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T H E N E W S L E T T E R

UPCOMING

How To Insure You Receive Your Electronic Landis Newsletter

Contact us at either info@landisarboretum.org or my e-mail, wjjozwiak@aol.com and provide the e-mail address at which you wish to receive the *Newsletter*.

Be certain to check your spam or junk mail folder when the first delivery time nears—your server may not recognize the sender. If the *Newsletter* is sent to the spam or junk mail folder, follow your e-mail provider's directions for assigning it "trusted" status so it will not be blocked in the future

Please let us know if you have any problems receiving or opening the *Newsletter*. You should receive the spring *Newsletter* in your e-mail inbox by May 1.

Thanks—
Wilma
See the "Green" article at right for more information.

The vernal equinox marks the time when the sun crosses directly over the Earth's equator and the official start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. There is no shortage of rituals and traditions surrounding the coming of spring—and this year, the Arboretum continues one of its own.



Abundance and More To Please!

- **Bask** in the warmth of close friends and associates at the Landis Arboretum's second annual Rite of Spring Brunch & Auction. Can there be a better time to throw off the weight of winter and embrace the seasons ahead?
- **Enjoy** a buffet, which will

Join us with your friends and associates on Sunday, March 21, noon–3 p.m., for the Arboretum's own passage into spring with a little March madness at our special brunch and auction, accompanied by the soothing seasonal music of the famed Oak Hill Kitchen Merry-makers.

Tickets to this Arboretum fund-, fun-, and friend-raiser are only \$25/person. A limited number of tables for 8 are available for \$175. What a great event to introduce potential new members to Landis! The event will be held at The Settles Hill Tree Farm, 1123 Settles Hill Road, just off us route 20 in Altamont, a short and beautiful drive from anywhere in the Capital District.

There will be lots to celebrate: live music, silent and open auctions, and the gathering of old friends and new acquaintances. **RESERVE NOW!** Call 518-875-6935 (speak slowly and distinctly)—for an afternoon of delight!

include fresh fruit, pastries, Belgian waffles, omelets, beverages (including a mimosa station)—and many other delicious selections.

- **Choose** from an abundance of auction items from regional businesses and crafters.
- **Share** your pride and delight by sharing your table with friends and associates.
- **Consider** honoring a friend with a gift membership.
- **Embrace** those who support our efforts through their advertisements. Think of them first and often as purveyors of quality goods and services. Tell them we sent you. Yes, we do support those who support us—throughout the year.
- **Join** the Rite of Spring Committee at this Arboretum classic. The time for new beginnings and renewal is at hand. What's not to celebrate and enjoy.

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN: A Tree-Friendly Newsletter —Wilma Jozwiak

Landis Arboretum is all about trees.

We know that trees have properties that soothe the soul. We were the kids who climbed as high as possible and stayed there until yelled down by our parents. We appreciate the shade, the stark limbs against a brittle winter sky, and the home for birds.

We also know that trees are a major bulwark between us and our own bad environmental practices. Forested watersheds also are often the source of clean drinking water. Because trees take in

carbon dioxide, split it apart, "exhale" oxygen and hold carbon in their tissues and deposit it underground, they are an excellent way to reduce excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. A single mature tree can absorb carbon dioxide at a rate of 48 pounds per year and release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two humans. Fast growing trees are, in fact, the most efficient way to sequester atmospheric carbon.

Printing, copying, postage, and disposal/recycling also

require expenditure of non-renewable resources. When the dollar costs of producing and mailing a paper newsletter are added in, the decision to move to an electronic newsletter was an easy one: we want to "walk the walk and not just talk the talk."

So what will this mean for you, the Landis Arboretum member?

The benefits of an electronic newsletter may be a bit surprising. Certainly an e-newsletter will be more ecologically sound

—continued on page 2.

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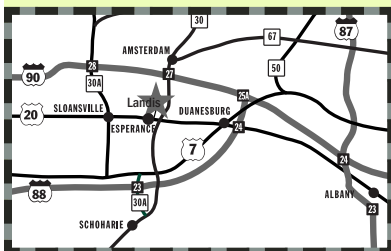
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The Arboretum is located one and one-half miles north of Route 20 in Esperance. Follow the signs from the village to Lape Road. The Arboretum is one-quarter mile straight ahead. Visit our website for more information and directions.



