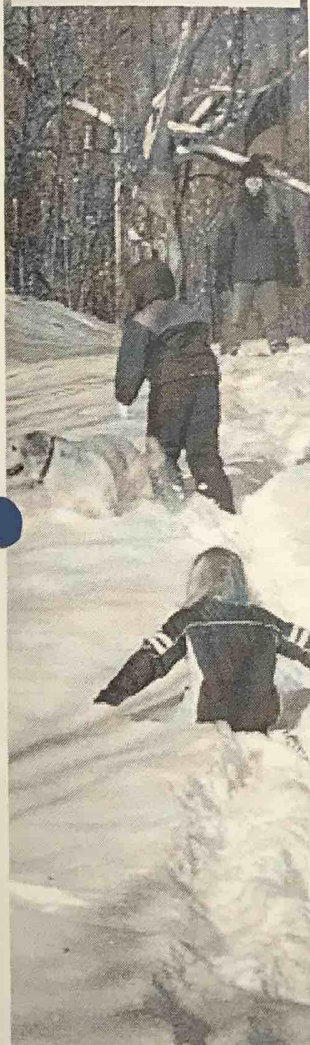


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Knee-deep in fun along the Woodland Trail are Haley & Adrianna Wallace, Dannielle Combs, and the family dog, Savannah, at the Landis Arboretum, Nature's year-round paradise.

Image by award-winning nature photographer Bill Combs, Jr.

Photo is the property of Bill Combs Jr./Florida Wildlife. Photo used with permission.

the LANDIS ARBORETUM

THE NEWSLETTER

The Vernal Equinox marks the time when the sun crosses the equator, signaling the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Although there is no shortage of rituals and traditions surrounding the coming of spring, the Arboretum will celebrate the season with a rite of its own this spring. On Sunday, March 22, friends and associates of the Arboretum will celebrate the return of spring with a brunch and auction at the Holiday Inn Express in Schoharie. (just off I-88 Exit 23/ Schoharie—a short and beautiful drive from anyplace in the Capital District-Mohawk Valley corridor, Leatherstocking Region, or along scenically designated, historic Route 20).

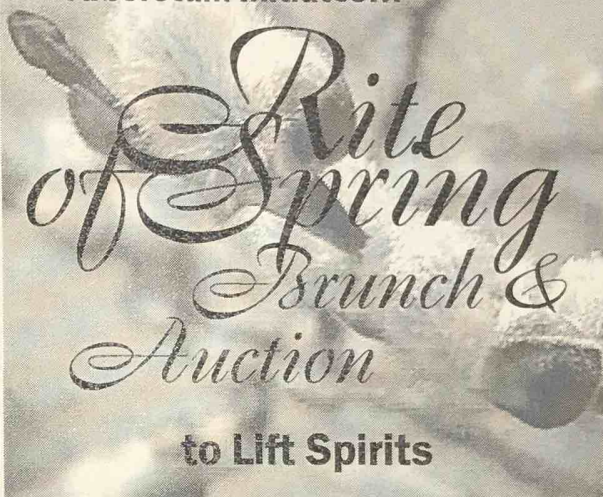
From noon until 3 pm, live music will be offered by the Oak Hill Kitchen Merry-makers; silent and open auction items will be offered, and refreshments will be served while old and new Arboretum friends have a chance to visit and learn about the upcoming events at the Arboretum's 2009 season.

Tickets to this Arboretum fun-friend-fund-raiser are only \$25 a person. A limited number of tables of 8 are available for \$175. Members are encouraged to RESERVE NOW!! Call 518-875-6935. Choose Option #2, and leave a message. Or you can write an email to landisfun@midtel.net to secure your passports to a delightful Sunday afternoon.

Merry-makers Entertain

The Oak Hill Merry-makers will come to us from the Oak Hill Kitchen located in picturesque Oak Hill, New York, at the foot of the Catskill Mountains. Oak Hill Kitchen, originally a 19th century opera house, is now home to this special group of musicians. A sample of musical fare is available on the Oak Hill website: www.oakhillkitchen.com/Welcome.html

Arboretum Initiates...

