935, or info@landisarboretum.org.

In General...

- **At Your Service Volunteers** from Arboretum-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 501 will be available to help those needing assistance in getting purchases to their vehicles.
- **The William T. Raymond Greenhouse** at the Arboretum will play an important role in this year's offerings. Watch for signs and be pleasantly surprised.
- **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 Combs, Jr.

- **Lunch.** Food and beverages will be for sale on Saturday and Sunday.
- **Starting times and dates** for the sale are firm. Purchases may not be made 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. We cannot take orders or set aside plants prior to the sale.
- **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.
- **Please** have your sales slip available to be hole-punched as you leave. Have your membership card handy for quicker checkout. (10% discount applies)
- **All purchased items** must be removed by 4 pm, Sunday. Landis does not make deliveries, and is not responsible for items left after 4 pm.

Plant & Book Donations

The Arboretum welcomes plant and book donations at the Plant Sale. Plants should be "sale ready" and clearly labeled—name, variety, color are suggested. They should be weed-free and unsightly foliage should be removed. We will do the pricing. If you have plants or books you wish to donate or need information, please call the office at 518-875-6935 to make arrangements.

Donations of books in good condition are always welcomed. Please contact the Arboretum with information about book donations by May 5.

Help Wanted

Join the Fun at the Plant Sale—

The Spring Plant/Book/ Bake Sale and Artisans' Sunday (May 16, 17, and 18) is one of the two most important signature fundraising events for the Arboretum.

The areas in which we need help include—

- set up the week before
- unloading plant material

The expanded format will require additional—

- cashiers and ticket writers
- plant experts
- parking attendants
- sales help for book donations and bake-sale items.

Call the Arboretum at 518-875-6935.

Spring Plant Sale— from page 5.

While trying to connect myself to the Breglia vision, I came upon a really nice mid-size tree, large enough for shade in a few years, yet not so large as to scare your grandchildren. Assuming you would like me to hook you up, that tree is *Sorbus alnifolia*, or Korean Mountain Ash, and it is on the "Tough Trees for Tough Sites" list. It is widely regarded as the best mountain ash. A few other newer mountain ash selections will be featured as well, including Russian Mountain Ash (*Sorbus aucuparia* 'Rossica') and *Sorbus americana* 'Red Cascade', a new nicely shaped small tree that will be a great attraction in a smaller yard. If you are looking for something special, please let us know. We strive to have knowledgeable and enthusiastic people milling around all during the event. It's not just a sale—it's an adventure.

What? Did "Piceaman" disconnect? No way! There will still be a nice selection of conifers for the willing or the daring. Spruce, pine, fir, False-cypress and more. Ever smell a Concolor Fir, espe-

cially inside at during the holidays? Smells like a tangerine, right? How about a nice *Abies concolor* for your yard or for a future Christmas tree... or a gift to future generations... or just to make yourself feel good! You will recall that planting makes one feel good. Conifers, of course, are the "feel good" plants of the century. Lots of nice little starter plants in good variety and a nice selection of garden specimens too... bonsai... rock garden... garden railroad... or just low maintenance. A closely guarded secret to this point is the appearance of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* 'Miss Grace'. I have to play it very close to the vest around here. Some folks are very excitable, you know.

Fruit, flower, fun, color, texture, food, and friends, as well as a great view await your connection here amid *Rhododendron*, *Daphne*, *Viburnum*, *Ninebark* and yes... TREES. Connect with us at Landis to discover what tree you have fallen from... or, perhaps, what tree you'd like to have for someone to sit under.

Education Committee Expands Membership, Offerings

S spurred by a recent partnership with Otsego County-based Wildlife Learning Company, Schoharie County's Landis Arboretum has expanded both its 2008 *Calendar of Events* and course offerings, as well as its Education Committee.

In addition to retired SUNY biologist Anne Donnelly who serves as committee chair, and career environmental education professional and Wildlife Learning Company vice president Susan O'Handley, the Committee's members include:

- Arboretum Board chair **Barbara Brabetz**, a regular guest on National Public Radio's WAMC's "Vox Pop Science Show" and chair of Natural Sciences Department at SUNY Cobleskill;
- Award-winning nature photographer **Bill Combs, Jr.**, of BCC Photographic & Design Services. Mr. Combs plans to combine lectures and practicum in nature photography at Landis in 2008. His images are readily available at www.landisarboretum.org, and www.FloridaWildlifePhotos.com.
- **Alan French**, vice president, Dudley Observatory Board of Trustees; vice president, Albany Area Amateur Astronomers; and a frequent contributor to this *Newsletter* and active volunteer for Arboretum events.
- **John M. McKeeby**, director of highly respected Schoharie River Center Esperance, NY (www.schoharierivercenter.org), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educational and cultural programming about the Schoharie Creek and the

communities which make up the Schoharie River Valley.

