



George Landis Arboretum NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by the Friends of the Arboretum

Volume 5, Number 3

July, August, September 1986

Come to our first and very own flower show! - October 12th

A GOLDEN HARVEST

Twelve flower arrangers from a wide area of garden clubs have been invited to exhibit their concept of Autumn's bounty. To further explore this theme everyone is encouraged to bring their largest pumpkin. Bob Raymond, one of our trustees will judge these entries and present a prize of spring bulbs to the winner. Andy Roth, regional potter, will display some of his handmade pieces - wonderful containers for the imaginative arranger. Quest End Country Crafts of Duanesburg will have an exhibit of some of their interesting things (Quest End offers classes in many arts). Seasonal refreshments (cider and doughnuts) will be served by Friends of the Landis Arboretum, Nancy Rexford and Anne B'Rells.

The show will be in the Meeting House (reached now by our new drive) and we hope you all will attend. Chairing the event is Evelyn Sturdevan assisted by Helga Smith and Ruth Bruno. Initial planning was done by Elizabeth Corning and Lou Moravic. This show will also give you the chance to see the winning pictures in our Photo Contest.

By the time this letter reaches your, our winners in the Photo contest will have been selected. Your Editor was among the few privileged to see the entries. We were delighted with the response and quality of the pictures. This is to become an annual event, so get your camera reloaded while there is beautiful fall and winter scenery to capture. This year the first place winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate at State Photo while 2nd prize is a large number of choice Narcissus and 3rd, a gift of spring bulbs.

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We deeply regret the loss of one of our trustees, Mr. Robert Williams of Schenectady. Mr. Williams served as Budget Officer. We valued his wise counsel and will miss him.

Roses for your Gardens?
by Merrill Bousman

"How about growing roses in this climate?" That is the question we always hear from young gardeners. The answer, "definitely yes, at least for 'old roses'". Several years ago the Saturday Program brought Mr. and Mrs. Frank Earing to show us slides from their small but full rose garden. They grow mostly "Old Roses" at Kings Road and still order from:

Roses of Yesterday and Today, Inc..
802 Brown's Valley Road
Watsonville, California 95076

I brought some roses from this company from my Philadelphia garden when we moved to the Mariaville Road Farm 20 years ago and they are still doing fine.

"Sparrieshoop" with tall canes and pink, single roses which appear all summer should be cut back in the spring after a winter of leaf mulch. "Madame Piere Oger" is a tall many-stemmed shrub. It blooms all summer also, with ball-like pink flowers ideal for decorating the house.

"Reine des Violettes", planted in a row in the field near our Orchard has to fight enormous golden rods every year. I always helped with that fight until two years ago when I had surgery on my hands. This spring, I found her, cut away her enemies, and enjoyed once again the strange color of her blooms. "Rosa Mundi" a gallica nearby, pushed her way through the weeds and produced her striped white and pink flowers as usual.

All the rugosas are hardy. You have seen them along the New England Coast - white, pink, red - blooming all summer in the midst of thorny stems, and later, surprising with colorful hips.. I have a tall, thorny shrub, "Agnes", a pale yellow very fragrant rugosa which blooms early in the spring.

We should all have "Harison's Yellow" which was carried with families as they moved west and is found even in California. At the Arboretum we have all seen, admired, and many of us have pieces of the lovely shrub "Rosa Rubrifolia". Another old rose beside the wall in the front yard of the Lape house is a very old "Cinnamon Rose" which once a year fills the yard with fragrance.

There are many of these wonderful old roses you can find - Please do so!

The Quarry Rock Garden

Thanks to Kathie Lippitt, the Quarry Rock Garden has had a facelift. As you leave your car in the parking lot, go straight up the hill on the stone path. Near the top, there is a path to the left which leads to the scree, while straight ahead is the quarry itself.

Although a tremendous amount of work has already been put into the construction of the scree, it is only in the beginning stages of planting. Therefore we will wait until another newsletter for a detailed description of the scree area. We did, however, get an excellent account from Kathie of many of the plantings in the quarry proper. Be sure to wander (gingerly) through this area on your next visit to the arboretum - many of these tiny plants are very fragile, so PLEASE stay on the path!

Now, to Kathie's notes:

By the Quarry Rock Garden sign is a beautiful pyracantha with bright red fall berries and pointed single thorns on its branches. The barberries are armored by barbs pirouetting up the branches protecting a fruit varying in size and depth of red with the species. There are many, many species of barberries at the Arboretum, with the shape, length, and shade of red berries on them varying with the species. Cotoneasters have bright red berries and round leaves and the species in the rock garden have gracefully arching branches.

At the entrance to the quarry itself, wandering among the Korean boxwood with its owl-faced seed pods, is a vine with clumps of grey hair connected to a head of seeds. This is clematis, which furnishes us in spring with large deep pink flowers.

The yellow pointed violet shooting stars (*Dodecatheon pulchellum*) of May and June are visible only in their seed pods until next spring. *Mazus japonicus* and its cute little white snapdragon-like flowers have had a complete wash and soak on the floor of the quarry, but seem to be alive. Let's all hope they come through winter.