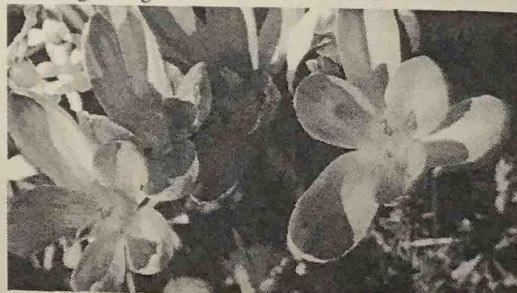


The Arboretum Rite of Spring Brunch & Auction will help us all to throw off the weight of winter and look ahead to the coming seasons with five special watch-words:

- Choose from an abundance of auction items from regional businesses and crafters set forth by popular area auctioneer and Landis friend Randy Passonno, president of

Collar City Auction & Realty Management, Inc.

- Share your pride and delight by sharing a table with friends and associates. Also, consider inviting newcomers to this Arboretum event.
- Surprise special friends with a gift membership! Because membership has its privileges, Arboretum members are invited to welcome new members for a special Rite of Spring enrollment of only \$35/person—or three new memberships for \$100. Offer limited to Rite of Spring event only and does not apply for membership renewals.
- Embrace those who have embraced our Arboretum and who support our efforts through their advertisements in our *Newsletters*. Think of them first and often as purveyors of quality goods and services. Tell them we sent you. Yes! Do support those who support us—throughout the year.
- Join trustee Donna Vincent and the Rite of Spring Brunch & Auction Committee (Barbara Brabetz, Gail Browning, Anne Donnelly, and Marcie Reiff) at this sure-to-be Arboretum classic. The time for new beginnings and renewal is at hand.



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

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

LETTERS

To the Editor:

I saw the article in the Times-Journal ["Arboretum steels for long winter," December 24, 2008], and I just feel like crying.

My friendship with the Arboretum goes back over 50 years when I knew Fred Lape. I hope that the Arboretum can hold on until better times again.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN Year-End Message

Jeff Schworm

As I write this message, the first big snowfall of the 2008 winter season is approaching.

Thinking about the challenges of the season—driving safely and digging out from under the snow—leads me to think about the challenges faced here at Landis. The past year has tested us as trustees, supporters, and volunteers. As I look ahead to the New Year, I know that 2009 will be an even more difficult year.

The painful decisions made in 2008 have perhaps been toughest on our small staff (see "Financially Speaking"). Fred and Thom have been continually confronted with the uncertainty of our operating budget and the very real absence of office assistance. I commend their significant dedication both in cooperating with Board of Trustees and in expanding the influence of the George Landis Arboretum both locally and nationally.

We now take a look at what we expect will be an interesting and exciting year despite the

challenges. Winter educational opportunities begin the year, followed by the Rite of Spring Brunch and Auction. This new feature event will brighten that first day of spring when you are sure that winter will never end. Our Spring Plant Sale is planned to be the best ever with more emphasis on unusual perennials and native plants. In another effort to provide fun for families and bring visitors to the Arboretum, we will consolidate the fledgling 5K Run with our Fall Plant Sale.

Throughout my years of involvement with Landis Arboretum, I have usually viewed it as a living laboratory and museum, but as I step away from my short stint as president, I realize that it is much more. It is a place to gather or to be alone... a place for nature lovers of all persuasions and a place to learn... a place to gaze at a dark starlit sky or just get reconnected to Mother Earth. In spite of our financial difficulties, I am confident that those things will remain the same.

New and Familiar Faces Lead Landis in '09

End-of-year planning, elections, and appointments have yielded a new slate of officers and committee chairs to take the Arboretum forward in what is expected to be a challenging fiscal year. Effective January 1, 2009, the new lineup of trustees and committee chairs includes:

Board of Trustees

President: Anne Donnelly (Lawyersville)
Vice President: Gail Browning (Esperance)
Secretary: Donna Vincent (Delanson)
Treasurer: Barbara Brabetz (Amsterdam)
At Large: Jeff Schworm (Duanesburg)

Other board members include: William Bateman (Stuyvesant), Gary DeLuke (Schenectady), Jonathan DiCesare (Cobleskill), Alan French (Scotia), Dottie Gallo-Vojnar (Esperance), Susan O'Handley (Hartwick), and Jim Paley, Steve Perog (Duanesburg), and Scott Trees (Richmondville).