- **Gina Nielsen**, a longtime Landis member and multi-faceted educator whose background includes a Bachelor of Science in biology and a Master of Science degree in science education.
- **Gerald Peters**, longtime educator, Arboretum trustee and treasurer, and current treasurer of the New York State Reading Association.
- **Steve Ramsey**, Arboretum supporter and community relations manager, New York Power Authority, Blenheim/Gilboa facility, and
- Science educator **George Steele**, a popular award-winning environmental education consultant who has spearheaded a wide range of programs for children's summer camps, museums, nature centers, outdoor education centers, state agencies, libraries, and schools throughout the northeast since 1992.

According to Arboretum Board president Barbara Brabetz, "In today's economic environment, our Education Committee joins our Trustees in the concerted commitment to explore alternatives to our traditional approach to programming—and to help the Arboretum toward promoting the Arboretum's 548-acres as a dynamic, living laboratory and classroom in which other organizations stage their educational programs. Our expanded, all-volunteer committee already has made major contributions to the future of educational endeavors at the Arboretum. We look forward to an exciting year ahead."

Make the Second Time Your First— and Aid the Arboretum



Clap Your Helping Hands on Sunday, April 27. The Landis Arboretum will once again share the marquee and the rewards of a musical event presented by The Helping Hands Benefit Concert Series on Sunday, April 27. Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem will be the featured at the 3pm concert at the Schoharie United Presbyterian Church, Schoharie. Suggested donations: \$10/adults, \$5 for students and seniors, and \$25/families. And, because it is a fundraiser, don't feel compelled to hold back on at-the-door donations.

So, what's a daisy mayhem? The Signature Sounds website answers that question with dispatch: Wicked percussion, sublime lead singing, great harmonies, sparkling original songs and a deep repertoire. Four people who share an irresistible chemistry on stage. A young, hip, crackerjack string band in love with American music. *The Boston Globe* described their music as "neo old-timey with cosmopolitan splashes of contemporary pop and jazz." This is a band that picks up what's lying around—from tin cans to traditional music—and creates something new. Rani Arbo (fiddle, vocals); Scott Kessel (percussion, vocals); Andrew Kinsey (bass, banjo, vocals); Anand Nayak (guitar, vocals)

*New Faces Energize—*from page 4.

Board members whose term limits expired in December 2007 include: Jack Fritz, Esperance; Ken Hotopp, Howes Cave; Bonnie Keller, Fort Plain; and Dottie Gallo-Vojnar. Mr. Fritz, Mr. Hotopp, and Ms. Gallo-Vojnar remain active members of various Arboretum

Rick Hill, Pastor, Schoharie United Presbyterian Church, a well-known and respected Capital Region musician, featured along with Tom White at our Winter Dinner Auction at the Crossings, and a longtime supporter of the Arboretum. The Helping Hands Benefit Concert series is sponsored by the Schoharie County Presbyterian Churches. The Helping Hands events are always well promoted by Schoharie County music icon Sonny Ochs, sister of legendary Phil Ochs—and well attended.

Please mark your calendar, tell your friends, and if you can't attend, send good checks! Let's fill the sanctuary with membership, donations—and joy—that reflects your support of the environment!

The Arboretum also is working with Helping Hands producers Reverend Rick Hill and Sonny Ochs on a cabaret series for the summer. Titled "It's Fun to be Green," the series will once again include the Arboretum as a beneficiary. Bravo! Brava! Bravissimo! For further info, call the legendary Sonny Ochs at 827-4953, the Church at 518-295-8931. or Ms. Vicki Hazzard at the Arboretum at 518-875-6935. Please note that this is an afternoon concert.

committees including those focused on horticulture, buildings and grounds maintenance and improvement, the annual signature Arboretum Plant/Book/Bake Sale fundraisers, and the Summer Solstice Soiree (garden party).