The Fleeting Magic of Spring Ephemerals

—Cindy King

As winter draws to a close, plants (as well as people) can hardly wait for spring!

Special among the wildflowers of spring are the spring ephemerals, for they have waited the longest to return. The ephemerals rush to raise stems, sprout leaves, flower for a short period, and set seed. By early or midsummer, the foliage of these spring ephemerals quickly withers and dies. The plants totally disappear and remain dormant for the rest of the year.

One of the first to declare its presence with its huge leaves is the skunk cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus*. Trilliums also push up their three leaves very early, especially the dwarf white trillium, *Trillium nivale*. The red and white trilliums (*Trillium erectum*) and (*Trillium grandiflorum*) soon follow. Both can be seen growing along the Woodland Trail at the Arboretum in early May.

Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) and Squirrel Corn (*Dicentra Canadensis*) lift lacy, blue-green foliage and white to pink flowers in early woodland gardens.

Dutchman's Breeches, which forms a clump with pointed leaf tips, can be found growing on the Wetland Spur of the Miller Native Plant Trail.

Shooting Stars (*Dodecatheon spp.*) have wonderful reflexed petals which make the blossoms look as though they are about to take off on a fantastic journey. They come in shades of pink, purple, and white. There are some of them growing in the perennial gardens near the Arboretum farmhouse.

Dog tooth violets (*Erythronium spp.*) are another spring ephemeral. *Erythronium americana*,

the kind most commonly found in our area, has characteristically mottled foliage and yellow flowers which bloom only on paired leaves. Patches of these dog tooth violets are scattered throughout the fields and woodland edges of the Arboretum.

Little white starflowers, *Trientalis borealis*, pop up in an area along the Woodland Trail. The outstanding feature of this little plant is that its leaves, sepals, petals and anthers all occur in groups of seven. It makes this little flower easy to identify!

Toothworts (*Dentaria spp.*) may carpet sections of woodlands early in the spring season. However, toothworts seem to be greatly affected by spring rainfall amounts and temperatures. When conditions are favorable, toothworts cover the ground and flower heavily. When conditions are not to their liking, their foliage may be sparse and the white flower clusters few and far between.

Marsh marigolds, *Caltha palustris*, illuminate swampy areas with their golden magic for about three weeks in May. Blooming before the trees have leaves, this plant with its succulent green leaves has vanished by July.

These are only a few of the ephemerals to be found in the spring woods in April and May. Taking walks through woodlands like the Arboretum in the spring

season will reveal many of these treasures.

References:

- Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada*, William Cullina, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, 2000.
- Trilliums*, Frederick W. Case, Jr. and Roberta B. Case, Timber Press, 1997.



It's Easy Being Green—continued from page 1.

and reduce our footprint on the earth, but it will also allow us to offer you glorious photographs of Landis in all seasons. It will also allow us to provide more articles on more topics, covered in more depth.

If you have an e-mail address, we request that you provide it to us and accept your information-packed Arboretum Newsletter electronically. We promise to honor members' requests to limit the use of their

e-mail addresses. You will be able to tell us if you wish to restrict its use to delivery of the *Newsletter*. The e-newsletter will be delivered through e-mail in a format that will be sensitive to the limitations of dial-up service.

Please help us make the transition by contacting me at wjjozwiak@aol.com to provide your e-mail address for our database.

The winter newsletter will be delivered in both paper

and electronic versions as we make the transition. After that issue, only members who have specifically requested paper will receive the higher cost paper version. We realize that this shift will be a challenge for some of our members, but we believe that you, as we do, want to preserve the earth for those who will come after us and will continue to appreciate trees, at Landis and elsewhere.



NEVER TOO EARLY: Propagation for Spring Plant Sale

—Cindy King

A plant sale in May might seem far away in the middle of the winter, but some of the preparations for it were already started with seed collecting last summer and fall. Seeds that needed winter dormancy were planted in October in pots carefully labeled and wrapped in plastic baggies. Then trays of those pots were placed outdoors so that three months of winter weather can trigger spring germination.

