



# George Landis Arboretum NEWSLETTER

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## WINTER DAMAGE - A Time for Reflection by John W. Abbuhl, Horticulture Chairman

The light has lingered longer these past weeks, and we know the clock will soon be turned. It is that time of year when those of us with even a small green thumb begin to feel an impatience over the slowness of the melt, and we wonder why the ground must stay so hard, so long. Then we remember that before the spade must come the mud.

There is a time before the mud when we can freely walk to check on how our green world has fared. The extra snow, like the mulch we did not have time to spread, had been a prolonged protection this winter; but with each good there is a little bad. The wet heaviness has cracked away many a bow and branch - a pruning that we did not intend. So we will make the most of nature's offering, and shape the jagged edges to our will.

Then, there is the winter wind, where snow could not protect, and desiccated buds may soon be found. If only we had thought at planting to take advantage of the winter shade, or the knoll against that bitter wind. Oh, and there the bark is split. Why did we not wrap?

And then we are reminded that we share the bounty of our greenness with other creatures of the world - the mole, the vole, the rabbits, and the deer. Each prunes his special way; the roots, the bark, the buds - first low, then high - and we wish that we had screened our plants and pulled away the weeds.

Alas, the gardener's work is never done; for it is he who seeks to make change in nature's subtle ways.

This time of hard ground and vanished snow is for reflecting, with a lazy cleaning up, before the fury of the spade and growing warmth that signals to us all our speeding flight around the sun.

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All Friends of the Arboretum are invited to attend the annual Trustee meeting on May 4 at 2:00 PM to hear the President's Report, to ask questions, and to meet the Trustees.

There have been several changes at the Arboretum over this winter. First, the distinctive 400 year-old white oak that originally gave Fred Lape's boyhood farm its name "Oak Nose" and later became our Arboretum logo has had some surgery needed to prolong its life for another 100 or so years. One of the large branches had to be removed and the familiar silhouette is just slightly changed.

Another change involves two men, Charles (Chuck) Weed (what an appropriate name) and Tom Swann who are living in the Lape homestead, supervising, and indeed, doing much of the actual labor to restore and transform it into a comfortable residence. It is a relief to know that the house is occupied and that the property will be watched over.

Speaking of improvements to the Arboretum, we are looking for garden clubs interested in "adopting" a garden. Bethlehem Garden Club has recruited a number of their members to care for the long perennial garden at the entrance to the G.L.A. Anne Jaster and Kathie Lippitt of the American Rock Garden Society have "adopted" the Quarry Rock Garden. Holly Emmons, a faculty member at Cobleskill/SUNY plans to beautify our woodlot trail with wildflower plantings - an exciting prospect. We invite and encourage other garden clubs to become involved. We think they will find it a challenging and rewarding venture.

We also need individuals to help in various ways: weeding, pruning, mulching, etc. all under the direction of the G.L.A. Horticulture Committee. In addition to the "Wednesday Weeders" we hope to have "Weekend Weeders". If you can spare time on either occasion call Kathie Lippitt at 399-4544. You bring the weeding tools, we'll supply the weeds.

We'll have a limited number of Betty Corning Clematis available again this year. Propagation is difficult as seeds do not come true and most cuttings won't break dormancy. Therefore the supply we receive is always smaller than we wish. This clematis with its small lavender-blue bell-shaped flowers was found in an old garden in Albany and given to Mrs. Corning. She found it was an unnamed variety and was asked to choose a name for it. She chose "Albany" but because of a variety named "Dutchess of Albany" it was suggested to her that it be named the "Betty Corning" Clematis. One of our newsletter editors feels very fortunate to have one and reports that her plant, bought two years ago, is five feet tall and is covered with blossoms in spring. If you want one, please contact Margaret Law at 463-5256 and place an order. The plants you will receive are very small but they should grow quickly.

We are trying to organize our membership list this year. If we do not have your name or address correctly written on the mailing label, please drop a note to Betty Bloom (Rt 1, Box 117, Duaneburg, N.Y. 12056) and we will correct it. We are putting this information on a computer and are adding phone numbers and other pertinent data. If you would be willing to volunteer for various tasks, please let us know so that we can compile a list of potential slaves.

We look forward to greeting members of the Albany Institute of History and Art who will be arriving on May 16th to tour the Arboretum.

