



George Landis Arboretum NEWSLETTER

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My mother loves trees. At 82, she still keeps tabs on her favorites around the farm and in the small town in Illinois where she lives. One of my earliest memories is hearing my mother point out some superior example as we drove along some country lane.

Not a botanist, nor even a gardener, Mother protected trees whenever she could. There is an enormous cottonwood that has consumed the wire fence once nailed to it. This tree was the source of an annual argument between my father, who insisted the tree was in the way, and my mother who came vociferously to the tree's defense. Mom and Dad did agree that the stand of bur oak in the middle of the north field was not to be cut down.

When the huge old elms in the front yard fell prey to disease, my mother was distraught. And when our neighbor to the north bulldozed an old stand of oak and burned it, not even bothering to cut it up and sell it as firewood, she was incensed. Although she could have sold the forty acres of woods on the farm many times over, she will never do so.

My mother was educated before the word ecosystem was on everyone's lips. And though I'm sure that she appreciates the interconnectedness of all life, that's not the reason she loves trees. She does not protect them because they provide shade, or break the force of the wind, or produce other useful products; she believes trees have a value all their own, a value unrelated to man's petty vanities.

My mother has never been to an arboretum, but I'm sure she would approve of the work done here. She would like a place where trees are grown for appreciation and study, a place where the good health and longevity of the trees are the concern of the staff.

As a member, I'll do my best to promote our Arboretum. It's the least I can do for the trees and my mother.

Phyllis Rosenblum
Master gardener and garden columnist
for the Knickerbocker News

New Service

If you have questions about trees or shrubs that we could perhaps help with, call the Arboretum at 875-6935 and leave a message on the recorder. We will try to call back promptly.

Rock Gardening Suggestions from Kathie Lippitt, A.R.G.S.

Before attempting a rock garden you must prepare a suitable environment for your plants. Since many of the desirable plants are alpines with a native habitat of mountain scree, you can simulate such conditions with the following recipe for your rock garden soil:

Combine: 1/3 garden soil

2/3 peat moss

with an equal amount of grits, the smallest size available, 1/4 " or smaller.

This garden will need fertilizer once in Spring with osmocote. The exposure should be southeastern with full sun. Rocks should be put over the roots to provide the necessary protection.

Esperance Day

Friend's Picnic

The Friends of the Arboretum will have a Family day picnic with activities for adults and children. (clowns and face painting etc.) Hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages will be available. The date is Aug.3, the time, 11 A.M. In case of rain we can take shelter in the meeting house. Everyone is welcome. It would be a good time to bring a potential new Friend. In past years these picnics have been good fun, and have given us a chance to meet people with similar interests.

1986 Summer Schedule

July 12	10:00 AM	How to Prune Your Trees	James Bates
July 19	10:00 AM	Ground Covers	Merrill Bousman
July 25	10:00 AM	A Flower Arranger's Garden	Audrey Weidler
August 2	1:00 PM	Bees and Bee Keeping	Tom Swan & Chuck Weed
August 9	10:00 AM	Life of the Monarch Butterfly	Sayla Ruscitto
August 16	1:00 PM	Apples of New York	Peter Ten Eyck
August 23	10:00 AM	Herbs in the Arboretum	Peg Brown
Sept. 6	10:00 AM	Rock Gardening	Kathie Lippitt ¹
Sept. 13	10:00 AM	A Fern Walk	Holly Emmons
Sept. 20	10:00 AM	Unusual Trees of the Arboretum	Dr. Abbuhl
Sept. 27	10:00 AM	Foliage Walk	Peter Kaskeski

1. Note the change in date for this talk.

Odds and Ends

We have had a request from the west coast for a copy of Fred Lape's book, Apples and Man. If anyone has the book and is willing to part with it, please let us know.

Did everyone see the article on the George Landis Arboretum that appeared in the magazine, New York State Alive? It was very well done by Mary Pratt, free lance writer and long time Friend of the Arboretum. This should introduce us to a much wider audience.

Thanks to the generosity of the Albany Council of Telephone Pioneers of America we have a large refrigerator, an electric stove, a dishwasher, and a double stainless steel sink in the Meeting House. We are very grateful to Miss Katherine Prodonavitch, President, and Edward Brohm, Environmental Chairperson, for all their help. When we can add cupboard space, we will start collecting dishes, pots and pans, and cutlery.

We also have four new tables for our Meeting house, donated by Mrs. Erastus Corning II. This fills a very real need as we will be able to seat people around tables for meetings, work shops, or picnics.

Our meeting house is available for rental for a very modest fee for club meetings or receptions. It is a beautiful setting and stays relatively cool in the summer. For reservations and details call Mrs. Lou Moravec at 377-6080.

We were pleased to welcome our loyal supportive friends from the Schoharie Garden Club on June 4th. After their meeting they took the Woodlot trail walk led by an Arboretum trustee and her dog. The ladies from this club who went on the Longwood/Winterthur trip last spring showed great enthusiasm for another Arboretum sponsored trip. Let us hear from those also interested - with suggestions on where we should go. Wouldn't the Arnold Arboretum or possibly the Cary Arboretum be a good day trip? Call us about your ideas (Margaret Law 463-5256).

RARE PLANT SALE

We appreciated your support at our May rare plant sale. The sale was a financial as well as social success. The food booth staffed by Nancy Rexford and Ann B'Rells was appreciated by everyone. The six-foot submarine sandwich donated by Price Chopper was a hit. We would like to thank all who helped to make this plant sale a success.