During the winter months, the Propagation Committee selects seeds of heirloom varieties for March planting for the Arboretum's spring sale. All this planting requires bales and bales of soil from the nursery, hundreds of four-inch plastic pots for planting and transplanting, labels, and various nursery supplies. While we are fortunate to have some financial

backing from members and donations of pots, we will need more of both these important elements if propagation at Landis is going to continue to expand.

As the seeding and transplanting takes off in February and March, we need all the volunteers we can get. Any contribution of time is helpful—a one-time commitment to weekly or more. We also keep log sheets of volunteer hours, which can be very helpful in obtaining grants and other kinds of financial help for the Arboretum.

Volunteering with propagation is a hands-on experience that is both educational and a lot of fun. If you are interested in joining the group, call me, Cindy King, volunteer propagator, at (518) 396-8563. If you miss me, leave a message, and I will get back to you.

It's not too soon to be thinking spring.

Landis LIVE On WAMC

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

March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, and October 1.

ADVENTURES OF THE MIND: Memoirs of Ed Miller

—Louise Polli

Anyone who has spent any length of time at the Landis Arboretum has seen the handiwork of Ed Miller or perhaps has had the pleasure of talking with him about the Arboretum's treasured flora and fauna. Curator of the Native Plant Collection, Ed is a retired General Electric engineer whose passion for botany is unmatched.

In celebration of his 85th birthday, he has published *Adventures of the Mind: Memoirs of Ed Miller*. Ed chronicles the scores of adventures he has had over the years in a series of short essays about his work, friends, family, and general observations; in personal explorations of natural history; and in travel stories that span the United States and beyond to places many have only read about. The book is as delightful as a meandering stroll through the woods of Landis.

His style is conversational and relaxed, yet before long you realize that you have learned quite a bit about the subject at hand, whether turbines built at GE or a rare plant found in the wilds of a national park. Ed brings the



engineer's tenacity to the pursuit of his professional and personal interests, and he approaches life with an inquiring mind, a healthy dose of curiosity, and the thrill of discovery.

As you read his memoirs, you feel as if you are accompanying him when he camps and canoes here and abroad. You are there as he tubes the river caves of Belize, botanizes in the Adirondacks, and skis in Utah's Bryce Canyon or in Austria's Alps. His stories are rich with imagery, and his memories evocative of a lifetime love affair with the natural world. Ed continues to embark on each new adventure with a mix of playfulness and purpose, even as (in his own words) a "super senior." He fills his days as some fill

their plates, so to speak. "Isn't retirement great!" he writes. "What to do? Not a question arising from boredom, but like choosing from a fancy restaurant menu. I chose to do more canoeing."

Ed makes a few references to the casual observer. Be assured that he is not one himself. In the essay "Diamonds and Rubies and Emeralds, Oh My!" Ed describes how you can find the color spectrum in sparkling white snow. In another story, he concludes that to find the beauty in a tiny flower, only a hand lens, faith, and imagination are needed. These three have been Ed's companions in many of his travels, and they have served him well.

Always exploring, always searching for both the wonder and the commonplace in nature, Ed invites and encourages you, as a beloved professor or mentor might, to experience the natural world for yourself. He urges you to see and hear not only what he has, but also to develop and enhance your own appreciation. His knowledge is eclipsed only by his modesty, evident in an unassuming manner and the

self-deprecating humor of a man committed to lifelong learning and new challenges. As he attempted to identify the sound and movement of a bird in the brush, he concluded, "It really sounded like an osprey to me, but since I confuse Mozart and Beethoven, you might like a second opinion."

Advance Orders Available

Ed Miller is now taking advance orders for spring sales of his book. Contact him directly at miller430@aol.com to place your order. Pick-up will be at the Acorn Shop when it reopens for the season or at the Arboretum's Spring Plant Sale, where Ed will be on hand to sign your copy. (Any special arrangements for pick-up can be discussed with Ed in your e-mail.) All proceeds from the sale of this book will go directly to the Arboretum or ECOS (the regional and non-profit Environmental Clearinghouse, www.ecosny.org), your choice. The cost is only \$20, but anything beyond that will be added to your donation. Special note to GE employees or retirees: your donation of \$25 or more will be matched by GE.