Saturday Program  
George Landis Arboretum  
Summer 1986

5/3	10 AM	Nature Walk	James Bates
5/17	11 AM	Plant Sale - for Friends	
5/17	12 Noon	Plant Sale - General Public	
5/17	1 PM	Trees and Flowering Shrub	Robert Clark
5/31	7 AM	Bird Walk	John Bousman and Sayla Ruscitto
	10 AM	Bird Walk	
6/7	1 PM	Nature Photography Tips	Tom Bissett
6/14	10 AM	Wild Flower Walk	Merrill Bousman
6/21	10 AM	Plants for Hanging or Patio Use	Professor Harlow
6/28	10 AM	Conifer Walk	Peter Kaskeski
7/12	10 AM	How to Prune Your Trees	James Bates
7/19	10 AM	Ground Covers	Merrill Bousman
7/26	10 AM	Rock Gardening	Kathie Lippitt
8/2		To Be Announced	
8/9	10 AM	Life of the Monarch Butterfly	Sayla Ruscitto
8/16		To be Announced	
8/23	10 AM	Herbs in the Arboretum	Peg Brown
9/6		To be Announced	
9/13		To be Announced	
9/20		To be Announced	
9/27	10 AM	Foliage Walk	Peter Kaskeski

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We now have an answering device for our G.L.A. phone. If you seek information, please leave the question or message and we will answer as soon as possible. The number is not listed by our G.L.A. name in the phone book so jot it down in your private book:  
(518) 875-6935

Our first-ever fund raiser at the Glen Sanders Mansion was a beautiful affair with string music, candlelight, flowers, delicious food, and a fascinating talk by Dr. Theodore Dudley of the National Arboretum, Washington, D.C. (Dr. Dudley is the authority who gave us such encouragement after his tour of the G.L.A. last summer). Kudos to Paul Blair for planning and executing the event. It was a profitable venture and we received some valuable media exposure. We would like to express our thanks to the following Friends who contributed to its success.

Sponsors:

Mrs. Erastus Corning II	Dr. & Mrs. John W. Abbuhl
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene V. Thaw	Prof. & Mrs. Willard Roth
All Seasons Tree Service, Inc.	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Law
Dr. & Mrs. Robert W. Raymond	Mr. Paul A. Blair
Charles Yunck Nursery	

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Ms. Mary Anne Chiariello	Albert & Doris Gdula
Dr. & Mrs. Frank Moore	Ms. Bessie M. Burns
Brig. Gen. & Mrs. John B. Huyck, Ret	

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One of our new members has noticed that many of her friends have never heard of the George Landis Arboretum. According to Dr. Dudley in a population area of this size we should have three times as large a membership as we do. Each of us should work to achieve this goal by urging friends to visit our arboretum; perhaps bringing them to one of our summer picnics.

Don't forget our Rare Plant Sale to be held on May 17. Friends are entitled by their membership for a chance to buy at 11 A.M. any of the exciting offerings. Non members can make purchases at noon. In addition to lots of rare and unusual plants, we will be serving lunch. (You may buy Subs by the inch, hot dogs, cold drinks, and assorted baked goods.) Persons who have annuals, perennials, or shrubs they would like to contribute to the sale are urged to bring them to help increase our profits. We will provide labels so you can identify and price them.

We are adding a "Chinese Auction" to our Rare Plant Sale this year. Items to be auctioned (a silent bid arrangement) include plants, planters, flower prints and other items. Donations are welcome.

Another new feature this year - we are brimming over with new ideas - is a photo contest. Pictures should be of the Arboretum; subjects can be general and from any season of the year. They can be in black and white or color but they should - if possible - capture the essence of the Arboretum. Photos must be submitted by September 1, 1986. Please send them to Mrs. Erastus Corning II, P.O. Box 431, Albany, N.Y., 12201. First prize is a \$50 gift certificate at State Photo. Second prize will be a collection of spring bulbs. All entries will become the property of the Arboretum. (Please note on our calendar of events that Mr. Tom Bissett of State Photo will give us a program on tips for Nature Photography on June 7.)

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Friend           \$10-25  
 Sponsor         \$25-50  
 Supporting     \$50-100  
 Patron          \$100+

GEORGE LANDIS ARBORETUM

Membership Application

Please support the extensive work of the arboretum and make a tax deductible contribution.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ [  ] Renewal

THANK YOU

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ [  ] New Member

Members receive a quarterly newsletter, free admission to the lecture series and early admission to the annual rare plant sale. Make your checks payable to:

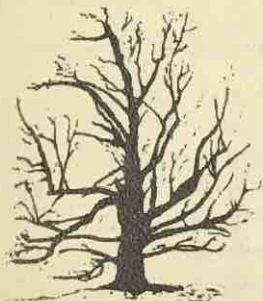
GEORGE LANDIS ARBORETUM

Mail to:                   Esperance, NY 12066

Can we whet your appetite with any of the following? They have all been ordered for the Rare Plant sale to be held on May 17th. These small grafted trees are indeed choice.

Abies Alba Pendula  
Acer Japonica Filiformis  
Acer Palmatum Versicolor  
Fagus Sylvatica Pendula  
Fagus Sylvatica Roseo Marginata  
Fagus Sylvatica Tricolor  
Ginko Pendula  
Picea Abies Repens  
Tsuga Canadensis Coles Prostrate  
Tsuga Canadensis Gracilis  
Tsuga Canadensis Nana  
Fagus Sylvatica Aurea Pendula  
Fagus Sylvatica Contorta  
Ginko Biloba Varigated  
Pinus Parviflora Fukisumi

..... and we may have a few surprises - quantities limited.



GEORGE LANDIS ARBORETUM  
Lape Road  
Esperance, N.Y. 12066

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