



## George Landis Arboretum

# NEWSLETTER

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### IN MEMORIAM: FRED LAPE, 1900-1985

(The following article is reprinted with permission from the Altamont Enterprise, March 14, 1985.)

FRED LAPE, 85, ESPERANCE AREA'S  
BEST KNOWN CITIZEN, DIES IN MEXICO

By Bob Hagyard

Fred Lape, botanist, poet, college English professor, journalist and Esperance town historian, died Friday, March 1 at Jocotepec, Mexico, his winter home the past few years. He was 85.

Mr. Lape, who had no family, was buried the following day at Jocotepec.

He was best known as director of the Landis Arboretum, located a mile north of Esperance village on a hillside overlooking the Schoharie Valley. Mr. Lape established it in 1951 as a memorial to George E. Landis, a former RPI associate professor of economics, former faculty colleague and fellow amateur botanist who died in 1950.

Incorporated as a not-for-profit institute in 1961, it serves the traditional purposes of an arboretum. It houses a collection of common and rarely found trees, flowers and other plant life grown from seeds and cuttings for educational as well as scientific purposes.

Today it encompasses Mr. Lape's boyhood home, Oak Nose Farm, named for

its most prominent feature: a giant 500-year-old white oak which sits on a rocky, wooded shelf visible for miles up and down the valley. Without fail the arboretum director--a tall, angular figure topped by a plain, undecorated wide-brimmed straw hat shielding a craggy, deeply tanned face--would lead visitors past that landmark on regular weekend woodlot tours. He continued to lead those walks until last summer.

Mr. Lape was born at Holland Patent, about 10 miles north of Utica, in 1900. About two years later he and his parents, Herman and Emma Lape, moved to Oak Nose.

He began his formal education at the one-room Rock Schoolhouse on the northern edge of Esperance village, then commuted by train to Altamont High School where he graduated in 1917. Four years later he earned his bachelor's degree in English literature from Cornell University.

He then began a teaching career that started at Cornell, then continued at Stamford (Calif.) University and, much later, at RPI.

At the onset of the Depression he left Stamford and returned to Oak Nose Farm, his permanent address the rest of his life. There he began work on a novel, "Roll On, Pioneers," published by Goodwin in 1935.

In 1932 he founded a poetry

ANNUAL RARE PLANT SALE

NEW BUILDING AVAILABLE FOR  
USE BY AREA GROUPS

Surely the greatest memorial to Fred Lape will be the continuation and growth of the Arboretum. The Trustees are all pledged to work for its future and have authorized that our programs will go on as in previous years. Our Rare Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, June 1 with our usual selection of unusual plants and perhaps a few surprises. The time schedule is as follows:

11:00 a.m.--Sale opens for Friends of the Arboretum

Noon--General public is invited to the plant sale. There will also be a complete luncheon and baked goods available for sale by the Friends Steering Committee.

The sale will feature trees with unusual bark or bright fall coloration and plants for use with flower arranging. We hope to offer, among many other interesting plants, these:

- Corylus (Corkscrew hazelnut)
- Enkianthus campanulatus
- Malus Red Jade and Malus Strawberry Parfait
- Prunus subhirtella pendula (Weeping Japanese Cherry)
- Zelkova Serrata (Green Vase)
- Ilex verticillata (Winterberry)

Bring your plant lists and appetite and join us on June 1!

The Dutch Valley Garden Club, a friend and strong supporter of the George Landis Arboretum, will be one of the first garden clubs to tour and use the new building.

On Tuesday, June 4 the Dutch Valley Garden Club will have its annual tour, picnic and plant sale at the Arboretum.

According to Trustee Sally Gage from the Arboretum, "The new building will be ideal for garden club meetings, showing slides and having lectures, tours and plant sales. It will be particularly advantageous for workshops, design lessons and classes, wreath making, and all of the activities generally associated with garden clubs."

The new building includes a kitchen and meeting room with high vaulted ceilings, and the site overlooks the Schoharie Valley. Wildlife abounds and there are woodland paths leading from the facility.

WATCH FOR THE 1985  
SUMMER SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

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COMING TO YOUR MAILBOX SOON!!!



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