Committee and Event Chairs

Committees and volunteers are essential to the Arboretum's work as a center of excellence in outdoor education. New and familiar faces will help guide committee work to new heights in 2009. Committee and event chairs will lead each committee and interact with the Board as needed.
Buildings & Grounds: Ken Hotopp (Howes Cave)
Education: Gina Nielsen (Glenville)
Horticulture: Jeff Schworm (Duanesburg)
Membership: Susan O'Handley (Hartwick)
Plant Sale Co-chairs: Fred Breglia (Esperance) and Thom O'Connor (Richmondville)
Propagation: Cindy King (Minaville)
Publications: Nolan Marciniac (Johnstown)
Annual Landis Arboretum Forest Run: A Cross Country 5K Family Classic Co-chairs: Barbara Brabetz (Amsterdam), and Jonathan DiCesare (Cobleskill)
Summer Solstice Soirée (Garden Party): Donna Vincent (Delanson)
Special Events: Donna Vincent and Thom O'Connor

Newly elected Arboretum Board President Anne Donnelly has served as chair for both the Publications and Education committees for two years, working closely with all members of the Arboretum's Board.

Although I can no longer enjoy walks at the Arboretum, I still feel love for it and have great memories. Enclosed is a... donation.

Ms. Naomi M. Wikane
Schoharie, NY

• (Edited and reprinted with permission).

Ms. Wikane plans to join other Arboretum supporters at the Rite of Spring Brunch & Auction of March 22.

—continued on page 4.



COLLECTIONS NEWS

Fred Breglia

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Good news first

What began as an especially busy fall at the Arboretum continued into winter. The plants may be dormant, but the limited staff is definitely not.

There have been several major upgrades to the infrastructure at the Arboretum: we have restored a roadway that will now serve to complete a turn-around for disabled visitors as we move closer to the installation of the Wanderland Garden, which will be universally accessible. This project creates a designated handicapped parking area on the east side of the Barn. It will also improve the traditional picnic areas of Landis and, in time, the installation of new landscaping features such as stone retaining walls to enhance our already beautiful gateways.

Upgrading the infrastructure did not stop with the road work. Funding from Senator Seward made it possible to complete critical upgrades to insure electrical safety in the Library, Barn, and office. We moved from inadequate 120 amp service to a 220 amp service, and we can now use the computer with lights on or even perk coffee without fear of tripping a breaker.

Welcome Center

As donations allow, plans also are progressing toward the creation of the new Welcome Center that will be located in the Carriage House section adjacent to the Farmhouse. Many of you may already have seen the newly installed French doors there, made possible by Tom Edmunds and donations from Thom O'Connor and Mervyn Prichard. By your next visit, the installation of windows for the Welcome Center (donated by Carol and Bob Olsen) and for the Meeting House (donated by Shirley and Bob McMorris) may be completed.

We hope, too, that when you next visit the Arboretum, you will have the pleasure of using our newly created full-color trail map to guide you throughout our wonderful site. In the meantime...

Ice, ice, ice.

That has been the theme here at Landis lately. In early November, we came through a powerful storm that took down trees, branches, and fences. We cleaned it all up and then were hit again a month later with the big ice storm.

This storm shut power down for four days. We shut water off to prevent freezing

pipes. When power was restored, I spent days that turned into weeks cleaning up. Our Great Oak lost a giant branch, and numerous other trees were damaged. Deer fencing—including that which protects our rhododendron collection—was also torn down by fallen trees and ice and had to be fixed before the deer noticed. Lots of work remains before we recover completely—and that may be the goal of the spring cleanup.