—*Collections News, from page 3.*

The projected increase in temperatures will likely shift the ideal ranges for many forests species by at least 200 miles north. As you may already know, the USDA has changed its hardiness zones for the United States. In fact, in most places in the US the hardiness zones have shifted at least one full zone. For example, much of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio have been shifted from a Zone 5 to a warmer Zone 6 rating. What does this mean for us? For starters, we may want to rethink what species we are planting in our landscapes. I am recommending that we start selecting species that will thrive in warmer temperatures or at least those species that can tolerate some of the harsh weather changes that will lead to prolonged drought and increased pests. Trees like silver maples and black cherries, which were not on the top of the landscape list, may be good choices for the future. Who knows? At this rate, we may someday consider the "tree of heaven" (*Ailanthus*) to be our savior.

Trees are the lungs of the Earth and one of our biggest allies in the fight to mitigate global climate change. More than one-quarter all carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere by man is the result of the cutting and burning of rainforests. The cutting and burning of tropical forests is primarily driven by the production of charcoal production, which is used to make steel. Despite the fact that over 20% of fresh water and oxygen comes from the rainforests of the world, we are still cutting them down at the rate of a football field per minute. Global deforestation is happening all over world—including New York State. I say: "Think global but act local."

One of the ways you can help save trees right now is to support the Bruce S. Kushner Heritage Tree Preservation and Protection Act. The Arboretum has been working on this law with the office of New York State Senator Mary Lou Rath for the past year. When passed, it will be the first-ever law in New York State law that actually protects trees that are in the old growth stage. This law was modeled after a law in California that was passed to protect Ancient Forests. By writing letters of support to your local representatives, you can help get this very important law passed.

Remember:

**"IF YOU'RE NOT FOREST,
YOU'RE AGAINST US."**

Brabetz, Breglia Bring Zest to Vox Pop '08

WAMC's "Gardening Show"—featuring the Arboretum's ISA certified arborist Fred Breglia and popular area gardening icon Larry Sombke—launched its 2008 season on Friday March 7. Each subsequent show will take place on a Friday at 2 pm: May 2, July 11, August 1, September 5, and October 3. The effervescent Joe Donahue is at the helm as the "Gardening Show" host.

Landis Board president Barbara Brabetz also is a WAMC regular on its science show. The "Science Forum" is a favorite of listeners, and the topics range all over the scientific map. Barbara's breadth of knowledge is no less impressive than the no-nonsense, easy-to-grasp explanations she offers for the mysteries (to most of us) of the universe. Barbara is chair-

man of the Natural Science Department at SUNY Cobleskill. Listen for Brainy Barbara on the following Thursday broadcasts: May 8, July 3, July 31, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 20, and December 18.

Both of the Arboretum's subject-matter experts are part of WAMC's "Vox Pop" the station's daily call-in talk program. Guests with expertise in areas ranging from astronomy to George Washington speak with WAMC's hosts and answer questions posed by WAMC listeners.

To our collective good fortune at having both Barbara and Fred on the air, we add our excitement that the Landis Arboretum is among the websites listed on the WAMC home page www.wamc.org/. With a simple click of the mouse, listeners can learn more about the Arboretum and contact us easily.

At home or in the car, listen to Barbara and Fred—and let the station know you do. You can join in the "Vox Pop" discussion by calling: 1-800-34TALK1 (1-800-348-2551).

Depending on where one listens, tune in at the following frequencies: 90.3 FM and 1400AM, Albany; WAMK, 90.9 FM, Kingston; WOSR, 91.7 FM, Middletown; WCEL, 91.9 FM, Plattsburgh; WCAN, 93.3 FM, Canajoharie.

Please support those who support us. Participate in the WAMC pledge drives and let them know you are a member of Landis, the Capital Region's Arboretum, when you do. A note to Alan Chartock, president and CEO of the network, is always helpful. WAMC is located at 318 Central Avenue in Albany, NY. The station's phone number is 518-465-5233.

Landis 5K: Off and Running

John DiCesare

Planning for the second annual—perhaps perennial—Landis Arboretum Forest Run: A Cross Country 5K Classic has begun, and the committee is excited.

We anticipate surpassing the tremendous success of last year's inaugural event with even more runners and activities. This year's race date will be the Saturday of the Labor Day weekend, August 30, beginning at 10 a.m. The Albany Running Exchange will again handle the timing and finish line logistics. Beautiful Arboretum-enjoying weather has already been ordered, and we are hoping for timely delivery.