A walkway of stones was put through the quarry last spring by the Wednesday Weeders. Can you imagine that one of our main jobs in spring was carrying water up the hill, before the summer of rain, to keep our new plants damp enough? Later it was necessary to build up the middle because people had walked over the ferns on the sides trying to avoid ankle deep water. They couldn't even see the path through the muddy water.

All our saxifrages are there, snoozing and rooting in the late summer humidity. Some of our primula we have lost; wait till spring. *Androsace sempervivoides* is hopping all around while a very sad gentian lies its faded flowers about it. Let's move that early next year. We need gentians, grown properly.

The ferns are growing well in this damp year, and we've just been given many to experiment with by Holly Emmons. Go see if you can identify them. One of them changes color after the first year.

Heuchera parviflora is arching its branches of minute bloom to greet any visitor. Bring your magnifying glass, look at it closely to find what a treat is in store for you.

Herb Robert is the "Arboretum Weed". It fills many a spot we haven't filled otherwise, with its pretty little pink flowers and its much cut leaves which are also beginning to turn pink. It seeds prolifically, but is easily tweaked out.

On top of the east wall is a pretty, dark green leafy low plant in the borage of forget-me-not family, that blooms in spring for a long time with blue, hint of pink, flowers; the leaves just keep right on slowly growing. From the west coast, it is an "iffy" lovely plant. Near it is the lovely Carpathian bell flower, *Campanula carpatica*. We must get a large rock underneath it to support the visitor who needs a closer look at it, otherwise our bog garden immediately underneath gets stepped on.

Someone said on first seeing *Thalictrum koreanum* that it looked like a nasturtium. Its stem-leaf is similar, both plants have stems attached to the middle of the leaf. It is a very small Meadow Rue with pinkish purple blossoms in May.

Erysimum - a crucifer - is anxious to populate the earth with its progeny. I won't let it start seeding in the rock garden. It has globular seed pods which split off leaving in the middle a thin white brittle round window with the seeds attached. The window is a characteristic of the whole family of crucifers, being present in drabas, arysimums, alyssums. The size and shape of it vary. In one species of candytuft it is tear-shaped and quite small.

More to come in a future article.....

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We want to thank Kathie Lippitt for transforming the Quarry Garden into the wonderful collection of alpines and for her continued interest and enthusiasm in caring for it. Likewise, we are most grateful to Holly Emmons who has undertaken the new planting in the wood lot walk. Holly has grown from seed or spore many of the unusual flowers and ferns she has contributed to us. Some of her Harts Tongue and Walking ferns have been planted in the quarry rock garden and she has added Maidenhair ferns and many other flowers to our wildflower collection. Peg Brown who has planted our Herb Garden continues to add new varieties. We are fortunate to have Peg's expert help as she maintains the herb garden at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar and also is involved in the Herb garden at Ten Broeck Mansion in Albany. Kathie, Holly, and Peg not only have volunteered their time digging and planting but have presented programs on Saturday mornings.

Again our thanks go to the Bethlehem Garden Club for sending us hardworking helpers who have worked in the Pig Sty walk border and the Wednesday Weeders who concentrated on the Beal Peony garden and the dwarf conifers at the library.

The rainy summer combined with our loss of the Job Corp volunteers this year emphasized our very real need for more volunteer help. We are very grateful to the women who came out faithfully week after week this summer, but the area is huge and our womanpower has been insufficient. If you can spare a few hours a week next year, you are desperately needed.

Orders for next springs Rare Plant Sale (May 2 or May 9) are being written up. If there is a plant you especially want, please contact Margaret Law (463-5256) as soon as possible. We had one request for a Scarlet Oak (Quercus coccinea). Although this tree grows naturally over a large portion of the United States, according to our sources it is a difficult tree to transplant. Ideally it should be started where desired by acorn! Does anyone have acorns of this tree?

If an asterisk follows your name on the address label, it means we did not receive your membership dues. We need your ongoing support; please renew now. Use the membership blank below.

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

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Address _____

Zip _____

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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:

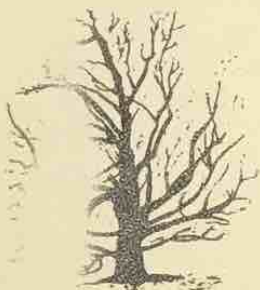
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Mail to:

Esperance, NY 12066

Nyssa sylvatica Black Gum, Tupelo, Pepperridge or Sour Gum

Those of you not familiar with this tree have a treat in store in making its acquaintance. Its foliage is shiny and leathery, turning a brilliant scarlet in early autumn. Marginally hardy in zone 4, it loves a moist to swampy soil. It usually has a lovely pyramidal habit but your editor has one with strong horizontal branching, making it almost as wide as it is tall. Its parent tree (not on our land) is probably over 60' tall. Due to harsh circumstances resulting when top soil was removed from around it and surrounding sheltering trees were cut down, this tree has lost lower limbs to a height of 30'. Its top, which seems very healthy has spread wide giving an arresting silhouette, rather Oriental in feeling. Nyssa is polygamo-dioecious: having male and female flowers on separate trees but having perfect flowers as well. Its fruit is a small dark blue drupe, similar to a cherry seed. Nyssa is an excellent ornamental. We hope to have a few at our rare plant sale next spring.



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