Despite the unexpected weather-related projects, nothing has stopped our focus on the many exciting programs ahead this year—the annual Spring Plant Sale, the Garden Party, our third annual 5K cross-country race, and our many family-focused programs. I'm even working on a month-long exhibit of my paintings on global warming, which starts in February at the TriCounty Arts Council in Cobleskill. That's doesn't mean that I won't be on hand to lead this season's Second Sunday Snowshoe program. See our *2009 Calendar of Events* for a full list of programs, details, and dates. I'll look forward to seeing you at Landis, our own year-round paradise.

Are you listening?

Before I forget, I hope that you will support my appearances on WAMC's Vox Pop Gardening Show this season. How? Call in. Ask questions. And when you contribute to the station's fund drives, mention that you support the Landis Arboretum. The show airs from 2–3 pm on Friday, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, August 7, September 4, and October 2.

The Arboretum's treasurer Barbara Brabetz (also chair of the National Sciences Department at SUNY Cobleskill) is also a frequent guest on WAMC's Science Forum. Hear what makes Barbara such a valuable asset to everyone within the broadcast range of the show. Tune in on Thursdays, January 15, February 12, March 12, April 23, May 7, June 4, July 2, July 30, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 19, and December 17. Science Form also airs from 2–3 pm.

And when you contribute to the station's fund drives, mention that you support the Landis Arboretum. An appreciative note to Alan Chartock, president and CEO, is always helpful. The station's phone number is 518-465-5233; the e-mail address is mail@wamc.org.

Capital District Garden and Flower Show

March 27, 28, and 29

Friday, 10 am–8 pm; Saturday, noon–7 pm;

Sunday, 10 am–5 pm



In keeping with its reputation as a center of excellence in outdoor education throughout the Northeast, the internationally recognized Landis Arboretum is set to play an active role in the 2009 Capital District Flower Show in Troy, NY. Volunteers are needed to enhance our presence and booth at the show. Join us!

- Don't miss the opportunity to win a signed poster created and signed by acclaimed wildlife photographer Bill Combs, Jr. Bill's award-winning images appear regularly in the *Newsletter* and on the Arboretum's newly designed website: www.landisarboretum.org.
- Meet Jeff O'Handley of the Wildlife Learning Company and Pippin—a handsome peregrine falcon representing the world's fastest flying animals—on Friday, March 27 from 10 am–4 pm.

- Get up-close-and-personal insight, perspective, and plant care tips from the Arboretum's award-winning ISA Certified Arborist Fred Breglia in two March 28 presentations: 1 pm, "Promoting Plant Health by Proper Pruning," 3 pm, "New and Unusual Trees for the Landscape."
- Meet your friends and make new ones in this festive and informative forum—while supporting our efforts to recruit new members.
- It all takes place for your education and enjoyment in the 60,000 square-foot McDonough Physical Education Center at Hudson Valley Community College, 80 Vandenburg Ave. (Rte. 4), Troy, New York 12180. This is a Capital Region tradition that is best enjoyed with friends. Last year, more than 14,000 people attended the show.

New and Familiar—continued from page 2.

"We could not go forward without acknowledging the commitment and hard work of those who have served the Arboretum," she says. "As a team, we thank out-going president Jeff Schworm, who took the reins from President Barbara Brabetz over the past five, difficult months. We are indebted, too, to Barbara who stepped into the treasurer position when Jerry Peters resigned.

"Susan O'Handley, vice president of the Wildlife Learning Company and executive director of the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce, has assumed the very critical membership component of our organization. We also thank volunteer Jan Peters for doing that task when it was sorely needed in 2007-2008.

"Our membership can be confident in the fact that we have strong, hard working, and congenial teams going forward. Working in concert with executive director Thom O'Connor, we look forward to an exciting—if lean—2009."

And, she adds: "Members who have the time and interest in participating on any Arboretum Committee, will be sincerely welcomed."



Photo by Pat Donnelly

Winter Education Highlights and Summary

Anne Donnelly

The black clouds and horizontal rain certainly didn't dampen the merrymaking at the Volunteer Appreciation Party held October 25th in the Meeting House.