The race will feature the same accolade-winning course, highlighting the Arboretum's collections and the landmark Great Oak. Last year, runners and walkers alike enjoyed the challenging and picturesque route,

declaring it well worth the effort. The season is perfect to showcase the late summer blooms of the perennial gardens and the wild meadows.

The afternoon will feature the annual Lape Day celebration, honoring the Arboretum's founder. Join the festivities at the Meeting House for a musician/poet/performer/open mic event hosted by Fred & Dave & Friends.

By popular request, a Dog Walk will immediately follow the main race at 10:30 am. ... that's right, you may bring your dog! (Dogs must be leashed and under control.)

Come for an entire day of Arboretum enjoyment and wholesome family fun. The Acorn Shop will again be open for runners and guests to pick up a small souvenir.

The extensive behind-the-scenes preparations for the race are underway, and the

race committee will initiate course conditioning as soon as the weather allows—hopefully, by June! Some course improvements under consideration include widening narrow sections, increasing wood-chipped sections, and setting out more permanent signage to mark the course.

This year will also see an expansion of the sponsor base to fund more race amenities and to add to the finish line activities.

The committee welcomes any additional volunteers to take on such roles as reaching out to sponsors, marketing to runners, physical work on the race course, or race day responsibilities. Last year's crew had a great sense of accomplishment—and the perfect reason for not running. Any volunteers interested in helping should please contact Jonathan DiCesare 518-231-2290 as soon as possible.

Through this legislation, we can conserve natural resources, promote recycling, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while increasing funding to protect New York's environment! Please join us in supporting an updated bottle bill!

Once again, we ask member support to underscore our efforts to assist passage of this bill. Key the link below into your browser and click on TAKE ACTION to demonstrate your support for a cleaner environment and better New York.

www.wcs.org/getinvolved/takeaction
**New York's Environment
Needs Your Help!**

Bigger Better Bottle Bill

As a proactive member and recipient of funds through the Coalition of Living Museums/Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums program in the Environmental Protection Fund (ZBGA), the Landis Arboretum is a supporter of

this pending legislation.

Thanks to past efforts of ZBGA members, the New York State Legislature increased funding for the Environmental Protection Fund ZBGA Program last year. However, the "Bigger Better Bottle Bill," a critical source of additional long-term funding for New York's environment, was not approved in the budget.

Governor Spitzer has once again proposed updating New York's Bottle Bill to make it more effective to meet today's needs.

The updated Bottle Bill would expand coverage of the 5-cent deposit program to include water bottles and other non-carbonated beverage containers, which are growing rapidly—both in sales and in our waste stream. The update would: prevent litter in our communities, especially in our parks, beaches, and natural areas; ensure that more than 2 billion additional cans and bottles get recycled each year; conserve natural resources and space in landfills; help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and save tax-payers' dollars.

LANDIS PORTRAITS

A series about the people behind the plants at the Arboretum

Nolan Marciniac

William (Bill) Combs



Most people his age, he joked, would be contemplating a move to Florida rather than from the state where he spent the past thirty years of his life. However, Bill Combs, an award-winning nature photographer, considers

himself fortunate to have the Landis Arboretum in his new backyard.

Bill's interest in photography began in high school, but for a long time his cameras gathered dust because of work and family commitments. About six years ago, he left a job managing a nightclub in South Florida for a "normal nine-to-five job," and he had the time to rediscover the pleasures of photographing nature, spending many hours in the Everglades National Park. And although it began as a hobby, photography developed into a privilege,

taking him to places he never would have visited otherwise—photographing the buffalo round-up in South Dakota, for example, or elk and bighorn sheep in the Rockies. He soon built an inventory of over 20,000 images of wildlife.

But, Bill said, the "craziness" of life in South Florida—the tremendous population growth with its attendant development, traffic, and crime—coupled with the opportunity to move closer to his wife's family—made him more than willing to make a "total, radical lifestyle change."

A year ago, Bill and his wife Dannielle, two children and two grandchildren, moved into a nearly 200-year-old house near Cobleskill. They were delighted to discover the Arboretum. "Build, build, build.... Pretty soon there won't be any places like this. It's a chance to get back to nature, to get away from the everyday, to see things

as if for the first time, and to listen too."

He enjoys hiking the Arboretum's trails, particularly in the old growth forest. It's been a learning experience: "Back in Florida, it got so that an eagle was just another eagle, an alligator another alligator.... Here it's a new adventure—new birds, plants I haven't seen.... Sometimes taking a picture is incidental."