Just about the time we begin to despair that spring will ever arrive, Wildwood Programs comes to our rescue with the 22nd Annual Capital District Garden and Flower Show.

Held this year on Friday, March 26, through Sunday, March 28, the show offers a peek at lush growing plants, innovative landscape design, and creative flower arrangements. There will be scores of vendors offering everything from suncatchers to sun canopies.

The show always features wonderful lectures. Among the presenters this year are long-time Arboretum mem-

ber Viktoria Serafin presenting on hostas at

1 pm on Friday and Arboretum arborist Fred Breglia presenting on prudent pruning at 1 p.m. and on new and unusual trees for the landscape at 3 p.m., both on Saturday.

The Capital District Garden and Flower Show opens at 10 am each day and closes at 8 pm on Friday, 7 p.m. on Saturday, and 5 p.m. on Sunday. As always, Landis will have an information booth at the show, and we need you to help us put our best foot forward.

Volunteers typically work two-hour shifts and are given free admission to the show on their volunteer day. If you are interested, please call Susan Sagendorf at (518) 234-8970 or e-mail ssagendorf@yahoo.com.



Landis board member Gina Nielsen (above) shows off an evergreen swag at the Community Holiday Day Sale at the Empire State Plaza on December 3. Evergreen swags were created by Donna Vincent and volunteers. Profits included one membership gift certificate and lots of community outreach. Happily, many people knew about us and had been to Landis at least once! *Photo by Marcie Reiff.*

LANDIS PORTRAITS

A series about the people behind the plants at the Arboretum

—Nolan Marciniac



For Wilma Jozwiak, it was love at first sight.

She remembered coming to her first plant sale about ten years ago. “It was just amazing,” she recalled. “It felt so good here . . . a welcoming environment. We felt at home here. The people were engaging. And all that knowledge!” The spring and fall plant sales became a yearly destination.

Over the last five years, Wilma made time to volunteer, initially at plant sales and in the Acorn Shop. She now manages the membership database and serves on the Publications Committee. She would wholeheartedly encourage others to visit and to volunteer, even if they feel only an inkling of interest. “There are opportunities to learn, as well as opportunities to work,” she said.

Her interest in gardening, she admitted, is probably “genetic.” Her paternal grandmother ran a nursery in an age when that was unusual for a woman. Family lore has it that

“she could take a dead stick, plant it in the ground, and it would sprout.” Her father gardened. Her mother’s family were farmers. Raised in Tennessee, Wilma has thoroughly acclimated to gardening in the Northeast. When she and her husband John moved to their Clifton Park home, they dismantled the swimming pool and replaced it with a perennial garden, “diverse and not at all formal.” She delights in the element of “surprise” that accompanies gardening—the sudden appearance of hosta seedlings is, she said, “a gift.” She even enjoys weeding.

Wilma remarked that the joys of gardening are real and its efforts restorative, unlike the rewards in education, which are seldom as immediate. Wilma is planning to retire from the Capital Region BOCES, where she’s worked since 1990. Her expertise is in special education, and her time has been spent with school improvement, professional development, and grant writing, and for the last several years coordinating federal school improvement grants for NYS.

Along with gardening and education, volunteerism is in her blood. She is membership chair for the Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library.

The Arboretum’s Board of Trustees is benefiting from Wilma’s professional experience as a facilitator: she is working with them to help them clarify their goals for Landis. “I’m the kind of person who thrives on being useful. . . I like to fill a niche . . . to bring people together and take whatever skill sets they have and use them to a productive end,” she said.

Wilma recognizes that the Arboretum, like so many non-profit organizations, now finds itself in a challenging situation. “When confronted with a challenge,” she said, “you can act or react. To act thoughtfully means coming up stronger and better.” She added, “It’s an investment of effort that pays off.”

“People need to fall in love with the Arboretum so that it will be here for their children and their children’s children,” she noted. She knows: it happened to her.