Fred Breglia and his band, "Organized Chaos" provided the music. Landis Board members provided the food and drink. Crock pots lined the wall. Freshly washed windows afforded a spectacular view of the black sky and swirling storm. Quite exciting! Unfortunately, only about 40 of our 130 stalwart volunteers were able to come. I hope they all realize how much we appreciate them!!!

The *Coming Attractions Calendar of Events* for 2009 will impress you with some wonderful offerings. Some are our tried and true standbys, such as George Steele's ever-popular family series, the Star Parties, and Fred's pruning and snowshoe hikes. Others will be new, such as Beekeeping for Beginners.

The Education Committee has also actively sought grants and sponsorships for our ambitious educational offerings throughout the year. The most notable response was the \$3,000

Norcross Grant, which provided funds for materials.

We have accomplished much in 2008:

- We've cleaned up, stored in one place, and organized inventory.
- We've acquired display cabinets for our skull collection.
- Gina Nielsen has forged more connections with the Scouts. Gina also took the lead role in the very successful Schoharie County Garden Tour.
- Gail Browning has spearheaded a Teen Board, and she, together with Susan O'Handley, has strengthened our Youth Bureau connections.
- We provided a nature program for the NY Power Authority in August. We also have an Arboretum-themed tree at the NYPA Festival of Trees: "Birds, Bugs, and Botanicals," including a string of stars to commemorate our Star Parties.

We thank you for your participation in and support for our very successful 2008, and we welcome you to 2009. It's not too late to sponsor a program for as little as \$250—for this fee your company's name will be linked to the program in all of our publicity.

LANDIS PORTRAITS

A series about the people behind the plants at the Arboretum

Richard (Dick) and Marian Clowe

Sitting in the sunny kitchen of their old farmhouse, Dick Clowe said that he thought that the Arboretum was "a wholesome place."

"So much of the world is entertainment—TV, amusement parks, shopping malls.... Our children learned to entertain themselves. [The Arboretum] is a good place to bring families together... to partake in that general wholesomeness," his wife Marian added.

After Dick retired from GE in 1992, he volunteered at Landis, mowing the grassy areas with Ron Needle, taking great care to respect the wildflowers, and cutting and rooting out the growth of sumac on the hill

behind the Barn. The Arboretum, he said, encompassed only about a hundred acres at that time, and it was rapidly deteriorating. "But it survived. It's unique because it survives... because of volunteers." Dick served as chairperson of the Building and Grounds Committee for fifteen years. The plant sale under his direction was the most successful in the Arboretum's history, taking in nearly \$55,000 that year.

Marian pointed out that they are both "big volunteers," giving their time and effort and talents to such organizations as the Mabie Farm Historical Site in Rotterdam and the Hole in the Wall camp in Lake Luzerne, a facility for children and their families dealing with life-threatening illnesses. An Alpine skiing enthu-

siast, Dick taught skiing to disabled children for more than a decade.

And, of course, they volunteered at the Arboretum. They are regulars in helping to set up for the two annual plant sales.

"It's a jewel," Dick said, "a primitive jewel, but a jewel nonetheless." "It's serene, and the view is unbelievable," Marian noted. And then she summed it up: "It's the people and the knowledge" that make volunteering at Landis worthwhile—"and such wonderful people. You can't beat Fred and Thom." Dick added that the Arboretum led him to meet "comparable spirits with a general sense of environmental responsibility."

They both expressed a concern that the current genera-

Nolan Marciniac

tion does not seem to value nature or places like the Arboretum. "It's unfortunate," he said, "and a very narrow spectrum of life." But all too common.

The Clowes have a large collection of lilacs on their Pattersonville property and are enthusiastic vegetable gardeners. Last year, they put in 150 hills of potatoes: they admitted that they give a lot away! Their 19th Century home, in which they raised their three children, is decorated with the souvenirs of their extensive travels—China, Australia, Europe, Africa.

Dick and Marian have left their mark on a good many places and on many lives, too. They've certainly done their part to make the Arboretum a "wholesome" place.