Bill reflected on the familiar saying that one picture is worth a thousand words. "If I can make a difference, letting someone know about this world, a place that they didn't know existed, or a bird, or a plant," then, he said, his job is well done. In particular, he hoped that his photos might instill a love for nature and the outdoors in children, since they are the hope for the future.

When he worked as a nightclub manager, he was getting ready to go to bed at 4 a.m. These days, he said, he is getting up at 4 a.m., ready to celebrate his new life in photography.

Gerald (Jerry) and Jan Peters



They settled, appropriately enough, on School Hill Road.

Jerry and Jan Peters both taught for more than three decades in the public schools in Gouverneur, NY. Jerry taught high school math, and Jan middle school reading, working in particular with struggling students, and both said that they enjoyed their teaching careers immensely. Jerry also served as adjunct professor of mathematics at St. Lawrence University. In 1996, he was the recipient of the New York State Presidential Award for Teaching Mathematics. Since his retirement in 2000, he has worked to train other teachers of mathematics in more than one hundred different

schools. Both Jan and he are wholeheartedly involved in teacher education through the New York State Reading Association.

The Peterses decided to relocate to Schoharie County in their retirement because they wanted to be half-way between at least two of their three adult sons—one who is living in the Boston area, the other in New Jersey. (The third son has recently relocated from Colorado to Ilion, NY.) The cultural opportunities and views of the rolling hills in the area won them over, and Jerry said that "everything felt just right from the get-go. We've never turned back, and we never regretted the move."

Gouverneur's loss is the Arboretum's gain.

They noticed an ad for the Landis plant sale in the spring of 2005, and since then they have enthusiastically committed themselves to the Arboretum. Jan accompanied Marian Hotopp to weed the perennial beds. That first Summer Garden Party, she said, captivated her. "What could be better than a beautiful setting, a unique event, and a table full of friends?" she asked. Jerry was invited by Ken Hotopp to join the Board in 2006.

Jan, Landis' volunteer coordinator, remarked that "success [at the Arboretum] depends on the willingness of the volunteers. With volunteers, we can offer more programs, make the organization more stable—and make it thrive." She added, "It's a place where many people can make a difference in many different ways." Jerry, who currently serves as the Arboretum's treasurer, noted that the Arboretum's success was "a combination of time, talent, and treasury."

And both agreed that "being a member means more than a discount at the plant sales."

Jerry maintains both a vegetable garden and ever-expanding flower beds at the couple's Cobleskill home, confessing an affinity for the myriad varieties of sunflowers. Jan admits to being "a great admirer of gardens" rather than a gardener herself.

Both insist that "it's all about the people more than the plants."

If there's a lesson to be learned, it's just that.

Youth Bureau—from page 1.

Adventure series by building on existing Arboretum programs, such as one of its scheduled outdoor programs led by popular science educator George Steele, or one of the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers' Star Parties at Landis, or a Wildflower Walk with naturalist Ed Miller. The events might be supplemented by a cookout, chaperoned sleep-over, a day-after self-guided hike at Landis, or a brown-bag "bonding" lunch with parents or guardians when they arrived to pick up their children.

"The potential outcomes of this relationship," said Sara Robertson, executive director of the Schoharie Youth Bureau, "are nothing less than exciting—for us and for the Arboretum. We're both grateful to Schoharie County Board Supervisor Earl Van Wormer for suggesting the meeting that brought us together."

Commenting on the quick action that resulted from his suggestion, Mr. Van Wormer praised both the Youth Bureau and the Arboretum for positive action and teamwork. "The willingness to explore options and find common ground for success is more important than ever in these challenging financial times," he said. "Despite limited budgets and small staffs, these organizations have demonstrated a willingness to work together and share ideas that will benefit not only themselves but those they serve in our county." After receiving a copy of the Arboretum's six-page 2008 *Calendar of Events*, he suggested that there appeared to be "a natural synergy" between the two organizations.

According to Arboretum Education Committee chair Anne Donnelly, "We see already that this start-up venture is just the beginning of a dynamic and mutually beneficial relationship. We have a knowledgeable team of nurturing instructors in addition to the beautiful acreage at Landis. It is a place of great beauty, an abundant ecosystem, and the perfect natural classroom for the whole family to share in the fun of learning about the world around us."