Next year, to serve you more fully, we are willing to try to find specific trees and shrubs that you may want in your garden. Please let us know what you would like to see offered at the sale. If you have been disappointed in not arriving soon enough to buy some of our listed plants, we can reserve some trees for you if we have enough advance notice. Write to Margaret Law, Simmons Road, Glenmont, N.Y. 12077 or Dr. John Abbuhl, Sky Hollow Drive, Slingerlands, N.Y. 12159.

We will be offering unusual trees again next year at the sale. Even though it is a year away, we hope to get you thinking about it by reading the descriptions of possible trees that would fit into your landscape design.

Cercidiphyllum japonica

Katsura tree

The author of one of the best books on trees states that if he could use only one tree on his land, this would be it. He calls it "overwhelming in overall attractiveness." Its native habitat was Japan and was introduced here over a century ago. It grows to forty or sixty feet at a medium fast rate. Once established, it will grow about fourteen feet over a five to seven year period and to forty feet in twenty years. If allowed to grow with several main stems or trunks, it will be wide spreading. On a single trunk it has a handsome columnar form. Leaves emerge reddish-purple and change to bluish green in summer. In fall the leaves vary in color from yellow to apricot and have a lovely cinnamon odor. The Katsura is an excellent specimen tree of particular value for its graceful leaves which remain unattacked by insect pests throughout the entire season.

Ginkgo biloba

By now everyone is probably familiar with this beautiful deciduous tree. It is one of the world's oldest trees - growing on earth for 150 million years. At one time, in fact, it was native in North America. Our present trees were introduced in America from Eastern China in 1784. Though not a fast growing tree, it can eventually attain a height of eighty to one hundred feet. It is usually pyramidal in outline when young, but becomes very wide spreading with large picturesque branches as it ages. The bark is very interesting, having gray-brown ridges with darker furrows. It's method of propagation is nearly unique among trees as the male sperm cells are motile, like fern spores. The fan shaped leaves are bright green changing to an excellent light yellow in fall. A hard frost will then cause them to drop almost overnight. The ginkgo is very hardy and extremely free of pests. For those of you who panic quickly in the spring (like this editor), be aware that the Ginkgo is late to leaf out.

Larix decidua

Larch

We had several requests for larches at our last plant sale and have already ordered some for next year. These deciduous conifers of the pine family have lovely bright green leaves or needles, becoming deeper green in summer. In fall when almost all other trees have lost their leaves, the larches will turn a spectacular yellow, lighting the bleak landscape. Larches can be used as specimen trees or as screens. Their cones are very decorative, about one to one and a half inches long, growing in clusters along the branch. They do well in almost any soil and grow very rapidly. They are subject to sawfly attacks in the spring which, however, can be controlled by spraying.

Cladrastus lutea

Yellow-wood

The lovely fragrant white panicles of flowers alone would make this a desirable tree. It is a quick grower and can attain a height of thirty to fifty feet. It thrives in almost any soil and is reliably hardy. The Yellow-wood is a member of the pea family. It is rarely attacked by insects or diseases. It was once known as *C. tinctoria* - the early settlers could produce a yellow dye by soaking its chips.

Photography Contest

Don't forget to submit your snapshot taken at the Arboretum by September 1 to Mrs. Erastus Corning II, P.O. Box 431, Albany, N.Y. 12201. Our program on June 7 concerned aspects of nature photography and was given by Scott Miller, a last minute substitute for Mr. Bissett. Scott was very helpful and most interesting. He has promised a return visit, perhaps at our upcoming Friends Picnic. The photo contest does not demand particular size or subject this year nor does it limit the number of entries from one person. However all picture-entries must be of the Arboretum and will become its property. Our first prize will be a \$50 gift certificate at State Photo and 2nd prize will be spring flowering bulbs.

* * We were fortunate to be able to borrow a good sized van from R.B. Wing and Sons, Corp. to transport the plants picked up in New Jersey for our Rare Plant Sale. We welcome Judy (Mrs. Charles Wing, Jr.) as a new member of the Arboretum.

* * We will remind those who have not rejoined the Arboretum as Friends for 1986 by placing an asterisk on your mailing label of this issue. It is vitally important to us that you help support us financially by your membership - our primary source of income. Please send us a check for this calendar year if you have not already done so.

----- CUT -----

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 [] New
Enclosed _____ 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:

Mail to: GEORGE LANDIS ARBORETUM
Esperance, NY 12066

Arboretum - a plot of land where different trees or shrubs are grown for study or popular interest (Latin: a plantation of trees)

With the above definition in mind, the Horticulture Committee at the George Landis Arboretum has been placing most of its emphasis on reclaiming areas overgrown with brush. If our flower gardens and lawns seem to have suffered a bit, the important aspect, trees and shrubs, have been given encouragement and even saved from certain death by overcrowding. On your next trip to the Arboretum, please visit our tree collection which is located in the acreage across the road from the meeting house.

* * We have such good Friends. To thank them all by name is almost impossible. For example, one of these Friends provided us with 5000 new brochures which we've been using since May. The Bethlehem Garden Club has sent five or six volunteer weeders who are transforming the perennial gardens bordering Pig Sty walk, and our Wednesday weeders have been at work on the Peony garden - monumental tasks.

* * Are you aware that English type holly can be successfully grown in this area? *Ilex x Meserveae* does extremely well here despite our winters. The red berries last all winter and look amusing peeking out of the snow. Be sure to purchase both male and female plants if you want berries.



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