Barbara Brabetz, president of the Arboretum's Board of Trustees, reinforced Ms. Donnelly's perspective that "We believe that as this relationship evolves, it will further support our new vision of the Arboretum as a dynamic outdoor classroom and living laboratory available to education-focused organizations throughout the region. Working together with capable professionals such as Sara and other members of the Bureau, we can extend and enhance our value to the community at large." Barbara and Anne will inform professional educators throughout the Capital Region of the new developments and opportunities avail-



Arboretum Education Committee Chair Anne Donnelly (center) poses with Sara Robertson (left) and JoAnne Jorgensen, both of the Schoharie County Youth Bureau. Both came to tour the grounds of Landis in anticipation of events and classes here. (See story of page 1). Ms. Jorgensen is a former student of Ms. Donnelly.

able to them and their students in a letter next month.

About the Bureau

The Youth Bureau is funded by both Schoharie County and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in Albany. With oversight from Cobleskill resident Sara Robertson—and assistance from program coordinator George McDonnell and Youth Bureau assistant JoAnne Jorgensen—the Youth Bureau allocates OCFS funding to municipalities and agencies that run youth programs.

Although it operates programs on its own, teamwork is part of the Youth Bureau's culture, and it works to produce varied programs in concert with other agencies and organizations. Some of these, such as SCCAP's (Schoharie County Community Action Program) Youth in Community Service, the Mentoring Program, the After Class Enrichment Program, and the Summer Co-Op Camp, are well established and well known successes.

"In the coming months, we'll run a traveling arts-and-crafts program for younger youth in the County," said Ms. Robertson. "We'll continue to operate this program in Schoharie, Gallupville, Seward, Summit, and Esperance—and plan to expand it into other towns and villages throughout the county.

"We also implement a high-energy, team-building program we call the Adventure series. It captures the enthusiasm of participants, nurtures leadership skills, and conveys the importance of working together to achieve success through fun activities such as white water kayaking and rafting, rock climbing, hiking, canoeing, geo-caching, horseback riding, and camping. We're anxious to team up with the Landis Arboretum for some of these and other Adventures!"

On April 26, the Youth Bureau will again participate in National Youth Service Day. The initiative will partner senior citizens in various towns and villages with energetic young people who will assist seniors with challenging yard clean-up.

"Last year," said Joanne Jorgensen, "we had a great time and accomplished a great deal! We have every expectation that this year will be the same." For information on Youth Bureau programs, contact them at 518-234-2686 or e-mail, youth@co.schoharie.ny.us.

Strategic Partnering for Mutual Success

Since his appointment as executive director 18 months ago, Thom O'Connor has spearheaded partnerships and information sharing on behalf of the Arboretum "We now have organizations from outside the area asking us to work with them on planning, executing, and promoting meaningful endeavors," he said.

Mr. O'Connor added that, for the Arboretum, these relationships help heighten the profile of the Arboretum, which is increasingly recognized and acknowledged throughout the Northeast as a center of educational excellence. "It also buttresses our goal of forming mutually beneficial, strategic partnerships that increase visitation/usage of the Arboretum and over time, contributes to membership. We expect that interaction with the Schoharie Youth Bureau will help to expand our database of volunteers and attract the families and supporters of the Bureau to Landis," Mr. O'Connor said.

Currently, Landis has working relationships with Wildlife Learning Company, New York Power Authority, Schoharie River Project, and important alliances with venues such as Howe's Cave, the Old Stone Fort Museums Complex, and Cave House. "Collectively, these liaisons reinforce our goal of forming mutually beneficial, strategic partnerships that increase visitation and usage of the Arboretum. Over time, we will introduce more young people and their parents to Landis, increase membership, and contribute to tourism as well as education," O'Connor said.

He concluded that "We also expect that principals at the Schoharie County Youth Bureau will play an important role in the formation of our own Youth Board at Landis, which already is under way."

Arboretum executive director Thom O'Connor offers marketing tips with TriCounty Arts Council members

at Arkell Hall in Canajoharie. He shared the podium with artist Claudine Boerner of Cobleskill, who specializes in custom jewelry and glass (claudineboerner.etsy.com). As an outcome of the event, the Arboretum was added to the Arkell Foundation website—and plans are under way to bring residents of the Arkell Center's Senior Community Center to Landis. In addition, the Arboretum received a request from the Old Stone Fort Militia to conduct maneuvers in the Arboretum's Old Growth Forest, most likely the site of battle during the American Revolution.

Hit Us Again—and Again...

AND LET BEAUTY BE YOUR REWARD!

An analysis of the Landis Arboretum website has shown a marked increase in the frequency of visits during the past year. In mid-March, the number of captured hits was 15,628, as opposed to 4,805 the same time last year. The number of files accessed was 13,684, compared with 3,382 in 2007. It is time, it seems, to take the next step, one that will both encourage a new level and type of outreach to our members and supporters and enhance the usability of our site.

We take that step through a link on our site that will enable visitors to purchase a stunning poster created for the Arboretum by award-winning wildlife photographer Bill Combs, Jr.

An ardent supporter of nature and the Arboretum—and now a proactive member of the Arboretum's Education Committee—Bill is creating a series of images that will become available in poster and postcard form to help raise funds for the Arboretum.

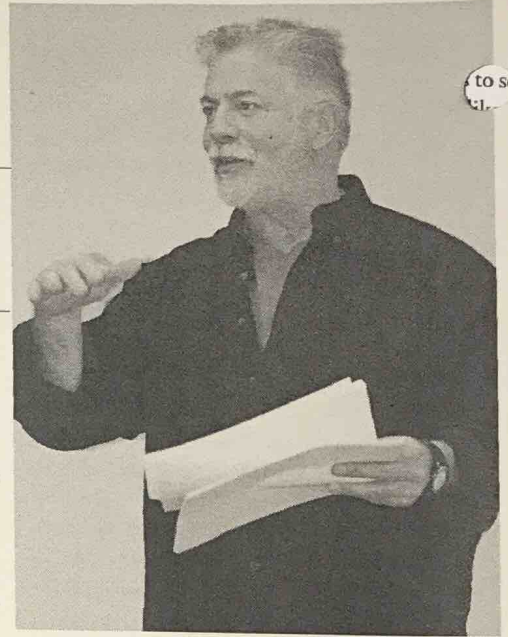
At present, this link takes web travelers to the storefront on Bill's site floridawildlifephotos.com/store.html. You can key this

URL into your browser or access it through the Landis site, www.landisarboretum.org/Resources/BillCombsJr'sStoreFront.

As the year unfolds and money grows in the Old Growth Forest, we hope to make it possible for members and visitors to pay for memberships, events and program fees, and Acorn Shop merchandise through our website.

For readers who were unable to attend the wonderful Capital District Garden and Flower Show in March, Bill's poster highlighted 40 images taken at the Arboretum last year. Visitors to the Arboretum's booth at the show had an opportunity to identify the flowers on the poster and to win a 2'x3' poster signed by Bill.

Visit our site. Visit Bill's. Buy the poster. Another poster will soon be available that features birdlife at the Arboretum. In addition, more of Bill's stunning images will be available through the Arboretum's newly designed and re-located Acorn Shop/Visitors Center this spring. Stop 'n shop! And when you see Bill on the grounds (usually each Friday with equipment and his grandchildren



in tow), stop and say hello and thank you. His photo appears in the "Landis Portraits" section of the current *Newsletter*.

In keeping with this issue's theme, let's all connect the dots between the increasing improvements at our Arboretum and the generosity of many selfless volunteers like Bill. Support those who support us! Join us! Have you visited our Arboretum of late? It *IS* a happening, restorative place!

Read more about the Arboretum's plans for it's beautiful web site on page 12. (Hit Us Again—and Again.)

SUMMARY OF WWW.LANDISARBORETUM.ORG STATISTICS BY MONTH

Month	Daily Average				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Feb 2008	710	622	91	41	703	319448	918	2013	13684	15628
Jan 2008	614	500	92	42	723	386582	1326	2880	15516	19054
Dec 2007	499	392	71	35	706	340263	1097	2210	12165	15473
Nov 2007	380	321	55	32	702	269237	979	1669	9642	11415
Oct 2007	674	568	88	43	955	342579	1361	2751	17627	20921
Sep 2007	862	740	108	46	1050	447224	1385	3243	22217	25868
Aug 2007	1064	898	138	55	1267	586768	1707	4279	27850	32993
Jul 2007	542	413	110	43	1118	286971	1362	3416	12814	16811
Jun 2007	220	142	100	35	827	186373	1053	3013	4288	6620
May 2007	356	245	156	46	1134	385559	1429	4842	7598	11044
Apr 2007	136	90	61	22	547	142159	677	1843	2720	4097
Mar 2007	155	109	75	26	602	172259	824	2337	3382	4805
Totals					3865422	14118	34496	149503	184729	



LANDIS
ARBORETUM